



Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

NW Chapter WCHA

Spring Newsletter

March 2024



Northwest Chapter enjoys the sun at Camp Bishop, Spring 2015, Livdahl photo

Northwest Chapter Spring Meet: YMCA Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA! May 9–12, 2024

Sunny days, beautiful boats and good friends, what could be better?! Plan now to come to the Northwest Chapter's Spring Meet at Camp Bishop. Enjoy learning from experts about paddling, canoe building and repairs. Compare boats and equipment options, paddle Lost Lake, go fishing, hiking and birdwatching. Canoe meets are fun for all ages, so bring your family and friends! Camp Bishop offers camping as well as indoor housing, with a large dining hall and lodge. Don't have a canoe? Come enjoy ours! See you at Camp Bishop, for a day, overnight, or the full Meet!

Directions: Camp Bishop, 1476 West Lost Lake Rd., Shelton, WA

- From I-5, take exit 104 to Hwy 8 and 101, west to Shelton
- Take first exit to Shelton, Hwy 3. Go 1.5 miles to first stoplight
- Turn left to Acadia Rd, then left to Lake Boulevard, (becoming Cloquallum Rd), go for about 9 miles.
- Turn right to West Lost Lake Rd, go 1-2 miles. Camp at road end.

Accommodations: \$15 per adult per night. Check-in after 9 am Thursday

- Covid protocols per Camp Bishop (see website); additional precautions your choice.
- Ample tent area, non-heated sleeping cabins (5 available, \$30/night, reserve by emailing Mike: michael.livdahl@gmail.com), heated lodge rooms.
- Small campers/trailers in parking lot/lodge area. No hook-ups.
- Restrooms and shower facilities. New bathhouses in cabin area.
- No cooking in cabins. Full kitchen/dining area.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times. If dogs in the buildings: kenneled + \$50 fee.

Reminders:

- Vern's Salmon Barbecue Saturday evening potluck. \$10/person donation.
- Potluck: bring side or dessert to share, or eat on your own if you wish. Bring gently used and new "valuables" for Saturday fundraising auction.
- Bring musical instruments and voices for sing-alongs.
- Program information on our website: northwest.wcha.org

Draft Schedule: Spring Meet 2024

Thursday: May 11.

Check in after 9 am.
Greet friends, settle in, enjoy the lake.
Explore the area: <https://squaxinilandmuseum.org/visit-us/>
Evening videos in lodge.
Meals on your own.

Friday: May 12

Dawn Patrol
Book Club, Round table Discussion: Builders Forum
Lake Tour; English Gate practice
Evening program: Mike Elliott: 2024 WCHA Assembly
Meals on your own.

Saturday: May 13

Dawn patrol
Morning: TBD
Lunch on your own
1:00 pm Meet the Canoes
Group photo! Be there!
2:00 pm Canoe tours
6:00 pm Potluck Salmon Dinner
Brief chapter meeting
Auction: Bring great items and lots of \$\$\$!

Sunday: May 14

Dawn Patrol
Clean up and pack up. Happy travels, happy boating! See you at **Manning Park, September 17–22!, 2024!**



Admiring the Ferwerda Thompson Hiawatha at Camp Bishop. Tim Coglan photo

COURTING CANOES

STYLE & ROMANCE ON THE WATER



WOODEN CANOE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

45TH ANNIVERSARY ASSEMBLY

JULY 16-21, 2024 - PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE, NY

Public Welcome! Bring the Family!

OVER 300 NEW, VINTAGE AND HISTORIC CANOES ON DISPLAY
WORKSHOPS • KIDS' PROGRAMS • ON-WATER EVENTS • AUCTION & RAFFLE
ON-SITE ACCOMMODATIONS • CAMPING • CANOE THE BEAUTIFUL ADIRONDACKS
MARKETPLACE: CANOES • PADDLES • GEAR • ACCESSORIES • BUILDING SUPPLIES

Information: www.woodencanoe.org 603-323-8992

WCHA News!

Hey there, folks, hope you're all doing well and looking forward to the paddling season ahead! Here's a quick update on what's been happening with your WCHA Board of Directors.

Every spring, our main focus is the annual Assembly. This time around, we're back at Paul Smith's College in upstate New York. It's just such a great spot! We did consider making some changes, but we ended up back here, and honestly, it's hard to beat. Still, if you've got any great ideas for future venues, hit me up! We're always open to suggestions! Mark your calendars – Assembly is happening July 16th to the 21st. The crew's been working overtime to put together a fantastic program, so if you're thinking about coming, we'd love to have you! Keep an eye on the website for all the details. Registration opens April 29th.

Now, let's talk about the Board. We've got Michael Grace as our president, Nick Dombrowski as VP, Pete Shea holding down the secretary gig, and Annie Burke as our Executive Director. We've also welcomed Nick Dennis, our newest member all the way from across the pond in the UK. Super cool having an international voice on the board! Annie Harris, Deborah Gardner, Barclay Foord, Glenn McGrady and myself round out the crew.

Money matters, right? We're in a better place financially, but we're still watching our pennies to keep the organization shipshape. We're also cooking up a new strategic plan. One big focus? How to keep our members engaged, especially the younger crowd. Have any ideas on what direction you'd like the WCHA to go in? I'm all ears!

Speaking of ears, I'm your go-to for website stuff. Any ideas to make it better? Shoot 'em my way! There's plenty of other items on the agenda at our monthly meetings, so this was just a quick overview. If any of you need more information I'm more than happy to share. Give me a call or email.

Here's to a fantastic spring ahead! Hope to catch up with many of you soon!

Happy paddling, Colleen



Colleen Hovey and Claude Delisle Livdahl photo

Remembering Ray Arcand

October 16, 2023

Raymond Denis Arcand of Pender Island, BC, died October 16, 2023 while in Hospice Care at Saanich Peninsula in Saanichton. My Ray-man had a long adventurous life and lived to be 85!

Ray was born June 23, 1938 to Remi Arcand and Lucille Lessard Arcand in North Battleford, Sask. In 1946 the family moved to Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley of BC to pursue dairy farming. This is where Ray and his siblings, Lorraine, Louise, Irene and George were raised, on the farm. Remi had some health problems so Ray, as the eldest child, was required to work at his side until he left home.



Ray had an interest in photography and worked for a time in a camera shop in Chilliwack. He also spent a few years in the Forest Service before returning to UBC to complete his education as a High School Shop Teacher. He was employed by Chase Secondary and remained in Chase, BC for 29 years, retiring in 1997. Ray and Janice Reeves were married in 1964 and had two children, Anthony and Michelle. The family lived in Sorrento, BC where Ray built two houses during his summer breaks, published a book on making log building tools, had a part time paddle making business and spent time with his family at the cabin at Sheridan Lake during the summers.

Wilderness Canoe tripping was another of Ray's passions, along with Marathon Canoe racing. He lived a very active life with his many canoes. Retiring from Chase Secondary in 1997, Ray moved to Bellingham, WA and married Beth Rodenhuis in 1998. Beth and Ray had 25 good years together to enjoy our Canoeing trips and shared adventures.

Pender Island, BC became our home for the past 23 years and we were grateful to be able to call this lovely place our home. Ray was an extremely talented woodworker and craftsman, and a fine human being. Ray is survived by Anthony Arcand, Michelle Arcand, Janice Arcand, Beth Arcand, Rob Mills, Dave Green, and Dan Green and by grandchildren Cleo Mills, Abbey Mills, Odin Mills, and Ashley Green, and of course, Ted.



Remembering Barb Dobree

April 10, 1947 - January 8, 2024

Barb left us unexpectedly after complications from a recent medical procedure. She passed away peacefully on January 8, 2024, in Vancouver General Hospital with her daughter by her side.

Barb was often described as a "real character" who left a lasting impression on everyone she met as she reveled them with stories of her travels and adventures. She was a pioneer woman at heart who was fiercely independent and followed her passions whether it be skiing, canoeing, camping, or sewing.

Barb was a life-long learner who knew something about everything from plants to birds to which boat was entering the Comox Harbour from the view in her 3rd floor condo. She was a natural educator who spent most of her working life as an instructor teaching dental assisting at Malaspina College (now VIU Nanaimo).

Barb dedicated much of her life to volunteer work with many organizations including the Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society, Adaptive Snowsports (formerly the Disabled Skiing Program), Mitlenatch Island Stewardship and Habitat for Humanity.

Her health didn't always allow her to keep up with her zest for adventure in her later years but her network of friends and loved ones remained strong as did her curiosity for life and her passion for knowledge.

Barb is dearly missed by her daughter Terri, her son-in-law Basil, her beloved grandchildren Neve and Kieran and her sister Jane as well as all of her cherished friends.

Barb was pre-deceased by one of her oldest and closest friends, Kella, a few weeks prior to her own passing. We like to think Barb and Kella are re-united - laughing and drinking tea together. Thank you to everyone who has loved and supported Barb over the years.

Lee Valley Tools will surely miss one of their most loyal customers!

A celebration of life for Barb will be held in the Spring/Summer of 2024. Please reach out to Terri at Terri.Ingram@alumni.uvic.ca for details and consider donating to one of Barb's favourite charitable organizations to honour her memory.



Forget Me Knot

The essential rescue skill outdoor programs stopped teaching **BY JEFF JACKSON**

I WAS NOT much of a reader as a kid. In third grade, I won the Most Improved Reader award, which makes me think I was pretty bad at it. Yet, my parents regularly took me into town to the library as part of their attempts to make me less feral. I can't imagine what I was thinking when I brought home an arcane book on knots.

In 1944, sailor Clifford Ashley published his encyclopedic *Ashley Book of Knots*. A hand-illustrated source for more than 3,000 knots, bends and hitches, it is still considered an artistic masterpiece today, even with its hokey Captain Highliner cover illustration. The book is massive in scope, with detailed instructions for every variation of every known knot. It standardized the knot names we still use today.

Even though I'd never set foot on a sailboat, moored a ship to a dock, seized, spliced or hitched anything, I was fascinated by it as a kid and read the detailed instructions cover to cover. And, with miles of bailer twine to work with at the farm, I went at learning my knots.

Ashley would be rolling over in his grave now. Knots have mostly disappeared from the paddler and outdoorsy person's skill set. Cam straps have eliminated the need to use any hitch or knot to tie our kayaks on the roof. Today many paddlers would be hard-pressed to securely tie down a boat with just

a single rope. Indoor climbing gyms have evolved to clip and climb, where the only needed skill is to ensure the carabiner gate is locked on the auto belay—no need to even touch a rope anymore.

Tents and tarps come pre-rigged with buckles, clips and pre-tied loops. Worse yet, modern river rescue education has convinced us the only knot we really need to know is the figure eight. The rationale has merit: novice paddlers or Joe Firefighter, who may take these courses yet rarely, if ever, use the skills, will forget anything other than the most basic material.

Yet, can we be as arrogant as to think the other 2,999 knots in Ashley's book are unnecessary?

We have confused the laudable goal of simplifying the instruction of complex technical knowledge to beginners—what is done in beginner paddling courses, river rescue certification courses, and what I do as a college professor—with an assumption complex technical knowledge is unneeded. By teaching complex concepts simply, we have grown to believe everything worth teaching is simple.

It was not this way in the beginning.

Setnicka's 1981 *Wilderness Search and Rescue* book used all 640 pages to dig into the nitty gritty and blew the lid off technical rope rescue. He didn't try to simplify the vast complexity, variation and

adaptation required in technical rescue scenarios. It did not take long for this seminal work to be applied to the whitewater world, with Bechdel and Ray's 1989 *River Rescue* bringing river rescue to the masses by adapting mountain climbers' rope expertise to river applications. It was not simple and, to keep your options open, more knowledge than a figure eight knot was required. Think Tyrolean traverse and cross river zip lines, windless winches and multiple rope lowering systems.

Rarely used, but when needed, it's needed.

Ropework is often not simple, requires practice and asks more of us as skilled and responsible paddlers.

Ashley made no apology for his 3,000 knots. For every single one, he explained its purpose and use. The majority of these knots had to be known to be a sailor.

Collectively, whitewater paddlers have convinced ourselves we don't need to know knots. But that leaves us carrying our throw ropes around as vastly underutilized tools. As a 10-year-old kid, I sensed there was an opportunity in knowing knots. And as a career river guide, I now know knots create options when they're needed most.

Jeff Jackson is a risk management consultant and professor of outdoor adventure at Algonquin College.

TRAVEL

INSTALL TIE-DOWN POINTS FOR CARTOPPING

Even if your vehicle comes with built-in tie-down points under the front bumper, using these can cause the rope to rub or scratch your paint. Create your own tie-down points for a bow line on your canoe or kayak at hood level by bolting a loop of webbing to the inside skirt of the front quarter panel. Fold a 10-inch piece of webbing in half, burn a hole through both ends—I use a butane torch to heat a large spike for the burning operation—and then fasten it to the forward bolt which secures the quarter panel frame. These bolts should be easy to find when you lift the hood. I install one on both sides of the hood. When not in use, fold the webbing inside and close the hood. It's scratchproof, indestructible and pretty much free. **BRIAN SHIELDS**



(Articles from Paddling Magazine.)

[TECHNIQUE]

Secret Weapon

BECKY MASON SHOWS OFF HER STEALTHIEST STROKE

Many years ago a Cree man came south from Hudson Bay to take a course with me. He was not an experienced paddler and I taught him many strokes. There was one in particular he loved; he practiced it a lot and by the time he left he was looking good. Shortly after, he got in touch with me and he told me an amazing story.

When he returned home he demonstrated his new skills to his extended family. He finished off with his favorite stroke and as he paddled to shore he noticed that his grandmother was crying. He asked her, "Grandma, why are you crying?" She told him that she remembered her grandfather doing that exact stroke many years ago. The stroke was what my dad called the Indian Stroke.

The Indian Stroke, also called a Rolling J and Silent Stroke, is ancient. It's ideal for traveling quietly, without splashing and the sound of droplets falling from the blade. This is the stealth version of a J-stroke. It's great when there is wildlife nearby that you don't want to disturb, and also for traveling quietly in a relaxed and unhurried manner. **BECKY MASON**



1 Start with your paddle blade perpendicular to the canoe, and in the water just in front of your knees.



2 Take a gentle forward stroke and as the blade reaches your hips, initiate a J-stroke by turning your grip hand thumb down then pushing away from the hull.



3 As the J-stroke finishes, relax your grip hand and flip that hand's position so that your thumb is now facing you. This is the palm roll and it is the most important and prettiest part of the stroke.



4 Now slice the blade forward, keeping it in the water and parallel to the canoe.



5 As you set up for the next stroke, you will find it natural to start with a slight bow draw to help with steering and to connect seamlessly into the next forward stroke.

TIPS

The power face of the paddle changes because of the palm roll at the end of each stroke.

The palm rotations are done slowly, like gently rubbing oil into the grip with the palm of your hand.

Keep the throat of the paddle just above the waterline throughout the stroke. This reduces splashes and gurgles, and increases efficiency.

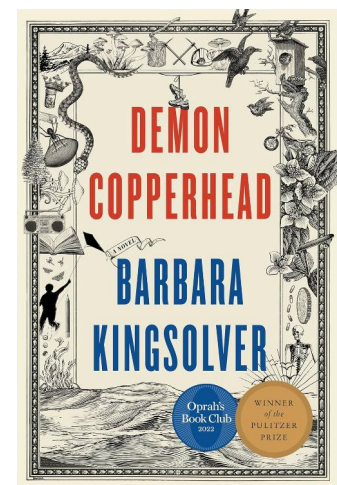
If you are trying to get close to wildlife, slow your movements and minimize your reach. Your stroke can be as short as six inches and still be effective.

(Paddling Magazine)

NW Chapter Book Club

The Book Club started by several chapter members has languished over the Covid years, but will begin again at the Spring Meet for interested members. The book selected for the May 2024 Meet will be Barbara Kingsolver's new Pulitzer prize-winning *Demon Copperhead*, the story of a boy growing up in and out of foster care and difficult circumstances in modern-day Appalachia. Plan to read it, and come to the discussion!

For the Fall 2024 Meet, a biography of Northwest explorer and map-maker David Thompson will be chosen. Possible selections include *Epic Wanderer: David Thompson and the Mapping of the Canadian West*; *The Mapmaker's Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau*; and *Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson across North America*. People familiar with any of these books, please advise as to which would be a good choice for our group. We'll make a decision at the Spring Meet.



For Sale: Old Town OTCA 17'

1950 17' Old Town OTCA. Completely restored in 2023: new canvas, paint, varnish, caned seats, by expert craftsman. Half rib construction; meticulous detailing. Ready for the water and new adventures. Eugene, Oregon. \$3,400 crosscuts357@gmail.com



Form Available: 16' Cheemaun

Remember, the NW Chapter owns a form to build the beautiful 16' Cheemaun canoe. Chip Asbury built this one with his son Matthew. You can borrow the form to build one, too! In two parts, easy to move. Contact Joe McElroy at 425 502 2050



For Sale: Some of Ray Arcand's canoes:

contact Pat Chapman, www.mcfarlandlake.com

- 2008 Ray Arcand-built red and yellow cedar lapstrake 14' solo canoe (this is a masterpiece canoe and was featured on the cover of Wooden Canoe magazine in December 2005. I think Ray was proudest of this canoe) \$10,000
- 1986 Nylon-skinned aluminum tube-framed baidarka (\$200)
- 17' Kevlar tripping/racing canoe (not sure of the maker, but this is a good canoe for racing or tripping) \$500
- Fiberglass hull w/o trim or outfitting. Unknown builder (nothing known about this. Will need gunnels, thwarts, seats, decks made) \$200
- Huron(?) wood/canvas canoe (\$500)

Adirondack Guideboat Company ~ 14' Vermont Dory

Offered for sale here in Anacortes for \$3500.00

Please call or text 206-321-1473 if any serious interest

This beautiful rowing dory was purchased by special order directly from the Adirondack Guideboat Company in Vermont in 2019. I had it professionally shipped to me here in Anacortes and has be stored inside since new. The dory has been used just a few times. I'm currently in need of additional boat storage space for a number of classic wooden canoe projects I'm building and restoring. This dory is built with a very strong kevlar hull and finished beautifully in teak and cherry. It supports 3 locations for a single oarsman depending on the weight distrbution in the boat. It weighs only 80lbs and rows like a dream. Very stable in the water. Hand made custom cherry oars included as well. All the hardware is brass and fitted with bronze fastenings. Would love to see this stay in the area and get used on the waters here in Anacortes. Please give a call and come have a look. Located in Old Town, Anacortes. With shipping, over 6k invested, so I have priced this very fairly. This is a fine little boat and needs to be used. It's a rare find here on the west coast, as the Adirondack Guideboat Company deals mostly in the northeast.

You can see additional info about this model and this fine boatbuidler at www.adirondack-guide-boat.com. Please connect with me by phone or text at 206-321-1473 (Chris)



Northwest Native Canoe Center to become a Reality



United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and several King County Council members gather to announce the Northwest Native Canoe Center

Recently, dozens gathered at Seattle's [The Center for Wooden Boats](#) to listen to architect Bruce Arnold share plans for the Northwest Native Canoe Center being built in Lake Union Park. The hour-long presentation, as part of [The Center for Wooden Boats Third Friday Speaker Series](#), detailed the half-century fight for a Native canoe center on Lake Union, and how we are close to breaking ground.



Jones & Jones | Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

Bruce Arnold, AIA, from [Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects](#), detailed the plans for the project, which includes a Welcome House and Canoe Carving House. Complete with a living roof and carved Welcome Figure, the Northwest Native Canoe Center “will provide insight into distinctive varieties of Native American culture” for tribal members, Seattle residents, and visitors, according to [Seattle Parks and Recreation](#). Just across Lake Union Park Bridge from The Center for Wooden Boats and MOHAI, the Northwest Native Canoe Center will be neighbors with The Center for Wooden Boats. One audience member shared that The Center for Wooden Boats and Northwest Native Canoe Center “complete each other,” as together they are the “story of the Pacific Northwest.”



The Northwest Native Canoe Center will be developed at Goose Beach, south of the Center for Wooden Boats.

While the Canoe Center does encapsulate a significant history of the Pacific Northwest and will be utilized by many, the project hasn’t come easy. To understand the Northwest Native Canoe Center’s inception, “You have to go back to [United Indians of All Tribes Foundation’s] story for their advocacy and stewardship for the canoe center project,” says Arnold. The vision for this project came from Bernie Whitebear, UIATF founder and protester in the [Fort Lawton takeover](#). Whitebear’s vision for Urban Natives, along with the founding of UIATF, included a canoe center in the city center. The original architect and designer of the Northwest Native Canoe Center, Johnpaul Jones, FAIA, and Bernie Whitebear sat together in the 1970’s, creating the first sketches of the Canoe Center (these original sketches have unfortunately been lost due to a flood).

Through decades of environmental planning, designs and redesigns, rising costs, and permitting, the project has remained a high priority goal of UIATF and Executive Director Mike Tulee. The tenacity required to make this founder’s dream a reality speaks to the importance of the center and, as Arnold shared, Natives being “the most resilient, adaptive people [he’s] come across.” After over 50 years of advocacy, planning, and fundraising, we can anticipate breaking ground in early 2024, according to [Seattle Parks and Recreation](#). The Northwest Native Canoe Center will be a part of the UIATF’s many cultural programs and services.

President's Note:

It is a sad sign of the times that I need to begin with this SCAM ALERT.

SCAM ALERT - *No one from this club nor from the WCHA will ask you to help them out by buying Gift Cards and sending codes. Scammers have been sending fairly real fake emails that look like they are from club officers asking for gift cards. If you have a question, please feel free to email me and don't send any gift cards ☺.*

I am happy to report that we are financially healthy with reserves sufficient to provide for at least 2 years of meet expenses. Membership and meet attendance is rebounding from covid. And our wooden canoes are as beautiful as ever.

We have the following **Agenda Items** for the Saturday Meeting:

1. **New Officers and Board Members.** This spring, we need new volunteers to serve on the board and serve as president, and if enough folks volunteer, vice president as well. Board member duties are neither difficult nor time consuming. If you would like to serve let us know.
2. **Contributions** to canoe related projects and/or organizations. We should be in a position to once again consider contributing to canoe related projects and/or organizations that could use our support. Please forward ideas for canoe related projects and/or organizations that could use our support for discussion at our business meeting.
3. **Fall 2025 Meet location.** We need to plan 1 year out to ensure a booking at Manning Park and other locations. We need to confirm Manning for Fall 2025 or identify and book an alternate location. 2025 Reservations for Manning need to be made about a week before the start of the 2024 Meet. If you have alternate locations that you have explored please forward them on for discussion.
4. **Spring 2025 Meet Location.** We need to confirm Camp Bishop for the Spring 2025 Meet and the confirm the dates.
5. **New Business** If you have other items to discuss, please contact me or another officer to add those items to the agenda.

I need to say special thanks to Vern and Jan Heikkila for all that they have done to make the spring 2024 meet happen. And thank you as well to Mary Norton, Joan Ellsworth and Martin Ferwerda for all that they have done and will do all year long to publish the news letters, pay the bills, and keep the website up and running. They have been making the presidents easy!

May your varnish be dust free and your paddling always down wind,

Mike





Michael Davidson tells about their 1925 Old Town, Spring 2017 Tim Coglan photo



Martin Ferwerda shows new Thompson Hiawatha Tim Coglan photo



On the beach at Camp Bishop, Spring 2017 Tim Coglan photo

NW Chapter Fall Meet: Manning Park, BC September 17–22, 2024!

Northwest.wcha.org

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What Do You Do With Half A Canoe?

In your travels up north or in any maritime areas you may have seen shelf units in stores made from sitting a small boat upright on its transom with shelves built in for the merchandise. Or you may have seen similar examples in people's homes where there is a shelf unit built in the style of a boat with personal items displayed.

From the above title I suspect you can see where this is headed. I have seen quite a number of these units and admired them but... when I see them made from cedar canvas canoes, invariably they are finished in a "rustic" look, meaning there is no canvas on the hull and most, if not all, the attractive features like brass stem bands, deck mount anchors or even brass screw heads are not present or at least made presentable. This has always seemed like incomplete work to me since, one, they are very expensive and, two the external surface of the wood planking is not really the nicest part of these canoes. The canvas cover, when nicely finished, can really beautify the look. I just can't get excited about a coat of varnish on the unfinished planking.



Commercial fibreglass Unit



Partially complete cedar canvas



Commercial production shelf

To that end, I sought out and unwanted cedar canvas canoe. I was happy when a member of our club contacted me about taking an old canoe from his property that was given to him but he never used much and he did not want it repaired. I looked at the boat, it was between 50 and 60 years old, there was extensive rot and considerable damage from tree branches that had fallen on the exposed hull over the course of many years stored beneath the large conifers. As with 99% of these boats it was repairable if that were the wish. However; it seems that unless there is considerable sentimental attachment to the old canoe, most people I've met are not interested in the cost of such a repair. So, this was a perfect candidate to try out my ideas.



After splitting the canoe in half, repairing the end joinery, planking, making a new maple burl deck and creating a base system, I had a good framework to build on. The application of a canvas cover on the half-canoe, painted maritime blue, with an authentic keel, left only the new mahogany outwales and brass stem band to attach and finish the external part of the boat. At this point, save for a few very minor differences, the half canoe is finished the same way as any other cedar canvas canoe I put back into service, and in fact, you could put this in the water for a short paddle if that were the intention. I was very excited about how it was coming together as I had already achieved the primary difference I was looking for by finishing it with a canvas cover, and it looked beautiful.



No sense in going easy on the interior, after all my goal was to produce a “best of the best” canoe shelf that would stand apart from any other similar unit. So... two age appropriate, cane matted seats, set at shelf heights, with inset dimmable lighting for each shelf will create an elegant presentation to anything displayed. The final touch is the glass shelves that need to sit atop the installed seat shelf to enable full use of the space on the shelf. The final result was everything I hoped it would be.



Authentic finishing



Etched glass base

This old canoe now has a new life that could, easily exceed its previous life as a functioning canoe. I have said to some who do not know what they will do with their old canoes since no one in the family wants it and it needs repair, that this could be a way to keep the family canoeing memories alive and in the family. I am not an advocate of sawing all the old canoes in half, only the ones that will wind up in the landfill, burn pile or just rotting away in the back yard somewhere.

Now, for the second half of the old canoe...

Bob Podesta

Jan 2024