

THREE RIVERS CHAPTER

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August 2017

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

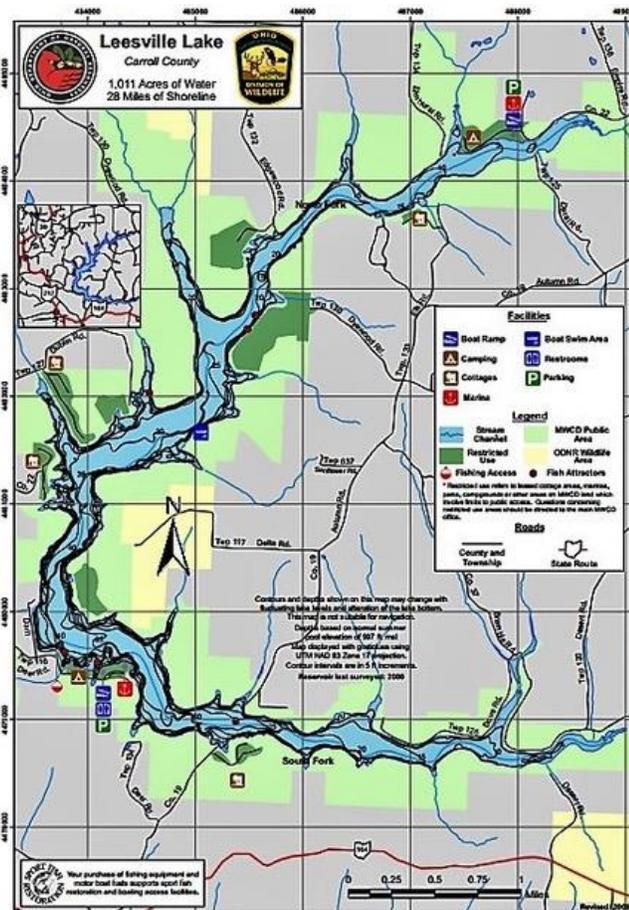
August Outing

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.
Leesville Lake, Carrollton, Ohio

For this joint outing with our friends from the Cleveland Amateur Boating and Boatbuilding Society, we will meet at North Fork Marina on Leesville Lake, located at 2126 Azalea Rd., SW Carrollton, Ohio. Leesville is a Muskingum Watershed lake very similar to Clendening. It has a 10-hp limit and shows very little evidence of development.

Coming from the east:

- ⊕ Go west on U.S. 22 from Steubenville and exit onto S.R. 151 toward Jewett, Ohio.
- ⊕ Follow 151 through Jewett and on to Scio, Ohio.
- ⊕ Pass through Scio, go down a hill and around a big bend to the left.
- ⊕ Near the end of the bend, turn right on S.R.332 and follow it all the way to Petersburg.
- ⊕ At the north end of Petersburg, watch for a large Muskingum Watershed sign and turn left on Canyon Road, which shortly becomes Azalea Road. Follow Azalea a short distance to the Marina.



We will meet in a grassy area between two of the docks. It will provide a good area to display and launch the canoes and is not too far from the launch ramp if any of the CABBS folks bring trailered vessels. It is also adjacent to a small picnic area under a big oak tree, where we will return for a picnic lunch. There is a pavilion available in case of rain. There is a pit toilet a

short distance from the picnic area.

Our chapter will provide burgers, buns, and dogs for lunch. Please bring beverages and a dish to share. Paper plates, cutlery, cups, and napkins will be supplied.

Please email Andy Hutyera with a head count to help determine burger and dog quantities: ahutyera@me.com ⊕

Assembly 2017: Another Stellar Event

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to be there, here's a bit of a review of some of the events of this year's assembly at Paul Smith's College. The theme of this year's gathering was "canoe accessories."

Shown is a photo of what every self respecting canoe needed back in the glory days of courting canoes: an Edison cylinder phonograph. This one actually worked and added a genteel touch to a lovely canoe already equipped with a seat, oriental rug, throw, and parasol for milady. It was up to the gentleman paddler to provide the champagne!

There were many displays of canoe seats, beautiful paddles, and full sail rigs. One canoe had a lovely thwart table upon which one could serve lunch afloat.

Every day presented a nice variety of possible activities. The excellent weather provided ample opportunity to join paddling trips to nearby lakes. On the green there were numerous construction demos, including:

- ⊕ A demo by Geoff Burke on the history and use of the venerable ax.
- ⊕ Caleb Davis's paddle-making workshop.
- ⊕ Upper Chesapeake chapter's demo on covering with Dacron.
- ⊕ A weaving workshop where you could make your own Adirondack pack basket.



Canoe accessories of bygone days.

The evening programs offered a wide variety of topics. Mark Neuzil and Norm Simms, coauthors of the recent excellent book *Canoes: A Natural History of North America*, did a program covering some of the material in their book. We were then treated to a video program from Shaw and Tenney showing the manufacturing process of their fine handmade paddles. Tom McCloud did a presentation on the 1926 Wilder Expedition on the middle fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. Our newly elected Board President, Michael Grace, brought and discussed his collection of unusual canoe seats.

Andre Francois Borbeau, author of *Wilderness Secrets*

Revealed, did a fascinating presentation on wilderness survival techniques. Andre is a most unusual character. As a youngster, he would go off into the boreal wilderness for days at a time taking absolutely nothing with him. He learned how to survive and live with reasonable comfort on his own living entirely off the land. As time went by, he parlayed this unusual ability into a university degree and a fulltime teaching position at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. His students affectionately refer to him as "Doc Survival."

Andre's methods are far from the foolishness one sees in the TV survival shows He brought



Andre Francois Borbeau in a **plywood boat of his own design.**

along two “canoes” that he designed and built. The craft is built from several whole sheets of plywood and is equipped with long shaft canoe paddles, a pole that also serves as a mast for the sail, and sleeping and cooking quarters inside the hull. It has a rudder and can be sailed from inside the little cabin. Andre and his daughter stayed in these craft during the entire assembly. Plans are available for free from Andre. They were a great addition to our group and stayed for several days participating in the assembly activities.

From our chapter’s point of view, the highlight of the assembly was Saturday’s auction. We had been working on the restoration of an 18-foot Old Town sailing canoe for the last year and a half. It sat on display in the registration tent during the entire assembly waiting for the Saturday auction. It was one of the last items in

the auction, and we all held our breath hoping that, in light of all the work and donations that had gone into it, the canoe would go for a respectable sum. Much to

everyone’s delight it was purchased by a couple of newlyweds, Kathy and Fred Campbell, who had come to the assembly this year directly from their cross-country honeymoon. Fred and Kathy were married by the captain of a sailing ship on Lake Superior and from there set off on a long honeymoon trip across the country.

After the excitement of the auction, we assembled Saturday evening at Church Pond across the road for a freestyle presentation. The freestyle folks had joined us at Paul Smith’s all week and offered free clinics in beginning freestyle to anyone who cared to partake. Freestyle techniques are invaluable for those of us who run rivers or canoe in moving water. They



Our chapter’s project canoe, donated to the WCHA auction, went to a very good home. May Fred and Kathy Campbell **have many lovely outings.**

are great fun to learn and are effective confidence builders in canoe control.

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Over the past several years, our chapter has made a donation to the assembly's children's program. Sue Christy and several others do a great job organizing children's activities and keeping the little ones occupied. One of the projects this year involved the children making their own wood-and-canvas folding camp chairs. They decorated the canvas for their own chair and assembled the wooden parts. The results brought smiles to many young faces.

Many thanks to Rob Stevens and the organizers of this year's event. Next year we will be meeting at Peterborough, Ontario at Trent University. Peterborough is the home of the Canadian Canoe Museum. The theme will be the Chestnut Canoe Company and Bill Mason. The dates are July 17–22, 2018. Mark your calendars! ❖



These kids look quite pleased with their self-made camp chairs.



Bruce Kemp sterns, with Anita in the bow, for a freestyle demonstration.

Schedule of Events

For more information on any of these events, contact Craig Johnson at (740) 696-1000 or nosnhojgiarc@gmail.com.

❖ **August 12**

We will join our friends from the Cleveland Amateur Boating and Boatbuilding Society on Leesville Lake just north of Cadiz, Ohio. *See page 1 for details.*

❖ **September 8–10**

We will again gather at Millie Sass's cabin on the Allegheny for an overnight paddle.

❖ **October 6–8**

Mini-Assembly, Gifford Pinchot State Park

We will be gathering with three other chapters near Harrisburg, Pa. Make your reservations early because campsites disappear quickly.

❖ **October, to be determined**

We will hold our annual meeting at Sylvan Canoe Club in Verona, Pa. ❖

Chapter Information

- ❖ **Head:** Craig Johnson
- ❖ **Treasurer:** Fred Capenos
- ❖ **At large:** Bob Ball, Millie Sass, and Richard Seman
- ❖ **Newsletter:** Andy Hutyera and Ann Mertz
- ❖ **Librarian:** Mark Zalonis

National WCHA Information

- ❖ <http://www.wcha.org/>