



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum

2022 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum is once again making plans to celebrate Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on the Saturday of Memorial weekend May 28 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This free event marks the season opening of the museum and will include open house in the museum exhibit hall, ongoing activities in the canoe workshop, live music and food and beverage outdoors in the beer garden, a silent auction and canoe raffle, and of course the Canoe & Wooden Boat Show.

Complicating the boat show this year will be the major road construction that is taking place in Spooner this summer. The closure of the main highway through town has detoured most of the city traffic to the street in front of the museum, making it impossible to hold the boat show in the street as usual. But the 12th annual boat show will still be the highlight of the day. There is plenty of space available in the parking lot adjacent to the museum for the 25 or more exhibitors that are expected to display wooden boats of all shapes, sizes, and designs, both classic and modern, as well as all kinds of classic and vintage water and paddling items.

Michael Hase from Wausau will be returning this year with several of his beautiful wooden canoes and custom trailer. Geoffrey Wagner of Zumbrota (MN) plans to show off his Thompson Hiawatha long deck canoe. Alex Comb of Stewart River Boatworks in Knife River (MN) is bringing a Fishdance sportboat and a couple of his canoes.



A 14ft 1947 Larson wooden row boat will be coming to the show with Mark Butala of Stillwater (MN). Williams Boatworks from Sarona will be represented with one of Dennis Williams' large wooden boats and a number of his hand crafted paddles. Kevin Kuehn of Shoreview MN will be displaying a 1913 Old Town Otca Canoe along with a 1940's Shell Lake USFS canoe. David Abresch of Menomonie Falls WI will be displaying a Schneider Boat Co family canoe built in 1965 with plywood construction techniques and plans designed by his father Robert Abresch. Tom Wilson of Viroqua plans to liquidate his collection of wooden canoes, restoration projects, sideboards, seats, thwarts, books, paddles, and possibly a six-foot canoe trailer. Steve Hegna from Black River Falls will be displaying a 1915 Old Town Ideal that he restored in 2016, and a never restored original 1933 Old Town Fifty-Pounder. And you can expect to see a handmade Jack Gribble canoe from Larry Bergman of Barnes WI. Larry will also be bringing information about the Gordon MacQuarrie Pilgrimage in August.

Many other watercraft, old and new, are on the way. There is always room for more. Booth space is free, and reserving a space is easy. You can find a link to an online registration form at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org. You can also request one by emailing to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org or calling 715-635-2479.

WCHM Auction To Feature Several Vintage Restoration Projects

The 2022 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show on May 28 at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner WI will once again include an auction of various items that have been donated recently to the museum. A relatively new feature of the boat show, the silent auction gives attendees the opportunity to take home some unique bargains on items that you won't find anywhere else, and at the same time support museum fundraising efforts. All items on the auction have been donated to the museum, and many are valuable items that are looking for new homes.



Several potential restoration project canoes are expected to be auctioned this year. One is a partially restored 1915 BN Morris (#13410) that was donated to the museum by Ann Norlander in 2021. Two others were donated by Carmen Coon of Willow River MN: a 17ft 1908 Old Town Heavy Water (#8039) and another unidentified canoe. A somewhat unique project would be the restoration of a 1919 Old Town Heavy Water canoe (#52727) donated by Paul Klonowski in Gurnee IL. The interesting thing about this canoe is that Old Town started construction on it just a few days after the armistice that ended World War I, as if someone decided “the war is over, let’s go back to making canoes.”

You do not necessarily need to be present to bid on an item. More information and additional photos of all auction items will be available prior to the auction on the museum website. If you are interested in any of the items, and cannot attend the boat show, contact WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke at 715-635-2479 or jed@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org for details on how you can participate and bid remotely.



Thank You to Our 2022 Business Supporters

Crystal Creek Natural, Spooner WI

Shell Lake State Bank, Shell Lake WI

Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Rice Lake WI

Spooner Riverplace Motel, Spooner WI
Red Cross Pharmacy & RC Gifts, Spooner WI
T&T Manufacturing, Spooner WI
Indianhead Credit Union, Spooner WI
Hitch Exclusives, Manitowish Waters WI
Spinning Wheels Publishing, Spooner WI

Tim Reedy Insurance, Spooner WI
Northwind Book & Fiber, Spooner WI
St Croix River Association, Saint Croix Falls WI
Myka Canoe Loaders, Sheboygan WI
Schmitz's Economart, Spooner WI
Cooke Custom Sewing, Lino Lakes MN

News Briefs & Upcoming Events



In-Person Canoecopia Held In 2022

Canoecopia was successfully held as an in-person event at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison WI for the first time in three years on March 11-13, 2022. The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) once again attended and hosted a large booth with several canoes displayed, including a recently acquired Lucius canoe. Canoecopia is the largest paddlesports consumer event in the world, and WCHM has already registered to attend on March 10-12, 2023. For more information about Canoecopia visit www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia.

WCHM Invited To Governor's Fishing Opener

Opening day of fishing season in Wisconsin is a big deal, and for over 50 years has been marked by the Wisconsin Governor's Fishing Opener in Northwest Wisconsin. The 56th annual event will be held in 2022 on May 6th and 7th on Shell Lake in Washburn County. The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum has been invited to participate in the event and provide a booth display at several scheduled activities, including the VIP Banquet. In addition, the museum exhibit hall and workshop will be featured as part of a tour of area attractions by travel writers and media that will be attending the opener.



Wisconsin Canoe Symposium June 17-19, 2022

Tune-up your paddling at the first canoe symposium of the season. The Wisconsin Canoe Symposium (WCS) will be June 17-19, 2022, in Westfield, WI (approximately 60 minutes north of Madison). The WCS offers excellent instruction in a quiet water venue for people wishing to improve their skills in paddling and precise control of their canoes. The quiet water classes are offered for all skill levels, and all WCS classes are taught by certified canoe instructors. Other special topic classes will include classes such as Touring Technique (Sit & Switch), Moving Around in Your Canoe, Forward Stroke Clinic, and Nail the Rail. For more information visit www.freestylecanoeing.com/wisconsin-canoe-symposium

FreeStyle Paddling To Be Featured in Documentary

FreeStyle Canoeing took center stage at a spring tune-up session in South Carolina hosted by members Roy and Peg Ivey. Joseph Litzinger, the renowned movie director of the National Geographic series "Life Below Zero," and his "Interesting Human" staff spent three days filming and interviewing paddlers for a planned documentary on FreeStyle Canoeing. Their Hollywood production company will attend several FreeStyle events throughout the summer of 2022, leading to a possible release of the documentary film in about one year. Watch for updates as the production develops..



WCHA 2022 Annual Assembly July 13-18

The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) is planning their Annual Assembly for July 12-17, 2022, to be held at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, New York. The theme of this year's event, "Solo Canoes and Remembering Tom Mackenzie," is a carryover from the two past years cancelled assemblies. WCHM is planning to attend and contribute to the program with some of its Tom MacKenzie display materials. A companion event, the Adirondack Canoe Symposium, will be concurrently held at the same location. More information about these events is available at www.WCHA.org and www.freestylecanoeing.com/adirondack-canoe-symposium.

WCHM 2022 Election & Member Meeting

On Tuesday September 20th the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) will hold its annual general membership meeting virtually via the Zoom meeting app. Details about how to join the meeting will be published in the Summer 2022 newsletter, and all WCHM members are welcome to participate.

The main topic of the meeting will be the announcement of the results of the organization's annual election of board directors. The election will have been conducted by mail during the month of August, with ballots from members due by September 15th.

Four board seats will be up for election. WCHM Vice President Lynn Herman will be serving this year in the capacity of nomination and election judge for the election. Anyone interested in running for a board position should contact Lynn at 302-740-3098 or lynnh337@mail.com.



Museum Exhibit Hall Seeks Volunteer Keymasters

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner is seeking volunteers to join its team of Keymasters. "These are the folks that dedicate three or four hours every couple of weeks during the summer to open the museum exhibit hall to visitors," explains WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, "No special knowledge or skills are required, just a friendly attitude and a willingness to be prompt and responsible."

The museum exhibit hall is a pleasant place to spend your time while helping keep this Northwest Wisconsin institution open. The exhibit hall 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 and on Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Keymasters work either half a day or a whole day, whichever they wish, and set their own schedule of days. Inquiries for more information can be made to Jed Malischke at 715-635-2479 or by writing to jed@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

Thank You to These Supporting Members

Jill Weber Dean & Jeffrey Dean, Tucson, AZ

Mike Cichanowski, Winona MN

Jim Hart, Wadsworth IL

Terrence Panian, Hayward WI

Benson Gray, Falmouth ME

James & Nancy Baxter, Dane WI

Kurt & Susan Sroka, Somerset WI

Steve Young, Denver CO

Roy & Margaret Ivey, Anderson SC

Dan Miller, Cape Vincent NY

Bob & Pam Buss, Waupaca WI

Jerry Fruetel, Bloomington MN

Steve & Mary Hemsbrot, Shell Lake WI

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