

**WCHA 43rd Annual Assembly, July 11-16, 2023**  
**Paul Smith's College, Paul Smith's, New York**

**EVENT LOGISTICS:** [Main Tent]

**Information & Registration** (Accommodations & Meals);

Sign in, collect name tags, keys and meal vouchers from staff or volunteers at the reception table.

Vendors & Display booths check in before setting up.

Watch for daily changes and updates to the program on the Master Schedule.

**WCHA Store;** Books, pins, clothing, hats, and related items for sale. (Annie Burke)

Open; Wed.-Fri. 9AM-4PM, Sat. 9AM-12Noon

**Annual Raffle and Auction:**

Intake and Administration; Fran Sienkiewicz

Donations intake Thurs 1-5PM & Fri 9-Noon

Preview from Friday Noon. Auctioneer; Jack Nettleton

Event; 2PM Saturday [Main Tent]

Featured canoes; Carleton canoe restored by the Upper Chesapeake Chapter, a circa 1920 16 foot courting canoe with 52 inch long decks restored by Norumbega Chapter & a circa 1930 all-wood Peterborough canoe.

**FEATURED EVENING PRESENTATIONS (Freer Auditorium)**

Tuesday, July 11th; [Bob Cat Café, 2nd floor, Joan Weil Student Centre]

**Paddler's Welcome Gathering** Wine & cheese reception social event

Wednesday, July 12th; [Freer Auditorium]

**Black Maria: Resolution and Restoration of a Carleton Mystery** Michael Grace  
(1922 Carleton Indian Princess)

**Across The Pond; English Paddling** Nick Dennis, Head UK Chapter

Thursday, July 13th; [Freer Auditorium]

**Annual Membership Meeting** Michael Grace

**A History of the Carleton Canoe Company** Benson Gray

Friday, July 14th; [Lakefront]

**Paddle By and Salute** (MC: Al Sienkiewicz)

**Candlelight Paddle on Lower St. Regis Lake** (ACS + WCHA)

Saturday, July 15th; [Freer Auditorium]

**Norumbega Chapter Restoration** Steve Lapey / Norumbega Chapter

**Carleton Canoe Restoration** Bud Gillis / Upper Chesapeake Chapter

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

**Paddler's Welcome Gathering**

Join us for a social reception (beer, wine and nibbles provided). (Tues 6:45) [Bob Cat Cafe]

**Paddle By and Salute** (MC: Al Sienkiewicz)

MC Al Sienkiewicz and team will choreograph this opportunity to parade your pride and joy before the Assembly attendees! Paddlers in costume make this event even more entertaining. This is a wonderful Assembly tradition. Please join in the fun!

(Fri 6:45PM-dusk) [Lakefront, Joan Weil Student Centre]

**Timbersports Exhibition** PSC forestry students demonstrate timbersports competition skills while the canoes assemble for the Paddle By. (Fri 6-6:45) (Braun) [Green/Waterfront/Firepit area]

**Candlelight Paddle on Lower St. Regis Lake**

Joint ACS + WCHA twilight paddle with glow sticks and LED lights. (Fri dusk) [Waterfront]

**Adirondack Canoe Symposium Style Exhibition**

Participants in the Adirondack Canoe Symposium demonstrate "Freestyle" canoeing techniques choreographed to music. (Sat 7) [Church Pond]

**Sewing, Knitting & Quilting Room** Socialize and work away at projects. (daily 9-5) [Pickett 102]

**Mindfulness and Meditation** Craig Kitchen introduces relaxation techniques using Tibetan singing bowls. (Tues 3-4 & Fri 9-10) [Pine Room]

**Tai Chi**

Tai Chi is an ancient foundational martial arts discipline rooted in traditional Chinese medicine which is practiced nowadays for its benefit as moderate physical exercise and posture combined with meditation and controlled breathing. Mary Loesch, an internationally certified instructor will offer half-hour long beginner classes daily: (Plus classes for/with children TBA)

7:30-8 Morning -Chi Gong to "get the juices flowing"

4:30-5 Afternoon -Animal Frolics exercise for fun

[Canoe Landing or Wedding Tent –in case of rain, both west side of Green]

**Guided Bird Walk** Ruth Zalonis leads a walk through the university Wildlife Sanctuary Trail area. (Wed & Thurs 6-7:30AM) [Meet at Parking Lot in front of Joan Weill Student Centre] TBC

**Canoe Travel Registry** Bulletin board to connect folks & promote sharing canoe transport from Assembly across the country. (ongoing) [Main Tent]

**Weigh Your Canoe** Mark Zalonis provides a scale and instructions on how to weigh your canoe. See the "Weigh Station" between the Green and the Lakefront dock/launch area. (Ongoing) [Waterfront]

**Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Centre;** <https://www.6nicc.com/>

6NICC displays 3,000+ Native American artifacts with an emphasis on Six Nations/Haudenosaunee culture, including informational displays and storytelling lectures.

(Tues. 10-12) Self Guided visit

(Wed. 1-3, Thurs. 3-5) Members Coordinated visit (sign up in Registration Tent);

NOTE: Location is a 12 minute / 9.1 mile drive from Paul Smith's College

**Music Sharing / Jam Session / Open Mic** (Wed-Sat 9-11) [Pine Room]

**Family Campfires** Storytelling, music, sing-a-longs, S'mores and assorted informal entertainment and activities (Evenings, as weather permits) [Lakefront campfire]

**Canoe Poling 101** with Paul Klonowski

Whoever said you should never stand in a canoe was wrong! Poling is a great way to move the canoe through shallow water, and move it up or down stream, even through rapids. This will be a hands-on learning session. Bring your tandem canoe, and a 10 to 12 foot pole that fits reasonably well in your hands (a closet pole from Home Depot will work). Wearing life jackets is required, and be prepared to fall in the lake a time or two, until you get accustomed to standing. We'll have fun learning a couple ways to wield the pole for propulsion, instead of a paddle. Also bring a paddle, in case you accidentally propel yourself into deeper water (Wed 6:30-8) [Beach]

**New Attendee Orientation**

First time attendees meet President, Michael Grace for a welcome & general introduction to Assembly. (Wed 8:30-9) [Recreation Room]

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Elected Board members gather for their bi-monthly meeting. (Wed 9-11) [Pine Room]

**How to Carve a Maine-style Paddle** Craig Johnson shares his particular techniques for carving a Maine-style paddle. (Wed. 1-2) [Pine Room]

**Hugh Clark Retrospective Exhibit**

Enjoy a viewing of many canoe-related hand carved items produced by hand by Hugh Clark over 20+ years. Hugh was the smiling guy with a guy who warmly greeted every Assembly attendee by welcoming them and presenting a carved wooden (color coded by year) canoe pin to which he added your name. Famous for his carved canes and walking sticks featuring interesting historic to contemporary characters, Hugh's carvings span the whimsical small figures depicting animals and North American Indian symbols to the larger pieces including Christmas ornaments, sailing regatta trophies and volunteer appreciation awards.

Opening/Introduction Wed. 2PM Additional Viewing Times (Wed 2-5, Thurs 1-4) [Pine Room]

**Natural Dye Workshop** Learn about natural plant dyes from Irene Stoss. Each participant will create a unique naturally dyed silk scarf from plant dyes. While the scarves are simmering we will make some small paper booklets. Max. 10 (Wed. 8:30-11:30) [Pickett 102]

**Techniques of Conventional Paddle Making - From Basic to Advanced**

Making a paddle, or even understanding the process of making a paddle is both an interesting diversion for paddlers and potentially a life-saving advantage for a paddler in an emergency situation. This talk and demonstration will include a review of materials, measurement methods, historic design favourites, functional aspirations, tools, and fabrication techniques used for both solid and hollow paddle making. Advantages and disadvantages will also be discussed and many samples will be available for you to inspect and perhaps even try on the water.

John Runciman is a professor of engineering with a long history of wooden paddle design research, functional testing and fabrication.

(Thur 9-10:30) [Pine Room] + (Thur 10:30-11:30) [Waterfront]

**Quilting Workshop**

Fran Sienkiewicz coordinates this year's quilting workshop. Thurs 9-11AM (Sienkiewicz) [Pickett 102]

## **Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Centre;** <https://www.6nicc.com/>

WCHA Member group visits (sign up in Registration Tent);  
Early Bird ;Tues. 10-12, group visits; Wed. 1-4, Thurs. 1-4

## **Ladies Tea**

Bring your fancy hats, china teacups and a fun-filled attitude. Also, something to "show and tell". There will be tea, cookies and some surprises orchestrated by Meg Breslow and Ruth Zalonis. Join us! (Thurs 1-2:30PM) [Bobcat Café, upstairs, Joan Weil Student Centre]

## **Fun on the Water Paddling Events** Organized by Bill Van Keuren & team.

Get your crew ready and come out for the FUN ON THE WATER EVENTS.

Five events take place on a 100 yard paddling course. There are medals or ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Sign up at main tent. Properly fitted PFDs must be worn by all contestants. All events open to men, women and children in any combination.

1: WRONG END PADDLE; For tandem crew; paddlers use single blades upside down holding the blade and paddling with the handle.

2: TAIL END RACE; For solo paddler; paddler sits on bow seat (or kneels in bow) and uses paddling skills with single blade to navigate course.

3: PUSH ME PULL YOU; For tandem crew; Bow paddler sits facing the stern and stern paddler sits facing the bow. Single blades only.

4: HAND PADDLE RACE; Four person crew (good race for kids who can reach the water at the bow and stern positions) Must paddle with hands only.

5: TANDEM SPRINT: 200 yards; Single blade only; Any combination of women, man or child paddlers sitting or kneeling in any position in the boat  
(Thurs 1-4) [Waterfront]

**Silent Paddling** Freestyle Instructor Marc Ornstein demonstrates in-water recoveries and other tips for silent paddling in order to observe or photograph wildlife. Thurs 3-4:30 [Church Pond]

## **Guided Group Paddle** TBA

Jim & Betsy Wilson guide a morning-long paddle outing. Meet at the beach ready to go  
(Fri 8:30-12) [Beach]

**Guided Tour of Notable Canoes** (WCHA Historians & members) (Fri 1-3 +) [Green]

**A Little Bit of Wilderness First Aid** "Chuck" Rose & MD (Fri 3-4:30) [Pine Room]

## **Canoescapes**

Mark Zalonis moderates a gathering of people who love canoes and things and places that canoes take us to. It is a sharing of those thoughts, poetry, prose, music and readings that have special meaning to us and a connection to the canoe. Bring a special book, poetry, music and thoughts to share or just listen to what others offer. "Yesterday is ashes, tomorrow is wood, only today does the fire burn brightly". Sigurd Olson. Bring a reading to share, and a chair, or blanket to sit on the grass.  
(Fri 1-3PM) [Beach or Library Atrium in case of rain]

**If You Capsize** WCHA Paddle Skills Instructors teach safety techniques for self and assisted rescue in the case of tipping your canoe. Get in the water and try it out. Suitable for adults and children's participation. (Fri 3-5) [Beach]

## **Quilters Meeting**

Kits for next year's raffle quilt will be distributed. Bring "Show and Tell".  
(Fri 3-4:30PM) [Library Atrium] (??)

### **Bird-Watching Paddling Excursion**

Ruth Zalonis leads a morning paddle to explore nearby birds.  
Meet @ Beach ready to go (Sat 8:30-11AM)

**Guided Tour of Carleton Canoes** (WCHA Historians & members)  
Sat. 9-11AM [Green]

**Family Paddling Outing** Join Lyn Barsevskis & Jim MacLachlan as they lead a family paddling excursion. Sign up in Main Tent by Friday noon so we can order box lunches from the dining hall.  
(Sat 9:15AM-2PM) [Meet at Beach]

**Chapters Meeting** with Chapters Coordinator; Pete Shea  
Chapter Heads are asked to meet for breakfast [Dining Hall] to socialize prior to meeting to share what and how they plan and run Chapter activities. All active members of any Chapter are welcome to join in the discussion. (Sat 9-10AM) [Pine Room]

**Assembly Feedback & Planning** (A Burke, R Stevens)  
Share what you like (or not) about this year's Assembly.  
Suggest improvements and new things you'd like to see included. (Sat 10-11AM) [Pine Room]

**Annual Fundraising Raffle and Auction** [Main Tent]  
Donations intake; Fran Sienkiewicz Thurs 1-5PM & Fri 9-Noon  
Preview from Friday Noon.  
Bidding opens at 2PM Saturday on this popular and exciting event.  
Auctioneer; Jack Nettleton

### **Assembly Group Photo**

All gather on the front porch of the Recreation Room, immediately after the Auction.  
(Sat 4PM) Wilson & Wilson, Esqs. [Joan Weill Student Centre]  
Also "Raising Cane" Group photo of owners of Hugh Clark carved canes. Bring your cane.

**CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION** Workshops, Classes, Demos, Displays, Videos

**Stove & Lantern Workshop** Barclay Foord walk through standard operation and maintenance of (white gas) pressure stoves and lanterns. (Fri 1-3:30) [Construction Tent]

**Carve Your Own Paddle** with Caleb Davis / Tremolo Canoe. See "Pay as You Go" classes.

**Fire Sale Tools & Books** (Nolan)  
Check out an assortment of donated tools, books & canoe related items available at bargain-basement prices. All proceeds to the WCHA. (Thurs 9-11) [Main Tent]

**Double-bladed Paddle Making** Geoffrey Burke details how to carve a double bladed paddle  
(Wed. 9-11) [Chocorua Boats booth]



**Try a Shave Horse** Bob Bundy introduces how the Chocorua Chapter built two portable shave horses, and how to use them to carve paddles. Try it yourself. (Wed 1-2:30) [Construction Tent]

**Canoe Seat Caning** Pam Wedd & Jean Bratton introduce and demonstrate basic canoe seat caning material and process. (Fri 9-11) [Construction Tent]

**Faux Painting to Match New Wood to Old** Chris Pearson reveals his methods for painting new wood repairs to match old using artists acrylic paints and transtint dyes instead of wood stains. Fri 10-11 [Construction Tent 2]

### **PADDLING SKILLS INSTRUCTION [Beach]**

WCHA Paddle Skills Coaches; Jim MacLachlan, Coordinator

NOTE: All participants are expected to provide your own canoe, paddle & PFD.

Please SIGN UP at the Main Tent. Spectators are welcome.

Day/Date	Time	Class
Wed July 13	6:30 - 7:45 am	Traditional Recreational Solo Basic (Pt 1)
	4:15 - 5:30 pm	Traditional Recreational Tandem Basic
Thurs July 14	6:30 - 7:45 am	Traditional Recreational Solo Intermediate (Pt 1)
	4:15 - 5:30 pm	Traditional Recreational Tandem Intermediate
Fri July 15	6:30 - 7:45 am	Traditional Recreational Solo Basic (Pt 2)
	3:00 - 5:00 pm	If You Capsize (Adults and Kids)
Sat July 16	6:30 - 7:45 am	Traditional Recreational Solo Intermediate (Pt 2)

### **PAY AS YOU GO classes:**

**Introduction to Leather Working** Don Kerr (with Susan Christie) teaches basic techniques for leather decoration and colouring. Make a drink coaster or key fob. \$20 material fee.  
Part 1 (Wed 9-11) Part 2 (Wed. 1-3) [Construction Tent 2]

### **Paint a Memory of Canoeing on Lower St. Regis Lake**

No art experience necessary. Each participant will create a guided painting to take home. Register in advance at Reception table. Fee; \$15 materials fee for acrylic paint, brushes, and canvas provided by instructor, Laurie Hasty Max 10 per class, offered 2 times.  
(Wed 1-4) [Pickett 102] (Wed 6:30-8PM) [Pickett 102]

### **Carve Your Own Paddle**

Caleb Davis (Tremolo Canoe) offers ongoing (single & double-bladed) paddle-making workshops Thurs & Fri 9AM-4PM. (Class limit 4 per day)

Come make your own traditionally shaped cherry canoe paddle; \$125 single blade, \$140 double-blade. All proceeds donated to the WCHA.

Advanced registration required. Contact Caleb Davis by phone, text or e-mail.

1-518-409-2233 [caleb.tremolo@gmail.com](mailto:caleb.tremolo@gmail.com)

Paddle blanks available; willow-leaf shaped (28 & 31 inch shafts) as well as native double blade kayak / canoe (54 inch shaft 24inch blades). All necessary hand tools provided.

All are welcome to participate but keep in mind about 8 hours of work. You will leave with a completed paddle except for the waterproof finish (materials provided to DIY).

### **Paint a Memory of Canoeing on Lower St. Regis Lake**

No art experience necessary. Each participant will create a guided painting to take home. Register in advance at Reception table. Fee; \$15 materials fee for acrylic paint, brushes, and canvas provided by instructor, Laurie Hasty. Max 10 per class, offered 2 times.  
(Wed 1-4PM) [Pickett 102] (Wed 6:30-8PM) [Pickett 102]

### **CHILDRENS PROGRAM:** (Coordinators; Mary Gauld & team)

#### **Kids' Craft and Outdoor Activities** (Daily/ongoing)

A variety of options will be available. See the daily program in the Main Tent, check with Mary in the Dining Hall. Meet at Teepee after breakfast, or in case of rain, at the Student Center Recreation Room or porch.

#### **Kid's Hands on the Teepee**

We maintain the tradition of painted handprints on the teepee. (Times TBA)

### **ADIRONDACK (FREESTYLE) CANOE SYMPOSIUM** Concurrent event (Thurs-Sun)

<http://freestylecanoeing.com/adirondack-canoe-symposium/>

#### **Candlelight Paddle on Lower St. Regis Lake**

ACS folks provide the opportunity to paddle among LEDs and glowsticks. All welcome to participate. (Fri. dusk following Paddle By and Salute) [Lakefront]

#### **ACS Freestyle Exhibition**

Enjoy "canoe ballet" performed to music.

(Sat. 6:45-dusk) [Church Pond] (Church Pond is 100 yards beyond the front entrance of PSC)

### **OFF CAMPUS EXCURSIONS:**

#### **EARLY BIRD ACTIVITIES**

#### **Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Centre;** <https://www.6nicc.com/>

6NICC displays 3,000+ Native American artifacts with an emphasis on Six Nations/Haudenosaunee culture, including informational displays and storytelling lectures.

(Tues. 10-12) Self Guided visit

(Wed. 1-3, Thurs. 3-5) Members Coordinated visit (sign up in Registration Tent);

NOTE: Location is a 12 minute / 9.1 mile drive from Paul Smith's College

#### **Adirondack Experience** (ADKX- formerly Adirondack Museum)

<https://www.theadkx.org/>

**Tour of the Collection** with Assistant Curator, Doreen Alessi-Holmes.

Group admission rates to the museum (\$17.50) and collection tour (\$5) available to WCHA members. NOTE Location; 9097 State Route 30 Blue Mountain Lake 60 miles / 1.25 hrs drive southwest of Paul Smith's. Pay Admissions at the museum's main campus before driving to the Collections Study & Storage Center (CSSC). It is a 1.7-mile drive to CSSC from the main campus. Maps can be provided. (Tues, July 11th from 10:15 to -11:15 AM)

**Guided Tour of White Pine Camp** Tour this restored Adirondack Great Camp that once was the summer White House of President Calvin Coolidge. Guide: Ed Neuberger

<http://www.whitepinecamp.com/> (Tour video; <https://whitepinecamp.com/videotour.html> )

(Tues 11:30-1:30)

NOTE: Location 3.1 miles / 7 minutes drive. Make your way there on your own (walk, cycle or drive). Sign up beforehand in the Info tent. (Thurs. 11:30-1:30)

Optional; Paddle to White Pine Camp (Thursday morning; suggested start 10AM)

Note; Launch at Church Pond across the highway from entrance to Paul Smith's College

Nominal \$5 fee. Limit 20 per timeslot. Sign up in the Info tent.

(Thurs. 11:30-1:30)

## **LOCAL INTERESTS, ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS:**

**Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation;** <https://www.adkloon.org/>

**Adirondack Experience (formerly Adirondack Museum);** <https://www.theadkx.org/>

ADKX preserves and interprets the diverse stories of Adirondack history, culture and people

NOTE: 60 miles / 1.25 hrs drive from PSC

**Paul Smith's College Visitor's Interpretive Centre (VIC);** <https://www.paulsmithsvic.org/>

Trails, natural history programs & displays.

Check the VIC Events calendar; <https://www.paulsmithsvic.org/events/>

NOTE: 3 minutes drive / 1.1 miles from Paul Smith's College

**Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Centre;** <https://www.6nicc.com/>

3,000+ Native American artifacts with an emphasis on Six Nations/Haudenosaunee culture, including informational displays and storytelling lectures

NOTE: 12 minute / 9.1 mile drive from PSC

**White Pine Camp;** <http://www.whitepinecamp.com/>

Restored ADK Great Camp, once the summer White House of President Calvin Coolidge.

(Tour video; <https://whitepinecamp.com/videotour.html> )

**St. Regis Canoe Area;** <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/70572.html>

**Hike Mt. St. Regis;**

<http://www.saranalake.com/recreation/hiking/st-regis-mountain>

<http://www.summitpost.org/saint-regis-mountain/155121>

Note; Challenging terrain, strenuous activity. Consider your physical condition, check the weather, bring water and wear appropriate footwear.

**Northern Forest Canoe Trail;** <http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/>

**Town of Saranac Lake;** <https://www.saranalake.com/>

**Town of Tupper Lake;** <https://www.tupperlake.com/>

**The Wild Center (Tupper Lake);** <http://wildcenter.org/>

115 acres of outdoor experiences

**Town of Lake Placid;** <https://www.lakeplacid.com/>