



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



New 2019 Display To Feature Gene Jensen & His Racing Canoes

“Gene Jensen was a legend of the canoe world. Although Jensen is best known for his racing innovations, his improved canoe designs and ergonomic bent-shaft paddles would eventually trickle down to recreational paddlers around the world.” This quote from the May 2004 Canoe & Kayak magazine sums up why the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) has chosen to feature Gene Jensen in a new display being constructed for the 2019 season.

In 2017 WCHM received three of Jensen’s last cedar strip prototype racing canoes from his shop in Inverness, Florida. They include an 18’6” C-1, a 21’ painted ICF, and an 18’6” V-1 Pro Boat. Each was designed and constructed by Jensen in the late 1990’s as tests for some of his design ideas. At least two have gone on to become designs for current Wenonah racing canoes. “We expect to display at least two of the Jensen prototypes” says WCHM display builder Jamie Dunn, “Along with at least one of the contemporary racing canoes that they inspired.” The new display will be unveiled during the 2019 WCHM Canoe & Wooden Boat Show on May 25.

2019 Opening Day Boat Show May 25

WCHM invites participants for its tenth annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show, to be held in conjunction with Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on May 25, 2019. 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 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@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org or calling 715-635-2479. Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day is produced by the WCHM each year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.



Anniversary Membership Drive Concludes On Successful Note

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) began 2018 with 140 dues paying members. It entered 2019, its tenth year, with a membership drive and a goal of finding 50 new members. The four month drive was completed on February 1st after receiving 81 memberships, 30 renewals and 51 new members, for total revenue of \$5,590.

“We are very pleased with the results of the drive,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. “By becoming members of the museum,” explains Malischke, “these folks have joined a community of people who believe the heritage of canoes is worth preserving for future generations. Canoes have been an important part of their lives, and they want their stories heard.” The museum’s stated mission is a dedication to the preservation and restoration of historic canoes and to the education of visitors on the influence of canoe craft on the art and history of North America.



Where did these new members come from? They are spread throughout the country. The WCHM can now boast of members from more than half the states in the union, including Idaho, Arizona, Minnesota, Illinois, Washington, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Colorado, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Oregon, Alabama, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, Tennessee, Michigan, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Washington DC, and Wisconsin. An expansion of the membership base, both in numbers and geographically, will help support continued growth. “Non-profits like the WCHM typically depend on memberships,” says Malischke, “Not only for a substantial portion of our operating revenue, but also to show foundations and granting organizations that we have wide spread public support.”

What effect does an increase in membership revenues have on the museum? Membership revenue typically provides from 15% to 20% of revenues for the organization. Plans for the future would like to see that increase to 25%. “The membership revenue brought in during the member drive not only helped us reach our 2018 revenue goals,” adds Malischke, “It has put us well on the way to reaching our 2019 goals too.” To do that the museum still needs 110 of its 2018 members to renew in 2019. “And just ten more new members would put us over the two hundred mark. That would be a swell way to finish off 2019.” Membership information can be found at www.wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org/memberships.

Welcome To These New Members

Atkisson, John	Ekola, Jeff	Kolumba, Armand	Rice, Harriet
Banks, Bryan	Engstrom, Richard	Madigan, Michael	Seedorf, Robert
Bartilson, Kathy	Ethun, Rolf	Menkol, Marianna	Sorenson, Bruce
Baumann John	Frelke, Stewart	Moen, Aaron	Vollmer, Milton
Baxter, James & Nancy	Gaasland, Dale & Peggy	Mongold, Macky	Vukman, Gerald
Bishop, Lynne	Hamstra Alan	Mueller, Jeffry	Webb, Shipp
Boardman, Daniel	Harrison, Linda	Nagler, Timothy	Weber, Robert
Breitenstein, Joseph	Heckilnger, Robert	Northwind Book & Fiber	Weeks, Susan & David
Brown, Kirk	Hoover, Andrew	Norton, Richard	Yates, Douglas
Burns, Michael	Howenstine, Richard	Ostlind, Peter	Young, Stephen
Conrad, Bill	Jennings, Kelly	Peterson, Dave	Yurista, Peder
Dryburgh, Scott	Keehan, Brian	Pride, Peter	Zucon, Robert
Ebbert’s Boats	Koehn, Jeff & Terri	Reid, James	

News Briefs & Upcoming Events



Look For The WCHM Booth At Canoecopia 2019

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending Canoecopia at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison WI (1919 Alliant Energy Way) on March 8-10, 2019. 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 2019 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.

Spring Paddle Class Fills Quickly

The Alex Comb paddle class scheduled at WCHM on April 12-13 has already filled to capacity with students. The class is limited to eight participants so that students receive a real hands-on experience and come away with a nearly completed paddle. "This has been a very popular activity each spring at the museum," says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. "We are looking into holding a second class at a later date."

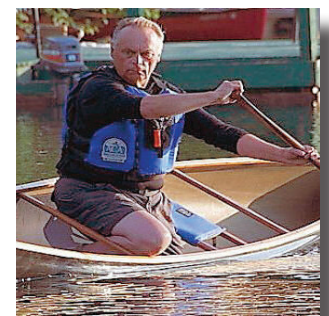


WCHM Election & Member Meeting May 24

On Friday May 24 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 25. 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. Three 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.

Wis Canoe Symposium June 14-16 in Westfield WI

The Wisconsin Canoe Symposium (WCS) will be on June 14-16, 2019, at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, Wisconsin. 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. Classes are taught by ACA certified instructors, with such topics listed as Touring Technique (Sit & Switch), Moving Around in Your Canoe, Forward Stroke Clinic, and Nail the Rail. Plus fun activities such as the "Giant Schlalom Fun Race," an Interpretive FreeStyle Recital, and a Candlelight Paddle. Register at freestylecanoeing.com/wisconsin-canoe-symposium.



2019 WCHA Assembly - July 16-21 at Paul Smith's College NY

The 2019 Annual Assembly of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) will be held at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, New York on July 16-21, 2019. It's an annual event that brings together WCHA members from around the world, and this 40th annual Assembly will feature centenarian canoes. They expect to have over 300 new, vintage, and historic canoes on display, plus workshops, programs, on-water events, and sales of canoes, paddles, accessories, and building supplies. For more information visit www.WCHA.org or call 603-323-8992.

Birch Bark To Be Loaned To Prairie du Chien Chamber of Commerce

A traditional Ojibwe birch bark ceremonial canoe, donated to the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum by Rochelle Lamm in 2017, is being loaned to the Prairie du Chien Chamber of Commerce for display at their Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center. Prairie du Chien is located just above the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, and is the oldest European settlement on the Upper Mississippi River. The Welcome Center is located on Main Street just south of the downtown area, and provides the busy tourist trade with information on what to see and do in the area.

This rare example of the ceremonial use of a canoe was built by Ojibwe craftsmen at the Grassy Narrows Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada. The canoe was presented as a gift to Barney Lamm of Barney's Ball Lake Lodge in Kenora, Ontario, in the 1950s as he was inducted as an honorary Chief of the Ojibwe tribe and gifted with the name "Chief Thunderbird Continuous Day." The loan of the canoe to Prairie du Chien will provide not only a place to display the canoe to the public, but also safe storage of the canoe and promotional exposure for the museum as well.



Robert Morris Returning For 2019 Kayak Building Class

Robert Morris from the Brewery Creek Small Boat Shop in Vancouver BC, and author of the illustrated instructional book "Building Skin-on-Frame Boats", will be teaching a Greenland Kayak building class at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner, Wisconsin. The class is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday July 29th and continue daily through Saturday August 3rd, 2019. During this six-day course the students, either alone or with a partner of their choosing, will learn to build a traditional Greenland style skin-on-frame kayak. By the end of the week they will have a stunning boat ready for the water, and the skills and knowledge to build a second skin-on-frame boat.



Participants of this Greenland Kayak building workshop will be guided through the process of building kayaks in the West Greenland style. Kayaks will be completed and ready to paint by the end of the workshop. Throughout the session, building practices and techniques will be linked to the instructor's research and experiences. Participants should leave with the skills and knowledge to build a second skin-on-frame boat.

This class will be limited to four students (and their partners) so that each will have the opportunity for a real hands-on experience. The early-bird tuition rate of \$900 covers the cost of all materials and instruction for you (and a second person if you so choose) to build a kayak and take it home afterwards. Interested students can register by contacting WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. Call 715-635-2479 or write info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

Thank You to These Supporting Members

Jim Hart

Jill Weber Dean & Jeffrey Dean

Kurt & Susan Sroka

Susan & David Weeks

Stephen Young

James & Nancy Baker

Dale & Jen Heglund

Contact WCHM

www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org

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