

THREE RIVERS CHAPTER

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Recap: Three Rivers' First Winter Meeting

by Andy Hutyera

Seventeen members braved the winter roads for a gathering at the Presbyterian Church in Cadiz, Ohio. Bob Ball had suggested we come prepared to talk about one of our favorite or most memorable canoe trips.

Several folks did just that, starting off with Alice Brylawski.

She and husband Bryce made the long trip from the Annual Assembly in Peterborough to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park on the western boundary of Ontario. Woodland Caribou is the newest addition to Ontario's roster of provincial parks. It is the place to go for those looking for a true wilderness adventure. For most of their seven-day trip, Alice and Bryce were entirely alone. We all enjoyed Alice's well thought out presentation and slide show. It looked like a great trip.

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Bob Ball shared his recollections of a one-hundred-mile river trip he took many years ago in the wilds of northern Canada. Back then the railroad would drop off voyageurs anywhere along the route.

Bob recalled getting dropped off in the middle of the night near what the conductor assured



The gathering of the voyageurs.



Guided trip with the Hutyeras down **the Penobscot's west branch.**

them was a tributary of the main river. The train pulled away and left them, their canoes, and gear in the dark hoping that the conductor had found the right spot. He apparently had, and the group went on to enjoy a great adventure.

Martha Ball shared her memories of their canoeing honeymoon at a fishing camp. Bob had built a canoe and equipped it with a 90-square-foot sail. Martha had vivid memories of the indigenous staff lined up along the shore watching the honeymooners sail their way on their maiden voyage to what the staff was certain would be an inevitable capsizing. Bob disappointed them until late in the week when the winds picked up. The sailors survived with their dignity askew.

Andy Hutyera brought slides of his family's one and only guided trip. He and Jackie,

... staff lined up along the shore watching the honeymooners sail their way on their maiden voyage [with a 90-sq.-ft. sail] to what the staff was certain would be an inevitable capsizing.

together with their daughter, son-in-law, and twin six-year-old grandsons, joined a father and his six-year-old son from New York City on a trip down the West Branch of the Penobscot River in Maine. Their guides were Garrett Conover and Jane Barron.

The trip was in the style of an old-fashioned guided trip where the guides pampered their "sports." Garrett and Jane did all the cooking, as well as looking after the safety of the group. Meals included fresh reflector-baked bread, fresh foods, wild mushrooms, and fresh donuts. The trip was made in four beautiful canoes that had been built by Jerry Stelmok and Rollin Thurlow. There was no "go light" restrictions for the trip because there were no portages. A truly memorable trip!

Mark Zalonis brought along his carousel slides of his 1993 trip to Labrador with Garrett Conover. It was an extended trip down the Grand River (a.k.a. the Churchill River.) Mark had slides



The little one is enjoying **his free ride.**

of Muskrat falls and other portions of the river that were free flowing at that time but now, sadly, are dammed. A hydro dam eliminated Churchill Falls, which at one time was almost as large as Niagara.

New member Brad Fisher related a story of his adventure on the Allagash. His group had made arrangements for a float plane pickup at the end of their trip. Because of weather conditions the plane was unable to land. As the stranded canoeists watched it fly away, they tried to regroup and set up camp.

Unfortunately, they set up camp near a bear trap that the rangers had installed. A ranger came by in a power boat to check on the trap and found the stranded canoeists. He checked the trap and bid them all goodbye. Fortunately, he had



Getting ready to launch from **Canoe Lake**.

second thoughts and decided he ought to go back and give the stranded party a ride out.

Tony Stanton displayed a great slide show which was a composite of his and Ann's many

trips to Algonquin. Rather than focus on a single trip, Tony spoke of his attraction to Algonquin starting many years ago when he spent summers working at one of the camps



Stowing the canoe safely on the campsite for the evening.

there. His duties included leading campers on canoe trips.

Ever since they met, he and Ann have made at least one trip a year back to the park. Over the years they have explored many different regions of the park and accumulated a collection of beautiful photos of their trips, some of which can be seen here.

Our gathering served as an interesting reminder that there are many ways to go canoe tripping, depending on your circumstances. ☩



Sunset in Algonquin Park.

Schedule of Events

☩ **February 16 at 10 a.m.**
183 Berryhill Rd.
Glenshaw Pa.

Silk screening time again at Tony Stanton and Ann Mertz's home. We will not be ordering shirts but ask that you bring your own high-quality cotton shirts or other items such as cloth bags that you wish to have screened. You may bring long- or short-sleeve shirts or even sweatshirts so long as they are good quality cotton. Tony is quite expert at this process and will oversee the actual screening process. **NOTE: A portion of Berryhill Rd. is closed for the winter. You must access Berryhill via Middle Rd.**

☩ **March 16 at 11 a.m.**
David Warther Museum
1775 State Route 39,
Sugarcreek, Ohio

David is the grandson of master carver Mooney Warther, who taught David how to carve. Grandfather Warther has a



Loon and moose in Algonquin Park.

museum in Dover Ohio showcasing his carvings that follow the history of the steam engine. David has taken a similar approach to nautical transportation. The carvings represent Dave's life's work starting with Pharaoh's barges and warships and progressing to Viking ships, ships of Columbus's era, and a modern-era Coast Guard sailing ship. Every model is meticulously constructed to scale and is made from solid legal ivory including all the rope rigging. Included in the collection are well over 80

scale models. We will have a chance to visit with David, who will answer questions and demonstrate some of his unique carving methods. There will be an admission charge of nine dollars per person. If we have more than fifteen members attending the charge will be reduced to eight dollars per person. Afterward we will meet at one of the local eateries before heading home. Note the 11 a.m. meeting time to allow extra time for travel. You can preview some of David's amazing work at: <https://warther.org/Carvings.php>

⊕ **April 26–27 at 10 a.m.**
Moraine State Park
Portersville, Pa.

Fred Capenos and Lee Grubish have reserved a cabin near the water. We will go for a spring paddle and have a picnic lunch afterward.

⊕ **May 17–18 at 10 a.m.**
Big Run State Park
10368 Savage River Rd.
Swanton, Md.

Mark and Ruth Zalonis have scoped out this gathering site. According to website information, Big Run has 29 primitive campsites available year-round. Sites 60–75 are wooded, with stone dust camping pads. Sites 78–90 are in an open grassy field. Each campsite has a picnic bench and fire ring. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A self-registration station is in the lower camping area, along Savage River Rd. Pets are permitted in any of the campsites, on a leash. More details will be provided as the time approaches.

⊕ **June 22 at 10 a.m.**
Salt Fork State Park
Cambridge, Ohio

Craig Johnson is making arrangements for this outing. He and Diane have rented cabin #21 at Salt Fork State Park for Friday and Saturday nights, June 21–22. The cabin is near the boat launch, where there is plenty of parking. We can put canoes in there, or at the docks or the cabin yard, which has easy water access. We

will meet at the cabin/boat launch area and will try to be on the water at 10:00 a.m. We can explore the lake around the cabin, which is a no-wake zone. Individuals can canoe as much or as little as they like because no shuttle will be involved. After paddling, we will meet back at the cabin for a cookout. The chapter will provide burgers and dogs, so bring a side dish or dessert. This is a bit farther for some of you to travel, so if you would like come Friday evening or stay Saturday evening before heading home, Salt Fork has some beautiful accommodations. There are the cabins, there are campgrounds close by, and the lodge is a nice option. There are lots of things to do at Salt Fork, including a museum, hiking trails, horseback riding, or just hanging around the grand fireplaces in the beautiful stone and timber-framed lodge. All the

accommodations have pet-friendly options. For more information about Salt Fork, see: <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/saltfork> Please let Craig Johnson know if you are coming so we can get a head count on the food. If you have questions contact Craig at 740-696-1000, 740-591-2226, or nosnohgiarc@gmail.com.

⊕ **July 16–21**
Annual Assembly
Paul Smiths College
Paul Smiths, N.Y.

This year the Assembly will feature 100+-year-old canoes.

⊕ **August 24 at 10 a.m.**
Millie Sass's cottage
Allegheny River

Assuming good water conditions, we will go for a paddle and return to Millie's for a picnic. Millie has room for a few tents, as well as some sleeping space in her relatively new outbuilding.

Classifieds

For Sale

- ⊕ **Mad River "Slipper" solo canoe.** Very maneuverable. 14' 8," 48 lbs. \$500 or best offer. If interested, call Fred Capenos at 724-438-1027 or Max Peterson at 412-443-5699.
- ⊕ **Complete Balogh BSD BATWING™ sailing rig,** excellent condition. Aluminum mast; original parts and bag. Best offer. While this particular model has not been made in several years, you can see descriptions and specifications for similar models here: <http://baloghsaildesigns.com/rigsCanoe.html>. If interested, call Max Peterson at 412-443-5699. He says that, while it will work for any canoe, he thinks it's better suited to larger ones.

Chapter folks are welcome to spend the weekend camping out. The picnic will be potluck, so bring a dish to share.

⊕ **September 28 at 10 a.m.**

**Annual meeting
Sylvan Canoe Club
Verona Pa.**

The meeting is being moved to September in hopes of having more favorable weather for a paddle. We will be meeting as guests of Sylvan. This will be a Saturday meeting, and we will plan a canoe outing on the river to precede a potluck dinner and business meeting.

⊕ **October 11–13**

**Mini-Assembly
Gifford Pinchot State Park
Harrisville, Pa.**

The mini-assembly has been moved back to the Columbus Day weekend this year. Campsites go quickly, so now is the time to reserve yours! ⊕

Chapter Information

- ⊕ **Head:** Millie Sass
- ⊕ **Treasurer:** Fred Capenos
- ⊕ **At large:** Bob Ball
- ⊕ **Newsletter:** Andy Hutyera and Ann Mertz
- ⊕ **Librarian:** Mark Zalonis

National WCHA
Information

⊕ <http://www.wcha.org/>