Endowment Campaign Nears Goal

In December the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) began a fundraising campaign to raise the initial funds needed to establish an endowment fund for the museum. Called the WCHM Perpetuity Endowment Fund, the purpose of the fund is to ensure the WCHM’s financial stability and continued operations over the long term.

An initial fundraising goal of $30,000 was set to establish the WCHM fund. This is the minimum amount needed to place the management of the fund with a foundation such as the Wisconsin Historical Foundation (WHF), which has a program for administering endowment funds for museums. The managing foundation invests the capital along with that of other endowments, enabling higher yields to be realized, and releases a steady annual stream of funds for use by the endowment organization, even while the principal of the fund continues to grow in size.

As of February 1st the campaign had received over $28,000 in donations and pledges, only a couple thousand short of its goal. “We are grateful to all those who have already sent in donations,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “And we fully expect to reach our goal before the end of our campaign and be able to establish the fund in 2018. Our longer term goal, say over 10 or 15 years, would be on the order of $150,000, which would generate significant annual revenue that could make the difference in a lean year between keeping the doors open or having to shut down. Adding the endowment fund to your estate planning would be a great way to help us reach that long term goal.”

Paddle Making Class May 11 & 12

Are you ready for the spring canoe paddling season? On May 11-12, 2018, you can get a good start by joining a canoe paddle making class at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner, WI. In this two-day class you will actually make a canoe paddle in a design of your own choosing, using traditional and modern tools and techniques. Your instructor will be Alex Comb of Stewart River Boatworks from Knife River MN.

Day one will start at 6:00 pm on Friday May 11 with gluing up your laminated paddle blade and grip onto a provided shaft. Day two will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be spent shaping the paddle using mostly hand tools. Some students may not finish shaping or sanding their paddle and varnishing will also be left for students to do later at home. All tools and materials will be provided. The cost for participants is $95.00 plus materials cost ($25 for basswood, $30 for cherry, or $35 for a basswood bent shaft). The class is limited to eight participants for a real hands-on experience, so early registration is recommended. For more information or to register call 715-635-2479 or email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org. For nearby motel lodging we recommend Spooner Riverplace Best Western Motel at 715-635-9770. For camping, travel, or other lodging information contact the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-367-3306.
**Spooner Machine - Local Supporter of WCHM**

“Where did the museum get this great, professional looking exhibit rail system?” This is a question we often hear from visitors to the exhibit hall of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM). The rail system in question has been supplied over the years free of charge by Spooner Machine, a local business that offers fabrication, machining, and powder coating under the management of Randy McQuade.

Spooner Machine (www.spoonermachine.com) has been a fixture in the area for many years. Their base business comes from equipment they produce for the cranberry industry (they are recognized as the originator of the Cran-Boom in 1984). On average, eighty-five percent of their business is within the United States, and fifteen percent is international. In 2002 they built a new 12,150 sq. ft. steel building, doubling their floor space from their previous location. Additional growth required an expansion of 4,600 sq. ft. in 2009, along with another 8,400 sq. ft. expansion in 2010, bringing their current building size to 25,150 sq. ft. They also operate a 9,000 sq. ft. powder-coating shop in another location. They currently have about thirty-five full time employees, 14 D1.1 certified welders, 4 D1.2 certified welders, 3 machinists, 2 CSWA draftsmen, and 1 CSWP draftsman. Currently sixty-five percent of our welding is aluminum, and over thirty percent is mild steel.

“Spooner Machine supplied our exhibit rails when the exhibit hall was first designed about eight years ago,” explains WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “and last year they fabricated several additional new pieces that we needed for new displays, getting them done for us at the last minute, just before we opened for the season. Randy has been a great supporter of the museum, and we are grateful for his help and that of all of his employees.”

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**Robert Morris Returning To WCHM For Kayak Building Class**

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 Monday July 30th and continue daily through Saturday August 4th, 2018. During this six-day course, you and your partner will build a traditional Greenland style skin-on-frame kayak. By the end of the week you’ll have a stunning kayak ready for the water.

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. 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. The early-bird tuition rate of $750 covers the cost of all materials and instruction for you (and a second person if you so choose) to build a kayak and take it home afterwards. Interested students can register by contacting WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke. Call 715-635-2479 or write info@wisconsincanoegeritage.com.
News Briefs & Upcoming Events

Canoe Raffle Tickets Are Available

The 2018 WCHM canoe raffle is underway. Tickets are available now for $20 per ticket or six for $100. A limit of only 500 tickets will be sold. The winner will once again have a choice between one of two canoes or $1,000 cash. The first canoe is a solo rigged 14’ cedar canvas canoe built on a form designed by Jerry Karbon. The second canoe is a tandem rigged 15’ cedar canvas canoe with walnut trim built on the MacKenzie-Yost MyPal form. Both craft were built in the WCHM canoe shop. The drawing will be on Saturday September 29th, 2018. Call 715-635-2479 or info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org to get tickets.

Look For The WCHM Booth At Canoecopia 2018

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending Canoecopia at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison WI (1919 Alliant Energy Way) on March 9-11, 2018. Canoecopia is the world’s largest canoe, kayak, and standup 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 2018 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.

Wild & Scenic Rivers 50th Anniversary

In 2018 canoeing and outdoor enthusiasts will be celebrating the signing of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act by President Lyndon Johnson on Oct. 2, 1968, to “preserve selected rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.” Of the 3.6 million miles of streams in the US, less than 0.25%, 12,734 miles, are protected by the act, but these miles include some of the most primitive and breathtaking landscapes in North America.

Here in Wisconsin, the act included the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers in the “St Croix National Scenic Riverway,” and the Namekagon has been dubbed as “Wisconsin’s Moving National Park.” Organizations are planning events to celebrate. The St. Croix River Association is hosting a bunch of events; you can follow them at www.stcroix360.com. The National Park Service has a website to track events at www.rivers.gov/wsr50. And WCHM will contribute with its Canoe & Wooden Boat Show on Sat May 26.

Meet WCHM Board Member Liz Vollmer-Buhl

My interest in canoeing and canoes is interwoven throughout my 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.
Get Ready For 2018 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show May 26

WCHM invites participants for its ninth annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show, to be held in conjunction with Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on May 26, 2018. This one day free event will also include museum tours and open house, the unveiling of new displays, ongoing activities in the canoe workshop, and live music and food and beverage in the beer garden. Now is the time 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.

2018 Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly To Be In Ely

The Upper Great Lakes Regional Assembly of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, which was held this past year in Shell Lake, Wisconsin and hosted by the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum, will be moving to Minnesota in 2018. Current plans are to hold the event in Ely at YMCA Camp Widjiwagan on Burntside Lake on August 24-26, and to honor the canoes built by and the legacy of Joe Seliga.

Some of the activities being planned include a canoeing film festival, classic canoe and boat show, paddling demonstrations, paddle-making and canoe building workshops, excursions to the neighboring Boundary Waters Wilderness, canoe races, on-water activities for young and old, gathering around the campfire and swapping stories, live canoeing inspired music, and canoe related vendors.

Lodging and meals will be available at YMCA Camp Widjiwagan. To register visit www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_widjiwagan. Further information on the event can be found at the Minnesota Canoe Museum site www.minnesotacanoemuseum.org. For vendor space or questions call Alex Comb at Stewart River Boatworks, www.stewartriver.com or 218-834-2506.

Thank You to These Supporting Members

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

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