New Items On Display in 2017

Each year the WCHM tries to present something new in its exhibit hall, usually unveiling a new annual display during its opening day ceremonies. “We’re taking a different approach for the 2017 season,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “Instead of a one new, large display, we will be updating some of the older exhibit signage and adding a few new boats and artifacts to current exhibits.”

The “Canoe Craze” exhibit will see the addition of an 18’ BN Morris rowing canoe, recently restored by Dave Osborn of Little Lakes Canoe Restoration and donated to the WCHM by Bruce Casselton. Only a few Morris canoes were rigged for rowing, “explained Malischke, “so we are excited about having this rare item, and looking forward to possibly adding a pair of Morris oars to it later this year.”

Another new item that will be on display in 2017 is a Peterborough Model 24 cedar-rib canoe. It is on loan to the WCHM from Susan Plankis, and will be added to the “Canadian section.” “This boat is so beautiful” says Malischke, “that we are coming up with a special viewing stand so it can be seen from many angles.” The currently on display Thompson sailing canoe will also be receiving some much needed ID signage, plus a few related artifacts, including lee boards and a 1920’s Abercrombie & Fitch sail kit.

Opening Day Soon - May 27, 2017

Preparations are shaping up as we rapidly approach the seasonal opening of the museum on Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day, May 27, 2017. Activities will be taking place inside as well as outside the museum from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm that day. Exhibitors are being registered for the eighth annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show. Musical acts have been scheduled for the “back porch stage.” Permits and licenses have been obtained from the city for the food and beer garden. Items are being gathered for the silent auction and raffle. Prayers are being said for good weather.

Exhibitors are making their final preparations as well. Mike Knuth is coming from Duluth with his restored 16’ Thompson Brothers Indian model. After missing a few years, Bill Stewart of Spooner is returning with his 16.5’ Salmon Wherry sail and rowboat with a 16’ mast. Damian Wilmot is coming from Superior with a pre-1900 Joe Lucius canoe. Harold Blumer of Cumberland is bringing five newly restored wood canvas canoes, all for sale, including a 1918 17’ BN Morris, a 1912 18’ Old Town, a 1915 16’ Old Town, a 1924 16’ Old Town, and a 1935 17’ Old Town.

Booth space is still available and free. 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.
WCHM Will Host 2017 Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner (WI) will host the 2017 Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly on August 25-27, with activities taking place in a variety of locations during the three day period and during the week preceding. The Regional Assembly is an annual gathering of canoeing enthusiasts from throughout the Upper Midwest and beyond. The event has been previously hosted in various locations throughout the Midwest by regional chapters of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA), including Marquette (MI) in 2016 and Lansing (MI) in 2015.

In 2017 the main activities will take place on Saturday in Memorial Park & Campground on the shores of Shell Lake in Shell Lake (WI), just five miles south of the museum. Activities being planned include a canoe and wooden boat show with dozens of antique wooden boats on display, building and restoration workshops, paddling demonstrations on the water, exhibitions of freestyle paddling, an evening parade of canoes, and booths of outdoor recreation vendors.

WCHM will also be working with other area organizations to create a number of activities in the days leading up to the main event, for example: a tour of the state’s largest fish hatchery, or an open house at a national park visitor center. There will be organized paddling trips to nearby waters such as the Yellow River, or down the St Croix National Scenic Riverway, or through the Sawmill & Loyhead Portage Routes. There may also be some day or week long classes and workshops in the WCHM canoe shop, and presentations and tours in the exhibit hall. Most of the Assembly activities will have free admission and be open to the public. Onsite camping in the park in Shell Lake is available through WCHM, but spaces are limited so early reservations are recommended. Details can be found at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org. Write to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org or call 715-635-2479 for additional information.

Thank You to Our 2017 Business Supporters

Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Rice Lake WI
Dahl’s Home Store, Spooner WI

Red Cross Pharmacy & RC Gifts, Spooner WI
Spooner Outlet, Spooner WI
Schmitz’s Economart, Spooner WI
Castle Insurance, Spooner WI
Spinning Wheels Publishing, Trego, WI
Spooner Riverplace Motel, Spooner WI
St Croix River Association, Saint Croix Falls WI
Hitch Exclusives, Manitowish Waters WI
T&T Tool, Spooner, WI
Shell Lake State Bank, Spooner WI
Indianhead Eye Clinic, Spooner WI
Little Lakes Canoe Restoration, Boulder Junction WI
Stewart River Boatworks, Knife River MN
Tim Reedy State Farm Insurance, Spooner WI
Stouts Island Lodge, St Paul MN
Pair O’Lakes Lodge, Spooner WI
**News Briefs & Upcoming Events**

**Canoe Building Starts May 11**

Alex Comb of Stewart River Boatworks (stewartriver.com) will be teaching a cedar and canvas canoe building class at the WCHM starting Thursday May 11th and continuing daily through Wednesday May 17th. At press time there were still a couple spots open for this class, which will be a real hands-on experience for those participating. On the first day cedar ribs will be bent over a solid canoe form and on the following day planking the canoe with thin cedar “planks” will begin. By the end of the week the canoes should be ready for paint and varnish with seats, thwarts, yokes and gunwales installed. Interested students can register by contacting WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. Call 715-635-2479 or write info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

**Brave Cowboy Returns To Heritage Day May 27**

Jason Rabuck on harmonica and guitar and Eric Schubring on banjo and guitar make up the duo Brave Cowboy. They will be performing on the “back porch stage” in the beer garden during Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day at the museum on Saturday May 27 along with Tom & Jed and another group yet to be announced. And like the character in Edward Abbey’s book, Brave Cowboy refuses to be branded, labeled, or fenced in by musical stereotypes. They provide an inspired and vibrant blend of folk, rock, blues, and originals.

**Look For Us At These Regional Spring Events**

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending the Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo in Minneapolis on April 28-30. Look for us in the non-profit section alongside with Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary. We’ll also be attending Hunt Hill’s Prairie Fling on May 20 in Sarona, WI. We’ll be displaying the 2015 raffle canoe, and folks will have the opportunity to purchase tickets. Prairie Fling is a day-long celebration of spring, nature, and the Hunt Hill community. Visitors enjoy hayrides, music, food, artisan booths, community booths, educational programs, a kid’s area, and more. Bill Stewart from Hunt Hill is pictured here at the Minneapolis show last year helping out in the WCHM booth.

**Volunteers Needed**

WCHM is looking for new volunteers to join the “Keymasters” and two 2017 event committees. The Keymasters are the folks that dedicate three or four hours every couple of weeks during the summer to open the museum exhibit hall to visitors. Volunteer committees are also being assembled to organize and execute two 2017 events, Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day, on May 27 and the Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly on August 25-27. Call or write if interested to 715-635-2479 or info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

**Silent Auction Items For Heritage Day May 27**

Several exciting items will be up for sale in the silent auction that has become an annual part of Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on May 27 at WCHM. Two canoes will be on the sales block. One is a 16 foot Shell Lake Deluxe (serial number 1551, vintage unknown, repaired and re-canvased in WCHM shop in 2010) and the other is an 18 foot Old Town Guide built in 1967 (fiber-glassed at the factory). Also for sale will be a “puddle jumper” canoe form that builds an 11 foot canoe. (pictured left).
WCHM Election & Member Meeting May 26

On Friday May 26 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 27. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

WCHM board member Ed Peters will be serving again this year in the capacity of nomination and election judge for the general membership meeting and election. Four board seats will be up for election. Dave Osborn and Alex Comb will be retiring from the board. Two other current board members, Mike Johnson and Dan Miller, will be on the ballot for another three year term. And two new candidates have accepted positions on the ballot, Liz Vollmer-Buhl from Oregon and Jim Czajkowski from Wisconsin. 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.

Liz Vollmer-Buhl says her interest in canoes and canoeing is interwoven throughout her life. “I enjoyed canoeing at Girl Scout camp, and then years later led wilderness canoe trips for the Boy Scouts’ Northern Tier National High Adventure Program in Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba. My husband and I even had a birchbark canoe serve as the altar in our wedding. We continued our paddling adventures with wilderness whitewater canoe trips in northern Manitoba. I’ve incorporated teaching canoeing into my professional nonprofit career, including adding it to watershed day camp programs in Oregon. Most recently, I spent eleven years working for the Siuslaw Watershed Council in the Oregon Coast Range, with the last eight years as executive director. I have served on the board of directors for the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association (based in Ely, Minnesota). I’ve assisted with the building of two canoes and own more than I should admit to. These days, I’m passing on the canoeing tradition to our toddler and am a small business owner. It is important to me to keep the traditions of paddling and canoe building alive, especially as younger generations have more screen than lake time.”

Jim Czajkowski resides with his wife, Joyce, in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, Wisconsin where they have lived for the last 40 years. “My interest in canoeing is long standing. I have canoed as a Boy Scout, during my time in the Air Force and here in Crawford County. My canoeing here is primarily on the Mississippi, Wisconsin and Kickapoo rivers but also includes other southern Wisconsin rivers, the Boundary Waters and some northern Wisconsin rivers and lakes. During the winters, I have built four marine plywood kayaks (for my daughters and their husbands) and two wood and canvas canoes. I took my third canoe off the form last Sunday. So, I have some limited experience with wooden canoe construction. I am impressed with the quality of the museum, its emphasis on encouraging new canoe construction in its workshop, and I believe these activities should be encouraged.”

Thank You to These Supporting Members

Jim Hart
Jill Weber Dean & Jeffrey Dean
Kurt & Susan Sroka

Contact WCHM
www.WisconsinCanoHeritageMuseum.org
info@wisconsincanoheritagemuseum.org
PO Box 365, Spooner WI 54801
715-635-5002, 715-635-2479