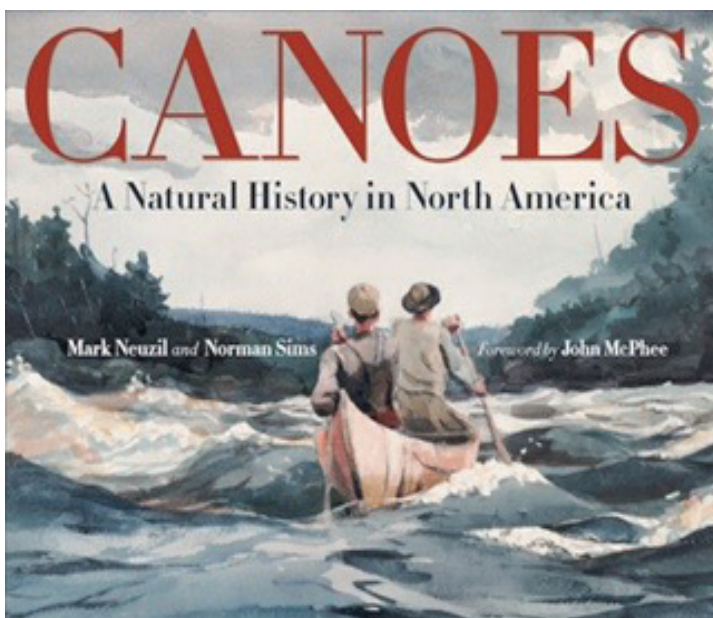




WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



Author Mark Neuzil Coming To WCHM on Friday January 17

The rich and long history of North America's most important watercraft, the canoe, will be the subject of a presentation at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner (312 N Front St), Wisconsin, on Friday, January 17, 2020. "Canoes: A Natural History in North America" will be presented by Professor Mark Neuzil, professor and chair of the journalism program at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Neuzil 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 in his younger days. Mark will also be signing copies of his book which will be available for purchase. The presentation begins at 7:30 pm and is free and open to the public. Visitors are invited to also attend a reception and happy hour prior to the presentation and tour the museum starting at 6:30 pm.

Wild Rice Pole & Knocking Stick Making Class Evenings Feb 24 -26

If you harvest wild rice and want to make your own wild ricing equipment for next season this is the class for you. On February 24, 25 and 26, 2020 from 6pm - 9pm, you can join in a push pole and knocking stick making class at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner, Wisconsin. In this three-evening class you will actually make a tamarack and maple push pole and a set of white cedar knocking sticks, using traditional and modern tools and techniques. Your instructors will be Gary Dunsmoor and John Haack.

This class will be limited to ten individuals or couples for a real hands-on experience, so early registration is recommended. The cost for participants is expected to be \$30.00. For more information or to register email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org or call 715-635-2479.



Spring Paddle Making Class Planned For April 17 & 18

Are you ready for next year's paddling season? Wouldn't it be great to start it with a one-of-a-kind paddle that you made yourself? On April 17-18, 2020, you can get a good start by joining a canoe paddle making class at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner, Wisconsin. In this two-day class you will actually make a canoe paddle in a design of your own choosing, using traditional and modern tools and techniques. Your instructor will be Alex Comb of Stewart River Boatworks from Knife River MN.



Day one will start at 6:00 pm on Friday April 17 with gluing up your laminated paddle blade and grip onto a provided shaft. Day two on Saturday April 18 will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be spent shaping the paddle using mostly hand tools. Some students may not finish shaping or sanding their paddle and varnishing will be left for students to do at home. All tools and materials will be provided.

The cost for participants is \$95.00 plus materials cost (\$35 for basswood, \$40 for cherry, or \$55 for a basswood bent shaft). The class is limited to eight participants for a real hands-on experience, so early registration is recommended. For more information or to register call 715-635-2479 or email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org.

Thank You to Our 2019 Business Supporters **Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Rice Lake WI** **Crystal Creek Natural, Spooner WI**

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News Briefs & Upcoming Events

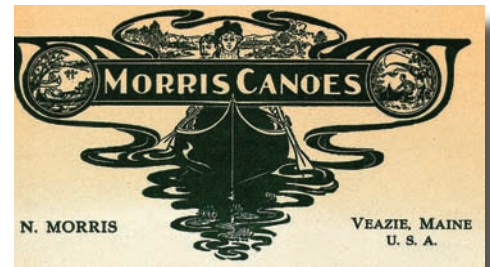


2019 Canoe Raffle Winner Announced

Greg Elonen from Superior (WI) is the lucky winner of the 2019 WCHM canoe raffle. His winning ticket, which he purchased while attending the WCHM Canoe & Wooden Boat Show on May 25th, was drawn by Vicki Shaffer of Edward Jones Investment Advisors in Spooner during a ceremony at the museum on Sunday September 29th at 3:00 PM. The annual canoe raffle is a major fundraiser for the museum, and provides about 15% of its operating revenues. Approximately 350 tickets had been sold in 2019 (out of only 500 printed), bringing in about \$7,000 in revenues.

Original Morris Oars Expected For 2020 Opening

Next year visitors to the WCHM Exhibit Hall should see a nice addition to the Morris section of the “Canoe Craze” exhibit. Kathryn Klos Campbell is donating a set of rowing oars made by Charlie Morris. “These are spoon oars, made by hand by Bert’s brother Charlie, who used them with his fishing boat,” explains Kathy. “Charlie is the man who developed much of the machinery that mechanized the process of canoe-building in the early 20th century, allowing non-builders like the Grays of Old Town and Terrys of Kennebec to establish canoe factories. The oars were given to me by one of the Morris great-grandkids.” These original oars will make a great addition to the 1912 Morris rowing canoe currently on display that was restored by Dave Osborn and subsequently donated to WCHM by Bruce Casselton in 2017.



Robert Morris Returning For 2020 Kayak 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 returning to WCHM in 2020 to teach a Greenland Kayak building class. For the past several years Morris has taught this very popular class in late July and early August. During this six-day course the students, either alone or with a partner, learn to build a traditional Greenland style skin-on-frame kayak. By the end of the week they have a stunning boat ready for the water, and the skills and knowledge to build a second skin-on-frame boat. Cost of the class is expected to be \$1,250. For more information contact WCHM at 715-635-2479 or info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org.

Cedar Strip Building Class Expected August 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 the summer of 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 are okay as well). The class is expected to be in the latter part of August 2020.



WCHM In 2019: Steady As She Goes

“Steady as she goes,” is how WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke describes how the upcoming end of the year looks for the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum. The young institution will likely finish the calendar year almost exactly on budget, with a small surplus of funds to help bolster its financial stability going forward, that is if the end-of-the-year fundraising campaign goes as expected. “Slow but steady growth, with small but noteworthy increases in budgets, and significant steps in accomplishing our strategic goals each year,” explains Malischke, “That’s the road to long term health for an organization.”



Some of our highlights in 2019:

- We completed a new annual display celebrating Gene Jensen and marathon racing canoe design. Work on this display also marked our first collaboration with a private business, Wenonah Canoe, to acquire incoming loan items for display.
- We acquired several new collection pieces, including a Chestnut Prospector and a 1951 Penn Yan Hunter.
- We welcomed John Haack as our new Collections Manager, and began a complete inventory and evaluation of the museum collections and storage practices.
- We established our first outgoing loan display at the Prairie du Chien Welcome Center in collaboration with the Prairie du Chien Chamber of Commerce. We expect thousands of visitors to see this display and learn about the museum.
- We increased museum visitation and the number of days the exhibit hall was open. The museum entertained 648 visitors from 20 different states in its 82 days of operation during the summer season, an 8% increase over the previous year.
- We added new display items, including the museum’s first dugout canoe, one of the first bent paddles ever made, and an 1881 edition of John MacGregor’s “A Thousand Miles In The Rob Roy Canoe On Rivers And Lakes Of Europe.” We also continued the updating of our interpretive signage to our new standards format.
- We completed a new strategic plan to guide us forward for the next decade.



Of course, all this also means the WCHM needs a steady growth in revenue to keep up. “The success of our 2019 end-of-the-year fundraising campaign,” says Malischke, “will be instrumental in determining the success of achieving our goals in 2020.”

Some of our goals for 2020:

- Explore possibilities for a significant increase to our exhibit space.
- Begin restoration on the 1925 Old Town War Canoe received this year.
- Continue the inventory of our collections and storage practices.
- Increase the number of our shop classes and presentations.
- Participate in more public events and establish new signage to draw in visitors.

Thank You to These Supporting Members

Jim Hart

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Susan & David Weeks
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