



# WCHM News

## Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum

### 2020 WCHM Boat Show Cancelled

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) has announced that due to the ongoing pandemic it is cancelling its 2020 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show originally scheduled for May 23, and all the associated activities at the museum held in conjunction with Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day. In addition, the WCHM Canoe Shop has been closed to public use, and all scheduled classes and gatherings have also been cancelled through April and May.

“We want to help protect the health of our community and we know that the boat show often attracts more than 400 people, which would not allow for proper social distancing even though the event takes place outdoors,” explained WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. “Thank you for your understanding, and we hope to see you at the museum later this year or at our show in 2021.”

### Exhibit Hall Still Expected To Open

Although many of the opening day festivities have been cancelled, at the time of publication it is still expected that the WCHM exhibit hall will be opening for the season on May 23. According to WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “We’ll be taking it one day at a time. If Wisconsin’s Stay At Home order is extended past its current May 22 date, then we can delay opening until the order is lifted. Otherwise we will plan to open to individuals and small groups as usual.”

The exhibit hall normally opens for each summer on Memorial weekend, when the WCHM puts on its Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day. After that date the exhibit hall is open from Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, and any other times by appointment. “We’ll announce any changes to our regular schedule on our website and through Facebook,” says Malischke. You can also check for current hours by calling 715-635-5002 or by writing to [info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org).



### WCHM Acquires Goode Birckbark

Ferdy Goode built his first birch bark canoe in 1979. Since then he has built a total of 76 birch bark canoes at his camp in Winchester, Wisconsin, all while retaining traditional Native American building traditions. The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) has acquired one of Goode’s best, an Eastern-Cree Crooked Canoe. This is a fine example of a moderate crooked canoe, so named because of the curvature of the bottom. These canoes could carry a heavy load and still maneuver beautifully, either shooting down through rapids or being poled upstream. The main sheet of birch bark is from one white birch tree with additional side-bark panels attached using split spruce root. Gunwales, sheathing, ribs, headboards and external stem-piece are hand split and carved from northern white cedar. The five thwarts are carved from spruce. All seams and the ends are sealed with the traditional spruce gum.

This particular canoe was exhibited at the WCHA Regional Assembly in Shell Lake (WI) in 2014, where it was seen by Tom MacKenzie, Jeff Craig, and others associated with the WCHM (photo is of Jeff Craig paddling the canoe at the Regional Assembly). It was later recommended by MacKenzie, himself a well-known and skilled builder of birchbark canoes, for inclusion in the WCHM Collections. The WCHM was able to acquire the canoe through a donation from Jeff Dean.

## Cedar Strip Canoe Building Class Still On For September 19-27, 2020

Josh Tolkan, graduate of the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building in Port Townsend, Washington, and Artisan in Development at North House Folk School in Grand Marais, Minnesota, will be teaching a Cedar Strip Canoe Building class at WCHM in 2020. This will be a great introductory class because it teaches traditional boat building techniques, modern composite techniques, and produces an amazing canoe for you to take home. It will be an ambitious nine-day project for each group enrolled (you need to plan to come with a partner - groups of 3 or 4 okay as well).

Strip canoes were built throughout the 20th century in America. But with the advent of composite boat building techniques in the 1940s, cedar strip boats really came into their own. Composite boat building techniques use fiberglass and plastic resins, and have been continuously improved upon. Over time they began incorporating wood into finished products due to its light weight, stiffness and beauty. Today most high end wooden sailing yachts are custom built using wood composite techniques.



The class is scheduled to start on Saturday September 19th and continue daily through Sunday September 27th. It will be limited to two participant canoe groups, and the cost for each group will be \$3,900. This includes all materials for each group to build and take home one cedar strip canoe. Canoes will be constructed of clear Alaskan yellow cedar and red cedar from the West coast shipped in specifically for this class.

For more information or to register call 715-635-2479 or email to [info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org](mailto:info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org). For nearby motel lodging we recommend Spooner Riverplace Best Western Motel at 715-635-9770. For camping, travel, or other lodging information contact the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-367-3306.

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### *Thank You to Our 2020 Business Supporters*

#### **Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Rice Lake WI Crystal Creek Natural, Spooner WI**

Myka Canoe Loaders, Sheboygan WI  
Shell Lake State Bank, Shell Lake WI  
Spooner Riverplace Motel, Spooner WI  
Spinning Wheels Publishing, Trego, WI  
Red Cross Pharmacy & RC Gifts, Spooner WI  
Tim Reedy Insurance, Spooner WI  
Stewart River Boatworks, Knife River MN  
St Croix River Association, Saint Croix Falls WI

Northwind Book & Fiber, Spooner WI  
Schmitz's Economart, Spooner WI  
T&T Tool, Spooner, WI  
Indianhead Credit Union, Spooner WI  
Castle Insurance, Spooner WI  
Hitch Exclusives, Manitowish Waters WI  
Little Lakes Canoe Restoration, Boulder Junction WI  
Northwest Canoe Company, Clearwater MN

# News Briefs & Upcoming Events



## Canoeconopia Cancelled Last Minute

Many of the vendors were already setup when Canoeconopia had to make the tough decision to cancel its 2020 event on the eve of opening its doors to the public on March 13 in Madison WI. Canoeconopia is the world's largest canoe, kayak, and standup paddle expo, and the WCHM missed seeing all of the folks who typically attend. We hope that many of the regular Canoeconopia attendees are lamenting having missed their one opportunity to get one of our annual canoe raffle tickets, so we are planning to sell them by request. Just write to [info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org) with your name, mailing address, and how many tickets you would like (\$20 each or a six-pack for \$100), and we'll take care of the rest.

## Spring Paddle Class May be Rescheduled

Due to the ongoing pandemic and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Emergency Stay-At-Home orders, the WCHM Spring Paddle Making Class at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) scheduled for April 17-18 was cancelled. There has been some speculation that the class may be re-scheduled for the fall. These classes have limited enrollment openings, and often fill quickly. The best way to receive early notice of classes and other events is to make sure you are signed up for the free WCHM Enews service. (follow the link on the bottom of our homepage at [wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](http://wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org)).

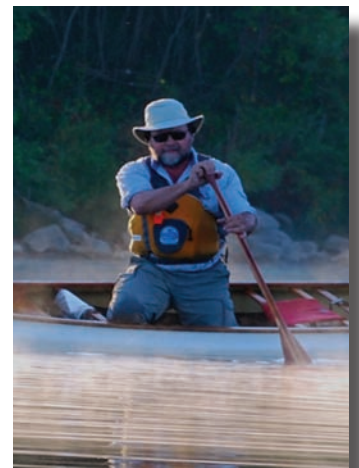


## 2020 WCHA Annual Assembly Cancelled

The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) has announced that the 2020 Annual Assembly to be held in July at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, New York, has been cancelled. "After a great deal of consideration and consultation, the Board of Directors ultimately decided to cancel Assembly 2020 out of concern for the health of our members and guests, the likely continuing disruption of international travel, the current ban on large gatherings in the State of New York, and the likelihood of very low turnout even if such a gathering could be held," explained Michael Grace in a website posting, "The good news is that we are already looking forward to Assembly 2021. We are already booked with Paul Smith's College and hope that much of the programming planned for this year will be held next year."

## USCA Freestyle Paddling Events - Some On, Some Off

The United States Canoe Association's FreeStyle Canoeing Committee is a group of dedicated canoeists who host a number of competitive events throughout the country that emphasize participation and FreeStyle paddling skills. As with so many group activities, the committee is struggling this year with the decision of continuing or cancelling their events. At the time of publication the Midwest Canoe Symposium (Sept. 11-13, Camp Butler, Peninsula, OH) and The Pine Barrens FUNctional Canoe Workshop (October 16-18, YMCA of the Pines, Camp Ockanickion, Medford Lakes, New Jersey) are still being planned. Others have been cancelled, including the Wisconsin Canoe Symposium (June 19-21, Pine Lake Camp, Westfield, WI); the Western Pennsylvania Solo Canoe Rendezvous (June 5-7, Cooper's Lake Campground, Slippery Rock, PA); and the Adirondack Canoe Symposium (July 16-19, Paul Smith's College, NY). Information and updates on all these Freestyle Canoeing Committee events can be found at [www.freestylecanoeing.com](http://www.freestylecanoeing.com).



## Audit Committee Certifies 2019 Results

The WCHM Audit Committee (composed of two board directors and one member at large) has completed their review of the 2019 financial records of the organization and reported on the results to the WCHM Board of Directors. The bottom line is once again good. The WCHM 2019 operational budget hoped for a surplus of about \$2,500. In fact, the organization achieved a net income of \$14,918 on revenues of \$75,222 and expenses of \$60,304.

Direct Public Support (donations) was the standout, including both miscellaneous individual donations as well as the successful end-of-the-year fundraising campaign. The campaign brought in \$12,000 more than expected, accounting for all of the net income over budget. About half of that net income has gone to continued growth of the newly established endowment fund.

Copies of the complete audit committee report are available by request from WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke at [info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org) or 715-635-2479.

## How Hard Will The Pandemic Be For The Museum ?

*"We'll be dependent on our members more than ever in 2020."*

Like every other business and enterprise in the world, the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) will suffer the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. "We are not even to our normal opening day for the season yet," says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, "and we've already missed several key fundraising events." Sports shows and other winter events such as Canocopia in Madison are significant opportunities for the museum to solicit memberships and sell canoe raffle tickets. "And with the opening day boat show canceled we'll miss another key fundraising event before the season even starts."

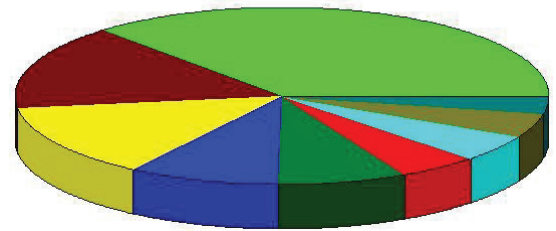
That annual canoe raffle typically provides up to 10% of the organization's annual revenue, and with the seasonal opening of the exhibit hall in doubt, another 10% in revenues provided by admissions and gift store sales will be lost. "We'll be dependent on our members to renew their support more than ever this year," says Malischke, "and we hope to regain some of those lost in-person raffle ticket sales too."

You can help by pledging to renew your membership now, and picking up a raffle ticket or two at the same time. Memberships can be purchased online at [wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org/membership](http://wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org/membership). Raffle tickets (\$20 each or a six-pack for \$100) must be requested by contacting Jed Malischke at 715-635-2479 or by writing to [info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org).

## WCHM Board Election To Be Held By Mail

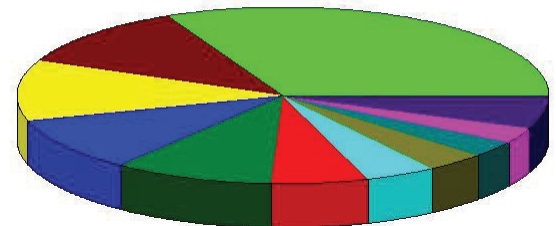
The election for the WCHM Board of Directors, previously scheduled for Friday May 22, will now be held entirely by mail. Members can expect to receive ballots around that date. Four seats are up for election. Anyone interested in running for a board position can still get on the ballot by contacting Ed at 715-437-0614 or [edw.peters@yahoo.com](mailto:edw.peters@yahoo.com).

Income Summary  
January through December 2019



4340 - Direct Public Support	36.79%
4710 - Membership Dues	15.53
4660 - Event Revenue	13.52
4650 - Raffle	9.39
4750 - Shop Revenue	7.88
4640 - Grants	5.05
4730 - Store	4.99
4350 - Endowment Investment Changes	4.36
4740 - Admissions	2.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,222.74</b>

Expense Summary  
January through December 2019



6500 - Administration	32.24%
7000 - Advertising & Promotions	11.61
6280 - Building and Facilities	11.11
7500 - Shop	10.10
6560 - Other Events	9.71
7100 - Fundraising	5.93
6510 - Other Types of Expenses	4.37
7600 - Collections Expense	3.67
50000 - Cost of Goods Sold	3.16
6550 - WCHM Day	2.85
Other	5.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,304.50</b>



## Contact WCHM

[www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org](http://www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org)  
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