Canoe Building Class Planned In Aug

Alex Comb from Stewart River Boatworks in Knife River MN will be teaching a cedar and canvas canoe building class at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner WI. The class is scheduled to begin Sunday July 31st and continue daily through Saturday August 6th. In the Comb’s group class, the students will build up to two beautiful cedar and canvas canoes. 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. Once planked and the hull constructed, canvas will be stretched over the canoes. Finally, the canvas is filled with water-proof filler. In this hands-on class everyone will be invited to participate in the construction. By the end of the week the canoes should be ready for paint and varnish with seats, thwarts, yokes and gunwales installed.

The canoe building class will be limited to twelve students so that each will have the opportunity for a real hands-on experience. Depending on the number of students there will be one or two canoes built by the group. A lottery will be held at the end of the class to decide who may go home with at least one of the canoes for the cost of materials. The cost of the class is $700 and interested students can enroll by contacting WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke at 715-635-2479 or info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

Winter 2016

Paddle Making Class March 19 & 20

Even though it feels like winter, spring will be here soon and the paddling season with it. Break those winter blues and join us on March 19-20 and make a canoe paddle in a design of your choosing, using traditional and modern tools and techniques. Our instructor will be Tim Bates, who has been making paddles for over thirty years, and is an outdoor educator at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

This class will be limited to ten students so that each will have the opportunity for a real hands-on experience. All tools and materials will be provided. Participants will have two options for paddle materials, and will need to select one at the time of registration. The first option is basswood and cedar, used to make the classic laminated paddle with alternating colorations. These are softer woods and are the easiest woods to work with. The second option is cherry, used to make either beaver or otter tail paddles that are three piece laminations. Cherry is a harder wood and thus is more difficult to work with, but makes a beautiful paddle.

The cost for participants is $90.00 plus materials cost ($15 for cedar or $25 for cherry). Registration and paddle choice must be done before March 12th. For more information or to register call 715-635-2479 or email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org. For nearby motel lodging we recommend the Best Western American Heritage Inn at 715-635-9770. For camping, travel, or other lodging information contact the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-367-3306.
Get Ready For The WCHM Canoe & Wooden Boat Show

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner WI would like to invite participants for its seventh annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show, to be held in conjunction with Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on May 28th outside on the street in front of the museum. This one day free event will also include museum tours and open house in the museum exhibit hall, the unveiling of a new annual display, ongoing activities in the canoe workshop, plus live music and food and beverage in the beer garden.

Spring is on the way and its time now to make plans to be an exhibitor and display your canoe, wooden boat, or other canoe related items of interest. Wooden boats of all shapes, sizes, and designs are welcome, both classic and modern, as well as all kinds of classic and vintage water and paddling related items. Whether you have items to sell, or you just have something to show off, there will be many interested folks attending this free event. Exhibitors can include individuals, commercial entities, non-profits, authors, government agencies, educators, crafters, and businesses whose products or services are relevant to boaters and wooden boats and canoes.

Booth space is free, and 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. The WCHM is a 501c3 non-profit located at 312 Front St in Spooner, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day is produced by the WCHM each year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Thank You to Our 2015 Business Supporters

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News Briefs & Upcoming Events

**Two Choice Raffle Canoes In 2016**

WCHM will once again be raffling off a canoe built in the WCHM canoe shop as a major fundraising activity in 2016, but this year will see a choice of two craft. The winner will be able to select either a tandem rigged or a solo rigged 14 foot cedar canvas canoe built on a form designed by Jerry Karbon. A third option for the winner is $1000 cash. One of the craft will be displayed at Canoecopia in Madison. The drawing will take place on Saturday September 24th, 2016 (the last day of the season for the exhibit hall). Tickets are available now for $20 per ticket or six for $100. A limit of 500 tickets will be sold.

**Annual Election and Membership Meeting May 28**

The WCHM will hold its annual general membership meeting and election for the Board of Directors on Friday May 27th, the evening before Canoe Heritage Day. The membership meeting and election will take place at the museum at 312 N Front St in Spooner. Anyone interested for running for the board should contact Ed Peters at edw.peters@yahoo.com or 715-437-0614.

**WCHM To Acquire New Collections Items**

WCHM has agreed to accept two recent donation offers. One is a 1923 Thompson Boat Company Hiawatha canoe. This particular canoe has sponsons, accessories to use an out board motor, and a 3 horse power motor that goes with it. The complete set up is being donated by Roger Aho of Wausau WI and was previously owned by Roger’s father-in-law Joseph Nowak. Another item WCHM has accepted is one of Tom MacKenzie’s earliest fabric covered ultralight frame canoes, this one weighing about 13 pounds. It is being donated by Steven Dawson of East Troy, WI. Steve worked for an aircraft manufacturing company, and helped introduce Tom to the idea of using Dacron aircraft material for canoes.

**Look For The WCHM Booth At Canoecopia 2016**

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending Canoecopia at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison WI (1919 Alliant Energy Way) on March 11-13, 2016. Canoecopia is the world’s largest canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddle expo. There is no other venue that has this breadth and depth of outdoor knowledge in one spot for three days. We expect to have our new 2016 raffle canoe on display there, among other items, and it’s a great place to renew your WCHM membership, pick up some souvenir WCHM merchandise, and get that first raffle ticket of the year.

**SCMWS Project Seeking Watershed Stewards**

The St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards (SCMWS) pilot project will begin training the first group of Stewards in late March. The SCMWS pilot project is an adult learning program similar to those used to train Master Gardeners or Master Naturalists. A unique curriculum combines the topics of watershed ecology, leadership, community organizing, and using the arts as a tool for designing and implementing successful projects. Their website explains the project in detail, and has an application link for interested candidates: http://www.stcroixstewards.org.
Canoe Shop Adopts New Policies

The mission of the WCHM canoe shop is to maintain a workshop where visitors can see canoe crafters building new and restoring old canoes, and where classes on paddle building, canoe building, seat caning and other topics can be held. While the WCHM shop can provide occasional assistance to builders when an extra pair of hands is needed, or a suggestion or recommendation is requested, the WCHM shop does not offer basic instruction or teaching of building or restoration techniques (except in class situations with a contracted instructor). Shop users are expected to be experienced and able to work on their own.

With the New Year of 2016, the shop committee has proposed a new set of operation policies, and these policies were recently approved by the WCHM board. A set of “Shop Project Initiation Documents” will still guide the potential shop user through a series of steps to obtain approval of a project and access to the shop (these documents are available online or by request at info@wiscosincanoeheritagemuseum.org or by calling 715-635-2479). Dropped from the operation of the shop, however, is the “mentorship” program (deemed too impractical to continue on a sustaining basis). Instead the shop will attempt to maintain an onsite presence of volunteer “Shop Stewards” similar to the Keymaster program used to keep the exhibit hall open. Initial planned hours for the shop steward program will be: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm, Wednesday evenings from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and Friday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Museum Exhibit Hall Seeks Volunteer Keymasters For 2016 Season

Keymasters Keep The Museum Open And Accessible For All

WCHM 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 will be opening for the season on May 28, when WCHM puts on its Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

After that date the exhibit hall will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on Sunday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Keymasters work either half days or whole days, whichever they wish, and set their own schedule of days. Inquiries for more information can be made to Jed Malischke at 715-635-2479 or by writing to info@wiscosincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

Thank You to These Supporting Members

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

Contact WCHM

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