



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



Pandemic Ongoing, Museum Will Remain Closed Through 2020

First it was the spring travel and recreation shows, then the annual paddle making class, and eventually the 2020 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show was cancelled too. Maybe we could still open the exhibit hall in June, then maybe in July? How about August? With the pandemic ongoing the WCHM Board of Directors has now decided (at their recent July meeting held entirely online) that the Museum exhibit hall should remain closed for the rest of 2020.

“We are using the time being closed to get some new, interesting projects started,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “And many of them will be ongoing through the summer and into the fall.” One of those projects is an inventory of the entire Museum collections with WCHM Collections Manager John Haack. Another is restoration of a 1925 25 foot Old Town War Canoe in the Museum shop. “We’re also working on getting some new collection items in, and developing new displays for a grand re-opening in 2021.” Many of these projects are being chronicled in a “Back Door Tour” video series being produced by the Museum and available on YouTube and Facebook. Future video projects include a virtual tour of the exhibit hall and participation in a 4H Virtual Summer Camp. “For now we’ll try to connect with folks online, and hope to see everyone again in the spring.”

Canoe & Brew Anniversary Dinner Celebration Still Planned For Sept 27

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) is planning to celebrate its 10th anniversary with a first annual dinner celebration from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday September 27th. Dubbed “Canoe & Brew,” this new event will be in collaboration with two prominent local businesses, Round Man Brewing and Pine Brook Farm, and will feature a fabulous country chicken and rib dinner in a wide open farm setting. “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’ll be utilizing their wedding barn, so we’ll have plenty of room to social distance and we’ll be making plans accordingly to hold a safe event.” To insure safe space, the event will be limited to 50 attendees. Reservations are highly recommended.

Prior to the dinner, while guests are enjoying a brew or two from Round Man Brewing, there will be a variety of activities. Discuss your beer sampling with the representative from Round Man. Stop by the meet and greet tent with special guest birch bark builder Ferdy Goode. Check out some of the Museum’s new collection pieces and displays. Take a chance on all the extra raffle prizes we’ll have for the day. Or just sit and enjoy the live music. And it all leads up to the big annual canoe raffle drawing after dinner. The cost for this Museum fundraising event is \$30 per reservation, all fun included. You can make reservations by writing to info@wisconsincanoerheritagemuseum.org.



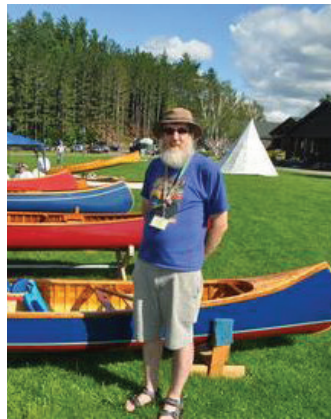
WCHM 2020 Membership Meeting Will Be Zoomed, Board of Directors Election Will Be Mailed

In this year of pandemic, WCHM will be holding its annual general membership meeting by Zoom video, and its election for board of directors via US mail. All WCHM members are invited and encouraged to take part in both activities.

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 pm CDT. Members can join online via Zoom at <https://www.zoom.us>, or by calling in with any telephone to 312-626-6799 (long distance charges will apply). A meeting number (883-0096-2453) and a passcode (432005) will be required for both systems. The meeting is expected to last about 15 minutes.



The board of director's 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). There are four candidates on the ballot (and space for write-ins). All four candidates are incumbents (officers are selected by the board after the election). Pictured from left and counter clockwise are Jamie Dunn (currently Vice President), Dan Miller, Liz Vollmer-Buhl, and Jim Czajkowski (all currently board members at large). Ballots need to be returned by September 15 and results will be announced at the new annual dinner event on September 27th.



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News Briefs & Upcoming Events



Sept Cedar Strip Canoe Building Class Cancelled

The WCHM's first ever cedar strip canoe building class, scheduled for the end of September, is the latest casualty of the 2020 pandemic. The class was to begin on Saturday, September 19th and continue daily through Sunday, September 27th, but has now been cancelled. 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, was to be the guest instructor. "We were very excited to have Josh Tolkan coming to the Museum as an instructor for this class," says WCHM ED Jed Malischke, "And we certainly hope to res-schedule the class for some time in 2021."

Midwest Canoe Symposium 2020 Cancelled

Elaine Mravetz, event coordinator for the Midwest Canoe Symposium at Camp Butler in Peninsula, OH, reports that "Unfortunately the Summit County Health Department has placed several requirements on our type of events that make it both logistically and financially unfeasible, and so we very reluctantly cancel the Midwest Canoe Symposium for 2020. I am so sorry and this is the first time we have had to cancel in over 20 years. We survived 911, Katrina, and a host of other serious hurricanes that impacted the east, but we could not overcome the collateral damage from COVID. We do plan to hold MCS for 2021 on September 10-12 at the same location. Thank you very much for your support."



You Can Still Get Canoe Raffle Tickets

The WCHM 2020 Canoe Raffle is still underway. The annual canoe raffle typically provides up to 10% of the organization's annual revenue, and with so many events being cancelled this year, and the opportunity to sell tickets along with them, "We'll be dependent on our members more than ever this year," says WCHM ED Jed Malischke. "Picking up a raffle ticket or two is a great way to help support the museum in these tough times." Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. The drawing is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 27. The holder of the winning ticket will have a choice of one of two beautiful cedar-canvas canoes. How can you get one of the raffle tickets? "They can't be sold online," explains Malischke, "but if you write to us at info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org we can send you all the details and make arrangements to get them to you."

Canoe Builder Valliere Earns Top National Arts Honor

A traditional birchbark canoe builder from Lac du Flambeau in Wisconsin is now one of the nation's top honorees in folk and traditional arts. Wayne Valliere Sr. was selected as a 2020 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Valliere is one of just a handful of master birchbark canoe builders remaining in the Midwest. "It is intended as the highest honor in the folk and traditional arts bestowed by the United States Government," said Cliff Murphy, the Director of Folk and Traditional Arts at the NEA (photo courtesy of Wayne Valliere and the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation).



WCHM Starts Video Production Program

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum is getting into the video production business. “Like everything else in this modern world,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “We need to have an online video presence. So we are setting up to produce short video pieces on a regular basis.”

The Museum’s first video endeavor is a “Back Door Tour” series which aims at giving viewers a glimpse of some of the activities going on at the Museum even though it is closed due to the pandemic. Three episodes have been published so far, with several more in the works. Topics for the first three productions included a look at the ongoing collections inventory being done, progress on the restoration of a 1925 Old Town War Canoe, and the arrival of Ferdy Goode’s Birch Bark Eastern Cree Crooked Canoe. Future episodes may cover the moving and storage of canoes and building forms, a live 4H Summer Camp Virtual Tour, and other “back room” projects that are underway.



The WCHM Videos are being published on Facebook and YouTube. To find the WCHM YouTube channel search YouTube for Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum. “In the future we hope to produce videos of other presentations and activities we hold at the Museum. Maybe even live streaming along with webinars so we can have audience interaction and questions,” says Malischke. “But of course we still hope folks will want to visit the Museum in person too.”

War Canoe Restoration Ongoing In WCHM Canoe Shop

Over the past six months, while the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum has remained closed to the public, work has quietly progressed in the museum workshop on restoration of a 1925 Old Town War Canoe. “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 particular canoe is owned by Mike Cichanowski, founder and CEO of Wenona Canoes, and was lent to the museum for restoring in the summer of 2019. At 25 feet total length, it takes up a good portion of the shop space.



Most of the restoration work is being done by WCHM volunteers Jamie Dunn and Mike Johnson. All the broken ribs and planks have been replaced (including the ones with gunshot holes), and all the seats have been re-caned (all ten of them). Varnishing has begun but the decks still need to be fabricated. Soon it will be ready for new canvas. “We may have to install some new tie-downs in the floor for a canoe of this length,” explained Dunn. “But we’ll get it done.”



[Thank You to These Supporting Members](#)

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