



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



Canoe & Brew Event Set For Sept 26

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) is planning to celebrate its 11th anniversary with another “Canoe & Brew” dinner event from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday September 26th. This new event was first produced last year in collaboration with two prominent local businesses, Round Man Brewing and Pine Brook Farm, and both are returning to support the party again this year.

Prior to the dinner, guests can enjoy a brew or two from Round Man Brewing and discuss their tastes with the brew master. Then off to the meet and greet tent and a visit with naturalist Haley Appleman from the Cable Natural History Museum. WCHM will have some new collection pieces on display as well, and you can take a chance on all the extra raffle prizes we’ll have for the day. Or just sit and enjoy the music of Les Fils du Voyageur and the rural autumn setting.

It all leads up to a fabulous country style dinner in “The Big Barn,” the largest barn in the county that has been turned into a beautiful rural event center, followed by a short post-dinner program and the annual canoe raffle drawing. “One of the great attributes of Pine Brook Farm is the large event space they have, both indoor and outdoor,” says event organizer Debbie Koehn. “We’re increasing the attendance levels from last year, but there will still be plenty of room to social distance.” Attendance will be limited, so reservations are highly recommended. The cost is \$30 per reservation, all fun included. Make reservations by writing to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

Build Your Cedar Strip Canoe In Class September 30 to October 10

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 the fall of 2021. This will be a great introductory class that will teach traditional boat building techniques, modern composite techniques, and produce an amazing canoe for you to take home.

This is an ambitious 11 day project, and you will need a team of two to four people to work with, so plan to bring a partner or two. The class is limited to two teams, and is scheduled to begin on Thursday September 30th and continue daily through Sunday October 10th. Canoes will be constructed of clear Alaskan yellow cedar and red cedar from the West coast shipped in specifically for this class. The cost for each team is \$4,250, which includes all materials for each team to build and take home one cedar strip canoe. For more information or to register call 715-635-2479 or email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org.



Benson Gray Appointed To WCHM Board

At their recent meeting on July 21, the WCHM Board of Directors approved the appointment of Benson Gray to fill a vacant Director-At-Large position. The seat had been vacant since the passing of Jim Czajkowski in the spring and has two years remaining in its term. "I would like to welcome Benson to our board," writes WCHM President Richard Taylor, "We very much appreciate his desire to support our mission to preserve and display objects and skills related to the history, use, and construction of canoes in North America."

Gray was nominated for the board seat by current WCHM Director-At-Large Dan Miller. "I first met Benson in the 1990s through the fledgling forums of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA)" explains Miller. "We soon collaborated on a project to publish a CD-ROM of scans of the catalogs of the Old Town Canoe Company." Benson's interest in the Old Town Canoe Company is due to his being a descendant of the founders of the company, and working in the Old Town factory as a youngster while the company was still a family-owned business. Miller continues, "Together we compiled similar collections for the Thompson Brothers Boat Manufacturing Co., and collections of catalogs from numerous American and Canadian canoe manufacturers."

Both Benson and Miller were previous board members for the WCHA. They worked together to build, maintain, and create content for the WCHA website for twenty years, and served on the WCHA's Annual Assembly planning committee. "Canoes have been very good for me and my family over many years and I see this as an opportunity to return some of that favor," says Benson, "and the WCHM devotion to the acquisition, preservation, and dissemination of materials and information relating to the history and heritage of canoe building, canoes, and canoeing is completely aligned with my interests."



Thank You to Our 2021 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
Border Lakes Guide Service, Grand Marais MN
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
Northwest Canoe Company, Clearwater MN
Schmitz's Economart, Spooner WI

News Briefs & Upcoming Events



WCHM Receives Grant Monies

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) received two small grants this spring. One grant was through the WE Energies Foundation Community Arts & Culture Grants Program. WCHM is a WE Energies customer, which makes it eligible for this program. The WCHM received a “sponsorship” grant to assist with acquiring entertainment for its opening day event on May 26. The second grant was from the Wisconsin Historical Society Mini-Grant Program and was matching assistance for the museum to upgrade to a new software system to keep track of and maintain its many Collections items.

Museum Welcomes New Keymasters

WCHM is very happy to have several new volunteers this year to help operate the museum exhibit hall. Donel & Don Nelson of Spooner, Dale Shelton of Springbrook, and Katy Allred of Spooner have all joined the ranks of “Keymaster” with the museum. The Keymasters get their name because they all have keys to the building and are the folks that dedicate three or four hours every couple of weeks during the summer to open the museum exhibit hall to visitors.



Two Teams Complete Spring Strip Canoe Class

WCHM’s first cedar strip canoe building class was held this past May with two canoes being completed in ten days, just prior to the museum’s opening day. Two teams, one led by Kathy Denning of Garfield MN and the other by Bob Ivey of Davis IL each completed their respective canoes under the guidance of instructor Josh Tolkman of Grand Marais MN. A second class is scheduled for the end of September this year and still has openings for folks to enter (see story this edition for details).

MidWest Canoe Symposium Is On Sept 10-12

The MidWest Canoe Symposium, premier event of the year for the FreeStyle Canoeing Group, and which includes the National Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe Competition, is scheduled to take place in 2021 on September 10-12 at Camp Butler in Peninsula, Ohio. The MCS also features instruction for beginner through experts in Interpretive FreeStyle canoeing for solo and tandem canoeing, with workshops in subjects such as Heeling and Kneeling 101, Touring Technique, Forward Stroke Clinic, Going Straight Backwards, Moving Around in Your Boat, and Kids’ Classes. Contact Elaine Mravetz at rmravet@uakron.edu or 330-321-5111 for details or visit www.freestylecanoeing.com/midwest-canoe-symposium.



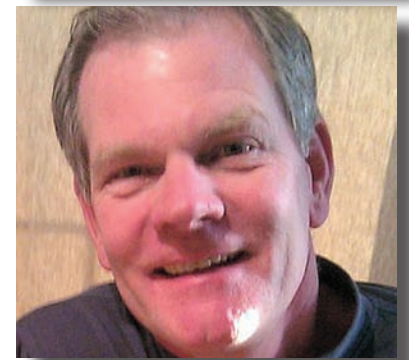
WCHM Receives Several Canoe Donations

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum recently received four canoes and various canoeing materials in two separate donations. Ann Norlander of Minneapolis donated a partially restored 1915 BN Morris (#13410) and a collection of miscellaneous shop tools and equipment included a new still-in-the-box belt sander for the museum canoe shop. Carma Coon of Willow River MN has donated three potential restoration canoes, including an 18ft 1947 Old Town Guide (#146660) and a 17ft 1908 Old Town Heavy Water (#8039), plus a collection of canoeing books. Some of these canoes may be available for purchase by someone who would like to acquire them for restoration projects. Contact WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke at jed@wisconsin canoeheritagemuseum.org for details.

WCHM 2021 BOD Election Again By Mail

In 2020, with the pandemic preventing events and gatherings of all kinds, the WCHM board of directors decided to hold its annual election by US mail. The increased level of participation was so encouraging that they have decided to hold the 2021 election in the same way. "We now have members all across the country," explains WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, "And it's more reasonable to think that a larger proportion can participate if they don't need to attend a meeting somewhere in person just to vote."

The WCHM Board has eleven seats in all. Each seat is held for a three year term. The terms are staggered so that not all expire in the same year. Depending on the year, there are either three or four seats up for election. In 2021 there are three; all for director-at-large (officers are selected by the Board after the election to serve for one year). The election is taking place concurrent with the publication of this newsletter (if you are a current member you should have received a ballot and return envelope along with this newsletter). The ballot has three candidates and space for write-ins. All three candidates are incumbents: Lynn Herman (currently serving as vice president), Ed Peters, and Anna Demers (currently serving as treasurer). Ballots need to be returned by September 20 and results will be announced at the new Canoe & Brew dinner event on September 26th.



Best Opening Day Ever?

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum had one of its most successful opening day events in its twelve year history on May 29th. The weather was ideal, pandemic restrictions were off, people were anxious to get out once again, and the result was one of the largest crowds ever. They came early, stayed late, and spent money while they were there. All areas of the event did well, and the result was a surplus well beyond the budgetary expectations for the organization.

"What a great way to start up again after being closed for most of 2020," said WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. "We ran out of food, sold a lot of raffle tickets, auctioned off several canoe restoration projects, enjoyed some great entertainment, and had a wonderful bunch of exhibitors this year." For those who had to miss the event there is a short video available on the WCHM YouTube channel. Next year's opening day Canoe & Wooden Boat Show will again be on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, 2022.

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 Hemshrot, Shell Lake WI

Contact WCHM

www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org

info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org

PO Box 365, Spooner WI 54801

715-635-5002, 715-635-2479