



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



2 Openings For Kayak Class Aug 4-8

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). The class is scheduled to begin Sunday August 4th and continue daily through Thursday August 8th, 2019. In less than one exciting week you and a partner will build your own Greenland skin-on-frame Kayak. And you keep the 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. Students will also come away with a Greenland style kayak paddle. 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. Tuition is \$1,250 if registered before July 25 and \$1,450 after. This covers the cost of all materials (except paint) and instruction for you, and a second person if you so choose, to build a kayak and take it home afterwards. To register call 715-635-2479 or write info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

WCHA Regional Assembly in Marquette Aug 16-18

The Upper Great Lakes Regional Assembly will be hosted by the Upper Peninsula Chapter of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) in Marquette, Michigan, on August 16th through 18th. The featured canoe will be the Klondike, which was designed and built by the late Elmer Johnson in Lake Linden, Michigan in the 1980s.

Saturday the picnic grounds at Tourist Park will be filled with wooden boats of all types and years. Boat building and paddling demonstrators, vendors and crafts persons will be on site throughout the day. Returning assembly participants will be happy to learn all dry-land activities will be held under the shelter of a huge tent. On Sunday participants can choose from three guided canoe outings: a rustic lake; a gentle flowing river or; if weather permits, a paddle along the Lake Superior shoreline.

Camping is available at Tourist Park. Reservations should be made as soon as possible by calling 906-228-0460 or book on-line at <http://mqtcty.maxgalaxy.net/Campground.aspx>. Tent sites at the campground can be arranged by contacting Judy and Craig Kitchen at jkitchenmqt@gmail.com. Registration forms for canoe exhibitors are available by contacting Alice Johnson at 906-249-3262 or kaj68@att.net.



War Canoe Arrives At Museum

A group of volunteers were anxiously waiting at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner on Friday May 17 for the expected arrival of an antique Old Town “War Canoe.” It would take a number of people to move this large craft, built to be paddled by as many as ten people at a time, so those volunteers would be needed.



The canoe arrived about 2:15 pm, and there was plenty of help on hand to unload it from a specially modified trailer, move

it indoors, unwrap it from its shrink wrapped protection, and gawk at this nearly 100 year old marvel. A quick hunt for the serial number etched inside the bow and a check of Old Town build records revealed that boat was built and sold in 1925. A check with a tape measure proved the length to be an astonishing twenty-five feet.

“War Canoe,” or the racing of large canoes with eight to ten paddlers, was a popular sporting activity for canoe clubs throughout the latter part of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries, especially in Canada. This canoe is owned by Mike Cichanowski, founder and CEO of Wenona Canoes, and is being loaned to the museum for two years while it undergoes restoration.

The canoe will reside in the museum canoe shop during the restoration project while being available for viewing by the visiting public.



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News Briefs & Upcoming Events



WCHM Participates In Annual CAMM Conference

WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke recently attended the 2019 Council of American Maritime Museums (CAMM) annual conference which was held April 24-26, 2019 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and hosted by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. CAMM was founded in 1974 to bring together institutions working toward the preservation and interpretation of North America's maritime heritage. A subgroup of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), CAMM acts as an authoritative voice on policy matters which impact on the preservation of maritime history. One of the highlights was a presentation by Ryan Smazal of the University of Wisconsin Madison and the Wisconsin Historical Society entitled "Comparative Analysis of Wisconsin's Dugout Canoes." Ryan had previously completed a survey of all known dugout canoes in Wisconsin, including the dugout at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum.

WCHM Receives 3 Old Town Canoe Donations

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum recently received a donation of three Old Town canoes from David Grinnel of Cloquet, Minnesota. These particular canoes are not of display quality at this time. The museum is instead looking for folks who are interested in a restoration project and an antique canoe they can call their own. It is likely that these canoes will, therefore, be placed up for sale at some future date, or used for restoration shop projects. They include a 16 foot 1908 Charles River, a 17 foot 1912 Charles River, and a 16 foot 1930 Heavy Water. The WCHM also has a 1942 Old Town Guide restoration project available. Anyone interested in one of these canoes should contact the museum at 715-635-2479 or info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

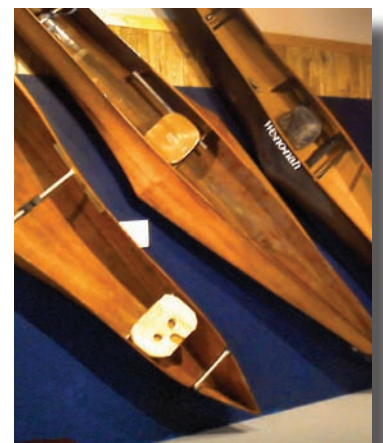


WCHM Dugout Put On Display

A dugout canoe was put on display this year in the WCHM exhibit hall. The dugout was donated to the museum in 2018 by Russ Anderson of Oregon, Wisconsin. Pulled from the lake bed mud of Bass Lake in the Town of Homestead in Florence County, Wisconsin, in the 1950s, it is believed to be over 100 years old. Many ancient canoes are discovered after having been submerged in cold, fresh water for centuries. They were often intentionally sunk to protect them from the harsh winter elements. Design and radiocarbon dating can help archaeologists date the artifacts. Wisconsin's oldest known watercraft is a 2,000 year old dugout currently housed in Kenosha Public Museums.

Two New Exhibits Debut On Opening Day

Great weather, a street filled with exhibitors, live music, and good food and beverage brought out the crowds on May 26 for the 2019 museum opening. Inside the museum exhibit hall two new exhibits greeted visitors. The long planned Gene Jensen exhibit drew the most attention, with a dramatic presentation of three 20 foot racing canoes displayed vertically. Two of the canoes are prototype boats built by Jensen and the third is a modern day version on loan from Wenona Canoe. Also included in the display is an original "elbow paddle," one of five made by Jensen in the 1970s. A second new display features "Adventures on Paper," four books that have significance in canoe history, one of which is a newly acquired 1881 edition of "A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe on Rivers and Lakes of Europe." Three of the books on display are available for purchase in the museum gift shop. Both exhibits will be in on display through the summer.



Museum Exhibit Hall Seeks Volunteers

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 contact Jed Malischke at 715-635-2479 or jed@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.



Haack Appointed Collections Manager

The WCHM Board of Directors recently approved the appointment of John Haack from Shell Lake, Wisconsin, as the new Collections Manager for WCHM. The WCHM Collections Manager is responsible for the registration of new objects to the museum Collections, the maintenance of a Collections database, and the safe storage, labeling, tracking, and general organization of the Collections. John will be filling a role vacated over a year ago and previously held for the past ten years by Mike Johnson.

John is recently retired, having worked for the past 19 years for the University of Wisconsin Extension as a Regional Natural Resource Educator in Northwest Wisconsin. He spent time working on a wide range of natural resource issues including a number of St. Croix River projects and the Totogatic State Wild River designation. Prior to his Extension position he worked for the Wisconsin DNR as a Water Management Specialist, Wildlife Technician and Forest Fire & Forestry Technician.

He has spent many hours in a canoe on local rivers and lakes as well as at the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area, and spends his leisure time bee keeping, wild ricing, fishing, and hunting. He has also volunteered for the past several years as a WCHM Keymaster. Welcome aboard John!

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Contact WCHM

www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org

info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org

PO Box 365, Spooner WI 54801

715-635-5002, 715-635-2479