

## First Spring Paddle

**Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m.  
Moraine State Park**

Fred Capenos and Lee Grubish have rented a cabin at Moraine State Park. We will go for a paddle on the lake and afterward do some outdoor cooking.

Bring your camp cooking gear, and we will cook up a feast of dishes to share. We will meet at 10 a.m. at cabin #11.

- ⊕ From exit 96 on I 79, go west on 488 for 0.5 mile to stop sign in Portersville.
- ⊕ Bear right at stop sign and go 0.3 mile.
- ⊕ Bear right on West Park for 2.6 miles.
- ⊕ Bear left onto North Shore Drive and follow signs to the cabins.

There is a dock on the water. We will be doing a paddle on a nearby stream. Please wear warm clothing with no cotton. The water will be cold, so PFDs will be necessary. Wool or poly clothing next to your skin is the best choice. Wet suits would be good if available. That said, we will be conservative and not take any chances so that we can have a fun outing.

Pa. residents will need a launch permit. Out-of-staters should display their out-of-state registration. ⊕

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*The beautifully designed museum building houses more than 80 of David's ivory carvings. The collection is housed in several rooms arranged chronologically, each housing ships of a different era.*

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## Tour of David Warther Museum

Chapter members met at the David Warther museum near Sugarcreek, Ohio on Saturday March 16 for a guided tour of the museum by David Warther. David is the grandson of master carver Mooney Warther, whose work is displayed in his own museum in Dover, Ohio. Mooney carved working scale models of steam locomotives. His work represents the history of steam powered transportation.

David displayed an early interest in learning to carve, but his fascination was with boats



**The Huntress of Athens.**



**Craig Johnson looks on as David interprets his carvings.**

rather than locomotives. Under the guidance of his grandfather, he began carving at a very young age. During his high school years, he began carving scale

models of ships—a passion that became his life’s work.

The beautifully designed museum building houses more than 80 of David’s ivory

carvings. The collection is housed in several rooms arranged chronologically, each housing ships of a different era.

Our group was full of questions about the details of the various ships. Our tour guide David was extremely knowledgeable about the history and evolution of ship design and wind propulsion. Drawing on his well of knowledge, our queries were answered thoroughly. The carving skills were amazing, but equally impressive is the detailed research that went into each ship in the collection. All were created from detailed plans he obtained and scaled appropriately.

The tour included a demonstration of some of the



**The museum was well worth the visit for our chapter members.**



Nearly completed latest carving.

techniques for working in ivory to carve and decorate the various ship parts. David's workshop is a small space in the museum. It houses many ordinary tools found in most of our shops, together with a vast collection of handmade tools designed for specific tasks in the carving process.

During the Q & A at the end of the tour, we couldn't help but inquire as to the lack of any canoes in the collection. The Q & A turned around, with David asking us questions about the development of the canoe. It turns out that carving a canoe from ivory would be almost impossible because of the thin hull and rib structure. It would make an interesting challenge for the carver.

It is worth noting that David makes his living making ivory parts for musical instruments and not from the museum. All the ivory he uses is obtained from legal sources, including woolly mammoth tusks which are often found in Alaska. ☩

## Bill Mason Videos Available

Member Gary Gaillot has several Bill Mason videos that he would like to see go to a good home. They are VHS tapes, and Gary has replaced them with DVDs. If you are interested contact Gary at:

[betsyandgary@comcast.net](mailto:betsyandgary@comcast.net) ☩

## The Portage Path

by Andy Hutyera

On a recent trip to Akron, Ohio with our grandkids, my attention was grabbed by a bronze statue of an early native American portaging a birchbark canoe. Those of us who live in this part of Ohio have heard of the Portage Lakes and a road in Akron named Portage Path. I had often wondered about the history of those terms.

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*The distance between the navigable end of the Cuyahoga and the navigable beginning of the Tuscarawas River is about 8 miles across the height of land.*

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It turns out that before any Europeans showed up here, the natives of the area had established a canoe route from Lake Erie to the end of what we now call the Mississippi River. The Cuyahoga river, now of burning river fame, drained from the area near present-day Akron into Lake Erie. Just the other side of the watershed, the Tuscarawas River drains into the Muskingum River, which drains into the Ohio River.

The distance between the navigable end of the Cuyahoga and the navigable beginning of the Tuscarawas River is about 8 miles across the height of land. When the first Europeans arrived in this part of the country, there was already an established path

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*When the first Europeans arrived in this part of the country, there was already an established path between the two that had been worn a full foot deep by native travelers.*

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July 4, 1905, as a tribute to those who had traveled the old path. Kasch bought the 6-foot bronze figure for \$75 from J.L. Mott Iron Works in Bronx, N.Y. The statue was moved decades later to West Market and Portage Path. By the way, a 2-foot-high

arrowhead sculpture in front of PNC Bank at Highland Square marks the original route.

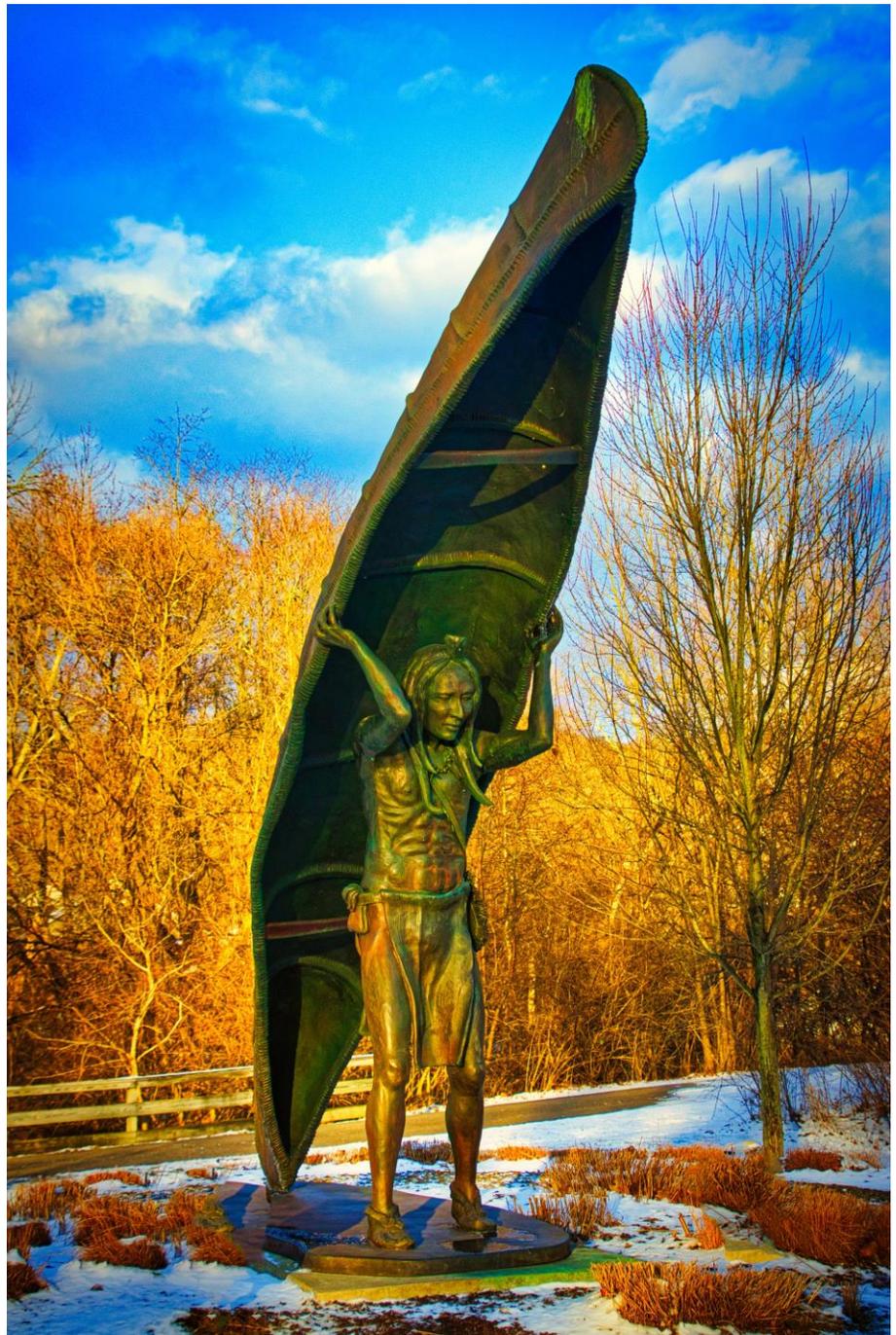
This information came from an old newspaper I found online. I plan to return to see if the smaller statue is still at the West Market Street intersection. ☩

between the two that had been worn a full foot deep by native travelers. The present-day road named Portage Path is located near that original portage trail but does not follow it precisely.

The portager at right is a bronze statue by sculptor Peter B. Jones of the Seneca and Onondaga nations of the Cattaraugus Reservation in New York State. The statue is titled “Portage” and was erected last fall. It is quite impressive and nicely detailed. Since the statue is erected at the Cuyahoga end of the portage, it is not clear whether he’s beginning the portage or at the end. I asked, but he didn’t answer.

More information about this historic route, including a map, is available at: <http://walkportagepath.regina.sansoft.net/assets/portage-path-booklet--18.pdf> If you look at the map you will note that the John Brown house sits along the path. That’s the John Brown of Civil War fame.

I did find information about another statue. In 1901, Akron developer Gus Kasch arranged for an 8-foot arrow to be placed on a post at “the exact point” where the original trail crossed West Market Street. Four years later at the site, he donated an Indian statue that was dedicated



“Portage,” by sculptor Peter B. Jones of the Seneca and Onondaga nations.

## Schedule of Events

⊕ **April 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. 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 and Diane have rented cabin #21 at Salt Fork State Park for Friday and Saturday nights, June 21–22. We will meet at the cabin/boat launch area and try to be on the water at 10:00 a.m. 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. 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 [noshojgiarc@gmail.com](mailto:noshojgiarc@gmail.com). For more about Salt Fork, see: <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/saltfork>

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

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

⊕ **August 3 at 10 a.m.**  
**Millie Sass's cottage**  
**Allegheny River**

Assuming good water conditions, we will go for a paddle on Saturday and return to Millie's for a picnic. The picnic will be potluck, so bring a dish to share. Millie has room for a few tents, as well as some sleeping space in her relatively new outbuilding. Chapter folks are welcome to camp out Saturday night.

⊕ **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

- ⊕ <http://www.wcha.org/>