



Wooden Canoe  
Heritage Association  
NORTHWEST CHAPTER

## NW Chapter WCHA Spring Newsletter: March 2026



*Mike Livdahl photo*

Plan now for the **Northwest Chapter's Spring Meet, at YMCA Camp Bishop, Shelton, WA., May 8—10, 2026!** Enjoy an interesting program, sunshine on the lake, and of course, beautiful boats! Canoe Meets are great fun for all ages: bring your family and friends. Learn from expert paddlers and boat builders, and try different boats. Hike, boat, fish, maybe even swim! Remember some really good things for the auction! Camp Bishop offers lodge rooms, cabins, tent space and parking for your RV or trailer. Bring your canoe or boat, or come enjoy ours. See you at Lost Lake!

## NW Chapter Spring Meet: May 8–10, 2026

### Directions: Camp Bishop, 1476 West Lost Lake Road, 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 stop light
- Turn left to Acadia Rd. then left to Lake Blvd, which becomes Cloquallum Rd. Go about 9 miles.
- Turn right to West Lost Lake Rd., go 1–2 miles. Camp is at road end.

### Accommodations:

- \$20 per person per night. Check in after 2 pm Friday.
- Ample tent area, non-heated cabins (\$50/night), heated lodge rooms.
- RV's, trailers, campers in the parking lot/lodge area; no hook-ups.
- Restrooms and shower facilities. New bathhouse in cabin area.
- No cooking in cabins. Full kitchen/dining area.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times. Pick up after your dog! If dogs in buildings, kenneled + \$50

### Reminders:

- Vern's Salmon Barbecue Saturday evening potluck. \$10/person donation.
- Potluck: bring a side dish or dessert to share, or eat on your own if you wish.
- Bring exciting old or new items for Saturday's fundraising auction.
- Bring musical instruments and voices for sing-alongs.
- Program information on our website: [www.northwest@wcha.org](http://www.northwest@wcha.org)



photo Mike Livdahl flickr

# Draft Schedule: Spring Meet 2026

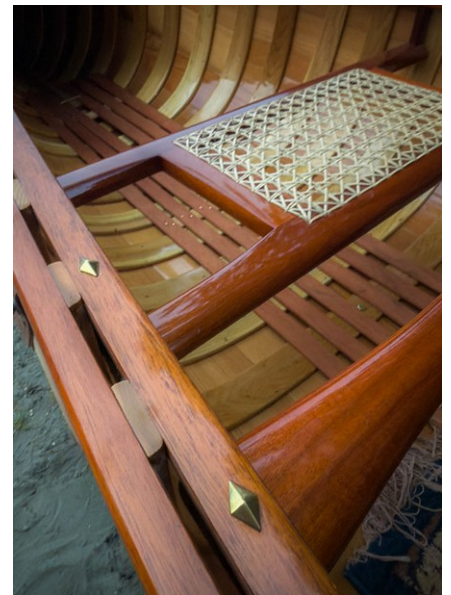
## Friday May 8

Check in after 10 am. Food on your own.  
Greet friends, settle in, enjoy the lake.  
Evening:  
Meet the Morris Elliott Canoe!  
“The Willits Legacy” movie



## Saturday, May 9

Dawn Patrol! Breakfast and lunch on your own.  
Morning: Scavenger Hunt! Exciting prizes!  
1:00: Meet the Canoes  
Group photo! Be there!  
2:00: Canoe Handling Trials  
6:00: Potluck Salmon dinner  
Brief Chapter meeting  
Auction: Bring great items and lots of \$\$\$!



## Sunday: May 10

Dawn Patrol!  
Clean up, pack up. Happy travels and happy boating!.



*Top: Grays Harbor Community College Carpentry program students try out the 1925 Old Town War Canoe.*

*Middle: New canoe built by Chris Eden on a 1915 Old Town Charles River form.*

*Bottom: Ballet in a canoe: Rebecka Ferwerda practices solo paddling in their 1927 Old Town HW.*

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Willits Canoe Gathering

## August 22, 2026 by Phil Miller

The Gathering will again meet at the Tacoma Narrows Antique Airplane Museum, 1108 26th Avenue NW, Gig Harbor. Canoeist's can begin arriving 8:30 AM. We will then be transiting to Horseshoe Lake approximately at 10:00 AM.

Horseshoe Lake is 15-20 minutes from the Airplane Museum heading towards Bremerton. There is a parking lot with easy access to launch the canoes in FRESH WATER. The address for Horseshoe Lake County Park is 15931 Sidney Rd SW, Port Orchard. Google Maps will get you there. There are public rest rooms, picnic area. For those that want to skip the museum you can go directly to the lake.

The public is welcome to come see these beautiful canoes also at either location.

Food you can bring your lunch. There are a limited amount of BBQ's at the park be sure you bring your briquettes'. This park is open to the public so we will be sharing the facilities with the general public at the park that day.

Please RSVP by August 1 or sooner if you plan on attending.

Phil Miller Cell 253 651 4703. Email [seeeds@comcast.net](mailto:seeeds@comcast.net)



*Almost mint condition Willits #877 with many original accessories available. Pat Chapman photos*



Marlene Stein photo

## WCHA Board News!

Hello Northwest Chapter friends!

I hope you're all getting ready for paddling season! Here in Alberta we're still watching the snow fall and wishing for spring, though every once in a while we get a warm day that reminds us better weather is on the way. I can't wait to get back on the water.

I wanted to share a quick update on what your WCHA Board of Directors has been working on over the past few months.

In January we said goodbye to two long-time board members and welcomed two new voices to the group. Serge Lemay and Zack Smith have joined the board and we're very glad to have them. The third open position was filled by Glenn MacGrady, who is returning for his second term. At our most recent meeting we also filled the board officer roles. Nick Dombrowski returns as President, Nick Dennis continues as Vice President, and Dan Miller stepped into the Secretary role, replacing Pete Shea who left the board after completing his third term. For those who may not know, three consecutive terms is the maximum a director can serve before taking a one-year break. As always, the board continues working on a number of ongoing priorities. These include exploring ways to bring a younger demographic into the organization, continuing to improve the website, finding new ways to provide value to members, and looking at possible collaborations with other organizations that share similar missions.

Of course, our biggest focus at this time of year is Assembly planning.

This year we'll be gathering at Keuka College on the shores of Keuka Lake. While many of us have fond memories of past Assemblies at Paul Smith's College, recent changes there meant we needed to find a new location for 2026. Keuka is a beautiful campus that has hosted the WCHA before, and the planning committee is excited about the opportunities the location offers.

Its proximity to several interesting sites is opening the door to some new program ideas and activities, and we're looking forward to exploring the area together. A new shoreline always brings a few new adventures, and Assembly is never just about the location — it's about the boats, the stories, and the people gathered around them.

This year's Assembly theme will celebrate the wooden watercraft traditions of New York State — everything from sailing canoes to Adirondack guideboats and more. If past Assemblies are any indication, there will be plenty of beautiful boats on the Green, lively dockside conversations, and no doubt a few new friendships launched along the way.

Assembly registration will open on April 20, and more details will continue to be added to the website as they become available.

As always, if you have questions, ideas, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out. I'll be continuing on the board for another two years and am always happy to pass along thoughts or concerns from our chapter. You can reach me anytime at [colleen.hovey@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.hovey@gmail.com).

Hope to see many of you on the water soon!

Colleen Delisle

# WOODEN CANOE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY 2026

*Public welcome - bring the family!*

*WATERCRAFT OF NEW YORK*  
KEUKA COLLEGE, NY - JULY 14-19

*SAILING CANOES!  
ADIRONDACK GUIDEBOATS!  
ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CANOES!*



Design: Michael Gore

Hundreds of new, vintage & historic wooden canoes on display  
Workshops - Kids Programs - Auction & Raffle  
Marketplace: Canoes, Paddles, Gear, Accessories & Supplies  
Information: [www.woodencanoe.org](http://www.woodencanoe.org) 603-323-8992

# Meet Lou Marlowe's Morris Elliott Canoe!



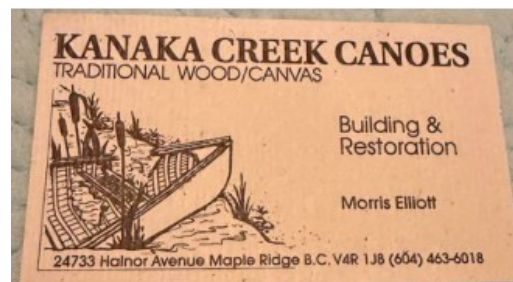
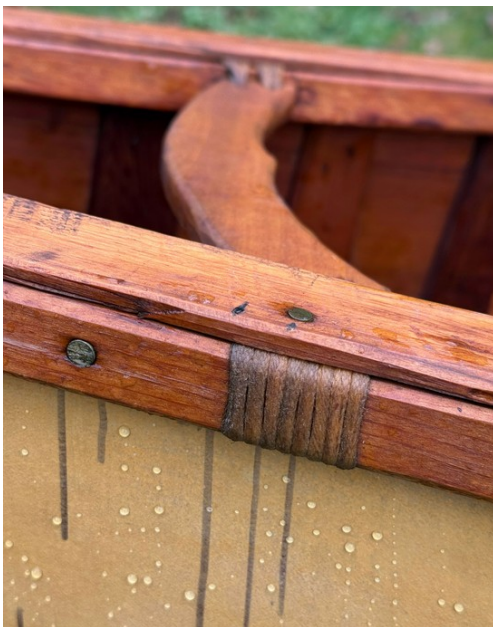
NW Chapter's first Meet, at Millersylvania State Park in 1993, organized by Carl Hoth. Lou Marlowe is next to Carl, right above the bow seat of the canoe.

Lou Marlowe's Morris Elliott wood/canvas canoe is painted to appear as a birchbark canoe. Mike Livdahl photo



**Lou Marlowe** was a founding NW chapter member, and active in the chapter during the 1990's. Living in Bellingham at the time, she was a friend of Chapter founders Carl and Ruth Hoth, and of Beth and Ray Arcand. Lou modified a canoe sketch into the chapter logo we still use for our newsletter and our NW Chapter patch.

Lou passed away in 2017, and her son, Erich Neupert, has offered her unique canoe to the NW Chapter. The 14.5' wood/canvas canoe was built by early chapter member and canoe builder Morris Elliott, and purchased by Lou in 1997. She then hand-painted the canoe –balancing it on her dining room table--to “simulate the look of birchbark.” The light, nimble canoe is striking. Thanks to Erich's generosity, the chapter can utilize the canoe as a fundraiser, ideally to a chapter member or other appreciative home. The canoe will be at Camp Bishop for the Spring Meet: try it, and you may fall in love!



*The canoe's construction enhances the birch bark look. The chapter can examine and try out the canoe at the Spring Meet; a NW chapter member can purchase the canoe at a reduced rate. If there is no local interest, the canoe will be advertised nationally. Mike Livdahl photos. Thank you, Erich Neupert!*

## Old Town Molitor with Sailing Rig Available

Old Town Molitor with sailing rig from 1969 that was my husbands, that I would like to list for sale to your members. Canoe is near Covington, WA. Contact [kbear2004@comcast.net](mailto:kbear2004@comcast.net)



## It's Sunny at Camp Bishop....



*"Meet the Canoes" at the beach at Camp Bishop, Spring Meet 2023. Livdahl photo*

## **Skill: Master the No-Match Fire**

**by Jeff Butler in Summer 2015 Canoeroots magazine**

Flint and steel fire-making has become a traditional way of staying warm, cooking food and providing comfort and security. But far from being a quirky tradition for the voyageurs, it was a matter of life and death, not a choice between the use of lighters, matches or other incendiary devices. This match-free, fire-making method remains one of the most reliable ways to start a fire. Its simple and the tools required are waterproof and compact.

In the past, a piece of carbon steel was struck against a piece of flint. The force of percussion caused a small shaving of carbon steel to ignite, producing a spark. Nowadays, modern fire strikers are made from carbon steel and the man-made metal ferrocerium, and can be purchased in any outdoors store.

You can substitute a striker by using the back of your knife; even a broken piece of hacksaw blade will work as a striker, as long as it is as hard or harder than the ferro rod.

Whether you use natural materials or opt for using modern alternatives with this traditional technique, the easy-to-follow instructions remain the same.

The success of your fire depends on the quality of your tinder bundle. Before any sparks are cast you'll need to build a bed of tinder where a spark can grow into a flame. Tinder materials need to be very dry, and the thinner and more fibrous the better. Traditionally, tinder was made from charred vegetable matter such as cotton (char cloth) cattail fluff, birchbark shavings and certain fungi.

A cheap modern alternative is made by coating cotton balls in petroleum jelly. When you want to start a fire, open up the cotton ball to expose the dry, fluffy inside. The petroleum acts as fuel for your flame allowing the cotton to burn for three to four minutes, instead of just seconds. Keep it stored in a waterproof container.

Prepare a supply of tooth-pick and pencil-sized fuel to add to your flame. The first 60 seconds of your fire are the most important and will usually determine whether or not you will be successful. To create a spark, hold your striker in one hand, and the ferro rod in the other. Place the hand with the striker directly on the ground just above your tinder materials. Angle your striker at slightly greater than 90 degrees to the ferro rod.

When casting sparks, keep the hand with the striker stationary, and draw the ferro rod towards yourself. This helps prevent pushing your hand forward and scattering your tinder. Use

deliberate powerful pressure as you pull. You should see sparks. Experiment with the angle and pressure if you are not successful at first. Direct the sparks onto your tinder bundle. Once the spark catches, and creates a red ember, gently blow it into a flame and add your fuel.



*photo from Canoeroots magazine*



*Remember your woolies and toques for Manning! Foreground: Mike Elliott's Chestnut canoe, Scott Christianson's skin and frame canoe built by Ray Arcand, and Chip Asbury's Cheemaun, built by Chip on the Chapter's form. Livdahl photo*

**Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Meet: Manning Park, B.C.  
September 18–21, 2026  
Lone Duck Campground # 2**