

## **WOODEN BOAT SPEAKER SERIES**

Watch, listen, be inspired. The adventurous and spirited journeys of sailors, boat builders and canoeists converge for two days of inspirational presentations. \$5/presentation or purchase an event pass (\$25) for admission to presentations and workshops and become a North House member.

### **Fri, 2 pm / Exploring the Mississippi by Kayak: Itasca to Grand Rapids with John and Marsha Soucheray**

The siren song of the Mississippi has called explorers, adventurers and paddling enthusiasts for centuries. John and Marsha Soucheray answered that call during the summer of 2011, starting at the head waters in Lake Itasca. In their hand-built Chesapeake Light kayaks, they explored some of the more remote and undeveloped sections of this hard-workin' river. Be inspired to answer the call of the mighty ole' Miss on an adventure of your own.

### **Fri, 3pm / Restoring an Ojibwe Birch Bark Canoe with Bob Diebel**

A remarkable thing about a canoe is that the basic shape has remained unchanged for thousands of years. An Ojibwe canoe maker from a thousand years ago would instantly recognize the modern Kevlar canoe as close kin to his craft, although he would be mystified by the materials from which it was made. Only a few of the old canoes are still around and through them we can appreciate the amazing achievement that was the development of the birch bark canoe, made from materials available in the northern forest. Journey back in time with Bob Diebel as he tells the tale of restoring an 1870s Ojibwe birch bark canoe. This rare canoe has been owned by Bob's wife's family since around 1880 when Lynne's great-grandfather purchased three birch bark canoes from Minnesota Ojibwe. For many years, the family paddled all three on Cedar Lake in Southern Minnesota. In the 1950s, one was donated to a museum. In 2008, Bob and Lynne brought the remaining two to Wisconsin, one for restoration using traditional methods and materials, and the other simply for cleaning. Bob will talk about the history of the canoes, the restoration process, and the eventual decision to donate them to the Minnesota Historical Museum. Bob is an amateur boat builder, mechanical engineer and co-author of Paddling Northern Minnesota and Paddling Southern Minnesota. He is also becoming skilled at digging and splitting spruce roots.

### **Fri, 4pm / Ways of Knowing; Craft Education in Japan with Featured Instructor Douglas Brooks**

Our notions of teaching and learning are so deeply ingrained that we rarely give much thought to how we learn and teach craft. Teaching strategies vary worldwide: in the West, craft education closely mirrors the structure we find in our schools. In the Scandinavian folk school model (which inspires North House), education is centered on the hands, the heart and the mind. In Japan, the model for craft education is rooted in long and arduous apprenticeships, which are similar to Buddhist monastic training. Wooden Boat Show Featured speaker and boat builder Douglas Brooks has experienced the Japanese style of teaching firsthand, while he apprenticed with five boat builders in Japan between 1996-2010. Brooks will share his thoughts on the Japanese style of teaching, its implications for the craft traditions of Japan, and the larger questions of how we keep cultural traditions alive the world over.

### **Sat, 2pm | Boat Building Traditions of Japan with Featured Instructor Douglas Brooks**

When people think about Japan, they usually have in their minds images of manga and anime, busy urban centers, and an economy based on innovations in electronics. Most people do not know that there is also a "second Japan" wherein lies a rich history of traditional arts and crafts, many of which are fast disappearing. Douglas Brooks has apprenticed with five different boatbuilders in Japan since 1996. In this slide talk he will share his experiences with traditional crafts drawn from over a dozen trips to Japan since 1990.

### **Sat, 3pm | Port Huron to Home Kayak Expedition with Bryan Hansel**

During the spring and early summer of 2011, Bryan Hansel kayaked from Port Huron, Michigan to Grand Marais, Minnesota. His journey took 45 days, and he covered 800 miles. On the trip, he traversed the two largest Great Lakes, averaged 22 miles a day, paddled in waves taller than a refrigerator, visited Isle Royale and even ordered pizza delivered to his tent. Bryan will present slides and talk about his adventure.

**Sat, 4pm | Paul La Plante: A North Shore Mackinaw Boat with David Cooper**

In 1999, North House Folk School and Grand Portage National Monument collaborated in the re-construction of a 19' Great Lakes Mackinaw boat. Named for Grand Portage boat builder Paul La Plante, the boat was a labor of love for the many North House staff, students, and volunteers who worked on it.

This presentation will look at the construction and sailing of the Paul La Plante, and will provide an opportunity to examine the La Plante dockside.

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**Sun, 12:00 pm | Boats & Stories of Isle Royale with Howard Sivertson, Gene Skadberg and Tim Cochrane**

Join local residents Howard Sivertson and Gene Skadberg as they share their memories of life on Isle Royale. Growing up in a maritime culture in which boats were cars, the lake was the road and fish were (nearly always) on the menu, Howard and Gene's experiences are a window into a world centered around boats. As fishermen on Isle Royale, boats were transportation, a work platform, their safety net, their largest investment, and fishermen were known by their boats. Accompanied by historian Tim Cochrane, Gene and Howard will reflect on the characters and lore of island life in days gone by. One story will likely lead to another and there will be plenty of images from their private collections to spur the imagination. It's a slice of local history not to be missed, and a great way to wrap up your Wooden Boat Show weekend.