

The WCHA 30th Anniversary Assembly

July 15–19, 2009

Keuka College, Keuka Park, N.Y.

Canoe Sail & Paddle Preliminary Program

We are very pleased that the WCHA Assembly will be returning to Keuka College, on the shores of Keuka Lake. Keuka is located in upstate New York in the Finger Lakes district. The 2009 Assembly is the thirtieth gathering since the founding of the WCHA, and our theme for the event is “Sail and Paddle.” The Assembly will begin with registration Wednesday afternoon, July 15, and end with breakfast on Sunday morning, July 19.

On the next few pages of *Wooden Canoe*, you will find the preliminary program for our thirtieth anniversary Assembly. In past years, we have included the program information in a separate insert in the June issue of *Wooden Canoe*, but this year, we thought we would try a new approach. We decided we would like to send the information about the Assembly early enough so that planning ahead to attend would be easier for our members.


Some of the details of the program will not be completely settled until later in the spring; therefore, an update to the Assembly program will be published in the next issue of *Wooden Canoe*. Topics may be added, changed or deleted prior to the event, but this program list should give everyone an overview of our plans.

We also realized that in the past, most members did not remove the Assembly packet from the journal, so we decided to make this preliminary program an integral part of the journal.

The Assembly Committee has put together a program that includes many old favorites—the Paddle-by, the Auction & Raffle, the Construction Tents, Canoescapes—and quite a few new programs. There will be sessions on mast building, herbal soap making, and gold leaf and pin stripping. In keeping with our theme, a sailing regatta is planned. Our evening programs will include a panel discussion on the history of the WCHA featuring some of the WCHA's early members, as well as programs

on the histories of canoe sailing and of canoe festivals and gatherings. The Local Attractions Committee has put together a selection of “off-campus” activities that will help you explore the area.

We hope this program will help you make your plans. There is a registration form included in this journal. The form is also available to print from our Web site, www.wcha.org.

We're looking forward to seeing you in July in Keuka as we celebrate our thirtieth anniversary Assembly. 

Annie Burke
Executive Director, WCHA

2009 Assembly Committee Members

Annie Burke, Assembly Administration
Rob Stevens, Program Coordinator
Bill Conrad
Janet Isabelle
Dan Miller
Al Sienkiewicz
Fran Sienkiewicz

Other Volunteer Contributors

Construction and Repair: Pat Smith
Vendors/Cedar City: Ken Kelly
Sales: Richard Greene
Local Attractions: Jim & Carol Altemus
Children's Program: Mary Gauld



Assembly Logistics

The Information Tent

The Information Tent will be located on the main green area of Keuka College. Please check here daily for updates on schedules.

Cedar City Vendor Registration

Vendors will be given a space in "Cedar City" on the Campus Green. Vendors should pre-register with Ken Kelly. The fee is \$20 if you pre-register by June 1; the cost is \$30 after that date. You may download a vendor registration form from the WCHA Web site www.WCHA.org. Contact Ken Kelly for more information: kenk@jjimporters.com, 616-340-3671.

Check-in at the Registration Tent. Please stop by the Registration Tent on the Campus Green when you arrive on campus to pick up **room keys and meal tickets**. **Check-in** begins at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 15. Registration Tent will be open Wednesday, 2-5 P.M.; Thursday and Friday: 9 A.M.–noon and 2–5 P.M.; and Saturday: 9 A.M.–noon. For registration at any other time, please go to Harrington Hall Lounge for instructions. **Check-out by 10 A.M. on Sunday, July 19**, in the lobby of your residence hall. There is a **lost key fee of \$50**.

Pre-Registration. Completed Assembly Registration forms must be received with payment by June 25, 2009. A registration form is included in this issue of *Wooden Canoe*. You may also download the form from the WCHA Web site, or contact the WCHA office <anniegburke@gmail.com> or 603-323-8992 for a form. Please return the form with your payment to WCHA Assembly Registration, P.O. Box 117, Tamworth, NH 03886.

On-Site Registration. If you do not pre-register, upon arrival please register for the Assembly at the Registration Tent. The event fee is \$15/adult per day or a flat fee of \$40/adult for the entire event. Children under 16 participate for free.

Early Arrival. To arrange Tuesday night accommodations, please call or e-mail the WCHA office: <anniegburke@gmail.com> or 603-323-8992

Meals & Schedule

Simple college fare will be available at the Geiser cafeteria located in Dahlstrom Hall. If you pre-register by June 25th, the cost of the meals will be breakfast, \$6; lunch, \$9; dinner, \$11. Children ages 4-12 pay half-price. There is no charge for children 3 and under. A full meal plan is available. The cost is \$85/adult if you sign up for all 11 meals (a \$10 savings). If you have not pre-registered, then meals may cost more, and you must pay cash at the door. The meal times are: breakfast 7:30-8:45; lunch 11:30-12:45; dinner 5:00-6:30.

Lodging

Two residence halls will be open for the Assembly, Harrington Hall and newly renovated Ball Hall. Both halls are air conditioned. All rooms are furnished with twin beds, desks and chairs. Sheets, a pillow, a blanket, and a bath towel are provided for each bed in the room. You may want to bring a reading lamp. There is no charge for kids sleeping on the floor. **NO PETS are allowed in the dorm or on campus.** Rooms will be filled

primarily on first-come/first-serve basis, and by availability of requested accommodations. If you do not pre-register, then on-site requests for residence rooms will be subject to availability. Some of the following choices have limited availability.

Harrington Hall:

Room with 3 beds and private bath \$75/night
Room with 2 beds and shared bath..... \$60/night
(two rooms share one bath)
Handicap Access room (2 beds)..... \$60/night
(*by special request only*)

Ball Hall: newly renovated! Bathrooms are down the hall.

Single \$35/night
Double \$50/night
Triple \$60/night
Quad (four beds)..... \$65/night

Camping. A location on the Keuka College campus is available for tents or for fully-contained camping vehicles. There are no electrical hook-ups or sewage disposal. Portable toilets will be on site, and Davis Hall, which is near the camping area, will be available for bathrooms and showers. The campus camping fee is \$8/adult (16 and older) per night.

Keuka Lake State Park is located on the lakeshore 1 mile south of Keuka College on Rt. 54A. The park has tent/trailer sites with hookups, showers, dumping stations, a swimming beach, and hiking trails. For reservations call: 315-536-3666.

Pets. Sorry, no pets are allowed at Keuka College. This is a ruling by the Board of Health.

Alcohol. Alcohol may be served at receptions or in residence hall rooms. Open containers of alcohol cannot be carried on campus.

NOTE: New York State law prohibits open containers of alcohol in public.

Campus Security/Emergencies

The campus is protected 24 hours a day by Campus Security. The Security Office is in the Dahlstrom Student Center. For emergencies on campus call: 315-279-5250 (or 5250 from a campus phone). **Emergency messages** can be left for you at this number: 315-279-5250.

The Conference Services phone number is 315-279-5289.

Other Campus Details

Post Office: The Keuka Park, N.Y. post office is located across from the campus on the main road.

Banking: An ATM is located in the Conference Services office, across the street from the Keuka Park Post Office.

Library: Summer hours for the Lightner Library are 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday through Friday.

College Store: The Keuka College Book Store in the Dahlstrom Student Center stocks grocery items, magazines, toiletries, newspapers and gift items. Open 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday-Friday.

Laundry: Washers and dryers are located in each residence hall. These machines are free.


Parking: Parking is permitted only in designated areas. Please do not park on the grass!




Assembly Programs

Almost all of the Assembly programs take place at the college on the Campus Green, by the lake side, and in the Chapel. There are some off-site tours and hikes, which are noted in this program. Upon arrival on campus, all participants must sign a liability waiver. A schedule with the exact time of the programs will be available at Assembly in the Information Tent. Check there for any changes and additions to the schedule.

Fees and Sign-ups

Most Assembly programs are offered free of charge to registered participants. However, there are a few workshops which will require pre-registration and payment of a fee to cover the cost of materials and/or so instructors will have an idea of the materials needed ahead of time. These will be noted in the descriptions below. An item marked with a **\$** sign signifies an added fee; those with a  require preregistration.

Family Fun

Many of the activities and workshops offered are especially suitable for family participation. Those programs are indicated by a . Parents are responsible for the conduct and supervision of their children.

Canoe Sailing with Dan Miller, John Summers and Andre Cloutier.

Dan, John, and Andre, three knowledgeable sailors invite you to join them on the beach at the lake every day to learn how to rig a variety of sailing canoes, to see them in action and even to try one out for yourself. They will have everything from an open canoe with a simple lateen rig to decked I6-30s with twin sails and a sliding seat. Everyone is welcome to try all the canoes with experienced canoe sailors on hand to show you the ropes. Practice your skills, then show your stuff in the Regatta on Saturday.

Cedar City: Vendors and Displays

A wide selection of canoes and canoe-related items are offered for sale by professional and amateur builders and traders. Visit their individual and collective tents, booths and tables on the Green. Stop by when you have a few moments to browse around a bit. Whatever your needs—a new canoe, a new paddle, or any other canoe accessory—the WCHA member-vendors can probably help you out.

Next to the Cedar City area is a large open area on the Campus Green where participants can display canoes. There will be a “for sale” area and an area for “display only.” All canoes on the Green should be accompanied by an identification/description form. You may pick up these forms at the Information Tent. The forms will also be made available on our Web site, if you would like to prepare it ahead of time. **New this year is an on-site lamination service** so that your canoe identification sheet can be made more waterproof, durable and re-usable!

Construction Tents

There will be ongoing demonstrations offered in the Construction Tents on the Green. Chapter One will be demonstrating


“Canvassing Your Canoe” throughout the Assembly. Assembly-goers are welcome to come by and participate in some great hands-on learning. Most of the activities in the construction tent are free, including wannigan building, making a canoeing pole, mast building, gold leaf and pin striping, and installing gunwales. There is a fee for the two paddle-making workshops, which will be offered through the duration of the Assembly. Stop by the Construction Tents any time, as there is always something interesting and informative going on!


WCHA Store Tent

The WCHA Store Tent will be open for business Wednesday, 2-5 P.M.; Thursday and Friday 9-11 A.M. and 3-5 P.M.; and Saturday 9-11 A.M., 1-3 P.M.

Wednesday

AFTERNOON

\$  Making a Double Paddle with Geoff Burke. In this two-hour workshop, participants will shape their own double paddles, which are pre-fitted with a take-apart ferrule. Take the class Wednesday or Thursday and use the next couple of days to finish it. Pre-register with Geoff for proper paddle sizing: canoeaxe@gmail.com or 603-323-8172. Fee \$135.


\$  Paddle Carving for Adults and Kids with Caleb Davis. Create your own single paddle. Caleb will be teaching this class on an ongoing basis throughout Assembly. There will be a fee for materials.

EVENING

How Glaciers Created the Finger Lakes. Dr. Bruce Gilman of **Finger Lakes Community College** will discuss the formation of the Finger Lakes during the Ice Age and how human impact is affecting the water quality in the lakes.

The WCHA Early Years. In celebration of the 30th Anniversary Assembly, a panel discussion will be presented by early WCHA members Tom MacKenzie, Jerry Stelmok, Rollin Thurlow, and Jack McGreivey. View photos and hear stories from the past history of the WCHA Assemblies.


The Paddler’s Gathering. A wine and cheese welcome reception.


 Kids Video Night with ice-cream sundaes.

Thursday

MORNING

New Attendee Orientation. At this short session, WCHA President Bill Conrad welcomes first-timers to Assembly and explains the ins and outs of Assembly.

 Kids Tandem Paddling with Kim Gass & Jackie Peppe. One and a half hours of paddling with a new or old friend. This workshop will be for teens and tweens and will be interspersed with games—and possibly getting wet! A partner is required. Please bring your own canoe, PFD, and paddle.

 Erie Canal Paddling Excursion. Join WCHA Chapter One members on this paddle on the Erie Canal, including a trip through a lock. Sign up at the Information Tent.



Wannigan Building with Lew Markle. Lew will build a wannigan using cedar canvas canoe building techniques. The wannigan is a traditional container used in tripping to stow food or equipment. The process involves steaming and bending ribs, planking, removing the wannigan from the form and adding sides and a lid.

✂️ **Paddle Carving for Adults and Kids with Caleb Davis.** See Wednesday afternoon description.

Double-Paddle Making with Geoff Burke. See Wednesday afternoon description.

✂️ **Herbal Soap Making with Joan Hall and Janet Isabelle.** Lavender calms the soul. Oatmeal heals and soothes irritated skin. Rosemary is antiseptic and anti-inflammatory. Tea-tree oil works against bacteria, fungi, yeast, and viruses. Joan and Janet will use herbs to make soothing soaps to promote healthy skin.

📷 **Nature Photography with Al Sienkiewicz.** Learn the basics of proper exposure, the differences between film and digital cameras, and how to compose pictures in an outdoor setting. Bring your own camera. Limit 12.

AFTERNOON

Stern Women. A workshop for women with Kim Gass and Jackie Peppe. A two-hour session that gives women experience in the stern, and also bow paddling techniques to aid your “other half” in the stern. A partner is required. Please bring a canoe, PFD, and paddle.

Installing Gunwales with Pam Wedd. A workshop in the Construction Tents with master builder Pam Wedd of Bearwoods Canoe.

Geo-caching with Jim Wilson. Geo-caching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers (called geocaches) outdoors, and then share your experiences online. There will be a short instructional session before hitting the road to Penn Yan seeking two or three caches walking along the Outlet Trail. Bring your own GPS unit if you have one.

✂️ **Painting Canoe Symbols with Hugh Clark.** Native American birch bark canoes generally had symbols painted along the gunwales. You will have an opportunity to paint some of these symbols on a wooden disk. All paints and materials provided. Class size limited, but three classes will be held, two for adults, one for kids. This session is for adults.

✂️ **Print Your Own Assembly T-Shirt with Rob Stevens.** This year WCHA kids of all ages get to try rubber-block printing and free-form design creation with fabric paints to make their own Assembly T-shirts. Bring your own T-shirt (any color) or choose from a limited selection of new shirts we will have on hand.

✂️ **Strike a Fire Light with Mark Zalonis.** This session is about getting the first tiny flame to light your campfire—from primitive fire-starting methods such as bow-drill and flint and steel, to matches and lighters, to metal matches. The advantages and disadvantages of each will be discussed. Mark hopes participants will “catch fire” from his enthusiasm as they add to their camping skills. Open to all ages. Children under 14 welcome with parental participation.

EVENING

Sail When You Can, Paddle When You Must—A History of Canoe Sailing. A talk by Dan Miller, curator of the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, N.Y. Ever since he accidentally received a copy of W.P. Stephens’ *Canoe and Boatbuilding for Amateurs*, Dan has been infatuated with the decked sailing canoes of the 1880s and 1890s. In 1875, when John Alden introduced the “Poor Man’s Yacht” to a new and receptive North American audience, few expected these canoes would lead to the formation of the American Canoe Association and that they would eventually evolve into the fastest displacement hull around. Dan will explore the rise and fall of the cruising canoe, the beauty of batwing sails, the cleverness of the folding centerboard, and the thrill of speed that is wrapped up in canoes no longer than 16 feet long and less than 3 feet wide!

Resurrection of the I6-30 Sailing Canoe. A talk by John Summers, general manager of The Canadian Canoe Museum. Popular in the early years of the 20th century, the I6-30 decked sailing canoe represents what a canoe would look like if it was completely optimized for sailing instead of paddling. In the mid 1990s, curator, boatbuilder, boating historian and canoe sailor John Summers found a I6-30 canoe that had been built c. 1915 by the Gilbert Boat Company in Brockville, Ontario. Intrigued by this graceful sailing craft, he embarked on a more than 15-year quest to re-imagine the boat in a new design. There will be several of these new-generation I6-30s on the water at Assembly this year, so you’ll be able to try one for yourself after listening to this presentation.

Friday

MORNING

✂️ **Kids Tandem Paddling with Kim Gass & Jackie Peppe.** One and a half hours of paddling with a new or old friend for kids ages 6 to 10 and will be interspersed with games and possibly getting wet! A partner is required. Bring your own PFD and paddle.

✂️ **Paddle Carving for Adults and Kids with Caleb Davis.** See Wednesday afternoon description

Gold Leaf and Pin Striping with Dave DeVivo. The master instructor will share some of his hard-won secrets on creating a wonderful look for a vintage canoe including using real gold as a decorative accent for a stunning appliqué of letters, numbers, or striping.

Making a Canoeing Pole with Geoff Burke. In this one-hour demonstration, Geoff will show you how quickly and easily you can make a poling pole, and how to make an iron shoe for the pole using readily-obtainable materials.

✂️ **Mug Rugs with Beth Rauber.** Remember Gramma’s rag rugs? Learn the lost art of rag rug weaving on a loom. Make a “Mug Rug” while learning the basics, and then the possibilities are endless! Class size limited. Sign up in Information Tent. Small fee for cost of materials.

✂️ **Pack Basket Weaving with Darrell Birchenough.** Learn to weave your own rattan pack basket at this all day session. All materials and instruction provided. Medium size \$75, large size \$90. Class size 10; sign up in the Information Tent.



🦋 **Trail Cooking with Pete Shea.** Chef Pete will demonstrate trail cooking without a campfire, using the bake packer. Create delicious trail foods without a lot of fuss and bother.

AFTERNOON

🦋 **Northern Trip on the Thelon River with Alex Guthro.** Alex will show slides of his second trip to the historic Thelon River in the barren lands of the Northwest Territories of Canada.

🦋 **Mast Building with Ric Alfather.** Ric will demonstrate building a traditional wooden canoe sailing mast (spar) and give tips on rigging.

💰 **Winery Tour.** The tour will stop at three or four selected wineries and will take you through some of the most scenic vistas in the Finger Lakes. The tour departs at noon and returns around 5. The cost is \$30 per person. In addition, some wineries do charge a small tasting or tour fee, but additional costs would not be over \$10. Limited to 20. To reserve a space in advance, contact Jim or Carol Altemus at 585-657-6855 or e-mail cjaltemus@frontiernet.net, by June 1. Pay at the Registration Tent when you arrive at Assembly.

🦋 **Canoe Seat Caning with Jean Bratton.** Learn the basics of caning and get tips on how to go about it. Jean will explain the materials, tools, and supplies you'll need; how to get started; and how to finish the seat when it is all done. There will be advanced patterns available for experienced caners. Feel free to bring your own project.

🦋 **Natural Healing with Jackie Hutjera.** A discussion of natural healing modalities including reflexology, acupuncture, myofascial trigger point release, herbology, ear candling, homeopathy, and muscle testing will be presented in a relaxed style. Jackie Hutjera has a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine degree (NMD) as well as BSN and RN.

🦋 **Stern Women.** A workshop for women with Kim Gass and Jackie Peppe. See Thursday afternoon for description.

🦋 **Painting Canoe Symbols with Hugh Clark.** This session is for kids. See Thursday afternoon for description.

🦋 **Raffle Quilters' Meeting led by Janet Isabelle and Carol Altemus.** We will show the 2009 Raffle Quilt and distribute kits for the 2010 Raffle Quilt. Bring quilted projects for "Show and Tell."

EVENING

🦋 **WCHA Membership Meeting.** Come and meet the WCHA Board of Directors and hear what's going on in the organization. All members are welcome!

🦋 **Thirty Years On—What We've Learned about Wooden Canoes by Ben Fuller.** Ben Fuller, curator of the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, Maine, will discuss the state of knowledge of wooden canoes at the time WCHA was founded, and what has been learned and accomplished in the past thirty years.

🦋 **Family Campfire by the Lake.** The gathering around the campfire is where the pace of the day starts to slow down and the camaraderie solidifies. If you would like to contribute, please don't be shy! Bring your songs, your stories, your singing voices and instruments and join this popular event.

Saturday

MORNING

🦋 **Assembly Feedback and Future Planning Meeting.** Do you have ideas on what might make Assembly better? Were there things about this Assembly that you liked or didn't like. Stop by this short meeting and share your ideas.

🦋 **Couples Tandem Paddling with Kim Gass & Jackie Peppe.** This two-hour session is designed for both paddlers to improve their communication and boat handling skills. Open to couples and parent/child (over age 10) teams. Please bring your own PFD and paddle.

🦋 **Making a Shaving Horse with Pat Smith.** The shaving horse is a wooden vise attached to a bench that the operator sits on, and leg pressure holds the piece of work tightly while it is worked. Throughout Assembly Pat will show how to form a solid sturdy bench to work a piece of wood using traditional hand tools with six to eight pieces of wood. Plans will be available as a handout and construction tips offered.

🦋 **Canoescapes with Mark Zalonis.** This is an opportunity for quiet reflection in a group setting, a chance to cultivate thoughts that are useful, beautiful and/or peaceful. Bring your own thoughts or written passages that have been meaningful to you.

🦋 **Seneca Canal Nature Walk with Darrell Birchenough.** The Keuka Lake Outlet Trail is a fascinating trip back in time along the abandoned Fall Brook Railroad (built in 1884) between Seneca and Keuka Lakes. Lining the trail are remnants of mills distilleries, stone canal locks, and an abandoned bridge. Along the way we will identify edible wild plants and trees.

🦋 **Painting Canoe Symbols with Hugh Clark (for adults)** See Thursday afternoon for description.

AFTERNOON

🦋 **Sailing Regatta.** In keeping with the theme of this year's Assembly, canoe sailors are welcome to test sailing skills in a friendly competitive environment. The course will not be difficult, and everything you need to participate will be explained beforehand to participants. The plan is to make the start/finish line close to shore, enabling everyone a chance to see the "races."

🦋 **Annual Raffle and Auction.** Bill Conrad and Jay Boyer are coordinating this very popular and exciting event. Auction items will be on display throughout the weekend. You must be present to participate in the auction and raffle. Bidding starts promptly at 3:00 P.M. To donate an item for the auction or volunteer, contact Bill Conrad (bcconrad@alltel.net, 814-781-1068).

EVENING

🦋 **Paddle By & Salute.** Bill Hall and Al Sienkiewicz will coordinate this activity which gives you the opportunity to parade your pride and joy before the Assembly attendees! Paddlers in costume make this event even more entertaining. If you would like to participate, please fill out a short form in the Information Tent, listing your name and a little bit about your canoe for our emcees to use when announcing your canoe during the Paddle-By. This is a wonderful Assembly tradition.