



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



A Successful 2023 Opening Day

The WCHM Canoe & Wooden Boat Show, held annually on the Saturday of Memorial Weekend, the seasonal opening day of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum, came off in fine fashion this year. With what seemed to be record crowds, near perfect weather, plus a nice turnout of over 20 exhibitors, there were plenty of smiling faces. Some of the show's highlights included Gary Hermann's 1912 Old Town Guide, Boyd Lindberg's 1939 Penn Yan Rowboat, Mike Knuth's 1930s Thompson Brothers canoe, and Carlton Peterson's 1924 Kennebec.

The music of Blu Kanu in the beer garden was a big hit. The sibling harmonies of Artie and Rhoda Anderson had folks dancing, singing, and playing along. A surprise appearance by Glen Anderson on harmonica was an added treat. The last minute addition of Les Fils du Voyageur rounded out the entertainment. Their extensive collection of paddling, working and playing songs paint an interesting historical overview of the life and times of a voyageur.

WCHM is grateful to sponsors Bent Paddle Brewing and WE Energies for helping to host a fun event for all. If you missed the show, or even if you were there, you might want to check out the video "Ten Minute Tour of the Canoe & Wooden Boat Show at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum May 27, 2023." You can find it on the WCHM YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@wisconsin canoeheritagemuse3215 or with the direct link https://youtu.be/5D-DqtOu_bc

Another New Venue For Canoe & Brew On Sunday September 24

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) will host its "Canoe & Brew" event from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday September 24th, and once again it will move to a new venue.

"We want to make each year a unique event," explained Canoe & Brew committee chair Debbie Koehn, "and this year we thought we would try an indoor event with a few new twists." Round Man Brewing in downtown Spooner, Wisconsin, will be the site for this fourth annual end-of-the-season celebration in 2023. Round Man has provided the beer tasting in past years for Canoe & Brew, and this year they will be opening up their entire brewery to WCHM for the event and providing food as well. "We're very grateful to the Churchill family and all the folks at Round Man for helping us sponsor Canoe & Brew," says Koehn.

While attendees are sampling the local brew, they can expect to meet some interesting personalities, hear some live music, and have a chance to win some of the extra raffle prizes that will be given away before the drawing for the annual canoe raffle. This year's event will be limited to 100 attendees, so reservations are highly recommended. The cost for this museum fundraising event is \$25 per reservation, all fun included. You can make reservations by writing to info@wisconsin canoeheritagemuseum.org.



WCHM Board of Directors Election & General Membership Meeting

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum is currently in the midst of its annual election for the Board of Directors. Current WCHM members are encouraged to participate and should receive a ballot and return envelope along with this newsletter (some past members may also receive a ballot and can participate by renewing their membership).

Four board positions are to be elected to three year terms, and there are four candidates on the ballot (along with space for write-ins). The candidates include incumbents Dan Miller (currently serving as President), Benson Gray, and Jamie Dunn. Also on the ballot is Mike Knuth of Duluth, Minnesota. Ballots must be returned before September 15th and election results will be announced at the annual general membership meeting held via Zoom on Thursday September 21st. All members are invited to attend the online meeting. Links and instructions for joining the meeting will be posted at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org several days prior.

Candidate Mike Knuth

My name is Mike Knuth and I would like to express my interest in becoming a board member of the WCHM for many reasons. My interest in canoes and canoe tripping spans nearly a lifetime. It all started in 1963 when my dad bought a 1930s Thompson wood canvas canoe. My brother and I used it on the local rivers of Wisconsin for many years until it was retired to the barn for about 25 years. Recognizing both the personal history and the historical value of that canoe, I did a complete restoration and I still use it to this day and often show it at local boat shows.

That led to a deeper appreciation of wooden canoes and ultimately to the WCHM. I have a fond interest in canoe tripping and over the years have made many trips in the BWCA, Quetico, and Wabakimi Provincial parks. In 1996 and 1999, I organized two trips that retraced most of Sigurd Olson's 1955 trip down the Churchill River in Saskatchewan described in his book the "The Lonely Land". Recently, I have taken much interest in the WCHM. I have restored a canoe, built a skin on frame Greenland Kayak, and am currently building a replica of an 1881 J.H. Rushton Rob Roy design which he called the American Traveling Canoe. This project is my foray into lofting and lapstrake construction. I have taken a great interest in the works of Rushton and have studied the company history. Many of these projects were in part inspired and spurred on by my connection to the WCHM.

My wife and I are currently "Keymasters" at the museum which we enjoy. Meeting the varied visitors, answering questions, and getting people excited about the history and craftsmanship represented in the museum exhibits is rewarding. I like the small professional exhibits, the museum's mission and purpose, and I would like to participate in the operations of the WCHM. My professional career spanned 36 years working for the US Environmental Protection Agency in Duluth, MN. As a result, I have experience working in groups, committees, and interacting with scientists and the public. I feel that an organization cannot thrive unless it can successfully engage and excite the public. I am confident I can use my lifetime of experience and skills to help promote and sustain the WCHM into the future.



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News Briefs & Upcoming Events



WCHM Attends Shell Lake Art Fair

The WCHM traveling booth could recently be found at the Shell Lake Art Fair on July 1st in Shell Lake, Wisconsin. 2023 marks the fourth year the museum has been invited back to this highly juried art show. Pleasant weather brought out good crowds for the entire day. WCHM Keymasters Mary Hemshrot and Darwin Karl made many new contacts for the museum and sold a good number of raffle tickets .

WCHM Keymaster Competes in Vadden Paddlar

The WCHM traveling booth was at the finish line of the Vatten Paddlar Canoe, Kayak & SUP Races in Barnes, Wisconsin, on Saturday July 13. The museum was there as a sponsor of the races, and also to cheer on WCHM Keymaster Terry Koehn, who competed in the five mile kayak division. The Vatten Paddlar includes multiple distance and boat options. Recreational paddlers and families may prefer the 5-mile distance for stand-up paddleboards (SUPs), kayaks, and canoes. Racers and folks out for more of a challenge enjoy the 10-mile distance for kayaks and canoes.



New Travel Book Features WCHM

A new travel book by freelance travel writers Tom and Kristi Manus features the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum as one of the hidden gems of Wisconsin, with a focus on the work done at the museum to restore a 1940s Shell Lake Canoe for the National Museum of Forest Service History in Montana. In *Secret Wisconsin: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*, the authors promise to take you on an unforgettable trip to discover the state's best kept secrets. The book can be preordered now from Reedy Press, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Book A Million, and many independent bookstores. Watch for the authors to be at WCHM sometime this winter for a book signing and presentation.

WCHM Undergoes Charitable Gambling Audit

Randall Bansley of the Wisconsin Office of Charitable Gaming recently met with WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke to perform a routine audit of the museum's raffle practices. Being a federal recognized 501c3 non-profit organization, WCHM must obtain an annual gambling license from the state of Wisconsin and adhere to strict raffle procedures. The audit found WCHM in good compliance. The 2023 canoe raffle continues through Sunday September 24th when the drawing will take place during the fourth annual Canoe & Brew event at Round Man Brewing in Spooner. To find out how you can get tickets contact WCHM at info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.



WCHM To Receive Historic Hudson Bay Bound Canoe

Natalie Warren, paddling adventurer and author of *Hudson Bay Bound*, has offered her 17.4 foot Langford Prospector, in which she and Ann Raiho became the first two women to make the 2,000-mile journey by paddle from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay and also split the continent in half by completing the entire length of the Mississippi, to the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum as a collection piece. Her speaking tour landed her at WCHM in April of 2022 and resulted in more than a standing room crowd on a snowy weekday evening.



Exhibit Hall Enjoying Busy Season

The WCHM exhibit hall is in the midst of its summer season, and visitation so far has been strong. In fact, as of the middle of July, the number of visitors is up 20% over the previous two year's figures. "Things really picked up after the July 4 holiday, and we're now averaging about nine to ten visitors a day," says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. "Our Keymasters are doing a great job this year. So far we have not missed a day and over the holiday we were open ten days straight."

The normal schedule for the museum is from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday through Saturday and 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Sundays and Holidays (or anytime by appointment). The season will run through the end of September.

Thank You to These 2023 Supporting Members

Terrence Panian, Hayward WI
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Member Steve Clark Passes

Stephen Earl Clark, age 72, of Big Sandy, TN, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. Steve has been an active member and supporter of WCHM since 2019, has donated to the WCHM Endowment Fund, purchased numerous raffle tickets, and came from Tennessee to attend several WCHM events held in Wisconsin.

Contact WCHM

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