

Annual Meeting at Sylvan Canoe Club

**Sunday, September 20, 2:00 p.m.
132 Arch St., Verona Pa.**

Our next gathering will be the annual meeting at Sylvan, hosted by Bob and Martha Ball.

New members and new ideas keep our chapter healthy. We also would like to hear from members with program ideas, so bring your suggestions along.

Weather permitting, there will be a paddle on the river. Instead of our usual potluck, Bob will be grilling a London broil for all, and members are to bring their own accompaniments. In case of rain, Sylvan has a lovely covered porch. See you there! ☘

July Outing Report: Prince Gallitzin State Park

by Millie Sass

It was a perfect day for paddling on July 25th, and Glendale Lake in Prince Gallitzin State Park was the perfect spot. We gathered at



The Prince Gallitzin paddlers at Glendale Lake.

Pickerel Pond picnic area—such a perfectly precious put-in. Hosts Gary and Betsy Gaillot use Prince Gallitzin Park quite a lot because it is only 1.5 hours from their home in Murrysville. They had scoped out the picnic area for launching since it is more canoe-friendly than the official dock, and the park staff graciously gave us permission to launch from the shore of that picnic area. There were a few kayakers and a few pontoon boats on the water, but the inlet we paddled was mostly ours to enjoy.

Prior to our launch activities, one of the park rangers stopped by to see our canoes, since he heard that our WCHA chapter was having an event that morning. Of course, he was impressed by our wood/canvas collection of canoes and mentioned that he would be willing to pull together an informational event for our chapter if we ever wanted to do that in the future. He would publicize our event and invite the public to learn more about wood/canvas canoes and canoes

in general—something to think about for the future.

We launched just before 11:00 a.m. and paddled for about an hour: 5 canoes, 9 paddlers, 2 back at the picnic area. Our water time was about an hour, with little wind and perfect water.

We were ready for lunch when we returned to shore. Mark Zalonis would have taken the “best chef” award if we had one: He pulled out his FireBox portable stainless steel folding stove and used twigs to cook hot dogs, while the rest of us had more boring fare. My next stove might have to be a FireBox!

And to make the event full, George Reid furnished some



George Reid entertained the paddlers with his squeeze box.

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accordion music for our entertainment at the end of the day. Perfect!

Although Prince Gallitzin is rather far for some of our members, we might want to schedule more events there in the future because they have the usual camping areas and cabins available in the park. Glendale is quite an extensive lake; we paddled only a small inlet, leaving lots to explore on a future visit.

We had originally scheduled this Saturday event as an alternative for those who were not going to be trekking up the Paul Smith’s in the Adirondacks for the annual WCHA Assembly. But, since the Assembly was cancelled this summer, this outing gave us the opportunity for canoe time on a lovely lake. I am so very glad that Gary and Betsy were willing to organize and host this event—in spite of Covid19. ☘

August Outing Report: Bark Camp State Park

by Andy Hutyera

Our August outing was at a new location. We decided to check out Bark Camp State Park as a convenient central location. We opted for a weekday jaunt in order to avoid the weekend crowds, especially in these days of corona virus concerns. We practically had the place to ourselves, and the weather was spot-on perfect: warm sunny day, not too hot, and a delightful breeze.

The end of the sandy beach made an ideal place to land our canoes.

The lake is not huge and sits in a narrow steep valley. The water was exceptionally clear and, as planned, there were practically no other users on the water. We paddled the entire length of the lake and gathered in a picnic area adjacent to the swimming beach at the far end of the lake. The end of the sandy beach made an ideal place to land our canoes. Picnic tables were moved a bit so that everyone had a shady spot. Social distancing was observed, and each family occupied a separate table. All enjoyed a pleasant lunch and good conversation. Some folks took advantage of the weather and location and went for a



The August gathering at Bark Camp State Park near Belmont, Ohio.



Millie and Scott.



Lee and Fred.

swim. There were very few other folks enjoying the beach area, and we really had the place almost to ourselves.

After a good rest, we all paddled back to the put-in and loaded up for the trip home. Several folks enjoyed a delightful early dinner at a nearby restaurant, which had outdoor seating under a spacious tent. ✦

Schedule of Events

✦ **September 20 (Sunday) at 2:00 p.m.**, Sylvan Canoe Club, Verona, Pa. *See p. 1 for details.*

✦ **October 9–11—Mini Assembly**, Gifford Pinchot State Park, Pa.

- Jointly held with other chapters: Susquehanna, Delaware Valley, and Upper Chesapeake
- Camping available
- So far, this event has not been cancelled. ✦

Tentative Chapter

Newsletter Contributors

- September—Anita and Bruce Kemp

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/>