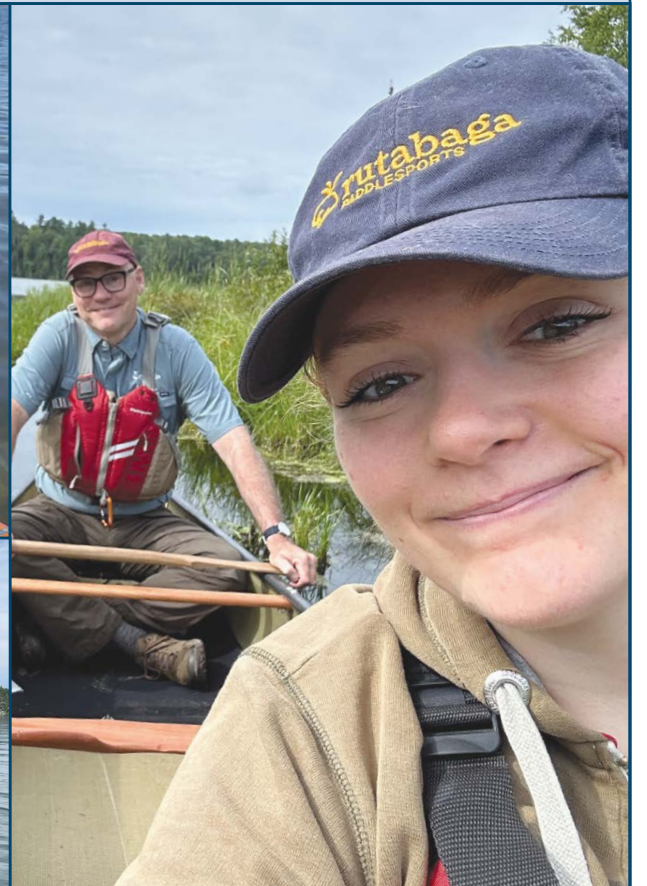


CANOECOPIA 2024

WORLD'S LARGEST PADDLESPORT EXPO

BEST PRICES, BEST SELECTION



presented by:



A Celebration of All Things Paddlesports
ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER, MADISON, WI
MARCH 8-10, 2024

Welcome to Canoecopia

The premier kick-off to the paddling season, by Darren Bush

Well, it's been a wild ride. I'm only going to mention COVID once, and how it put the world in a giant food processor and pushed the pulse button over and over again. It put Rutabaga and Canoecopia in the same slicey-dicey position as all of us.

The publication you are holding in your hands took a hiatus too, but after three years, we decided it was time to bring it back. Sure, paper, printing and postage costs all shot up double digits, but the best thing about being family owned and operated is that I can do things because I want to. We have no board of directors to consult, no CFO to tell me the numbers don't work. I wanted to bring it back because I love having something tangible, and from the response to the resurrected show guide, so do you.

If you've read the Canoecopia Gazette 30 times, great: here's 31. If this is your first time, welcome. In these pages you'll find a wealth of knowledge about all things paddle. You'll find stories about the joy that comes from paddling, learning to

paddle, and getting others on the water. You'll find stories about people who went from rank beginners to accomplished wilderness explorers.

Our new store (just down the road from the Alliant Energy Center) is a huge blessing. The solar array and green construction means low energy costs, and it was the right thing to do anyway. We're closed during Canoecopia, but we hope you come back and see what we built.

Welcome, again, to Canoecopia 2024. We hope to see you in March.



Gratefully,

Darren Bush

Owner and Chief Paddling Evangelist
Rutabaga Paddlesports



Thank you

I believe in the power of gratitude. Indeed, I consider ingratitude to be one of the worst character flaws.

I am incredibly blessed to have such a great team at Rutabaga. Thank you to my staff: Manager Ethan, Buyers Dan and Ann, Sales Staff Brandon, Steve, Connie, Shannon, Jon, and Brooke. Thank you to Warehouse Manager Drew, Shipping Guru Brendan, and Chief Receiving Officer Tori. We have an amazing IT and website team: thanks to Kris, Joel,

and Jim. Lastly, thank you, Chloe, Director of Outdoor Adventures (and Canoecopia Speaker Wrangler). I can't name the dozens of other people who help out with load-in, running the ticket booths, cashiering, tear-down, and all the stuff I'm forgetting. Thank you to them.

Thank you, dear customer and supporter of Rutabaga Paddlesports and Canoecopia. Without you, on March 8th we'd be awfully lonely. None of this would be possible without your patronage. My gratitude for you is immense.

I'm thankful for all the other people in my circle. Most manufacturers and sales reps are lifelong friends, and my banker Ted from Lake Ridge is an integral part of my business and a good friend for 25 years.

I could write a novel about my beloved wife, Stephanie. Without her, there would be no Canoecopia. No Rutabaga Paddlesports. And most likely, no me.

2024 SHOW GUIDE CONTENTS

CANOECOPIA
MARCH 8-10, 2024
ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER



An Immigrant Takes His Son to the BWCA

Miguel Garcia-Gosalvez has an interesting look at what it is like to be an outsider who loves being outside.



From Pure Ballast to Pure Motor

Darren Bush considers how different and yet how similar his paddling experiences are with his maturing son.



Novice to Instructor

Lenore Sobota decided that one of the things she had to do in life was “Learn Kayaking” and enjoyed that so much that she became an instructor. She remembers the people that helped her along the way.

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Jim and Darren

Canoeopia has always been presented by



Getting the Most Out of Canoecopia

Our tips and tricks for maximizing your time at the show.

Come all three days. If we had one recommendation, that's it. There is so much to see, so a weekend pass is a good investment,

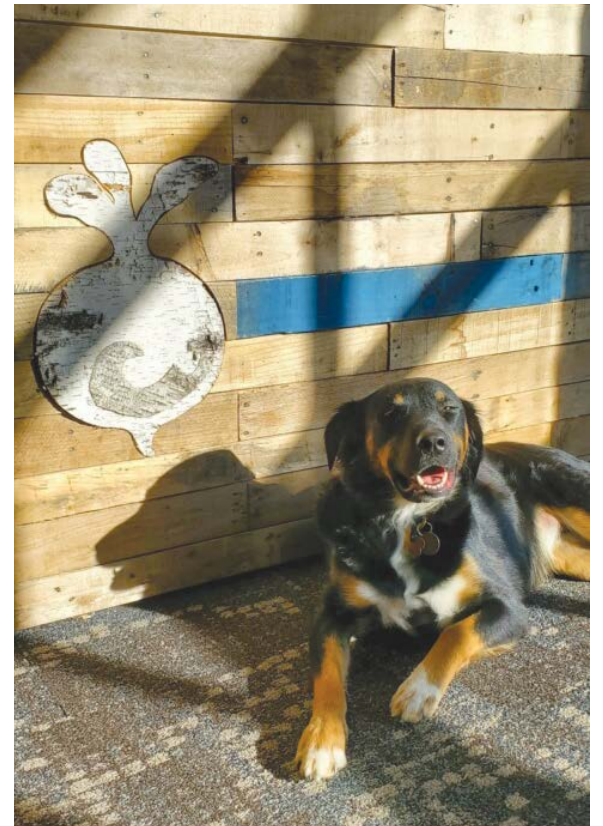
Go to Presentations! Our speakers are world-class. Our speaker schedule starts on page six. Sitting down can be educational and restorative.

Talk to everyone. The manufacturers, speakers, 'Baga staff, and exhibitors are here to answer any questions you have. We're all paddlers, and we love sharing experiences. Take advantage!

Sit in a lot of boats. Canoecopia offers an opportunity to sit in hundreds of models under one roof. Ask for help adjusting the seats if necessary. You hope to spend a lot of time in that seat, yes? Make sure it fits perfectly.

Special order your dream gear. If we don't have it on the floor and you can wait 6-8 weeks, you can order it and pick it up at the shop.

Confused? Have questions? Lost something? Come to the Customer Service booth. We take the Service part *seriously*.



Shop dog Blueberry

SYLVANSPORT.

Booth #154

Lightweight, boat hauling camper that's spacious enough for 4 adults.
Show Special \$1,500 off GO camper!

Just need the world's best kayak trailer?

Show Special \$500 off GO EASY kayak trailer!

How Does This Work In Practice?

Let's talk about policies and procedures, shall we?

Purchasing Boats and Trailers

Go to the Boat Checkout area inside the main hall. If your boat is in stock, take it home that day if possible. Go to the Boat Pick-Up booth to arrange a pick-up time.

Special ordering a boat? Fill out a form with the manufacturer, and bring it to the Boat Checkout area. There, we will explain the timeline for your boat arriving at Rutabaga.

Need a roof rack or trailer? Racks are installed only if you are taking a boat home. Pay for trailers at Boat Checkout, roof racks at Accessory Registers. If you aren't taking a boat home, we'll install your rack free when you pick up your boat at the shop (a \$50 value).

If you're not taking your boat home, you can pick up your boat a week or more after Canoecopia with a 50%

deposit, fully refundable until June 15th.

We take trade-in boats. Go to Boat Pickup for an evaluation.

Purchasing Accessories (everything else)

Purchase accessories at the Accessory Register. Those are located outside the main hall behind Customer Service.

We have shopping totes to carry your items. If you want to go see speakers, leave your totes at one of our Tote Checks. Shopping totes are emptied each night, so buy your stuff before you leave that day.

Staff in the manufacturers' booths will fill out a special order form. Make sure your contact information is complete. Bring the completed form with the rest of your accessory

The Value of Good Gear

I grew up cycling in Southern California. I had a sweet bike (Schwinn Paramount) long before I had a car, and rode on the shoulders, a death-defying feat even at that time. In 1977, bike helmets were not a thing. Bell Helmet came up with a hard, lightweight, protective, decidedly non-stylish helmet.

Bell's ad campaign was beautiful. Just a picture of the rather homely helmet with the tagline: *If you've got a ten-dollar head, buy a ten-dollar helmet.*

I spent my hard-earned cash for that ugly brain bucket. If I hadn't, this page would be blank.

The same applies to personal floatation devices (PFDs, lifejackets, or whatever you prefer). If you have a ten-dollar life, get a ten-dollar boat cushion. If you have a ten-dollar child, get ten-dollar water wings from a bin of them at Walmart.

Look, we know life jackets are a significant investment. The good ones fit great, which means you'll wear it, and *that* means it can do its job. The PFD world has changed dramatically, with fit and comfort being a top priority. Put one on...yourself...your kids...your grandchildren...because you are all worth so much more than ten bucks.

-Darren Bush

purchases to the Accessory Registers.

Returns need to be in "like-new, sellable condition," with its tags, packaging, and receipt. All returns must be made within 30 days of delivery at Rutabaga.

Questions? Look for anyone wearing a staff shirt. They can give you an answer or direct you to the proper place to find it.



Canoecopia Speakers and Topics

This year we've got 131 different topics from birding to whitewater, the Mekong to Monona, and foraging to ancient finds.

I have very few regrets working Canoecopia for some quarter of a century. It's been an incredibly rewarding professional challenge. I help a crew of 6-8 people set up a network and do what I can to solve whatever problems inevitably arrive.

Okay, *one* regret. Working the show means I'm always on-call. Being always on-call means that I can't spend all of my time sitting in to the speaker rooms soaking in all of the information.

I remember when I finally felt like the network was stable enough that I could wander into a speaker room and take photos for next year's Show Guide. It was incredible. The room was filled with interested, excited people asking brilliant questions and getting fantastic answers. I moved to the next room. Different topics, same result.



Jeff Bach

Building a Laminated Bent-Shaft Wood Paddle

Sat 1:00p, Atrium (Drop-In Clinic)

Advances in materials are always good, but sometimes old original things just feel good in your hand. A wood paddle you build yourself uses both ancient and

At the end of the period, the room emptied out and more people arrived for the next speaker. I hung around and learned new tips on where to pitch a tent, and how to manage wildlife.

Folks who make Canoecopia a yearly pilgrimage tell me how much they value our speakers. Their biggest complaint is trying to manage their time so they can see everything they want to see.

As someone who's never been able to really sit and soak it all in, I fully understand. Come and sit in the presentations you've got earmarked, but also sit in a few of the ones you are pretty sure are for someone else. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how much you get out of it.

-Jim Pippitt, Editor & Tech Nerd

advanced material. This clinic covers wood and material options, tools, ideas for laminating the shaft, building up the blade, fiberglassing the blade, protecting the bottom of the blade, building your own custom handle, and shaping the shaft.

Steve Ballou

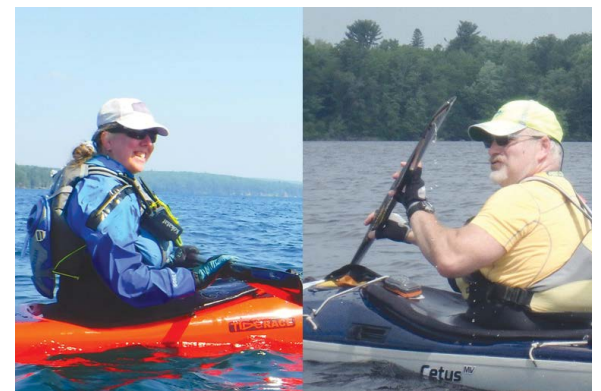
Paddling Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Fri 4:30p, Algonquin

For over 50 years, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has drawn people from all over the world to experience the beauty



and rugged wilderness of these islands and Lake Superior. What does it take to paddle and camp in this special place? Are you prepared to travel the waters of Lake Superior safely? With proper planning and preparation, you can have the adventure of a lifetime paddling through sea caves, sleeping under the stars, and navigating this inland sea. Join Ranger Steve Ballou to explore the ins and outs of successful paddling on Gitchigami amongst the Jewels of Lake Superior.



Daren Barrett, Kristin Vogel

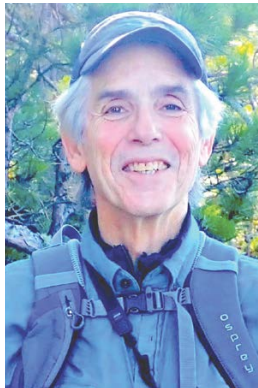
The Greek Kayaking Odyssey

Sun 1:30p, Bear

Intrigued in traveling and kayaking in Poros, Greece? Uncover the secrets of navigating the azure waters surrounding this idyllic island, where lush landscapes meet the Aegean Sea. From practical insights on planning your journey to the unique experiences awaiting kayakers, this presentation promises to transport you to the heart of Poros' charm. Explore the island's rich history, iconic landmarks, and serene coves through the lens of a kayaker's adventure. Join us for an exploration of the cultural, natural, and thrilling facets of this Greek paradise.

John Bates A Far Side To Birding

Sat 11:30a, Algonquin Birds! Their evolution, natural selection, population dynamics, adaptations, reproductive strategies, behaviors, migration, management - here's Birding 101 in 45 minutes through the comic lens of Far Side cartoons. Laugh your way to enriching a paddling adventure by knowing more about the birds you'll see and hear on the water and along the shores.



Paddling Northern Wisconsin's Undeveloped Wild Lakes: A Baker's Dozen of the Best

Sun 11:30a, Superior Paddling a wild lake offers a peace that's hard to find, as well as an insight into the native plant and animal communities that live in, on, and around our lakes. We'll explore the ecological and aesthetic keynotes of some of the best lakes in northern Wisconsin for you to consider paddling.

Timothy Bauer

Adrift in the Driftless

Fri 3:30p, Quetico Hidden in the middle of the Upper Midwest lies an area that is home to cliffs, caves, sinkholes, natural springs, rolling hills, crystal clear trout streams, rare rattle-snakes, bald eagles galore, goat prairies, Native American effigy mounds, Amish horse and buggies, and rock outcrops half a billion years old. Bigger than Vermont and New Hampshire combined, it's called the Driftless Area, a unique ecological anomaly that the glaciers missed



during the last Ice Age. It also comprises some of the most breathtaking paddling trips in the country - thousands of miles total, including the mighty Mississippi River, which acts as a kind of spine connecting southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa to southwestern Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois. Come join Timothy Bauer, self-confessed Driftless advocate and local author, to learn of the area's unique charisma and myriad charms. No flyover country here, you'll be dazzled and delighted by the gorgeous geology here in our own backyard.

Mistakes Were Made

Sat 11:30a, Superior Ever paddle down to a bridge and realize that you left your form of transportation at a different bridge - or at a wholly different river? Ever leave your boat at a bridge, run the shuttle, and discover that someone had stolen your boat in

the meantime? Yeah, us neither. But ask Timothy, and that's another story - several stories, actually. If tragedy plus time equals comedy, come be regaled by a smorgasbord of schadenfreude as Timothy shares his "pro" tips on what NOT to do while paddling in equal parts amusing and bemusing. Reciprocating saw? Check. Chainsaw? Shoot. Is that barbed wire or electric? Both? Oh, boy. Anyone know where the keys are? Phone, wallet? Where's the dry bag? How wise is it to drive two hours to an obscure river that hasn't received rain in, um, weeks? Whether you laugh or cry, you'll probably wonder why - or how - he still loves paddling as much as he does, let alone to have written a book about it and be working on another one.

TITAN X
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Pete Beck

All Things Whitewater

Sat 10:30a, Algonquin

Pete Beck of the River Kings YouTube Channel brings his years of kayaking knowledge and experience to the table for an informative and entertaining discussion on all



things whitewater paddling. He will discuss who can / will enjoy Whitewater paddling, how to enter the sport, needed gear, how to find paddling buddies, most enjoyable moments on the water, common pitfalls and lastly, establishing individual progression goals. There will also be a time of Q&A where audience engagement is encouraged.



Benjamin Berthiaume, Isaac Dana

Ely To Hudson Bay

Sun 1:30p, Sylvania

What is it that makes an expedition valuable? Is it the miles traveled, rapids run, cool pictures taken, or the remote tracts of land?

Ben Berthiaume and Isaac Dana set off on an expedition with one goal: Reach Hudson Bay by canoe! The idea of Hudson Bay is almost mythical. It calls the adventurous even through the dense

bush and many obstacles. Ben and Isaac couldn't have known what they would experience through these travels.

Their journey is one of grueling challenges, valuable rewards, and meeting some of the kindest people of the north. Come learn how the struggles of their journey brought them face to face with the people they needed to meet the most and what made their expedition so valuable.

Barry Brahier

Sea Kayaking Voyageurs National Park

Sun 12:30p, Caribou

Voyageurs National Park in the far north of Minnesota is an amazing place for kayak camping, solo or group, especially in the fall when most of the power boats stay home. Think BWCAW but with bigger lakes, Taj Mahal campsites reserved just for you, and no portaging! Learn the nuts and bolts of a Voyageurs kayaking trip, the importance of site selection, and understand why going solo is something you can do and probably should.



Trevor Braun

Preparing for a Yukon Canoe Expedition

Sat 12:30p, Algonquin

Join long time Yukoner Trevor Braun to learn about preparing for a Yukon Paddling Expedition. The Yukon has many Wilderness Paddling journeys that you can choose from, to suit your level of adventure ranging from lakewater to advanced whitewater. Trevor has 30+ years of guiding and instructing paddling journeys throughout the Yukon. Learn where to paddle, what resources are available to you, and how to ensure you have the right skills and equipment.

The Braun Backferry

Sat 2:00p, Pool

Sat 2:30p, Pool

Join long time Yukoner Trevor Braun to gain some valuable insights and tricks to mastering your back ferry. The back ferry is a quintessential river tripping skill when the rivers are tight, small, and fast. Trevor has developed some unconventional techniques to build your backferry confidence and effectiveness with a few tricks. Join Trevor at the pool to learn these tricks, so you can practice them up for your next northern river expedition. Learn how to assist steering from the stern; learn tricks to make your bow steering strokes more effective.



Kevin Callan

A Paddler's Guide To Rivers of Ontario

Sat 2:30p, Quetico

Author Kevin Callan (a.k.a. The Happy Camper) will present on a number of river canoe routes across Ontario, from well known waterways like Algonquin's

Petawawa and the French to more remote rivers such as the Kopka and the Steel River.

Happy Camper Canoe Tripping Tips and Tricks

Sun 12:30p, Quetico

Kevin Callan (a.k.a. The Happy Camper) will present on a number of tips and tricks he's learned over the years of canoe tripping in the wilderness. Kevin will touch on: staying warm and dry, making a one-match fire, having a lighter pack, portage etiquette, choosing a good campsite, making a good camp meal, proper canoe strokes, navigation, dealing with bugs and bears, first-aid, how to make a good bush martini... and many, many more. If you're a novice or an experienced tripper, you'll definitely get something out of this presentation.



Julie Carey

They Just Aren't Listening! Communicating Safety Messages to an Unreceptive Audience

Sun 12:30p, Sylvania

What safety topic is your soap box? Do you often find that your message isn't being received the way you hoped? Does your audience push back and find every reason on the river why your concern doesn't apply to them? Join this interactive presentation on communication styles and techniques for achieving compliance not only with regulations but also industry best practices for ensuring that each and every paddle is one that where everyone returns safely.

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John Chase

5 Things I Wish Someone Told Me When I Started Kayaking

Sun 1:30p, Quetico

It sounds easy...buy a boat, put it in the water, start paddling. Let's talk about what you need and what you don't to make your first or 50th day on the water full of smiles. Come to this safe space where we'll explore all those questions that you've been afraid to ask but need to know.

Navigating the Seas with Nautical Charts

Sat 3:30p, Caribou

Dive into the art and science of interpreting navigation charts and learn essential tools to navigate open waters. Explore scale and symbols for accurate distance and direction measurements, and hazard identification. We will also walk through real-life scenarios to apply chart-reading skills.

Perfectly Pack your Kayak for a Multi-Day Trip

Fri 6:30p, Atrium

Loading your personal and shared group gear in your boat is both art and science. This hands-on workshop will equip you with tips and tricks to pack your kit for a dry, safe and enjoyable multi-day journey without having to cut the handle off your toothbrush.

Power to the Paddle: Exercises to Improve Your Paddling

Sun 11:30a, Atrium

Get ready to move in this fun, hands-on session where you'll learn and practice functional exercises to help you paddle longer, faster, and stronger. Learn simple exercises requiring little or no equipment that will make you a better paddler, build endurance, and prevent injury.



Camper Christina

Portaging in The Canadian Wilderness

Sat 1:30p, Quetico

Camper Christina is known for going on remote wilderness canoe trips in rugged and unmaintained areas of Northern Ontario, solo. In order to complete these adventures, she has had to overcome a wide variety of obstacles and challenges, including a lot of crazy portages. In Christina's presentation, she will go over all aspects of portaging, different types of terrain, how to find the elusive ones, and, tips and tricks to overcome them. She will also share some of the most interesting and insane portages she has come across, during her many years of canoe tripping. Whether you love or hate portaging, this presentation is sure to provide you with a new perspective on them.

29th Annual

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SATURDAY 8 - 8
SUNDAY 10 - 5

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2 HUGE INDOOR TEST TRACKS

Will Collins

America By Canoe— Stories and Lessons from 4,300 miles on the Yukon & Mississippi Rivers

Sat 12:30p, BWCA

Big rivers, wild country, and two adventures of a lifetime.

Join wilderness guide and podcast host Will

Collins as he shares stories, lessons, and insights from two trips on Americas largest rivers: 103 days solo canoeing the Mississippi and 70 days canoeing the Yukon River.

Learn about exploring America from the low-down view of a canoe, including seeing barges, wolves, salmon runs.

Catch More Fish - Tips, Tricks & Stories for Canoe & Kayak fishing

Fri 3:30p, Bear

Join angler and wilderness guide Will Collins for fishing tips tricks and stories to help up your game and put more fish in the canoe or kayak. We'll talk gear, boating & fishing strategy, how to approach & break down new water, and of course share great fish photos! Bring your questions and let's talk fish!



The Aluminum Chef Competition

The Aluminum Chef Competition

Sat 4:30p, Quetico

Once again, our three Aluminum Chefs will test their camp culinary skills against each other in true outdoor style. Kevin Callan returns as our unstoppable emcee in this fast-paced event. Woods-woman Mona Gauthier and former park ranger Marty Koch go up against local chef Luke Zahm of the Driftless Cafe in Viroqua, WI. Using MSR stoves and cook kits and a pantry of simple ingredients you might have on your next camping trip, our chefs will compete for the best appetizer, entree, and dessert. Come join the fun - you could be one of the judges from the audience who will determine the winner of each course!

Lizzie Condon, David Taus, James Edward Mills, Christopher Kilgour

#PaddlingSoWhite: Barriers and Solutions to Diversity in Paddlesports

Sat 1:30p, Sylvania

Do you feel welcome in outdoor settings? Have you ever felt uncomfortable interacting with others at a portage? Are you curious about efforts to build an inclusive paddling culture? Join experts in diversifying outdoor recreation to uncover the reasons behind the lack



of diversity in paddlesports. Discover simple steps that you can take to foster inclusivity and support underrepresented communities in paddlesports. Delve into exciting initiatives in Wisconsin that are challenging the status quo and actively transforming the face of outdoor recreation.



Andrew & Ethan Elkins, Kevin Callan, Charles Pils

A Panel Discussion On Bears

Sat 12:30p, Quetico

Seasoned paddlers in a panel discussion on bear stories, biology, and keeping bears out of camp. Author Kevin Callan, Andrew and Ethan Elkins, and retired DNR Biologist/Zoologist and Bureau Director of Endangered Species Charles Pils will talk about bears and best practices of keeping them out of camp, along with stories and taking questions.

Dave Ellingson

Down the Mekong: Voyage of Discovery

Sat 9:30a, Superior

In March 2023 Dave was joined by 3 intrepid paddlers to kayak down the Mekong River through Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam to the South China Sea. The friends



Speaker Presentations

experienced spectacular landscapes, rich history, ancient spirituality, a legacy of war and genocide, environmental challenges, friendly people, and the delicious food of Southeast Asia. Dangerous conditions became the opportunity to “linger with the lotus” and discover hope for this amazing region.



Al & Marsha Fairfield

Sylvania, the Evolution of an Accessible Wilderness Area

Sat 11:30a, Sylvania

Sylvania is an easily accessible wilderness area that has evolved dramatically



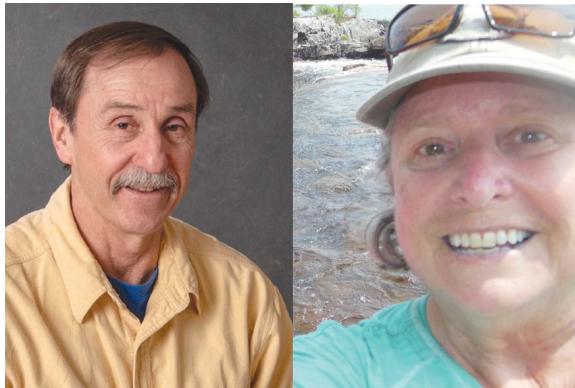
WATERCOLORS

inspired by the intersection of ancient pictographs, human history, and the living spirit of Mother Earth.



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over time. From virgin timber to the Sylvania Club, public purchase, wilderness designation, court rulings, COVID, and beyond. Discover its colorful history and learn how you can explore one of our favorite places while being good stewards to preserve it.



Vern Fish, Mary Blaisdell

Caribou and the Citizen Scientist

Fri 5:30p, Caribou

There are less than 5,000 boreal caribou in Ontario. Wabakimi, the second largest provincial park, may have fewer than 500 caribou. To learn more about the location and behavior of caribou on the public land that surrounds the park, the Friends of Wabakimi are creating a plan to survey the caribou. We hope to be able to use volunteers to search islands, sand beaches, and peninsulas for signs of caribou calving (hoof prints, scat, and actual sightings). Join us and learn how community scientists will participate in the Caribou Survey Project.

Fire in the Boreal Forest

Sun 12:30p, Algonquin

Are you prepared to deal with a wilderness fire? The summer of 2023 was dominated by reports of wildfire all over North America. These news stories became a little too personal when my paddling party was surrounded by fire in the heart of Wabakimi Provincial Park. This was the first time that I had ever

been chased out of the wilderness by a fire. I will share a few things I learned about how to prepare and react. Finally learn more about the impact of fire on the park and how the park staff are dealing with the changes with the help of the Friends of Wabakimi.



Gillian Fitzgerald

What it Means to Paddle Like a Girl

Sat 9:30a, Sylvania

When it comes to recreating in the outdoors as a woman, some things are different. Some things are easier, some things are harder. Some things are well-known and talked about, others are not. Paddling in the Boundary Waters as a woman, whether it be as a guide, a participant, or a personal recreator, has the power to be an incredibly empowering, life-altering experience. Join this presentation and hear from Gillian and the women she's worked alongside over the years as they share stories, tips they learned over time that they wished they'd known from the beginning, and uplifting advice on how to level the playing field. Whether you're a novice paddler, an expert, someone who's paddled in the Boundary Waters countless times, or only ever dreamed of it, a woman or supporter of women in the outdoors, there is something to be learned from this presentation.

Vic Foerster

Hidden in the Trees, An Isle Royale Sojourn

Fri 5:30p, Algonquin

Remote, insulated from man's influence by the frigid waters of Lake Superior, and protected by the National Park Service, Isle Royale doubles

as a wilderness escape for outdoor enthusiasts and as one of the foremost outdoor laboratories in the world for wildlife studies. As such, in 1984, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated Isle Royale a world biosphere reserve.

Award-winning Author / Arborist Vic Foerster will share with us his many years spent paddling Isle Royale's waters. From the shores of this wilderness archipelago, Vic recounts his search for a Great Lakes wilderness, a habitat he seldom sees in his more normal haunts where he cares for trees inside our urban forests. Through his eyes, come experience a landscape that's been allowed to freely evolve for over 80 years.



Matthew Baxley and Joe Friedrichs have been sharing stories on award-winning podcasts and writing about the Boundary Waters for the past decade. In this presentation, Joe and Matthew share personal experiences and stories they've collected along the way where things went wrong on a trip to the Boundary Waters. Included in the powerful narrative is a near-death experience they faced on a trip to the BWCA in May 2023. Matthew and Joe will share how to plan for the unexpected on any trip to the BWCA and Quetico.



Paula Furlich, Sue Sullivan, Mona Gauthier

Never Underestimate a Woman with a Paddle

Fri 6:30p, BWCA

The border route in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness hugs the Minnesota-Canada Border. It covers over 194 miles of paddling and 24 miles of portages. Follow the three adventurous women who traveled this route from the westernmost entry point at Crane Lake to the easternmost point at South Fowl and then paddled up the Pigeon River up to Fort Charlotte to hike the Grand Portage Trail. Learn about the route they took, the challenges they faced, the gear they brought, the food they ate, how they finished, and their plans for a new trip. Told in words and pictures.



Joe Friedrichs, Matthew Baxley

Planning for the Unexpected in the Boundary Waters

Sat 1:30p, Bear

Discover your own Sisu.

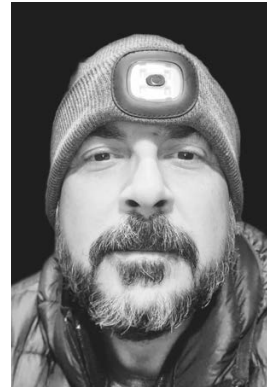
Miguel Garcia-Gosalvez

Safety Electronics for the BWCA (or Other Trips to the Wilderness)

Sun 2:30p, BWCA

All kind of electronic gadgets for communications and safety in the wilderness

are available. Understanding your risks while having what you need to minimize them is key. Knowing how to use them, costs associated, understanding your own needs and those of family and friends who love you is key to providing peace of mind for everyone.





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Speaker Presentations

Do you know what SOS on the top of your mobile phone top screen means when your cellphone company name or 5G/LTE is not on the screen? Do you know what you can or cannot do with your newest iPhone that has satellite capabilities? Do you understand the implications of pressing SOS on your satellite communicator? How much capacity does your battery pack need? Will a solar charger be useful? If so, what type? What kind of lantern/lights do you need? What kind of two-way radios might be useful? Do you know what a HAM radio license can provide you for very little money?

This presentation will cover all of these topics but also provide plenty of interaction with the audience to answer questions, concerns, etc. to ensure that they make the right choices to help them (and their loved ones) be comfortable with whatever risks they are willing to assume.

Mona Gauthier

Dehydrating Food with Confidence

Sat 9:30a, BWCA

Dehydrating food is an ancient, effective, and nutritious way of preserving food. It's a perfect way to lighten the food pack and still have great meals while avoiding the cost of commercial products. Basic to advanced dehydration techniques will be shared, including video clips of dehydrating eggs, sour cream, and guacamole. Develop confidence as you dehydrate and apply methods to ward off the five enemies that impact the shelf life of your products.



Chris Gavin

Foraging at the Waters Edge

Fri 4:30p, Superior

Explore the world of edible wild plants that grow in abundance along the shores of your next paddle. Chris will guide you through the wheres and hows of safely and sustainability harvesting food from the wild.



Nicholas Gordon

Culinary Tips for Backcountry Trips

Sat 3:30p, Bear

This isn't your average dehydrated spaghetti talk! Join Nick Gordon, an experienced camp chef and guide, for a culinary adventure that will launch your trail food's bliss index from blah to WOW! This expedition paddles into daring, creative, ultralight, shelf-stable, savory awesomeness with a side of caloric fill power. "There is no better way to end a tough day than with an exceptional meal," says Nick (aka Nick of the Woods) who has a reputation for imagination when feeding exhausted paddlers from put-in to take-out. Whether he's cooking for 1 or 61, cheeseburgers, BBQ spaghetti, cake, guacamole, smoked pulled pork, shepherd's pie, cappuccino

pudding, and even fresh fruit and yogurt parfait, are all part of his ever-expanding menu.

Topics will include dehydrating, baking, freeze-drying, and the assortment of antique, modern, and modified kitchen equipment he uses to prepare meals for groups of any size. Gram weenies?¹ Food allergies? Picky eaters? Don't let these thwart you. From A - "All You Can Eat" to Z - "Zucchini Fruit Snacks", Nick has got you covered!



Emil Gyllenberg

Free Horizon, paddling the Stockholm archipelago in 4 days

Sun 10:30a, Superior

In this presentation we get to follow Emil Gyllenberg, an experienced long-distance kayaker on a trip down memory lane where we learn about his kayaking trip that later became a documentary about paddling in Sweden and the Stockholm Archipelago.

We look into the lessons learned and experience gained from an adventure like this while also talking about nature and what is unique with paddling in Sweden.

¹ Gram Weenie. A slang term for an ultralight backpacker who goes to extreme lengths to shave off every last packable ounce.



Sarah & Greg Hall

Passing Along the Paddle: Multi-Generational and Mentoring Trips for All Ages and Abilities

Sun 10:30a, Sylvania

Sarah and Greg Hall have experienced the Quetico and Boundary Waters together with their fathers over the past 30 years. They not only have helpful tips about gear, fishing, menus, routes, and pacing, but have also taken their now three teenagers since they were 10 months old. They have gained insight on how to structure a trip for kids and less-experienced paddlers that strengthens family connections, provides space for reflection and creativity, and actively empowers them to gain the skills they need to do this trip on their own someday.

Wayne Horodowich

Capsize Recoveries- Which Ones Work Best?

Sat 3:30p, Superior

Every sea kayaking instructional book has at least one chapter devoted to capsize recoveries. Which recovery method should you use in which situation? Are all recovery techniques reliable? Which rescue works best for me?

Since getting back in your kayak is a



necessary skill for survival, this presentation could be very helpful for a long and happy paddling career. At the end of the presentation you will have the necessary information to answer these questions for yourself and how to best spend your practice time with capsize recoveries.

How To Choose The Kayak That Works Best For You

Fri 3:30p, Superior

Trying to choose a kayak can be overwhelming with the seemingly endless variety of boats available in the marketplace. Your goal is to find the boat that fits your needs and your budget. If you want a step-by-step approach to finding the kayak that works best for you then join Wayne for a dynamic and detailed discussion. Wayne will draw upon his 35 years of teaching kayaking and fitting paddlers into kayaks so they can have an enjoyable experience.

The Art of Staying Upright in Your Kayak

Sat 11:30a, Quetico

Staying upright is far better than risking exposure and expending energy getting upright. Having a roll and/or knowing recovery techniques are important. However, if you have good paddle support skills, you minimize your chance of capsizing. When the wind picks up and the water gets rough, your need for support increases. In addition, you also need to be able to maneuver against that wind while the water around you is bouncing your kayak around.

Using Your Boat, Body And Blade For Efficient Paddling

Sat 9:30a, Quetico

Paddling a kayak is more than just taking strokes with your paddle. Kayaking is a true marriage of your boat, body, and blade. All three must be working together during all aspects of kayaking to get the most out of your equipment.

We will discuss body position and movements, boat positions and movements, and closely view how to properly use and manipulate your paddle to get the results you want when kayaking to get the most out of your equipment.

David Inskip

Original Paddling Songs Performed Live

Sat 12:30p, Bear

Expect to come away humming a new tune when you join singer/songwriter, musician, and paddling enthusiast David Inskip for an entertaining set of original paddling and outdoor living songs. Accompanying himself on acoustic guitar and occasional harmonica, David writes and sings catchy, upbeat, folk/country style tunes. Including titles such as Paddler's Rendezvous, Ride the River, Jambo on the Flambeau, and Crooked Path, David's songs tell stories and describe scenes that will delight paddlers and outdoor enthusiasts alike!



Nolan Jacobs

Coming of Age on the Churchill and Coppermine Rivers

Fri 3:30p, Sylvania

This presentation talks about Nolan Jacobs' experience of paddling on the Churchill River and Coppermine River.

Speaker Presentations

Nolan paddled the Churchill River in 2022 and will be speaking about the complications that come with paddling new rivers. On the Churchill River expedition, his crew of 6 was supposed to paddle from Thompson, MB to Churchill, MB. But on the expedition, his crew ran into complications and everyone had to be evacuated. One year later, he decided to paddle from Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean via the Coppermine River. The expedition to the Arctic Ocean was a success. During the two expeditions, he learned about building trust with crewmates, overcoming fears of whitewater, and how to plan and successfully complete a canoe expedition.



Cliff Jacobson Bug-Proofing Your Camp

Fri 5:30p, Quetico

If you want to get eaten alive by bugs, go to the Canadian Arctic in June. The black flies and mosquitoes which live there weigh more than ten times as much as all the plants and animals put together! An acre of swarming bugs could drain all your blood in about three days! Last year, the bugs in the BWCA

were the worst in decades! We'll check out "your enemies" - and learn how to resist them with repellents, insecticides, head and body nets, specialized clothing and "attitude." Recommendations for children and pets included. There are some tricks. Believe it!

Canoeing Secrets

Sat 3:30p, Quetico

"Tune" your canoe for casual and wilderness travel. Install "blind" lining holes at cutwater; choose and safely store tracking lines; select and install knee-pads and foot-braces; shock-cord decks and thwart; correct the seat height; re-position thwarts to increase space for gear; select straight and bent-shaft paddles; correctly fit a life jacket and portage yoke; make a canoe tumpline and spray cover; pack the canoe efficiently for a wilderness trip; safety procedures and concerns; essential canoe



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Q&A With the Experts

Sun 10:30a, Quetico

Got questions about canoeing and camping? Join Cliff Jacobson, Rob Kesselring, Kevin Callan, and Peter Marshall in this lively, fun-filled panel discussion. Together, these experts have more than 200 years of collective outdoors experience, so they really know their stuff. Last year's panel was filled to overflowing, so come early if you want a seat. Submit questions beforehand to chloem@rutabaga.com with subject line: EXPERT Q&A. These experts will do the rest.

David Johnston

Ancient Finds of Lake Superior

Sat 10:30a, Superior

If you know where to look, the Lake Superior shoreline is filled with both ancient and old finds for you to discover. The hard part is that you can easily paddle right by, not knowing what you just missed. In this presentation, David will introduce you to some of the cool stuff out there including pictographs, Pukaskwa Pits, voyageur trading posts, shipwrecks, train wrecks, and ghost towns. He will also cover places to start your research so you can discover them on your own journeys.

Introduction to Weather for Paddlers

Fri 6:30p, Bear

If you find yourself confused by the weird, wonderful, and often windy world of weather, then join us. In this clinic David will demystify where weather comes from as well teach you how to make your own daily forecasts. This is perfect for anybody looking to understand what's going on in the sky above while paddling below.

Navigation 101 for Paddlers: The Art of Staying Found

Sun 2:30p, Superior

Do you find yourself getting intimidated, confused, or turned around while trying to navigate on a canoe or sea kayak trip? If so, find your way to this presentation where David will introduce you to the tips and tricks to help keep from getting misplaced. We will cover the basics of how to read the land and how to follow along via your topographic map, playing with a compass, as well as what happens when things go wrong.

The Weird History of Sea Kayaking

Sun 1:30p, BWCA

Did you know that Pope John Paul II was an avid kayaker? What happened to the prisoners who built that kayak and escaped from San Quentin Prison? Come join David Johnston as he explores the fascinating history of modern sea kayaking in North America. Along the way we will discover the humble origins of the sport and learn about why the Great Lakes were the center of the kayaking universe for nearly fifteen years starting in the mid-80's.



Tony Jones

The Sacred Geometry of a Canoe

Sat 3:30p, BWCA

Those of us who canoe and kayak know

that it can be a spiritual experience. Whether we're gliding over a glassy lake or plowing through whitecaps, a canoe trip is, in the words of John McPhee, "A rite of oneness with certain terrain, a diversion off the field, an act performed not because it is necessary but because there is value in the act itself." Author and theologian Tony Jones will reflect on the deeper, transcendent meaning of paddling, drawing on writers from Immanuel Kant to Sigurd Olson, exploring the sublime and the numinous of our wilderness explorations, and giving listeners a chance to reflect on how they can find deeper meaning in the outdoors.



Dean Juntunen

A Paralegic's Superior Circumnavigation

Fri 4:30p, Sylvania

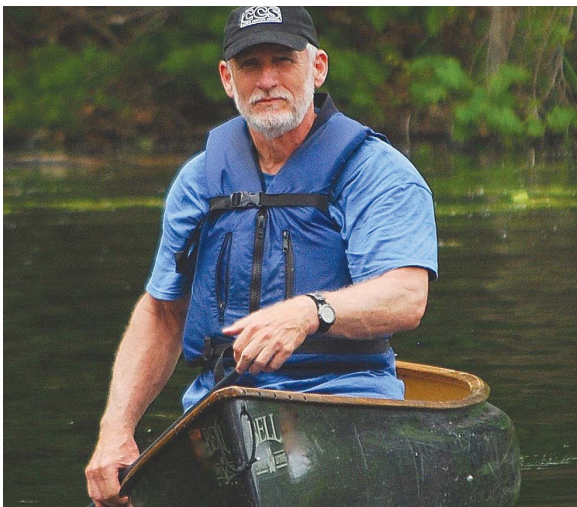
Dean Juntunen, a T7/8 complete paraplegic, will share his 20-year circumnavigation of Lake Superior, which merged two of his favorite hobbies: Kayaking and Photography. You'll see the best of the UP, Ontario, Minnesota, and Wisconsin shorelines, and learn how Dean problem-solved for multi-day trips.



Karla with a K **Hammock Camping 201**

Sat 10:30a, Caribou

Dive deeper into the hammock --camping world and learn how to get the best sleep after a long paddle. We will talk about suspension, protection (tarp & bug net), hammock (style, length, & fabric) and insulation (pads, TQ / UQ, socks, and tents). We briefly mention safety, group hangs, winter camping, pets, hammock ethics and additional resources. If you have any hammock questions, this is the session to get them answered.



Rob Kesselring **Campfire River Stories from Any- where and Everywhere Part II**

Fri 4:30p, Quetico

Canoecopia participants from years past always ask Rob Kesselring for an entire session of his tales of adventure and misadventure. Last year, Rob shared some

goose-bump-inducing tales from his lifetime of paddling the world. Grizzly bear charges, hippos, starvation, broken bones, elephants, floods, pins, tip-overs, whirlpools, bullet dodging, all true and all spun with enthusiasm and panache. But last year was just the beginning; this year, hear Part II. If you have joined Rob on a guided trip, you have listened to some of these stories around a campfire. Just like last year, the only thing missing will be the campfire.

The Thrill of Discovery, You Can Do It!

Sat 10:30a, Quetico

Are you tired of planning a canoe trip to “pristine” routes only to find lines at portages, strewn litter, and the drone of civilization? It is fun reading about exploration, but even more fun exploring. Even without leaving North America, you can still find rivers and lakes with almost no record or evidence of previous travel. There is no thrill more incredible than being the first. Last summer, Rob Kesselring paddled a route in Canada’s Northwest Territories where the only evidence of previous explorers were ancient tipi rings. Learn about travel in an area with no trip reports, no other visitors, and no certainty of what you will discover.

Ultralight Canoe Camping in the Boundary Waters

Sun 11:30a, Quetico

Paddling light does not mean deprivation. In fact, it can be just the opposite! Learn proven strategies to make your canoe trips easier, more fulfilling, and fun. Less is more! Learn how to travel farther and faster, without being encumbered by heavy loads and time-consuming set-ups. Nature is not a dangerous place; embrace it, don’t barricade from it. An entertaining, information-packed session from one of North America’s most experienced canoe guides.



Andrea Knepper **Dre’s West Coast Adventure: Paddling the Pacific Coast from Canada to Mexico**

Fri 6:30p, Sylvania

Over the summer of 2019, Andrea Knepper paddled the West Coast of this country from Canada to Mexico. Hear stories from the trip, how she made decisions, how she trained, what surprised her, how the trip changed her. Join a conversation about the dreams we have and how to turn the ones we’ve decided to pursue into reality. Leave with a practical resource guide for planning your own adventure. A mix of pragmatism, reflection, and photos, this isn’t a presentation to miss.

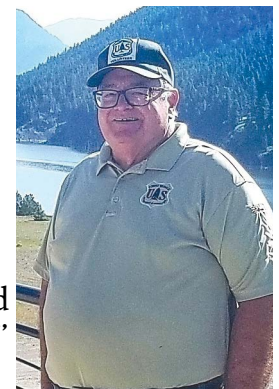
Marty Koch

Basic River Safety For The Casual Paddler

Sat 1:30p, Superior

While paddlesports are a safe pastime they are not without inherent risks. The old saying “stuff happens” is never truer than while on the water.

This introductory safety presentation is designed for the casual and novice paddler. Learn about how to safely plan and conduct a paddle trip. Learn how to recognize water hazards like sweepers,



strainers, low-head dams, etc. Learn about river ratings, weather, and group dynamics.

Mission Impossible - 30 Years A Ranger

Fri 5:30p, Superior

Take a break from all of the serious paddling presentations with this hilarious telling of stories from Marty's 30-year career as a park ranger and outdoor guide. Your mission, should you accept it, is to tell truth from fiction. Guaranteed to brighten your day.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Sun 12:30p, Superior

Over 130 miles of pristine rivers are protected in this unit of the National Park Service. Located in the Missouri Ozarks, the park includes the Current and Jack's Fork Rivers. These crystal-clear streams are spring fed and offer beautiful bluffs, over a hundred species of flora, outstanding fishing for Rainbow and Brown Trout and Smallmouth Bass. Campgrounds and accesses are located at convenient intervals. Join us as we explore this national treasure.

Doris Kolodji

Power to the Pipsqueaks: Anyone Can Pack, Paddle and Portage

Sat 4:30p, Atrium

If you've always wanted to pick up a canoe and portage like the "big boys," then this energetic, hands-on workshop is for you. Don't let the idea of picking up and carrying your own canoe be a barrier! For decades, Northern Lakes Girl Scout Canoe Base has been training women and girls to travel through the BWCAW and Quetico Park. They specialize in teaching novices to feel like pros regardless of size or experience.



Learn tips and tricks for women and youth in the wilderness from a team of young women canoe guides, and practice specific techniques to flip up and portage canoes.



Colleen & Jonny Kuehl

Backcountry Couples - It's All About Adventuring Together!

Fri 3:30p, BWCA

This backcountry couple started out with passion, 60lb packs, few paddling techniques and basic camping skills only to realize they could go further and deeper into the wilderness if they did it together! Come join, as they showcase gear, share tips, stories on how fun and cool it is adventuring as a team in all seasons.

Pete Kuhn

The Perfect-Fitting Kayak

Fri 5:30p, Atrium

This talk/demonstration will cover how to make adjustments to the inside of a kayak cockpit. These will cover seat and foot peg adjustments/modifications followed by customizing thigh braces with foam, using a cut-away kayak to show possible placement of modifications. Materials and shaping techniques will also be discussed.



Gina LaLiberte

What's That Green Stuff? Identify Algae Blooms Where You Paddle

Sat 4:30p, Sylvania

Do you wonder what that green "stuff" is that you see while paddling? Join Gina as she examines some common algae, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), and other unassuming yet important little green things that are often spotted in waters of the upper Great Lakes region. Take a close look at cyanobacterial blooms, learn to identify potentially harmful blooms, and review practical tips for how to stay safe while enjoying time on the water.



Mary Langlie

Fitness for Paddlers

Sat 10:30a, Atrium

This is an opportunity to stretch your legs and arms and reenergize after walking around at Canoeopia. Come learn some new exercises and learn how to be ready to paddle as soon as you can get on the water. Join other paddlers of all ages and get set to have fun and make new friends while developing a plan that you can implement at home. No gym membership needed, and all ages are welcome!



Getting Better with Age

Sun 2:30p, Sylvania

Age is no deterrent in the paddlesports world! Many people find their love of the water and being in a self-propelled craft after many years spent doing other sports. No one is too old to learn how to paddle, and we can create many lasting

Speaker Presentations

memories as we share our love of the outdoors with family and new-found friends. Come discover how you can age gracefully while maintaining a fit and active lifestyle!

Erica LeMoine

Loons—Help Protect the Icon and Indicator of Healthy Lakes

Fri 5:30p, Sylvania

Many visitors and residents associate a great Northwoods experience with the haunting call of the common loon. The loon is an icon and a sentinel species - a living symbol of clean water, good fisheries, and an indicator of healthy aquatic ecosystems. For those of us lucky enough to live on a northern lake, the common loon family captivates our hearts as we watch them develop from chick to adult in 12 short weeks. Since 1978, LoonWatch has been protecting common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Learn about the common loon - their calls, ecology, behavior, habitat, threats, and other fascinating loon facts.



And as stewards who enjoy the silent water sports, learn what you can do to protect loons while enjoying these remarkably beautiful pristine lakes.

Blake Longworth

Understanding the Vast Options in Paddling Clothing

Fri 4:30p, BWCA

Cold feet... cold hands... just plain cold. Sweaty... sun burnt. Neoprene vs. dry suit? Is it really a ladies' fit, or is it just purple? This splash jacket looks a lot like my rain jacket. Nowhere in the world (seriously) will you see the variety of paddling clothing that you will at Canoeopia. But wow... it's a lot to digest. Take some time to relax, bring a snack or a beverage, and hang out with 20-year Canoeopia veteran Danny Mongno. In this open discussion, we will address everything above and then some and make sure we answer all your questions, even the weird ones. In the end, you will walk away with a better understanding of what to wear paddling, for any season.

Matthew Magolan

The Beyond the Delta Canoe Expedition: A Family Adventure Down the Mackenzie River

Fri 4:30p, Bear

In the summer of 2023, the Magolan family, Matt (Dad), Sarah (Mom), Olive (9) & Petra (9) embarked on an 1100-mile canoe expedition to paddle the length of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories of Canada. The Mackenzie River is known as the Deh Cho (Great River) by the local Gwich'in people and is the second longest river system in North America. The Deh Cho is considered to be one of the most intact ecosystems in the world. The expedition began on Great Slave Lake with the goal to paddle beyond the Mackenzie River delta to the Inuvialuit village of Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean.

The Magolans paddled through several mountain ranges, through villages inhabited by the Slavey, Dog Rib, and Hare bands of the Gwich'in people. The wildlife was abundant and the fishing



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was spectacular. The unprecedented wildfires across Canada, and the North-west Territories in the summer of 2023 created challenges which tested the Magolan family. Join Matt Magolan as he shares the story of the 2023 Beyond the Delta Canoe Expedition through a multi-media presentation which will include imagery, video, and storytelling.



Dave Mangin

Waters Connecting our Homes to Wilderness

Sun 11:30a, Bear

Most of us have at least read, if not experienced, the wonder of escaping to wilderness areas to dip our paddles. We've all been on local waterways popular among day paddlers as a momentary escape to nature. In his presentation, Dave Mangin makes the case for seeking out paddling routes that connect the places we live to the wilderness we dream of. And the industrial waters in between should not be avoided, but sought out. By sharing the discoveries of a sectional paddle from the headwaters of the Tomorrow River through the waters of the Wolf and Fox rivers and along the shores of Green Bay to Rock Island, Dave illustrates how the transformation of the waters from a trout stream to rivers, lakes, industrial waterways, and ultimately up into a wilderness area affected his disposition toward our riverways and the various ways we use them.

Pete Marshall

5 Musts for Rookie Boundary Waters Paddlers

Sat 12:30p, Superior

Whether you're thinking of paddling the Boundary Waters for the first time or want to introduce someone to this special place, this presentation will cover five essential things to do to ensure that you and others have the kind of trip that leaves you wanting more. We'll discuss how to plan your days, what kind of activities to include, coping with common fears (bears and weather!), and more.



How to Quetico

Fri 6:30p, Superior

Twice the size of the Boundary Waters with only a fraction of the visitors, Quetico is a canoeist's paradise. However, the logistics of international travel as well as an intimidating reputation keeps many would-be Quetico paddlers away. In this practical presentation, we'll go over the nuts and bolts of how to reserve a permit and reach your entry point, what makes travel in Quetico different, highlight some iconic areas in the park, and discuss a few routes.

David Meier

Awakening Wonder —A Parenting Guide for the Boundary Waters

Sat 12:30p, Sylvania

Ever think about taking your kids to the Boundary Waters, but fear that they'll either 1) leap from a moving canoe, or 2) complain so much about



no electronics, outdoor bathrooms, and bugs, that it just won't be worth the hassle of taking them? We will discuss how to bring your kids to the Boundary Waters. What age is right? How do you keep them safe and happy? What are potential pitfalls? With some useful suggestions, you can lay the groundwork for a positive BWCA dynamic with your family!



Scott Miller, Wally Werderich, Paul Cox, & Judson Steinback

Mississippi Speed Record

Sat 2:30p, Algonquin

In May of 2023 this team of four men set the Guinness World Record for the fastest canoe trip down the 2,300-mile Mississippi River. They started at Lake Itasca on May 10th and reached Mile Marker Zero 16 days, 20 hours and 16 minutes later. They slept, ate, drank, laughed and used the bathroom 24/7 in their Wenonah Minnesota IV canoe. Their support team included over 27 people, 3 dogs, 2 documentary filmmakers, 2

Speaker Presentations

support boats and 2 RV's. They portaged around 15 dams, paddled through 23 locks, ran 5 sets of rapids and shot two spillways. Come join them as they show clips from the upcoming film and tell stories from their epic adventure!



Danny Mongno **Essential Paddling Skills for SUP**

Sat 12:00p, Pool

To truly enjoy the sport of SUP (Stand UP Paddling), we must look beyond what seems to be VERY simple and understand there are skills we need to learn. With proper skills, we can spend more time out on the water by using significantly less energy. Lastly, there is the safety element: how can we avoid injury when falling off and how to be effective in getting back on? Join 20-year veteran Canoecopia paddlesport instructor, Danny Mongno, as he demonstrates how to perform at your best on your Stand UP Paddleboard.

Essential Paddling Skills for the Kayak Angler

Sat 12:30p, Pool

Sat 1:30p, Pool

To truly enjoy the sport of kayak fishing, the angler must embrace the paddling side of it. With proper skills, we can spend more time out on the water by using significantly less energy. We can also move more effectively and quietly, positioning our boats for the perfect cast to unsuspecting fish. Lastly, there is the

safety element, how do we avoid a flip and what to do when one occurs? Join 20-year veteran Canoecopia paddlesport instructor, Danny Mongno, as he demonstrates how to perform at your best when fishing from your kayak.

Selecting the Perfect Kayak Paddle

Fri 3:30p, Atrium

Sat 9:30a, Atrium

To truly enjoy the sport of kayaking we need to be more efficient in our strokes. The less energy we use, the longer we can stay out, the more fun we will have. A key element of efficiency in your paddling is making sure you have the proper design and fitted paddle. Join 20 year veteran Canoecopia presenter, Danny Mongno, as he explains all the aspects of selecting the perfect kayak paddle. Once everyone has their perfect paddle fit dialed in, he will spend the remainder of the class working on some exercises for you to take home and get you ready for the paddling season. Efficiency covered from all angles!

The Forward Stroke—Sit Down or Stand Up, Let's Be Efficient.

Sun 10:30a, Atrium

To enjoy the sport of paddling, we need an efficient forward stroke. We want to use less energy, stay out longer, maybe go faster, not be sore. So, it makes sense that the forward stroke gets so much attention from students and coaches. Join Danny, who has 12 Door County Sea Kayak Symposiums as a coach under his belt, as he breaks things down in a very easy-to-follow, step-by-step process. This is an interactive class, so be ready to participate and have fun. To wrap things up, Danny will send you off with exercises to do at home, to help develop your new techniques. (In this class we will address skills for kayakers, stand up paddlers, and canoeists.)



Michael Neiger

How to Ensure Your Child Will Be a Survivor When Lost in the Wilderness

Sun 2:30p, Quetico

This high-quality PowerPoint presentation will help parents teach their young children how to survive when lost in the wilderness - what to carry, what to do, and what not to do - and includes two free instructional coloring books (downloadable online) and two free videos to watch (online) with their children. This discussion draws on the lost-person best practices of the: National Association for Search & Rescue (NASAR); Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); Search & Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SRVCAC); Adventure Smart Canada (ASC); Michigan State Police (MSP); Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and the FREE, 23-chapter, "Missing-Person Sourcebook: A How-To Manual for Families Searching for a Missing or Murdered Loved One - Best Practices from the World's Top Experts" by the presenter.

How to Use a Cell Phone More Effectively When Lost in the Bush

Sat 4:30p, Superior

This high-quality PowerPoint presentation will describe pre-trip phone prep, battery banks, battery calibration, compass calibration, Find Me SAR app, mapping and navigation apps, conserving battery life, how to hold a phone for

best transmission and reception (avoid blocking antennas), calling vs. texting 911, how to increase your chances of reaching 911, how to use a phone even when you have no signal, what to do when you reach 911, what to do if you can't reach 911, etc.



Ginny Nelson

BWCA Planning & Tips for a Successful Trip

Sun 12:30p, BWCA

The Boundary Waters (BWCAW) of northern Minnesota draws over 150,000 people to experience a wilderness adventure with paddling, camping, portaging, beautiful sunsets, and so much more. Planning and packing is crucial for a successful and memorable trip. Join Ginny Nelson, outfitter/manager from Ely, MN, as she provides what you need to know about permit details, what route to take, what to pack, what NOT to take, items to keep you safe, and stories to keep you entertained.



Shop dog Tucker

Kathy Nelson

Top Tips for Traveling the BWCA as a Senior

Sat 1:30p, BWCA

Traveling the Boundary Waters (BWCAW) is an experience that makes lifetime memories. As a senior citizen, is this still possible? Join Kathy Nelson, co-owner of an Ely, MN, outfitter and senior-citizen wilderness traveler as she shares how to plan a successful canoe trip; what to pack, what NOT to take, how to handle limited mobility and strength concerns, best time to experience the BWCA, preferred routes, and more.



Steven Nelson

Catching Your Next Fish in the BWCA

Sat 12:30p, Caribou

A lure is tossed, the top water swirls...a big fish is after your lure. Play it right and you will have fresh fish for a shore lunch or dinner. Learn key points to successfully fish the Boundary Waters including what tackle and lures to use, where to fish, what to keep, and more.

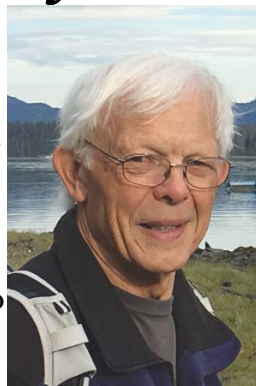


Berlin Nelson Jr

The Canyons of the Rio Grande River

Sun 12:30p, Bear

Big canyons, whitewater, and nasty Carrizo cane are all part of the canoeing adventure on 235 miles of the Rio Grande River between the United States and



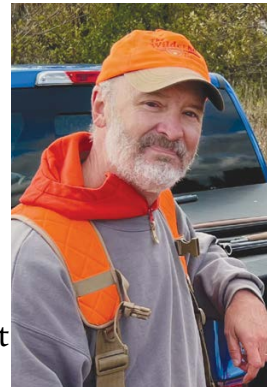
Mexico. It is wild and scenic country through the Chihuahuan Desert of the southwestern USA.

Mark Neuzil

The Natural History of the Canoe in North America

Sat 2:30p, Bear

Canoes are among the oldest artifacts found on the North American continent. The story of this important vehicle is told from dugouts, birch barks, wood, wood-and-canvas, and synthetic boats from ancient times to the present day. After thousands of years, the basic design has endured, a testament to the skills of the engineers who created it in the first place. It exists as one of only two major feats of design that was not changed upon white settlement starting in the 15th century.



Zorbari Nwidor, Tia Coats, Noah Viner

From Underground to Water Trail: Blue Spaces for Black Faces

Sat 10:30a, Bear

This presentation will go into the history of the African American heritage trail, its ties to the Underground Railroad, the mission to make outdoor spaces more accessible to people of color, and

MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE WORLD
THESE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS...

EXCEPT FOR THOSE WILD & WONDROUS
PLACES WHERE TIME STANDS STILL.



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Speaker Presentations

how restorative justice has been a key component to reclaiming and sustaining these spaces. We will discuss the history, impact, and importance of this 7-mile water trail that starts on the South Side of Chicago and ends in Dolton, Illinois, touching neighborhoods like Golden Gate, Riverside Village, Village of Robins, Concordia Place, Altgeld Gardens - all predominantly black communities. We hope you will join us to learn more about this often overlooked, yet very important piece of water, its historical relevance for access to blue spaces for black faces, and its potential future. There are historical figures and locations that inspire generations simply by representation and presence.



Bear Paulsen Solo Wilderness Travel

Sun 1:30p, Algonquin

Are you sick of listening to your tent-mate snore? Are you tired waiting for the group to get ready? Do you talk to yourself? If you answered yes to these questions, you're a perfect candidate for traveling solo. Bear Paulsen, General Manager of Northstar Canoes and a frequent solitary conversationalist, has done many extended solo wilderness trips in all seasons. He'll discuss the differences between traveling with others and alone. He'll cover how to travel solo safely and discuss logistical considerations. Finally, he'll ruminate

on ways to approach solitude through his own experiences and the writings of many authors.

Daniel Peterson

Paddling the Saint Croix and Namekagon Rivers

Sat 1:30p, Caribou

Even before being protected as part of a unique National Park in 1968, the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers were well-known paddling and fishing destinations. Over 50 years later, these waters continue to create memories. Whether you are a beginning kayaker looking for an easy day paddle or an experienced canoeist searching for a weeklong adventure, over 200 miles of protected waters of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway await your discovery.



Anthony Quill

How to Plan, and Expand, Canoe Trips With Little Kids

Sat 2:30p, Caribou

Thankfully, there are scores of parents and grandparents that have taken kids into the woods and have lived to tell the tale. This talk will focus on the skills and mindset needed to navigate the backcountry with young ones. It will touch on planning techniques, setting

reasonable goals and objectives, and how to use your first trip as a building block for longer and more complicated trips in the future. While gear will be discussed, it is not the gear that makes or breaks a trip, but the preparation!



Jameson Redding

Fishing from a Personal Watercraft

Fri 4:30p, Atrium

In this presentation, ACA-certified instructor Jameson Redding will be covering the basics of fishing from a small watercraft. He will cover how to choose the right vessel, the proper safety gear and precautions, rigging, and how to find success on the water. This class is designed to benefit both the experienced and beginner angler alike.

Jeff Rennie

Paddling the Darkest Skies

Sat 9:30a, Bear

It is as ancient as humans in the wilderness, looking up at the boundless infinity of the stars. But, it is also an endangered resource. The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has some of the darkest skies in the upper Midwest. In this star-filled



presentation, Jeff Rennie, Executive Director of Friends of the Apostle Islands, shares stories of being on Lake Superior under the stars, beneath the northern lights, and the organization's efforts to preserve the experience for others. From practical tips on how to travel safely beneath the stars, to the art, hope, and joy of truly dark skies, join us beneath the stars in the Apostle Islands.



Jonathan Ringdahl, Al Fairfield

Discovering the Geology of Door County and The Apostle Islands

Sat 9:30a, Algonquin

We get it, a lot of us struggle with trying to understand how to make rocks cool or interesting. The truth is, everyone loves paddling along scenic cliffs and among islands. There is a story in those rocks that can enhance our appreciation of some of our favorite paddling destinations. Come explore the geology of Door County and the Apostle Islands with Johnathan and Al to discover how geology is the foundation of what makes these destinations unique. It took hundreds of millions of years to create these rocks, and there is a story there beyond what we see from the water.

Jeffrey Rohr

Oh, What a Trip!

Sun 1:30p, Caribou

Oh, What a Trip is a memoir of the first years leading up to how Jeff Rohr became a wilderness canoe guide for over 40 years. It is a humorous book that talks about the excellent

adventures that most people would not embark on. The presentation will include some of these adventures and certainly would hope to inspire people to do their own excellent adventures and, most importantly, how to be successful and safe in the wilderness. The planning, including research, equipment, packing, and more is vitally important to canoe-tripping success. Jeff Rohr has been a teacher most of his life. Over the years he's taught hundreds of people how to canoe and be safe in the wilderness and continues to do this today. If you want excellent memories, you have to have excellent adventures.

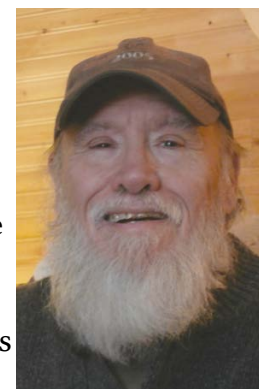
Jeff Rohr is currently working on a sequel to this first book where he will talk in details of the thousands of miles of river trips in Ontario, Manitoba, the Yukon, and the United States, including a 500-mile first descent in northern Manitoba.

Amy Rosebrough

Opening the Door: The Ghost Ports of Door County

Fri 6:30p, Caribou

Door County is renowned for its scenic paddling and stunning coastlines. In the 19th century, those quiet coastlines were the



Speaker Presentations

scene of bustling activity, with nearly 70 ports exporting timber, stone, and other goods and bringing in Euro-American farming and working families. Most of the small ports have vanished into history, but some have left echoes behind. The remains of some of the most spectacular of Door County's Lake Michigan ghost ports are accessible to paddlers and visitors, and lie in waters that can be crystal-clear. Come hear Wisconsin Historical Society archaeologists tell the story of how Door County became Door County, and how you can visit the Ghost Ports of the Door.



Ted Rulseh

Lake Science: The Coloring Book: What Makes a Lake Tick?

Sun 2:30p, Caribou

Lakes are more than pleasant surfaces on which to paddle. They are living, breathing systems that support incredibly diverse and abundant life. Here, through pictures and simple, colorful illustrations, paddlers will share an intimate look below the surface, at the physical, chemical, and biological forces that drive complex lake ecosystems, the way lakes change through the seasons, the sun's energy and the dynamics of the food web, and the niches in which fish and other lake creatures thrive.



Stacie & Vince Sadowski

Hammock Camping 101

Sat 9:30a, Caribou

Curious about how to get started hammock camping? This presentation will review the basics: the advantages and disadvantages to hammocks, equipment that you can buy or make, safety tips, and Leave No Trace principles. Either for use as a primary shelter, or just an occasional add-on, hammock camping will expand your fun and comfort outdoors. Avoid common mistakes and misconceptions about hammocks. Learn about different hammock styles, sleeping positions, and yes - even sleeping with two people or pets! From choosing your trees to choosing your straps, elevate your perspective and try something new.

Nick Schade

Why Would I Build My Own Wooden Boat

Sat 10:30a, Sylvania

"I would be afraid to put it in the water."

I hear it all the time. While there is a long tradition of using wood in canoes and kayaks, there remains a streak of skepticism regarding using wood for serious paddling.

Learn about the benefits and joys of building your own kayak, canoe, or other small boat. In a world where you can get just about anything while sitting

at your desk and have it delivered to your door within a couple days, there is something very therapeutic to transforming a pile of wood into a capable vessel for adventure. While it takes time, it is not wasted. The activity of building your own watercraft is an integral part of the experience.

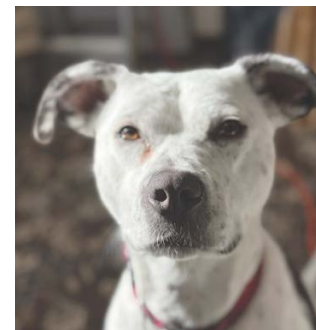


LeaAnn Schroeter

The Safe (and Delicious) Wilderness Kitchen

Sun 11:30a, BWCA

It has been a challenge and a delight to make wilderness food safety a priority for our family, friends, and clients. Nothing ruins a beautiful vacation more than a terrible case of food poisoning. There are tricks to planning menus, purchasing food, packing, and preparing food that I have found to be helpful, and even compliant with food-handling codes. It has always been a goal of mine to make every outdoor trip memorable on so many levels. Great food at the end of a day of adventure is truly a highlight.



Shop dog Dharma



Neal Schroeter

Paddling the Apostle Islands

Sun 1:30p, Superior

The Apostle Islands are one of the best places in the world to sea kayak! Some of the history and wonderful wilderness landscape will be reviewed. Photos, videos, and some secrets will be shared from extensive personal trips. Focus will center on what it's like and what it takes to be safe and prepared to paddle in this special National Lakeshore Park.

What Everyone Should Know About Cold Water Paddling

Sat 2:30p, Superior

So, you say you'll stay warm & dry?! – famous last words! Cold water goes with paddling in the Midwest. Cold water immersion and hypothermia is one of the biggest dangers paddlers face. To stay safe, it's necessary to have a healthy respect for the cold waters we paddle. We will consider how to prevent, recognize, and potentially treat cold water injuries. This presentation could save your life!

Bill Schultz

Kayak & Kayak Fishing Door County, Wisconsin

Sat 11:30a, BWCA

There are few places like Door County, Wisconsin, that offer



300 miles of spectacular shoreline on both Lake Michigan and Green Bay. The beautiful waters of Door County are a destination for both recreational kayaking and kayak fishing for smallmouth bass. This talk will cover some of the best locations for recreational kayakers to experience the beauty of Door County and the best places to launch. It will also cover some of the top locations to catch and release smallmouth bass along with discussing the top lures to help you potentially catch your personal best smallie! Whether you are a recreational kayaker, kayak angler, or both, this talk is loaded with useful information for your next visit to Door County!



Dave Shapiro

Knot clinic

Sat 1:00p, Atrium (Drop-In Clinic)

The popular Knot Clinic is back! Stop by to learn some new knots, ask a question, or show off what you learned somewhere else. Stick around to help teach other people and take a piece of rope home to practice.



Shop dog Louisa



Babs Smith, Rick Malchow

Countdown to our Number One Favorite Lake Michigan and Green Bay Beach Paddles

Sat 3:30p, Sylvania

With so many beaches along Lake Michigan and Green Bay in Wisconsin, how will the brother and sister duo, Babs and Rick, develop a list of the very best? Will their good-natured sibling rivalry keep them from enumerating their favorite beach paddles? They'll likely surprise you with a few hidden gems. Come laugh with them as they share their Countdown to their Number One Lake Michigan and Green Bay's finest beaches you can paddle to in Wisconsin.

Donna Smith

Fly Fishing 101 - The Beginner's Guide to Fly Fishing

Sun 11:30a, Algonquin

Getting started in the sport of fly fishing can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Fly fishing has a rich history, its own language and equipment



Speaker Presentations

that is quite different from conventional fishing gear. In this session Donna, will talk about five basic components of fly fishing: Equipment, Knots, Casting, Fly Selection, and Resources. Let her show you that this sport can be simple, fun, and accessible! The waters throughout Wisconsin are teeming with fish of all species. A Driftless stream trout sits in wait to sip your dry fly off the surface of the water as you watch in anticipation. Get ready for the strike of a smallmouth bass as it hits a streamer below the surface. Come get a glimpse into the fascinating world of fly fishing and how you can be a part of it too.



PJ Smith

Begin Your Fly Fishing Journey

Sat 1:00p, Atrium (Drop-In Clinic)

Join fishing guide PJ Smith to discover the world of fly fishing. He'll answer questions on getting started, local fishing destinations and essential gear for a day on the water. Get a casting tuneup, learn to clean and care for your gear, or come ask questions such as, "What fly should I put on today?" Anyone can learn this sport with the right guidance. Come see what it's all about. You might just walk away with a few pointers to begin a new journey, down by the river!



Lenore Sobota

Overcoming Fear One Stroke at a Time

Sun 10:30a, Bear

Fear can prevent us from doing stupid things but unreasonable fears can hold us back. Learn how to evaluate your fears and overcome those that stand in the way of your progress. It's also important for paddling partners to know how to help others address their fears, too. Share what's worked for you and what hasn't.

Michael Stout

The Lake Rider—Eight Great Lakes Solo Crossings

Fri 5:30p, BWCA

What started as summer fun on the local lake evolved into an obsession with extreme sport, high adventure, and personal achievement. Mike Stout's crowning achievement was solo paddling across Lake Michigan a record-setting seven times and Lake Superior once. Stout will share with you the excitement of a new journey, the splendor of being surrounded by a magnificent sea of blue, taxing the mind and body, the worry of not surviving, and the exhilaration of completing another Great Lakes crossing.



Ben & Weston Strege

Generations Paddling Together: Nurturing a Love of Canoeing in Your Family

Sun 2:30p, Bear

Embark on a journey with Ben and his 14-year-old son, Weston, as they share their family's passion for canoeing. Explore the art of raising children who embrace the great outdoors and develop an authentic love for paddling. Discover Ben's insights on introducing kids to wilderness early on, crafting a family narrative steeped in the timeless joy of canoeing. Weston, growing up amidst these adventures, provides a unique teenage perspective on the joys and challenges of canoeing as a family.

Explore practical tips on involving children in wilderness canoe trips, fostering confidence through challenges, ensuring safety, and instilling a deep appreciation for nature. This dynamic father-son duo invites you to join them for an engaging seminar that blends storytelling with actionable advice, promising an unforgettable journey into the heart of family canoeing.

Route Planning: Tips, Tricks, and Tools

Fri 3:30p, Caribou

In various wilderness paddling areas, thousands of lakes are connected by thousands of portages, with a seemingly infinite number of ways to plan a paddling route. There is never a "perfect" or "one size fits all" route. What are

the many things to consider when constructing routes that match up to your group's abilities, interests, and timeline for the most safe and enjoyable adventure possible? Ben will share his own valuable lessons learned while planning and implementing dozens of trips for various groups. You will also learn how to use a variety of tools to plan routes, including Paddle Planner, a website that Ben created to make route planning easy and fun.

Grant Thompson, Britt

Magneson Kayaking—Unparalleled Access to Popular Destinations Around the World

Sun 10:30a, Caribou

For over 30 years, Tofino Expeditions has led the way in sea kayaking adventures around the world. This presentation shares how kayaking in very familiar and popular places both near and far provides a completely new perspective on that place to truly understand regional culture, history, and its close connection to the water. This presentation will highlight our recent kayaking trip to the Venice Lagoons in Italy. Come along with us as we share, through photos and videos, what makes travelling to a popular destination by kayak so extraordinary. Learn a bit of the history of the Venice, known as the City of Water and its current plans for the lagoon and its surrounding islands where nature, water, and history are closely linked. We will share how combining the kayaking experience with local food, culture, and history can be transformative and rejuvenating.



Tamara Thomsen, Sissel Schroeder

The Wisconsin Dugout Canoe Project

Sat 11:30a, Caribou

As a result of an intensive effort to trace more than 90 dugout canoes reported from Wisconsin, we searched local museums, historical societies, and private collections across the state, and through scuba-diving expeditions. Wisconsin dugouts have a wide variation in style and manufacturing techniques and range in age from more than 4000 years old to the early 20th century. Canoes were made from varying wood types and those that date to the last 2,000 years correlate with the 19th century vegetation in the regions where they were found. We will present our analyses of dugout canoe size, style, raw material, and age, to show similarities and differences in dugouts through time and across space. Our efforts to document these dugouts include photogrammetry and handheld LiDAR to construct 3D models of the canoes.



Shop dog Buddy



Joshua Trombley

The Adirondack Pack Boat (and beyond)

Sat 4:30p, Bear

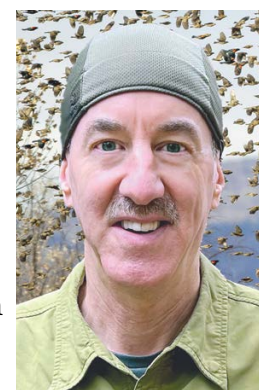
Adirondack Pack Boats were designed for Victorian-era explorers brave enough to venture into the Northeast wilderness. Still popular in New York's Adirondack Park among a new generation of explorers, a 15-pound solo canoe has piqued the interest of paddlers far and wide. Joshua will share the history of the pack boat and its evolution into a craft that offers paddlers independence that only a lightweight boat can provide. Joshua will discuss different designs: the advantages of a double-bladed paddle; different manufacturing methods; deepwoods portages, camping, and fishing. Joshua is passionate about these boats and will help you discover a new way to explore.

John Van Den Brandt

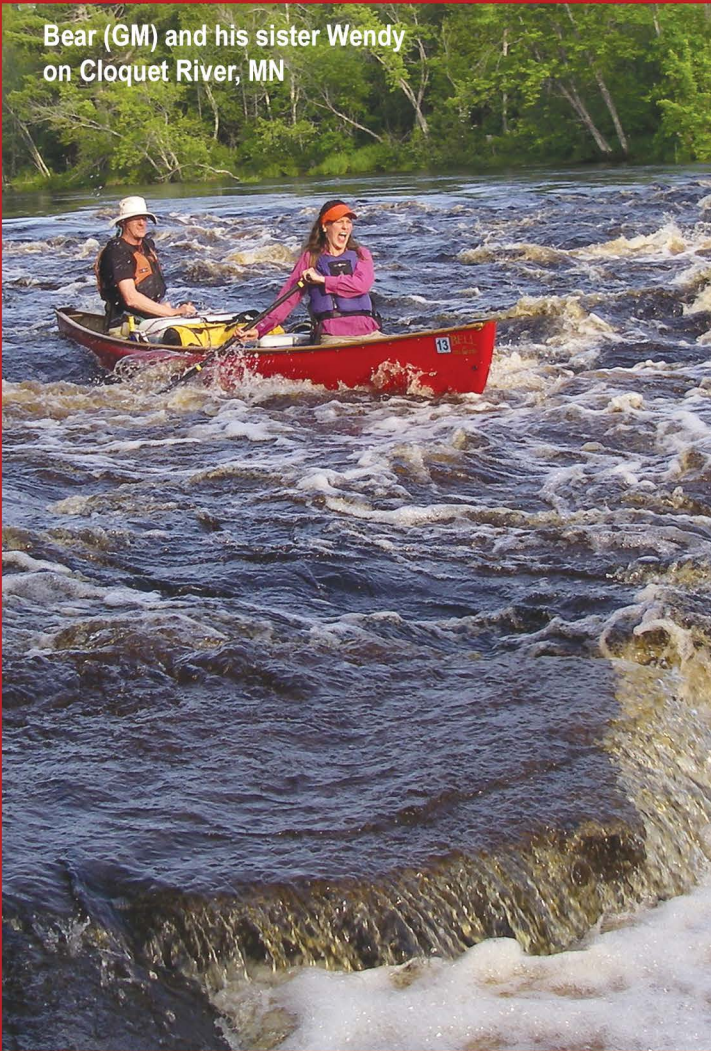
Wisconsin Wildlife

Sun 10:30a, Algonquin

Professional wildlife photographer John Van Den Brandt travels the globe to capture the stunning spectacle of nature. In this all-new presentation, John trains his lens on the wondrous creatures that call Wisconsin their



Bear (GM) and his sister Wendy
on Cloquet River, MN



Charlie's (R&D) sons Cam and Jack
on Sawbill Lake, BWCA, MN



Bear's wife Claire and son
Dashwa



Ted (Pres.), his wife
Karen and Lewis on Red
Cedar River, WI



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NORTHSTAR
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Speaker Presentation Highlights

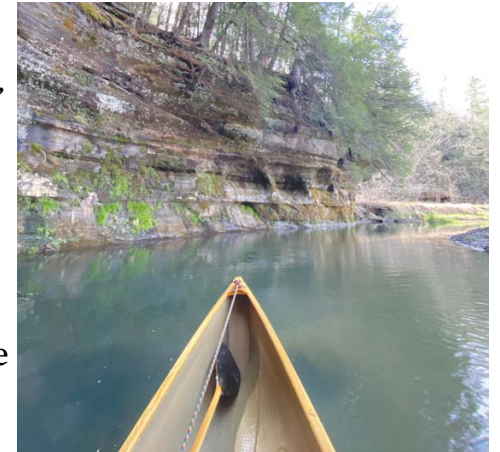
Aluminum Chef Competition

For over twelve years we've had our own homage to a particular reality TV competition that we call The Aluminum Chef. Our three Aluminum Chefs will test their camp culinary skills against each other in true outdoor style. Kevin Callan returns as our unstoppable emcee/chaos agent in this fast-paced event. Woods-woman and dried-food aficionado Mona Gauthier and former park ranger Marty Koch go up against presenter of WPT's Emmy-Award-Winning Wisconsin Foodie (and owner of the of the Driftless Cafe) Luke Zahm. Our trio of cooks use donated MSR stoves and cook kits, and a pantry of simple ingredients you might have on your next camping trip. There are three competitions to determine the best: appetizer, entree, and dessert. Perhaps you can be part of the judging panel from the audience?



Featured Speakers

After a year away from Canoeopia, **Timothy Bauer** returns with “Mistakes Were Made” and “Adrift in the Driftless.” Water-lover in general and river-enthusiast specifically, Timothy’s been paddling around Wisconsin and its neighboring states since 2008. When not on the water, Timothy pores over maps planning his next trip or writing about his most recent experiences.



Learn about “Portaging in the Canadian Wilderness” with **Camper Christina!** Christina is an outdoor enthusiast who started backcountry camping in 2002 and fell in love, and now camps year-round. In 2015, with no one to go with, she began going out on backcountry trips alone. Christina now ventures into some

extremely challenging and remote locations in the Canadian wilderness. Christina is very active in YouTube and social media and has two online courses which can be found on her website, Back country Camping for Beginners and Winter Camping for Beginners.



Visiting from the West Coast, **Wayne Horodowich** is an experienced paddler, educator and adventurer. He directed “Adventure Programs” at the UC Santa Barbara for twenty-five years and was their head kayak instructor. Wayne has



Continues on pg 34

Canoecopia Speaker Schedule

upstairs rooms

main floor

| Atrium | Bear | Caribou | Sylvania |
|--------|------|---------|----------|
|--------|------|---------|----------|

| Friday | 3:30 | Danny Mongno: Selecting the Perfect Kayak Paddle | Will Collins: Catch More Fish—Tips, Tricks, & Stories for Canoe & Kayak fishing | Ben Strege: Route Planning—Tips, Tricks, and Tools | Nolan Jacobs: Coming of Age on the Churchill and Coppermine Rivers | |
|----------|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | 4:30 | Jameson Redding: Fishing from a Personal Watercraft | Matthew Magolan: Delta Canoe Exped.—Family Adventure on Mackenzie R | Craig Zarley: Catching Canoe Country Walleyes—New Tips and Techniques | Dean Juntunen: A Paraplegic’s Superior Circumnavigation | |
| | 5:30 | Pete Kuhn: The Perfect Fitting Kayak | Perry Whitaker: Middle Mississippi River—Native Americans to Steamboats | Vern Fish: Caribou and the Citizen Scientist | Erica LeMoine: Loons—Help Protect the Icon and Indicator of Healthy Lakes | |
| | 6:30 | John Chase: Perfectly Pack Your Kayak for a Multi-Day Trip | David Johnston: Introduction to Weather for Paddlers | Amy Rosebrough: Opening the Door: The Ghost Ports of Door County | Andrea Knepper: Pacific Coast Canada to Mexico | |
| Saturday | 9:30 | Danny Mongno: Selecting the Perfect Kayak Paddle | Jeff Renniecke: Paddling the Darkest Skies | Stacie Sadowski: Hammock Camping 101 | Gillian Fitzgerald: What it Means to Paddle Like a Girl | |
| | 10:30 | Mary Langlie: Fitness for Paddlers | Zorbari Nwidor: From Underground to Water Trail: Blue Spaces for Black Faces | Karla With a K: Hammock Camping 201 | Nick Schade: Why Would I Build My Own Wooden Boat | |
| | 11:30 | DROP-IN CLINIC 1:00-4:00 | Verena Wildenstein: Amazing Rivers of Canada's Northwest Territories | Tamara Thomsen: The Wisconsin Dugout Canoe Project | Al & Marsha Fairfield: Sylvania, the Evolution of an Accessible Wilderness Area | |
| | 12:30 | | David Inskip: Original Paddling Songs Performed Live | Steven Nelson: Catching Your Next Fish in the BWCA | David Meier: Awakening Wonder—A Parenting Guide for the Boundary Waters | |
| | 1:30 | | P.J. Smith: Begin Your Fly Fishing Journey Jeff Bach: Building a Laminated Bent Shaft Wood Paddle | Joe Friedrichs: Planning for the Unexpected in the Boundary Waters | Daniel Peterson: Paddling the Saint Croix and Namekagon Rivers | Elisabeth Condon: Barriers & Solutions to Diversity in Paddlesports |
| | 2:30 | | Doris Kolodj: Power to the Pipsqueaks | Mark Neuzil: The Natural History of the Canoe in North America | Anthony Quill: How to Plan, and Expand, Canoe Trips with Little Kids | Lloyd Vogel: Ultralight Backpacking? What Newbies Need to Know |
| | 3:30 | | Dave Shapiro: Knot clinic | Nicholas Gordon: Culinary Tips for Backcountry Trips | John Chase: Navigating the Seas with Nautical Charts | Babs Smith: Countdown to our Favorite Lk Michigan & Green Bay Beach Paddles |
| | 4:30 | | | Joshua Trombley: The Adirondack Pack Boat (and beyond) | Dan York: Kayaking the Lofoten Islands: Norway’s Craggy Crown Jewels | Gina LaLiberte: What’s That Green Stuff? Identify Algae Blooms |
| 10:30 | Danny Mongno: The Forward Stroke—Sit Down or Stand Up, Let's Be Efficient | | Lenore Sobota: Overcoming Fear One Stroke at a Time | Grant Thompson: Unparalleled Access to Destinations Around the World | Sarah Hall: Multi-Generational and Mentoring Trips for All Ages and Abilities | |
| 11:30 | John Chase: Power to the Paddle—Exercises to Improve Your Paddling | | Dave Mangin: Waters Connecting our Homes to Wilderness | Rich Williamson : Paddling Alaska—An Introduction to Alaska’s Endless Waters | Dan York: Wild Rivers of the Wild West | |
| 12:30 | | Berlin Nelson Jr: Canyons of the Rio Grande River | Barry Brahier: Sea Kayaking Voyageurs National Park | Julie Carey: Communicating Safety Messages to an Unreceptive Audience | | |
| 1:30 | | Daren Barrett: The Greek Kayaking Odyssey | Jeffrey Rohr: Oh, What a Trip! | Benjamin Berthiaume: Ely To Hudson Bay | | |
| 2:30 | | Ben Strege: Nurturing a Love of Canoeing in Your Family | Ted Rulseh: Lake Science: The Coloring Book: What Makes a Lake Tick? | Mary Langlie: Getting Better with Age | | |

main floor

Canoecopia Speaker Schedule

| Algonquin | BWCA | Superior | Quetico | | |
|---|---|--|---|-------|----------|
| Lisa Yoder: Paddling Greece—Learn How To Do Adventure Paddling Trips | Colleen and Jonny Kuehl: Backcountry Couples—Adventuring Together | Wayne Horodowich: How To Choose The Kayak That Works Best For You | Timothy Bauer: Adrift in the Driftless | 3:30 | Friday |
| Steve Ballou: Paddling Apostle Islands National Lakeshore | Blake Longworth : Understanding the Vast Options in Paddling Clothing | Chris Gavin: Foraging at the Waters Edge | Rob Kesselring: Campfire River Stories from Anywhere and Everywhere Part II | 4:30 | |
| Vic Foerster: Hidden in the Trees, an Isle Royale Sojourn | Michael Stout: The Lake Rider—Eight Great Lakes Solo Crossings | Marty Koch: Mission Impossible—30 Years A Ranger | Cliff Jacobson: Bug-Proofing Your Camp | 5:30 | |
| Jerry Vandiver: Songs About Paddling and All Things Outdoors | Paula Furlich: Never Underestimate a Woman with a Paddle | Pete Marshall: How to Quetico | Ken Whiting: Choosing the Right Kayak with Ken Whiting | 6:30 | |
| Jonathan Ringdahl: The Geology of Door County & Apostle Islands | Mona Gauthier: Dehydrating Food with Confidence | Dave Ellingson: Down the Mekong: Voyage of Discovery | Wayne Horodowich: Using Your Boat, Body And Blade For Efficient Paddling | 9:30 | Saturday |
| Pete Beck: All Things Whitewater | Craig Zarley: Catching Canoe Country Lake Trout | David Johnston: Ancient Finds of Lake Superior | Rob Kesselring: The Thrill of Discovery—You Can Do It! | 10:30 | |
| John Bates: A Far Side to Birding | Bill Schultz: Kayak Fishing Door County, Wisconsin | Timothy Bauer: Mistakes Were Made | Wayne Horodowich: The Art of Staying Upright in Your Kayak | 11:30 | |
| Trevor Braun: Preparing for a Yukon Canoe Expedition | Will Collins: America By Canoe—Stories & Lessons from Yukon & Mississippi | Pete Marshall: 5 Musts for Rookie Boundary Waters Paddlers | Andrew Elkins: A Panel Discussion On Bears | 12:30 | |
| Jeff Wilson: Wrong Tree: Adventures in Wildlife | Kathy Nelson: Top Tips for Traveling the BWCA as a Senior | Marty Koch: Basic River Safety For The Casual Paddler | Camper Christina: Portaging in The Canadian Wilderness | 1:30 | |
| Scott Miller: Mississippi Speed Record | Jared Wold: Kayak Angling for River Smallmouth | Neal Schroeter: What Everyone Should Know About Cold Water Paddling | Kevin Callan: A Paddler's Guide To Rivers of Ontario | 2:30 | |
| Jerry Vandiver: Songs About Paddling and All Things Outdoors | Tony Jones: The Sacred Geometry of a Canoe | Wayne Horodowich: Capsize Recoveries-Which Ones Work Best? | Cliff Jacobson: Canoeing Secrets | 3:30 | |
| Jared Wold: A Tour of Wisconsin's Wonderful Rivers | Dan Wong: Paddling in the Northwest Territories | Michael Neiger: Use a Cell Phone More Effectively When Lost in the Bush | The Aluminum Chef Competition (ends ~5:30) | 4:30 | |
| John Van Den Brandt: Wisconsin Wildlife | Kevin Wegner: MN Border Challenge; One End to the Other in Under 8 Days | Emil Gyllenberg: Free Horizon, Paddling the Stockholm Archipelago in 4 days | Cliff Jacobson: Q&A With the Experts | 10:30 | |
| Donna Smith: Fly Fishing 101—The Beginner's Guide to Fly Fishing | LeaAnn Schroeter: The Safe (and Delicious) Wilderness Kitchen | John Bates: Paddling N WI's Undeveloped Wild Lakes: A Baker's Dozen of the Best | Rob Kesselring: Ultralight Canoe Camping in the Boundary Waters | 11:30 | |
| Vern Fish: Fire in the Boreal Forest | Ginny Nelson: BWCA Planning & Tips for a Successful Trip | Marty Koch: Ozark National Scenic Riverways | Kevin Callan: Happy Camper Canoe Tripping Tips and Tricks | 12:30 | Sunday |
| Bear Paulsen: Solo Wilderness Travel | David Johnston: The Weird History of Sea Kayaking | Neal Schroeter: Paddling the Apostle Islands | John Chase: 5 Things I Wish Someone Told Me When I Started Kayaking | 1:30 | |
| Jerry Vandiver: Songs About Paddling and All Things Outdoors | Miguel Garcia-Gosalvez: Safety Electronics for the Trips to the Wilderness | David Johnston: Navigation 101 for Paddlers: The Art of Staying Found | Michael Neiger: Teach your Children to Be a Survivor When Lost in Wilderness | 2:30 | |

Speaker Presentations

Continued from pg. 31

filmed and produced the popular USK “In Depth” Instructional video series, and is very active in teaching was a former captain of the U.S. Surf Kayak Team. He is the founder of the University of Sea Kayaking, an organization for the promotion of sea kayaking education, (www.useakayak.org) providing an educational resource to sea kayakers.

New to Canoecopia, we’re excited to welcome **Ken Whiting** of PaddleTV. A World Champion kayaker, author of 12 books and videos about paddling, and the host of one of the largest paddle-sports YouTube channels, Ken is one of the most accomplished and respected paddlesport professionals in the world. Ken is also the host and Producer of Facing Waves - North America’s only paddling TV series. Now in its 10th Season, Facing Waves is broadcast into more than 120 million American households through Outside TV, PBS, and the Bally regional sports networks.



SATURDAY POOL DEMOS AT THE CLARION

| | |
|-------|---|
| 12:00 | Danny Mongno: Essential Paddling Skills for SUP |
| 12:30 | Danny Mongno: Essential Paddling Skills for the Kayak Angler |
| 1:30 | Danny Mongno: Essential Paddling Skills for the Kayak Angler |
| 2:00 | Trevor Braun: The Braun Backferry |
| 2:30 | Trevor Braun: The Braun Backferry |

Pool Demonstration Notes

- Pool sessions are 20 minutes long.
- Pool demonstrations have significant capacity limitations. The fire code limits us to 99 people.
- Since they’re so popular and space is limited, we clear out the audience before each new demonstration. Line up early for those you want to see.

Rutabaga’s Olbrich Park Boat Rentals



Did you know that Rutabaga rents boats at Olbrich Park? We do! It’s one of the easiest tickets to your Best Summer Day of 2024. From Memorial Day through Labor day, you can explore Lake Monona using one of our great canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards. Check out the lovely shoreline, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Convention Center at your own pace.

We’re also looking for happy faces to help out. If you’re interested go to rutabaga.com/employment



home. From bald eagles snatching fish off sparkling lakes to black bears lumbering up trees, experience soul-stirring moments while discovering fascinating facts about our native animals. Join John as he reveals insights into your favorite animals and uncovers some of the state's lesser-known creatures as well. Don't miss this inspiring presentation filled with spellbinding images of Wisconsin's wildlife.



Jerry Vandiver & The One Match Band

Songs About Paddling and All Things Outdoors!

Fri 6:30p, Algonquin

Sat 3:30p, Algonquin

Sun 2:30p, Algonquin
Award-winning

singer/songwriter Jerry Vandiver and his all-acoustic trio featuring Amanda Healan (upright bass) and Caitlin Evan-son (violin & fiddle), will be debuting some new songs, along with favorites from his Paddlesongs CDs. Look for several special guests joining Jerry and The One Match Band for a fun, musical, and unique addition to the Canoeecopia experience. Be ready to laugh, cry, dance, and sing along.



Lloyd Vogel

Ultralight Backpacking? What Newbies Need to Know!

Sat 2:30p, Sylvania

As someone who got their start in the outdoors through canoeing and sea kayaking, over the past 10 years I've developed a love for backpacking, specifically ultralight backpacking! Are you a paddler at heart who is entertaining the notion of walking on land? I'll talk you through the gear and ethos of ultralight backpacking, and discuss the biggest things you'll need to consider.



Kevin Wegner

Minnesota Border Challenge; From One End to the Other in Under 8 Days.

Sun 10:30a, BWCA

Embark on an extraordinary journey with Kevin, a member of the MNGreene 3-man team, as he recounts the thrilling conquest of the Kruger-Waddell Minnesota Border Challenge—a demanding 270-mile retracing of the historic Voyager route from International Falls, MN, to Grand Portage, MN, on the shores of Lake Superior, involving both paddling and portaging. Despite Kevin's initial lack of experience, his team achieved the remarkable feat of being the first 3-man team to complete the challenge in each of the past two years. Immerse yourself in the joy, intricate navigation, and critical equipment decisions of this epic odyssey as Kevin unveils the mental and physical challenges they faced, along with the meticulous preparation



required. Experience the moonrise, navigate midnight fog, witness the Northern Lights, brave headwinds, and tackle waves on vast lakes and rivers. Shoulder the canoe and packs for the final 9.1-mile portage and discover the unique reality of sleeping in a canoe's bilge water to keep the team moving. Kevin's storytelling will shed light on triumphs over challenges, providing a firsthand glimpse into the physical and mental dimensions of this extraordinary adventure. Don't miss this captivating exploration of resilience and achievement.

Perry Whitaker

Paddling the Middle Mississippi River: Native Americans, Early Explorers, and Steamboats

Fri 5:30p, Bear

The 2,300-mile-long Mighty Mississippi has played a crucial role in the growth of the United States. The 200-mile section from the confluence of the Missouri River near St Louis, MO, to the confluence of the Ohio River at Cairo, IL, is referred to as the Middle Mississippi, and there you'll encounter thousands of years of history! On that stretch of the River you'll pass Civil War sites, countless steamboat wrecks, historic Native American villages, ghost towns, French forts, and encounter an extreme diversity of wildlife. He'll also discuss logistics of paddling on the Mississippi and other large rivers.

Ken Whiting

Choosing the Right Kayak

Fri 6:30p, Quetico

Choosing the right kayak is a challenge, and no decision will have a bigger impact on how enjoyable and safe your paddling experience is. Having tested and reviewed over 70 kayaks ranging from \$100 inflatables to \$6000 sea kayaks, no one has more insight into how to choose the right kayak than author,

Speaker Presentations

producer, and host of the PaddleTV YouTube channel, Ken Whiting.



Verena Wildenstein, Taylor Pace

Amazing Rivers of Canada's Northwest Territories

Sat 11:30a, Bear

Join second generation owner/operators of Canoe North Adventures Verena Wildenstein and Taylor Pace as they introduce you to their favorite rivers in Canada's Northwest Territories and share the many secrets that define each river trip as unique and unforgettable. Discover what makes the Keele, Mountain, Horton, and Nahanni Rivers top destinations including fishing, wildlife viewing, and varied landscapes, from the Mackenzie Mountains to the barrenlands at the Arctic coast.

Rich Williamson

Paddling Alaska! An Introduction to Alaska's Endless Waters!

Sun 11:30a, Caribou

When many people are asked about Alaska, they mention the mountains and glaciers that form the peak of scenic beauty.

Alaska has another face to experience,



the endless waters to be explored. Alaska has over 3,000,000 lakes, over 12,000 rivers, and almost 35,000 miles of shoreline to explore. While many of these places require a bush plane to access, which is great for solitude, there are numerous places to drive to, and most of those see little traffic.

It's impossible to cover all of the great opportunities available in the time available. Rich will selectively cover a sample, based on experience and extensive research to provide some of the best options for someone new to Alaska. Rich will have free information packets available for those attending his presentation. Rich will include a list of Alaska outfitters and contacts from around the state. If Alaska is on your mind, or bucket list, do not miss out.



Jeff Wilson, Terry Daulton

Wrong Tree: Adventures in Wildlife

Sat 1:30p, Algonquin

Jeff Wilson's stories bring you along on his wildlife adventures, whether you ride in his canoe as he observes nesting loons, join him climbing into an eagle nest atop a super canopy pine, or crawl with him deep into a bear den. From his Iowa farm youth, Wilson's love of adventure lured him to the Northwoods of Wisconsin where his 30+ year career as

a wildlife technician for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found him moving problem bears and beaver, assisting with research on loons, eagles, and osprey, aging deer, and conducting wildlife surveys. Beyond Wisconsin, his adventures found him paddling Arctic rivers, traversing rainforests in Central America, and climbing peaks in Nepal in pursuit of river birds.

Written from his off-the-grid island cabin on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, and illustrated by his wife and fellow adventurer, Terry Daulton, *Wrong Tree* is his first full-length book. This talk will share humorous tales, thoughts on the importance of wildlife research, and inspiration for future generations.

Jared Wold

A Tour of Wisconsin's Wonderful Rivers

Sat 4:30p, Algonquin

This presentation will be a whirlwind tour of an important part of Wisconsin's geography - its many river systems. From deeper dives into commonly

paddled rivers such as the Wisconsin, Kickapoo, Black, Chippewa, Wolf, and Fox to fun facts such as how many rivers have the word "little" in their names, attendees will gain a new appreciation for the sheer diversity Wisconsin offers moving-water paddlers. Attendees will hopefully discover new river-paddling options whether they are interested in raging whitewater, placid flatwater, or anything in between.

Kayak Angling for River Smallmouth

Sat 2:30p, BWCA

This presentation will help attendees get a start in river fishing for smallmouth bass out of a kayak. Attendees will learn how to choose a kayak, other gear, and





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Speaker Presentations

appropriate tackle for targeting fish in moving water. Lures and other terminal tackle will be discussed along with techniques for casting and presentation. Techniques for safer maneuvering and positioning a kayak in moving water will also be covered. Lastly, attendees will learn some tips and tricks for planning safe, enjoyable days on the water.



Dan Wong

Paddling in the Northwest Territories

Sat 4:30p, BWCA

From the stunning beauty and world-class features of northern heritage rivers and Canada's newest national park, discover your trip of a lifetime in the Arctic. Travelling from Yellowknife to Canoeopia, the Canadian North represents more than just a destination; it's where we call home. We are stoked to share our local knowledge as leaders in Arctic paddling. We hope to spark your own true wilderness adventure. Let's go!

Lisa Yoder

Paddling Greece: Learn How To Do Adventure Paddling Trips

Fri 3:30p, Algonquin

Do you long to do adventure paddling but aren't comfortable planning a big-water trip? Paddling with a quality outfitter bridg-



es the gap between skills and adventure, as well as allowing both high-level and less-experienced paddlers to share the adventure together. Learn how to choose a quality outfitter as well as how to do an overseas trip alone or with a paddling group through the profiled 9-day paddling trip in Milos, Greece, (2023) with 13 Midwestern paddlers.

Dan York

Kayaking the Lofoten Islands: Norway's Craggy Crown Jewels

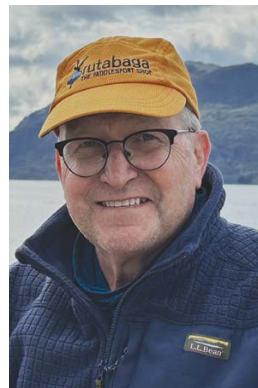
Sat 4:30p, Caribou

The Lofoten Islands are a surreal seascape of soaring, snow-speckled peaks rising steeply from deep fjords, white sand beaches, and aquamarine bays. Amidst this natural splendor are historic fishing villages, small cities, and picturesque farms - all bathed in 24-hour daylight during summer months and forever changing in the moody weather of the islands' Arctic location. It's a kayaker's dream destination. Dan York will share images and stories from two kayaking expeditions he has led to these magical islands, the first in 2017 and the second in 2023.

Wild Rivers of the Wild West

Sun 11:30a, Sylvania

Wild western whitewater rivers are the stuff of paddling dreams. They offer river runners the chance to paddle multiple days through spectacular landscapes of mountains, canyons, forests, and deserts. In this presentation Dan York will share images and experiences from multi-day kayaking trips he has taken over the past two decades down a wide variety of western rivers. His presentation will inspire you to seek out your own western adventures and guide you on how to make your own western paddling



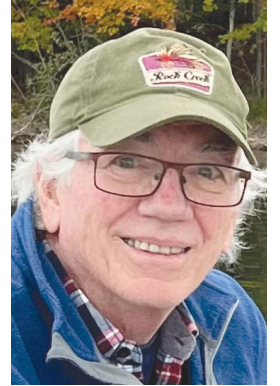
dreams come true.

Craig Zarley

Catching Canoe Country Lake Trout

Sat 10:30a, BWCA

Lake trout are the most overlooked Boundary Waters and Quetico fish. Veteran canoe-country angler and author Craig Zarley will dispel the myths and mystery surrounding lake trout fishing. Most experts say you need heavy tackle and expensive crank baits or spoons to catch lake trout. But Craig will show you where, when, and how to catch these fierce fighting fish using light tackle and inexpensive jigs and twister tails. He'll explain trout habits and demonstrate trout jigging, casting, and trolling techniques gleaned from 60 years of canoe-country fishing.



Catching Canoe Country Walleyes: New Tips and Techniques

Fri 4:30p, Caribou

Craig is the popular presenter of "Catching Canoe Country Walleyes" at past Canoeopias. After 60 years of canoe country walleye fishing, he's still learning new tricks. He'll explain seasonal walleye patterns and show you where and how to catch walleyes in spring, summer, and fall without using electronic gadgets or expensive tackle. He'll demonstrate new techniques and strategies for drift fishing shorelines. He'll show anglers how to keep from getting snagged while fishing with jigs. And he'll reveal how fishing for lake trout can lead you to some of the best walleye spots in canoe country.

LEVEL SIX


CANOECOPIA 

Freya Drysuit

Loki Drysuit



30L/60L Barrel

Bad Hass Barrel Pack



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What's New and Notable

Canoecopia abounds with amazing paddlesport gear to help get you outside. Here are some of the incredible things that we think you might be interested in

Canoecopia started out as “Meet the Folks Who Make the Boats” and as that original title might suggest, it was almost exclusively about which of the latest canoes or kayaks needed to come home with you.

Today Canoecopia is so much more than just that, but we haven't gotten too far away from our roots as a place where you can go and talk to

the reps, designers, and owners of the companies that make the gear that make it easier to get outside.

We've got so much more than just boats though. Here are some of the latest and most notable things that can help your time on the water be that much better. Walk the main expo floor and see the things that catch your eye.



NRS Pilot and Co-Pilot Knives

These two knives have been favorites for years though they did have a few small idiosyncrasies. The biggest was that the sheath would sometimes pop open when doing a reentry into a kayak. These new updated knives have more secure sheaths. The handle is indexed so you don't have to look to see which side is for cutting rope and which is decidedly unfriendly to thumbs or other appendages.



Astral Designs YTV 2.0 PFD

The YTV has been a great low-profile seller here, very popular with folks who want buoyancy and comfort.

Astral thought they could do even more so they added larger pockets, and there is a softer, fully recycled outer shell. The PFD is independently certified by bluesign, so you know that from start to finish it is an environmentally-friendly product.

Bonafide Kayaks PWR129

This boat is a rock-solid platform. The High Rise seating system gets you up higher where you can see the fish. Super comfy too. The catamaran hull is speedy and stable. The retractable rudder is clean and retracts into the hull. It is fitted hull weight is a very manageable 78 lbs, and fully rigged it comes in at 102. Get a cart (see page 50) and it's no sweat at all.

We wondered what PWR might stand for. Jim thought that it was “punting wide receiver” but Darren's guess that it probably means *power*. The PWR129 is completely set up for any additions later without drilling through the hull. The clever design keeps all your other gear at arm's reach.



Level Six Loki



Dry suits are awesome, but some folks are not able to use them due to latex. The Loki is the first dry suit to use a PU-coated lycra that's adjustable. If you're out kayak fishing and get a little warm, you can loosen the neck and breathe a little easier. Level Six uses a 100% recycled nylon and PVC-free coatings. Are you a recreational paddler who likes to get out at the beginning or end of the season? This dry suit might just be the one for you.

Aqua-Bound Aerial Whitewater Paddles

Oh my. The folks at Aqua-Bound have been busy. Our resident whitewater addict, Dan, calls these "revolutionary" and if he says it, that's good enough for the rest of us. The biggest problem with well-loved whitewater paddles is the edges delaminating. Aqua-Bound developed Lam-Lok to counter that. It uses 33 ft of aramid thread and will improve its longevity by 5 to 10 times. They developed a new rubberized coating that makes the shaft grippy. A team of whitewater paddlers were involved in the design. Stop by the booth learn even more about their thoughtful design.



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Swift Canoe Prospector 13

I think if you asked a computer to “draw a canoe” it would likely pick some variant of a Prospector. They are incredibly popular because they’re either *just right* or *will work fine* for most people in most conditions. (They are also quite beautiful.) Swift’s Prospector 13 comes from their 14-foot model. They wanted a solo Prospector for smaller- to average-sized people.

This Prospector, like most of the rest, can be paddled any way you like: sitting, kneeling, or heeled over. There’s enough width for a nice feeling of stability, and enough tumblehome to make it comfortable for all-day paddling.

Swift makes it in a wide range of layups and trims so you can get one that weighs somewhere between 24 and 38 pounds, with some accessories adding a little extra weight.

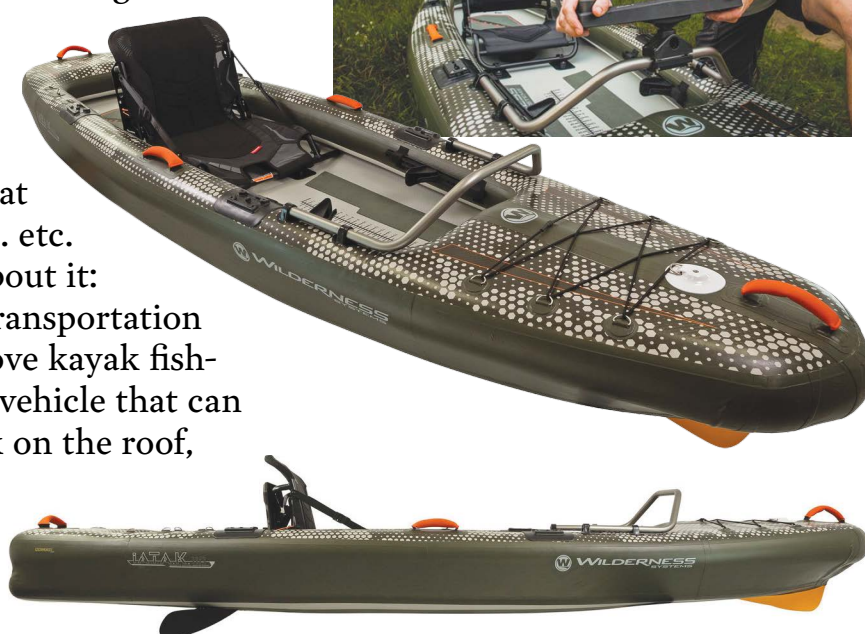


Platypus QuickDraw Filter

We’re big fans of gravity filters. Why work a pump when you can let Mother Nature do the trick? The Platypus QuickDraw filter is simple with a simple premise: you put dirty water in the dirty side, and take clean from the other. It is extremely flexible too. You’re not limited to just one type of attachment. You can use various vessels to catch clean water, from a two-liter reservoir to your water bottle. You get a little under two liters of water in a minute of filtering. It’s the perfect small group fresh water solution to bring a long on any trip with the same great reliability Platypus filters have always been known for.

Wilderness Systems I.A.T.A.K.

An inflatable fishing kayak? Indeed. It’s light, durable, and has a great seating system with a rail and anchor system right out of the whitewater rafting industry. Great outfitting, stable, etc. etc. But the best thing about it: never worry about transportation ever. EVER. If you love kayak fishing and don’t have a vehicle that can carry a fishing kayak on the roof, now you can keep your Honda Fit and get out there.



NRS Ninja PFDs

The new Ninja (top) and Ninja OS (Off Shore, bottom) features the new Orbit Fit system, a round, preformed shape that immediately wraps around and embraces the paddler's torso, providing a snug, secure fit without having to over tighten. The Ninja's low profile means greater range of motion, and graded sizing means a true fit to your specific torso, not one size fits all. If you're a minimalist, this is your PFD.



NorthWater Inflatable Paddle Float

Our friends at NorthWater are unable to take shortcuts. They also have a strong customer base in the search and rescue world, so all their gear is built as if someone's life depended on it. Because, sometimes it does. Their paddle float is a perfect example of their design philosophy. It's got two-chamber redundancy and a well-thought-out shape. It makes for a great safety tool. If you haven't replaced your paddle float in a while, maybe this is the time to do it..



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Stop by booth 130 to enter our drawing for a chance to win a two-night stay in Panama City, a top destination for paddling that's perfectly situated on Florida's Emerald Coast.



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Yakima MOD SUV Organization System

Someone once said that a messy desk is the sign of a creative mind. Maybe so, but a messy pile of gear in the back of a truck (we're looking at Darren here) isn't so *creative* as it is *frustrating*.

The Yakima MOD HomeBase is a drawer system that is designed to maximize the storage space in your vehicle along with keeping all of your gear organized. Large sliding drawers are only the start: using removable GearCrates and GearTotes, the modular system allows you to rig up your storage as it best fits your needs.

Swift Canoe New Materials

Science! Let's hear it for very clever chemists. In 2024 Swift is rolling out two amazing things: UV Shield and a new epoxy resin. The first is a new clear coat that is lighter (shaves

~2 lbs off most layups), is incredibly scratch resistant, resists cracking like crazy, and as the name suggests gives complete UV protection.

The new epoxy resin is "epoxy on steroids." It is ideal for those who want the ultimate in Composite Boat construction and state of the art durability in a lightweight boat.



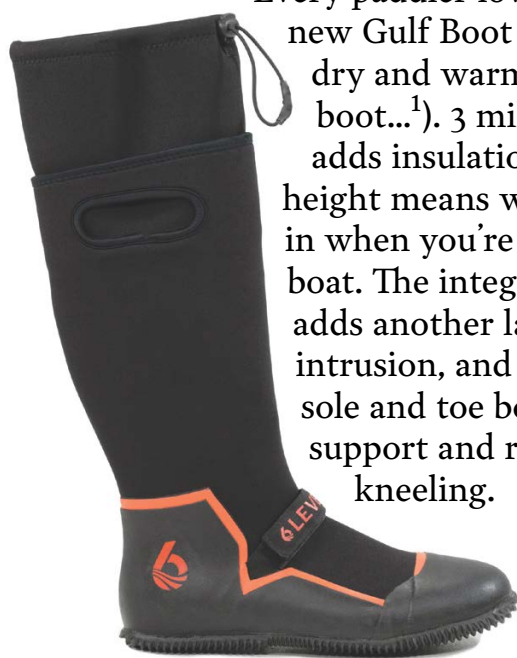
NRS Clipper and Judoko SUPs

Inflatable stand-up paddleboards have come a long way since the early days with no shape to enhance performance. The Clipper and Judoko are multi-chambered boats, creating a board that paddles with ease. The Clipper is a touring board with a pointy bow that's only possible with multiple chambers, and comes in four sizes to fit a wide variety of paddlers.

The Judoko is less specialized, and has a really cool feature where the center of the board is dropped lower than the sides, creating a better balance point for the paddler. Both are outstanding boards.



Level Six Gulf Boot



Every paddler loves dry feet, and the new Gulf Boot will keep your feet dry and warm to boot (get it? to boot...¹). 3 millimeter neoprene adds insulation, and a mid-calf height means water won't slosh in when you're jumping in your boat. The integrated gaiter sleeve adds another layer against water intrusion, and the vulcanized sole and toe box will and some support and reduce wear when kneeling.

¹Yes. We got it. Only wish we didn't. – Ed.

Recreational Barrel Works Coureur Canoe Pack

A brilliant solution for solo paddlers, the Coureur is a large portage pack that splits into two pieces so that you can carry it like a regular pack, but when you break it apart you end up with two bags, one for the front and one for the back, so the canoe trims perfectly. Darren wants one. He doesn't strictly need one, but our owner has six or seven solo canoes.



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NRS Ambient PFD

This will probably be the most comfortable PFD you'll ever own. You see, many lifejackets have the same basic chassis, where the adjustment to body size is just a longer adjustment strap. In a departure from one-chassis-fits all, the Ambient features *graded sizing*. NRS makes this in different PFD configurations so that it fits your body more closely and comfortably. An XS person won't wear the same chassis as an XL. Two draining and expanding stretch pockets give you space for your on-the-water essentials.

Hurricane Kayaks Osprey 109

We sold out of the Osprey 120 early in 2023, speaking to its popularity. Now the folks at Hurricane bring us another in the family, the Osprey 109. This smaller, lighter version has the same innovative premium open floor plan, and bow deck K-9 com-



fort pad so you can take your pup along on the journey. Just over 40 pounds and at 10' 9" (duh), the new Osprey will paddle great on small streams and ponds.

The Osprey series are loaded with little extras that make using them that much more pleasant. They have premium handles fore and aft and on the sides to make carrying them easy, and tiedowns secure.

The storage compartment in front of the seat has a gastket so phones or other electronics can be stored there.

Good To-Go Dried Food

The Good To-Go story is a great one. A well-regarded professional chef decides that she could do a much better job of making food for outdoor adventures and so founds a company with her husband. The really cool thing? The food is even better than the story, because you can't eat a story. Seriously, the food is legit. It will change your idea of what just-add-water can taste like. They've also rolled out a new line of microwaveable cups, just right for the office worker on the go.



Northstar Canoe Opal

The baby sister of the Pearl, the Opal was designed for pleasure paddling. Two people can enjoy the responsiveness of the Opal when paddling on smaller rivers and streams. Flip it around and it's a great solo

canoe as well. At just under 15 feet, it's perfect for a small family where a parent can paddle with a child, and you can get an Opal that's under 30 pounds. If you need a lightweight boat to get up on your car, consider this gem. The Opal is also available in a K9 edition with a flat bow seat moved 8" toward the center and the stern seat replaced with a short thwart leaving lots of room for big dogs.

PackTowl Changing Poncho

The old days of hiding behind your car with two doors open were the standard stripping-off-your-wet-clothes method whilst trying not to moon the folks across the Waffle House parking lot, and thus attracting the local constabulary. Now you can throw on the absorbent Changing Poncho and drop your stuff in a heap on a pad. The hood helps keep your wet head toasty.



Exped MegaMat Auto

Sweet sleep. Perchance even to dream. Of course, if you were in the back of your sport ute with the seats folded down and nothing more than a wool blanket over you, your dreams, if there were any, would be foul. With the MegaMat you'd get 4 inches of open-cell polyurethane foam for support and warmth and a brushed, stretch tricot nylon surface that just oozes comfort. Sweet dreams, y'all.



SAVE *the* BOUNDARY WATERS

We're the voice of the Boundary Waters in Washington DC and Saint Paul, working to protect the Wilderness forever.

SavetheBoundaryWaters.org

Thule Epos

If you were to put a bike rack on the back of a Ferrari, this is the one you'd want. It carries all frame types, including e-bikes, and the optional loading ramp makes rolling your 50-pound e-bike up onto the rack easy as pie. A hinge off of the hitch mount allows it to swing down and allows access to the back of your

vehicle. No need to unfasten everything just to get to your helmet and gloves. When it is folded up it can be wheeled about like luggage, too.

The Epos comes in a two or three bike setup. If your running and brake lights are obscured by the bikes, you can add a very sexy set of brake lights!

Epos means heroic poem so maybe this is the rack that tells tales of greatness. Homer would like that.



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Bonafide Kayaks SKF117

What is this boat? That's what we asked ourselves when we first saw it. It's a sit-on-top kayak. It's a stand-up paddleboat. It's for fishing. It's for playing around with the family and friends. It was inspired by the salt flat skiff's functionality: sight fish, birdwatch, and lay around on it just for yuks. It's easy to add or remove the seat and it comes with integrated rod holders.



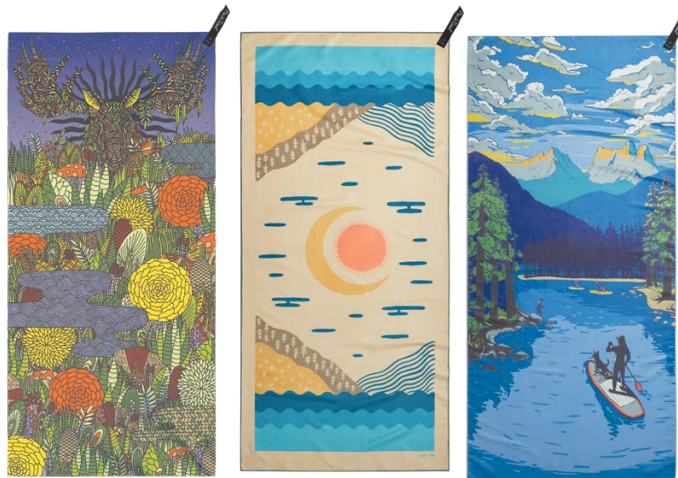
NRS Zander PFD



The new NRS Zander PFD is specifically designed for the angler (but even if that doesn't sound like you, read to the end). It has two large, drop down, compartmentalized front pockets for storing essential gear. Two additional external pockets give additional storage and a specialized tool holster for pliers or line cutters. BUT...it's also a great vest for paddlers who just want more easy access storage. Want a pocket for a pair of small binoculars? GPS? Dog treats? A bag of beef jerky? Says yes to us.

PackTowl Personal Towels

Pack Towls have been dull and monochromatic for years. I mean, microfibers are awesome and work great, but the pale blues and greens were uninspiring. Now they have pretty colors and patterns, and still offer the performance (dries five times faster than cotton) and weight (about five ounces) you would want from your towel. Why not have a little zip and zing in your life?



Malone Auto-Racks Forge BTB

For a lot of us pedaling and paddling in the same day is a sure fire path to "Best-Day-Ever"-ville. Just attach the Forge BTB to your bike, then throw on your canoe, kayak, or paddleboard and head off to the beach or park or wherever. The Forge weighs a svelte 34 lbs. and can take up to a 150lb load which should easily handle even a fishing kayak. It breaks down for easy storage and assembles in an instant. Ditch the car shuttle and reduce your paddling carbon footprint to zero!



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Old Town Canoe BigWater EPDL+ 132

Pretty much everyone understands the appeal of an eBike: you get a little help from a motor to make your pedaling easier. That makes it easy for you to understand the awesomeness behind the Old Town EPDL+.

A propeller can be driven in Manual mode, using no battery. If, however, the wind comes up, you can go into Power Assist mode, choosing one of five levels of assistance. If you're tired or just want to focus on the fish, go into Cruise mode and let the motor do all the work. Think it's just for anglers? Hardly! Anyone who wants to get on the water with a little help has found a perfect solution. Its run time is impressive too: light assist about 46 hours; medium assist is 23 hours; full assist is 3. (Obviously depends on conditions and manual input.)



Malone Autoracks Traverse HD

With a weight capacity of 250 pounds, this cart will take anything you throw at/on it. We sincerely hope your canoe or kayak doesn't weigh anything close to that, but you can be assured it won't break. The bunks are designed to hold canoes or fishing kayaks with weird shaped hulls. If you have a fully-rigged fishing kayak with all the bells, whistles, and pedals, you can be confident you'll make it to the water safely.

Native Titan X

There could be an entire page of information about the Titan X. Sadly we don't have the space. The Cliff Notes version is that it's the most versatile kayak when it comes to propulsion. You can use the Propel pedal drive. You can use a bow-mounted trolling motor. You can add a stern-mounted trolling motor. You can even use...a paddle. Gasp! I know, but you *could!*

The Titan X is stable too, and features a 360-degree swivel seat to make access to all the storage that much less inconvenient. All the other bells and whistles are there too. The best way to learn about it is to see it. So come see it!



Astral Designs Bowen

The Bowen is a super PFD for anyone who likes storage. It features the same floating panel chassis found on the Green Jacket so it moves with you. Sea kayakers will love it for the ability to stash a VHF radio in the huge front pocket. Birders will love it for the ability to stash a small pair of binoculars. The rest of us will love it for its comfort and SnackTec pocket. That's not *really* a thing, but there's a lot of us who love snacks.



Nova Craft Canoe Prospector 14

Solo canoeing is enjoying a renaissance, and manufacturers are responding. Nova Craft is known for its tough construction and spartan outfitting, sorta like

the old Land Rovers you see on safaris. The Prospector 14 will be stable, predictable, and tough as nails. The TuffStuff layup is legendary, so if you want a boat that's virtually indestructible, this would be a good one to start your own solo paddling journey.



Nomadix Original Towels

Imagine pretty towels, made from recycled materials in a sustainable method. Nice, right? Nomadix is a socially-responsible company

dedicated to getting it right, not just with product, but with keeping waste out of landfills and always innovating. It's nice to buy pretty towels, but even better to get one you know was made to better the world.



Agawa Canyon ADK26

The folks at Agawa Canyon came up with a solution to the problem of packing an axe. Most of us have put the axe strapped to the side of the portage pack, but sometimes you're carrying a smaller pack on a shorter trip. The ADK26 is both a hatchet (without extension) and an axe (with extension). It's an awesome tool, and the stainless hardware and synthetic handle means no maintenance.



Rutabaga Outdoor Adventures offers you many opportunities to explore the beauty of lakes and rivers while improving your paddling skills and overall health and well-being. Rutabaga has been teaching canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding skills and offering outings for over 30 years. Together we've built a strong network of paddle sport enthusiasts and we're sure to have an adventure that will be right for you!

Whether you are new to paddling or a seasoned vet, Rutabaga Outdoor Adventures can help you improve the quality of your paddling experiences. From introductory classes to instructor certification courses, we offer classes suitable for every paddler.

We know that time on the water can have an extremely positive impact. As a lifelong activity you can do solo, with a friend or family, the investment you make in learning something new is certainly worth your time. We're here to help you make the most out of your time on the water.



Youth Camps

What better way to get outside during the summer than to spend time on the water! Paddling is a great way for young people to develop self-confidence, independence, awareness, a love of nature, and a sense of accomplishment that comes from meeting a new challenge. Taking full advantage of Madison's beautiful waterways, our experienced and safety-minded youth instructors lead canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard classes camps with an emphasis on skill development,

water safety, natural conservation, personal development, and of course—fun!

Youth classes are offered at Esther Beach Park and Olbrich Park.

- **Day Camps**
- **Paddling Intensives**
- **Paddling Samplers**
- **SUP Classes**
- **Kayak Classes**
- **Canoe Classes**

"I can't wait to canoe more"

"The counselors were AWESOME!"

"I loved getting to play games in the kayaks"

"I made new friends"

"[My child] loved the paddling sampler class. She loved the instructors were fun and nice and she can't wait to come back. Thank you!"

"[My child] can't stop talking about the paddleboards, she loved it!"

"I wanted my kids to learn some canoeing skills for BWCA trips. They definitely learned a lot and they're more prepared to finally take a family trip."



Meet the Director

My introduction to paddling, which ultimately brought me to being the Director of Outdoor Adventures at Rutabaga, came quite by accident. There was a shortage of lifeguards and boating instructors at my first camp counselor job, and the director was looking for anyone who was willing to take the necessary training. Despite some initial hesitation, I soon signed up. The training was tough, but it ignited my passion for paddling and I've been striving to share it with others ever since. I became the waterfront director a few years later, before moving on to spending a few amazing summers guiding in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and pursuing a degree in Outdoor Education at Northland College. After working seasonal jobs for a while, I ended up as the director of a large Girl Scout camp in Central Illinois where I got to help thousands of young girls have impactful experiences

outdoors. While I loved Girl Scouts and its mission, I wanted more time on the water and ended up at Rutabaga Paddlesports.

I became Director of Rutabaga Outdoor Adventures in June 2022 at a time when Darren was in the planning stages to move Rutabaga to a new, owned location. Today, our shop sits next to a 3 acre private pond used for test paddling and some classes, with the majority of classes now held at Esther Beach and Olbrich Park on Lake Monona. We are adding paddling classes to a new location at Rock Lake. We also revitalized our youth program and expanded course offerings. The community response has been fabulous! Finally, I have a great team of paddling instructors who all agree with me the best part of this job is becoming a small part of so many folks' paddling journey—from nervous first-timers not unlike me back in my summer camp counselor days, to intermediate paddlers who are perfecting

their craft, to true experts who we are lucky enough to have speak here at Canoeopia. I truly believe the joy of paddling is unmatched, and am blessed to get to share it with others.

Chloe Machula
chloem@rutabaga.com



Adult Classes

Rutabaga Outdoor Adventures is here to help you take the next step in your paddling journey. We offer classes in canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding. Whether you're just starting out or are a seasoned paddler, we have something for you.

- Recreational Kayak Basics
- Sea Kayak Basics
- Day Trips
- Sunset Paddles
- Solo canoeing
- Tandem Canoeing
- Stand Up Paddleboarding
- And more...

“The course made me feel so much more confident to go out kayaking!”

“Great instructors! The course made me excited to paddling with my family!”

“The small class size was great. I got lots of individual instruction.”

“Great class! I’ll be back 😊”



What Else Do We Offer?

Maybe you want to improve one specific part of your paddling, or just want an outing with friends and/or coworkers, and the lessons described above don't exactly fit what you're interested in. Don't sweat it. Give us a call. We offer lots of specialty classes & events throughout the season.

- Private Lessons for Youth and Adults
- Special Guest Instructors
- Wilderness First Aid courses
- American Canoe Association Certification Courses
- Youth Outreach
- Corporate Outings
- Door County Sea Kayak Symposium (returning in 2025)
- Olbrich Park Boat Rentals





*NadaChair
Love at First Sit*



Canoe BackUp:
Nada-Chair.com

Photo Credit:
Benjamin Williamson



An Immigrant and His Son Get Hooked on the BWCA

Miguel Garcia-Gosalvez talks about sharing his new-found love of the Boundary Waters with his son and the challenges of being an outsider who loves being outside

I am well over 50 years old and did not discover canoeing and the Boundary Waters until only a few years ago. I was born in the South-east of Spain, near the Mediterranean coast of Alicante, a semi-desert and arid area with very warm summers and mild winters and only a tiny creek of water for dozens of miles. Always loved nature and spent my teenage years around the mountains nearby. I have been always interested in bird watching and spent many hours alone enjoying the great diversity of birds in Spain. I am first generation of my family with a high school degree. After college, and graduate school and after spending a few years as a tenured university professor in Barcelona, we moved to the Washington, DC area for over 15 years. In 2006, we moved to Madison, where my wife is originally from, to raise kids and be closer to family.

A friend of mine talked to me about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and offered to take me for a few days in late September. The first entry point I went to was 14 (Little Indian Sioux River North), Northwest of Ely. Before that I had been only a few times that far north (Bayfield and the Grand Marais areas). That trip was one of the biggest wake-up calls of my life. I was always interested in being in contact with nature, enjoying seeing wildlife, the landscape, dark nights, bright skies, as well as the silence. After that first trip, I

realized that both canoeing and the BWCA - Quetico National Park areas were the passions that filled a great emptiness I had in my soul. I fell in love with the beauty of the lakes and the boreal forest, started appreciating a land that for the past ten

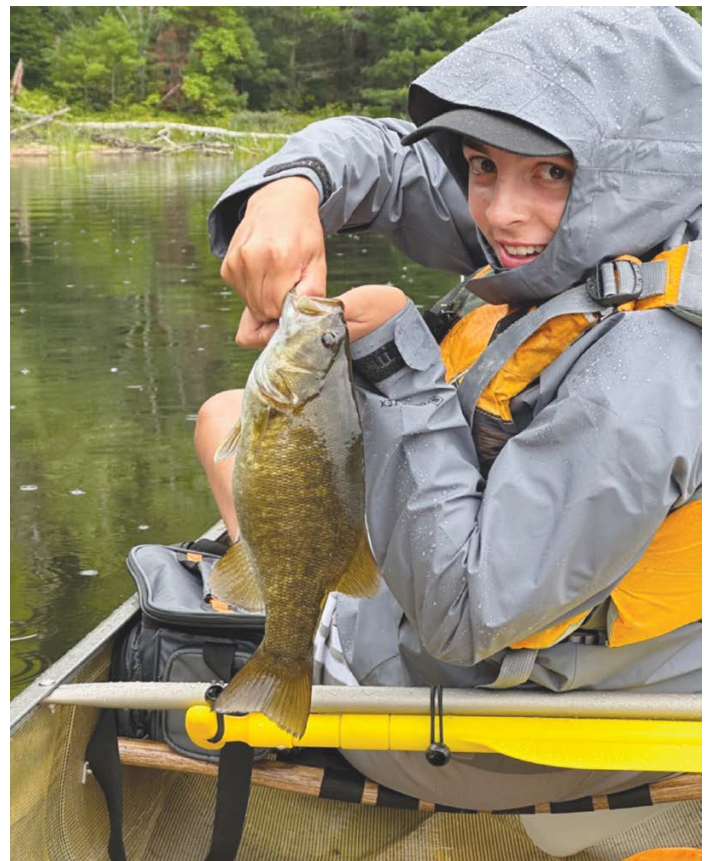
[My son] felt it right away. Now he keeps asking about our future trips.

thousand years follows an ancient cycle of seasonal extremes.

Since then, I have done multiple solo trips every year, perfecting, painfully and slowly, the ability to single portage while having everything I need to be comfortable. My solo trips are usually early in the Spring (May) and early in the Fall (September-October). In the summer of 2023, I took my son with me for the first time. He is an avid fisher in the Madison lakes but had never been in the Boundary Waters before. He felt it right away. Now he keeps asking about our future trips. As a land of extremes, I also enjoy the winters. The old spruce forest is silent but not dead. Some days are so blue and brilliant that you need to almost close your eyes, others misty, with the sun giving us a milky haze

over a landscape that has a million varieties of gray color.

Being Hispanic and having a strong accent has always been kind of a challenge for me in the United States. When being in the Boundary Waters and towns nearby I sense, sometimes, people staring at me due to a lack of familiarity with different cultures or accents. Many times, and very politely, I share a bit about my background and experience. It makes easy to start conversations with other paddlers and strangers. They are



Rafael Garcia-Dove in his first trip ever to the Boundary Waters in August 2023. That smile is worth the whole trip.

always curious to know how I ended up there and, as we keep talking, they soon realize that I am also knowledgeable about canoeing, route planning, gear and equipment, camping, safety, navigation, leave no trace, wildlife awareness, as well as permits and regulations. As soon as that realization happens, they forget about my culture and background. They realize I also enjoy nature as they do, and we can have a normal conversation.

It is still common to find myself as the only Hispanic immigrant in many canoeing-related events and

venues. Hispanics have got a lot of attention due to their growth rate in the U.S. It is not commonly acknowledged that Hispanics also have an enormous amount of purchasing power and that they also enjoy the outdoors. This will only increase soon. Early studies about Hispanic outdoor participation emphasized preferences for social activities in group settings. Urban Hispanic recreationists in different studies sought a diversity of human-powered and contemplative outdoor activities. Guided group outings and Spanish-language materials were identified as steps to increase partic-

ipation. Barriers included a lack of awareness of prospective recreation sites, the absence of recreation partners, and unfamiliarity with outdoor gear. In that regard I see myself as a small contributor, not only helping the Hispanic community to enjoy the outdoors but also to make others realize what we can also contribute to the field with our knowledge and experience.

Miguel is also speaking at Canoecopia. Find out more on page 13.



From Pure Ballast to Pure Motor

Darren Bush reflects on his son's growth and development as a paddler and the connections that paddling fosters.

Thirty years ago, a ten-pound baby boy came into my life. It was a beautiful moment for me, as it was for my wife, although my contribution to the event was holding her hand and reminding her to breathe. Right. As if she would forget.



Ian looked a lot like a baby orangutan, with bright orange hair and covered with red fuzz. After three strong pushes he was out, and was born so fast he looked like he had been in a bar fight.

A year later, he was old enough to sit up in a canoe. First, he was just ballast, enjoying the sensation of being on the water and all the new things to look at. He would squeal with delight at a beaver, which the rest of us noticed only after the tell-tale splash. All his life he has noticed

things the rest of the family misses: wildlife, plants, flowers, and rocks of a particular hue or a weird-colored fungus.

We set out on our first Boundary Waters trip when he was two. Toddler Ian had two speeds: off, and full tilt. The Boundary Waters is full of sharp, jutting rocks and slippery slopes, which were a great playground for a nature lover, but gave his parents significant anxiety.

The Wisconsin River, however, was a giant sandbox. Eagle-Eye Ian could wander aimlessly (always wearing a PFD on or off shore, a longstanding family rule), finding tracks of birds and turtles, pieces of turtle eggs and the occasional shell, and the exuviae of dragonflies stuck to the stems of grass along shore.

I think he was about five when he graduated from ballast to motor, albeit of limited horsepower. I flipped around a small tandem and he squeezed into the bow. I had found an old paddle that was trashed around the edges, and it was perfect when I took it down to clean wood, sanded, varnished, and varnished again.

I sometimes ask him what he's thinking about when he's off in the distance, and it's always the same answer: oh, just stuff. I know what he's thinking, though. Because I was him thirty years ago.

The paddle's name was Lightning II (Lightning I was way too short), and we painted his name on it with sign paint.

He was a good motor for years. I liked the motor phase; it allowed for good conversation, and let me listen to him talk about all the things he saw. He learned about more birds and animals, crossbow draws, and spotting obstacles. We made plaster of Paris casts of animal prints on the sandbars. We rescued freshwater clams from dropping water levels that stranded them in the sun. We ate good food and just enjoyed being together.

When Ian was eleven, a sales rep/friend of the family gave him a canoe that some bozo had returned as defective even though it was fine. It was a princely gift, and even though it's a fairly voluminous small tandem, Ian had soon flipped it around and was soloing his own boat. I think that ruined him for tandem paddling, and when he wasn't much older, I rarely saw him in a tandem.

He never had formal instruction. I taught him why it's more effective to use a J-stroke rather than an inefficient goon stroke, but that's about it. The rest he learned from observation or the Most Ancient of Teachers,

screwing up and taking a swim.

Last fall I decided to do a

little overnighter with Ian. It was a different dynamic than I was used to. On this trip, I didn't have to tell him



what to do, he just fell into the natural rhythm of hauling gear down to the water while we ran the shuttle. Pretty soon we were off and paddled into the setting sun.

Soon after, I noticed he was a hundred yards ahead of me. He is a strong man and a strong paddler, and likes his aloneness. I sometimes ask him what he's thinking about when he's off in the distance, and it's always the same answer: oh, just stuff. I know what he's thinking, though. Because I was him thirty years ago. Kinetic meditation: that's what paddling a solo canoe is all about.

Now we paddle together more than ever, and I'm so blessed to have him live so close. It's nice to just paddle side by side, sometimes talking, sometimes not. The smirk of contentment on his face looks the same now as it did a quarter century ago. It's been a wonderful journey, and I just hope that if I am ever too

old to paddle, we'll reverse the cycle and I can be the ballast to his quite substantial motor.



Darren is the Chief Paddling Evangelist of Rutabaga Paddlesports. He believes the correct answer to the question, "How many canoes do I need?" is "Just one more."

A purple Wilderness Systems kayak is shown on a concrete dock. The kayak has a black seat with a white 'W' logo, a black water bottle, and a paddle. The text "WILDERNESS SYSTEMS" is visible on the side of the kayak.

2024 NEW COLORS

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Great Paddling Adventures

Great times await those who say “yes” to the question “Shall we paddle?” (Also a nice rundown of fun places to go this season.)

Darren and Lindsay’s Excellent 28-Hour Paddling Adventure: River:30 paddles #6-10

On Sunday, May 25, Rutabaga Paddlesports owner Darren Bush and I headed Up North to Wisconsin’s Vilas County for a wonderful series of paddles. At about 4:30 p.m., we picked up Darren’s freshly restored wood and canvas tandem canoe. It was built in the early ‘80s by the legendary Jerry Stelmok at Island Falls Canoe in Maine. Darren had sent it to restoration specialist Dave Osborn in Boulder Junction for a big refresh, and what a job he did.

We headed out to execute our plan to paddle five of “Wisconsin’s Wild Lakes,” inspired by John Bates’ book of the same name, subtitled “A Guide to the Last Undeveloped Natural Lakes.” We began by putting into 147-acre **Frank Lake (#6)**. Darren’s boat looked beautiful, graceful and purposeful in turn, and my restored Bell Yellowstone Solo behaved well. The juxtaposition of Darren’s wood and canvas boat and my lightweight Kevlar boat was truly entertaining. A pair of trumpeter swans across the water remained oblivious to us throughout our visit.

Next, we headed to a favorite of Darren’s, nearby **Blueberry Lake (#7)**. Smaller than John Bates’ 30-acre limit, this was the only one of our five not to appear in the Bates “Wisconsin Wild Lakes” book. It was truly wild and had a shoreline filled with flowering wild blueberries. I joined Darren paddling his lovely Wilderness 16 canoe.

The next morning we headed to Monday’s first put-in, the ominously named **Lost Canoe Lake (#8)** a 279-acre beauty, where we were immediately greeted by the true “Call of the North,” the haunting loon calls we all love to hear.

Next, **Escanaba Lake (#9)** at 303 acres was not far from Lost Canoe Lake by land or water, but a surprisingly long way away by road.

We finished up with a late morning paddle on the largest of the lakes we visited, 406-acre **Allequash Lake (#10)**. The size is a little deceiving, as it is a lake that is divided into two distinct basins. What made this one particularly appealing were a few widely separated wilderness campgrounds, accessible only by canoe or kayak. It’s truly a place to get away.

Dining tip: On our way home, we discovered Wausau’s Hmong Eggroll restaurant. Wouldn’t you know it, they had terrific Hmong eggrolls, and a killer Pho, too.

Denny and Lindsay’s Great Paddling Adventure: River:30 paddles #18-25

Here’s another trip that you can use to design your own multi-paddle adventure: Eight paddles in two days along Wisconsin’s eastern shore and its estuarine rivers (plus a creek and one BIG lake).

July 15th, we began with the **Manitowoc River (#18)**, launching a few miles upstream from downtown in the first of many high quality parks we found on this trip. Next came the **Little Manitowoc River (#19)**, a great little stretch of water where our put-in and take-out were from the parking lot of a local insurance agency. We paddled under the Highway 42 Bridge into **Lake Michigan (#20)**, the biggest piece of water of the entire trip.

Heading north, we next paddled the **Kewaunee River (#21)**, launching from a DNR put-in west of Kewaunee. We overnighted in Algoma.

Dining Tip: An amazing local tavern in

Algoma called Son of Scaliwags is easily one of the most enjoyable seafood restaurants in the state! Wow, a shocker!

July 16th, we paddled Algoma’s **Ahnapee River (#22)** and its tributary, **Silver Creek (#23)**. This creek is a perfect example of how the Clean Water Act has taken a badly polluted body of urban water and is turning it into an emerging community asset for Algoma.

Next, it was back south to Two Rivers where we first paddled the **East Twin River (#24)**, and ended our two-day paddling adventure on the **West Twin River (#25)**. Again, we found wonderful, well-marked put-ins and take-outs, most equipped with variations of the new kayak launching systems that open up paddling opportunities to an entire new community of differently-abled people. So cool!

Thanks to my long-time friend and paddling partner Denny Caneff (a former executive director of the River Alliance) for imagining and planning this great trip. To learn more about the work of River Alliance of Wisconsin, visit wisconsinrivers.org.



Lindsay Wood Davis is a River Alliance of Wisconsin board member emeritus.

Novice to Instructor

Lenore Sobota took a chance to learn something new and hasn't looked back

I never paddle alone. By saying that, I don't mean I never paddle by myself – I've done that a lot. But every time I put on my PFD and get in the cockpit of a kayak, I am joined by memories of friends and mentors. Sometimes I hear their voices in my head, whether they're saying, "What a beautiful view," "Rotate your torso," or, simply, "Smile."

I've smiled a lot in more than two decades of kayaking. I also may have shed a tear or two, cursed a little, and faced some fears. It's all been worth it but I couldn't have done it alone.

It all started on the eve of Y2K when I came up with a list of "21 Things to Do in the 21st Century." On that list was "Learn to kayak." My knees were objecting to some of my hiking and I figured sitting in a boat would be a good way to give my knees a break and still explore nature. This newfound activity (some might say obsession) was that and so much more.



I've made new friends through kayaking and "made" old friends become kayakers. I've watched sunrises and sunsets,

loons and eagles, and collected a hundred "remember the time we ...?" moments.

Classes through the Outdoor Adventure Program at Illinois State University were my gateway. That first wet exit – getting out of an upside-down kayak – was almost enough to make me give up on the idea, despite taking place in a nice warm pool with two instructors beside me. I'm not exactly a water lover. But the patience and support of my instructors helped me stay with it.

Before you know it, I was going to sea kayak symposiums in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula and helping with outdoor trips at ISU. A desire to help others learn more led me to training as an instructor. A desire to have more paddling partners led me to encourage friends to attend classes and symposiums, too.

I'm thankful for the instructors and mentors who have helped me along the way, from early days as a somewhat timid, beginner student at sea kayak symposiums (such as Rutabaga's Door County Sea Kayak Symposium) to eventually becoming an instructor. I'm thankful for friends who've shared adventures with me and continue to join me even after sinking almost to their knees in mud when river levels were lower than expected or encountering other "fun" surprises.

I've learned from students, too, and been inspired by paddlers I've met at an adaptive paddling workshop and with Team River Runner. I've shared

their triumphs and the joy of being on the water. I've seen their persistence and tried to emulate it.

My road to becoming an instructor had a few bumps along the way, but the struggles made me a better paddler as well as a better instructor.

I'd like to think because of my own struggles and fears, I've been able to help others overcome – or at least cope with – theirs. And I hope when they paddle, I'm "with" them even if they're "alone."

Rutabaga's New Digs!

Many of you will already know that Rutabaga Paddlesports is the entity that produces Canoeconopia. If not, now you know that our family business is one where we strive to be honorable and ethical for our staff, our customers (thank you!), and our environment.

In 2022 Rutabaga built a new building just down the road at 2620 Rimrock Road. We built it from the ground up, doing everything we could to make the building as environmentally responsible as possible. The building is super-insulated, and we overbuilt our solar array on purpose to give us negative power bills.

Our test paddle pond has a state of the art oxygenator system. It's not an aerator: it's a system that dissolves oxygen into the water and raises the saturation level. This is better for fish and worse for algae, so it's a win-win. It was a significant expense but it was worth it, as we all love clean water and optimal habitat for wildlife.

We hope to see you at Canoeconopia, but come visit us at our shop any of the other 303 days a year.

Gratefully,
Darren

Born on the river, ready for whatever.™



NRS

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of Canoeopia.

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 Advanced Elements
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 Agawa Gear
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 Canadian Canine
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 Wilderness
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 Fritz Orr Canoe
 Frost River
 Garage Grown Gear
 Gear Aid
 Geri Schrab Studio
 Girl Scouts of Wisconsin - Bad-
 gerland Council
 Glørud Design
 Goal Zero
 Good To-Go
 Granite Gear
 Great Pinery Heritage
 Waterway
 Greater Richland Tourism
 Helinox -Ultra Lightweight
 Outdoor Gear
 Hey Bear Outdoors
 Hornbeck Boats
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 Association
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 Northern Lakes Canoe Base
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 Northstar Canoes
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 Old Mustache Canoe Paddles
 Old Town Watercraft
 P&H Kayaks
 PackTowl
 Paddle and Portage
 Paddle Buddy
 Paddle It!
 Paddle Planner
 Perception Kayaks
 Pictured Rocks Kayaking
 Platypus
 Portage North (Kondos
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 Prairie State Canoeists
 Pyranha Kayaks
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 RedLeaf Designs
 River Alliance of Wisconsin
 Rocky's Lighthouse Adventure
 Saint Croix National Scenic
 Riverway
 Sanborn Canoe Co.
 Save the Boundary Waters
 Sea to Summit
 SealLine
 Seals Skirts
 Silverwaves Jewelry
 Southern Utah Wilderness
 Alliance
 SPACE Trailers
 Spirit of the Wilderness
 Outfitter & Retail Store
 Stormy Kromer
 Suspenz Carts, Storage &
 Transport
 Swen Products, Inc.
 Swift Canoe & Kayak
 SylvanSport Adventure Trailers,
 Campers and Gear
 TACO Marine
 TCTeardrops Custom-Built
 Campers
 Techness Pro
 The Kayak Cart
 Therm-a-Rest
 Thule
 Trailtopia
 uBu Foods Hiker's Hummus
 ugowear
 Umingmaq Paddle Touring
 Center
 US CG Auxiliary Madison 43-04
 Utopia Gear
 Visit Manitowoc
 Voyageur Maps
 Voyageur North Outfitters
 Wausau Whitewater
 Wenonah Canoe
 Werner Paddles
 Whitecap Kayak
 Wild Rivers Conservancy
 Wilderness Systems
 Wildside Action Sports
 Williams and Hall Outfitters
 Winneshiek County
 Development
 Wisconsin Canoe Heritage
 Museum
 Wisconsin Chapter Sierra Club
 Wisconsin Conservation Voters
 Wisconsin Department of
 Natural Resources
 Wisconsin Historical Society
 - Maritime Preservation
 Program
 Wisconsin State Park System
 WTIP Boundary Waters
 Podcast
 YakAttack
 Yakima Products
 Yukan Canoe

CANOECOPIA

Information in Brief

Who Canoecopia is the world's largest paddlesport expo. It's filled with everything wonderful and wild in the community.

When March 8, 3-8 pm
March 9, 9-6 pm
March 10, 10-4 pm

Where Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713

Pre-Order Admission \$13/day, \$25/3-day pass

Admission \$15/day, \$30/3-day pass (17 & under free)

Parking \$8/day, \$25/3-day pass

www.canoecopia.com



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