



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



WCHM Completes Successful 2019 Bi-Annual Fundraising Campaign

WCHM recently completed a bi-annual fundraising campaign. The results, according to WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “are inspiring.” The WCHM 2019 budget called for raising \$8,000 in an end-of-year campaign. At publication time, 117 responses had been received from 20 states with donations exceeding \$18,000.

“In today’s world we realize that folks are inundated with requests for support, so we try not to go to the well too often,” says Malischke. “But every two years we do solicit donations in a bi-annual fundraising campaign, sometimes for a specific purpose, and other times for general use and growth.” Two years ago a campaign to establish an Endowment Fund for the museum was also successful. “There is a strong national community of supporters who want to help preserve our canoeing heritage for future generations, and we are proud to be part of that community. The tremendous response we received not only inspires us to work harder and do more, but also provides us the financial means to do so.”

The WCHM is a 501c3 non-profit corporation (26-3521282), and contributions are fully deductible as allowed by law. You can make a contribution at any time through the WCHM website at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org or by mail to WCHM, PO Box 365, Spooner WI 54801.

Author Mark Neuzil Coming Jan 17

The rich and long history of North America’s most important watercraft, the canoe, will be the subject of a presentation and book signing by author Mark Neuzil at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum on Friday, January 17, 2020. The talk and signing begins at 7:30 pm and is free and open to the public.

Neuzil is professor and chair of the journalism program at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a frequent speaker and writer on environmental issues and is the author or co-author of eight books, including “Canoes: A Natural History in North America” (with Norman Sims). He has worked for the Associated Press, the Minneapolis Star Tribune and was a licensed wilderness guide and summer park ranger.

“Canoes: A Natural History in North America” will be presented by Professor Mark Neuzil at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum on Friday Jan 17. Mark will also be signing copies of his book which will be available for purchase. The presentation begins at 7:30 pm, and visitors are invited to also attend a reception and happy hour prior to the presentation at 6:30 pm. For more information call 715-635-2479 or email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org.



Get Ready For The 2020 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show

WCHM invites participants for its 11th annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show, to be held in conjunction with Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on May 23, 2020. This one day free event will also include museum tours and open house, the unveiling of new displays, ongoing activities in the canoe workshop, and live music and food and beverage in the beer garden. Now is the time to make plans to be an exhibitor and display your canoe, wooden boat, or other canoe related items of interest.

Wooden boats of all shapes, sizes, and designs are welcome, both classic and modern, as well as all kinds of classic and vintage water and paddling related items. Whether you have items to sell, or you just have



something to show off, there will be many interested folks attending this free event. Exhibitors can include individuals, commercial entities, non-profits, authors, government agencies, educators, crafters, and businesses whose products or services are relevant to boaters and wooden boats and canoes.

Booth space is free, and reserving a space is easy. You can download a booth reservation form from the WCHM website at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org, or request one by emailing to info@wisconsin canoeheritagemuseum.org or calling 715-635-2479. Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day is produced by the WCHM each year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Thank You to Our 2019 Business Supporters

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

Myka Canoe Loaders, Sheboygan WI
Northwind Book & Fiber, Spooner WI
Shell Lake State Bank, Shell Lake WI
Schmitz's Economart, Spooner WI
Spooner Riverplace Motel, Spooner WI
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Tim Reedy Insurance, Spooner WI
Hitch Exclusives, Manitowish Waters WI
Stewart River Boatworks, Knife River MN
Little Lakes Canoe Restoration, Boulder Junction WI
St Croix River Association, Saint Croix Falls WI
Northwest Canoe Company, Clearwater MN



News Briefs & Upcoming Events



Wild Rice Pole & Knocking Stick Class Feb 24-26

A wild ricing push pole and knocking stick making class will be held at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner, Wisconsin, on February 24, 25 and 26, 2020 from 6pm - 9pm. The class is being co-sponsored by the Hunt Hill Audubon Camp. Students will actually make a tamarack and maple push pole and a set of white cedar knocking sticks, using traditional and modern tools and techniques. All tools and materials will be provided. The cost for participants is \$30.00. The class is limited to 10 participants (or couples) for a real hands-on experience, so early registration is recommended. For more information or to register call Hunt Hill at 715-635-6543 or email info@hunthill.org.

Spring Paddle Class Fills Fast

The news was out for only a few days before WCHM's spring paddle making class filled to capacity. Scheduled for April 17 & 18, 2020, students in the class will actually make a canoe paddle in a design of your own choosing, either basswood, cherry, or a bent shaft, using traditional and modern tools and techniques. Day one consists of laminated a paddle blade and grip onto a provided shaft. Day two is spent shaping the paddle using mostly hand tools. All tools and materials are provided and the students keep the paddles that they make. The class is limited to eight participants, and with the class filling so fast a second, fall class is being considered for 2020.



Look For WCHM At Canoecopia 2020

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending Canoecopia at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison WI (1919 Alliant Energy Way) on March 13-15, 2020. Canoecopia is the world's largest canoe, kayak, and standup paddle expo. There is no other venue that has this breadth and depth of outdoor knowledge in one spot for three days. We expect to have our new 2020 raffle canoe on display there, among other items, and it's a great place to renew your WCHM membership, pick up some souvenir WCHM merchandise, and get that first raffle ticket of the year.

2020 Canoe Raffle Underway

Tickets for the WCHM 2020 canoe raffle are now available (\$20 per ticket or six for \$100). As in prior years a limit of only 500 tickets will be printed and the winner will have a choice between one of two canoes. The first is a 15' tandem cedar canvas canoe built in 2018 on a MacKenzie-Yost Duet form. The second canoe is a 15' solo cedar canvas canoe currently being built on a MacKenzie-Yost Nakoma form. The drawing will take place on Sunday September 27th, 2020. Find out how you can get a ticket by writing to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.



WCHM Election & Member Meeting Friday May 22

On Friday May 22, 2020, the WCHM will hold its annual general membership meeting at 4:30 pm, election for board of directors at 4:45 pm, and a welcoming reception for members and the general public at 5:00 pm. This is the day before all the Heritage Day events and the opening of the museum for the season on Saturday May 23. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. WCHM Director Ed Peters will be serving again this year in the capacity of nomination and election judge for the general membership meeting and election. Four board seats will be up for election. Anyone interested in running for a board position can still get on the slate by contacting Ed at 715-437-0614 or edw.peters@yahoo.com.

Cedar Strip Canoe Building Workshop Set For Sept 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 Marias, 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. 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.

Museum Exhibit Hall Seeks 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

James & Joyce Czajkowski

Jim Hart

James & Nancy Baxter

Bob McQueen

Gloria Roder

Susan & David Weeks

Stephen Young

Wayne Johnson

Dale & Jen Heglund

Kurt & Susan Sroka



Contact WCHM

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