

## **2023 MWHS Accomplishments**

### **Membership**

Membership grew from 135 in 2021 to 199. During our 2021 fundraising effort, we gave all non-member donors a year of free membership, thereby artificially elevating “membership” to 252 in 2022. At the end of 2023, our paid membership stands at 199, up 47% from the end of 2021.

At an Open House for volunteers, we engaged 14 new volunteers to share their talents in supporting our mission.

### **Leadership**

We are one year into implementing a new strategic plan focused on four key objectives:

- 1) Identify and increase the collection of history at risk: people and places
- 2) Populate the website based on the most compelling information
- 3) Increase engagement with our YouTube Channel
- 4) Increase the number of volunteers and their involvement in committees

We will be addressing new strategic objectives in 2024.

Jim Bokern attended the Wisconsin State Historical Society Local History Conference in October and presented on Clio and the Northern Wisconsin Heritage Council.

We recognized Tom and Michele Baer and the Koller Library staff (Janelle Kohl, Sarah Krembs and Callie Bates) with the MWHS award for Leaders of Historical Preservation.

Jim Bokern received the Fixmer Award from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

### **Fundraising**

We raised \$53,588 in 2021 for historic digital archiving preservation. We have spent \$42,867 to help us achieve our strategic objectives, particularly numbers 2 and 3 listed above, leaving us with \$10,721. Once these funds are exhausted, we will use subsequent donations to continue our efforts.

### **Donations**

Accepted donations of \$18,668.

### **YouTube Videos, Podcasts, Archives and Facebook**

388 Total YouTube subscribers to MWHS Channel, up from 240 at the end of 2022, an increase of 62%

16,656 YouTube views

1,447 hours watched on YouTube

Added 37 new YouTube videos or podcasts to the MWHS Channel

- 6 historic videos
- 6 videos produced jointly with WJFW Channel 12

- 3 videos from Zoom presentations
- 14 oral histories
- 8 podcasts

Recorded and posted three YCC interviews on YouTube

- John Grossmeier
- Thor Sande Jr.
- Bill Carothers

PastPerfect Online searches: 5,620

PastPerfect new catalog records archived: 280; total catalog records as of 12/31/2023 are at 2,098

New images archived: 1,340

New media links in records: 622

Updated archival records: 498

Directed two interns in building digital archives

Created Star Lake YouTube with drone footage captured by Jim and Jerry Wilke

Explored new podcasting, webpage, Clio and digital video standards

Continued updating our archival storage area at the town hall and Koller Library

Worked with leadership at Koller Library to consolidate MWS documents and technology

MWS Facebook page grew by 205 followers for a total of 1776 followers, a 13% increase

## **Partnerships/Collaboration**

### Forest History Museum

With the NLDC, we submitted a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) proposal for a \$150,000 grant on developing a concept for a Northwoods Forest History Museum, including architectural drawings; the proposal was unsuccessful.

Co-chaired the Northwoods Forest History Museum partnership and developed building models, display concepts and site location

### Camp Mercer

Cleared trails at Camp Mercer with support of ICORE

Co-sponsored with River's Edge and the Wisconsin DNR a Natural Resource Foundation hike at the Camp Mercer Interpretive Trail

Planned, raised monies and completed mound sign and timbered gate project for the Camp Mercer Trail entrance in collaboration with the DNR, WHS, ICORE and others

Collaborating with Steel Tank Brewery and Wisconsin Brewery to create a Camp 660 beer to honor the men who served at Camp Mercer

#### Others

Collaborated with cranberry growers led by Mike Bartling to document the history of cranberries in the area and created a YouTube presentation

Interviewed by Milwaukee Public Television on the newly acquired Al Capone collection

Completed a project with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Historical Society to create a State Historical marker for fallen FBI agent Carter Baum; installation near the town hall set for spring of 2024

Researched and archived materials at the University of Illinois, Lincoln Library regarding the Langum Collections (Rest Lake property).

#### **Outreach**

Conducted 8 *Moonshine in the Northwoods* presentations

Conducted 6 interviews with WJFW Channel 12

Conducted 3 MW History Presentations at the Manitowish Waters Athletic Club

- Moonshine In the Northwoods (May)
- Francis Badger, Muralist and Artist (September)
- Early MW Resorts (December)

Conducted 3 Zoom presentations:

- MW Agriculture and Farming (February)
- Exploring the History and Legacy of Clear, Stone and Fawn Lakes (April)
- Northwoods Muralist Francis Badger (December)

Published 3 MWHS newsletters

Presented during Chamber After 5 at Rest Lake Park regarding the history of the ski show site

Presented during Chamber After 5 at White Oak regarding Ojibwe history and Culturally Modified Trees in the Northwoods

Presented on Northwoods Gangsters for the Rhinelander Historical Society's History 'n Hops series

#### **Conducted public pontoon tours, hikes, van tours and outdoor events:**

Event	Number of hikes or tours
Rest Lake Pontoon Tour	2
Dillinger Pontoon Tour	7
Alder and Wild Rice Lakes Pontoon Tour	1

Spider and Island Lakes Pontoon Tour	2
Clear, Fawn and Stone Lakes Ponton Tour	2
Manitowish and Little Star Lake Tour	3
Big Lake Pontoon Tour	1
Manito Island Mystery and Pontoon Tour	1
Turtle Flambeau Flowage Pontoon Tour	3
Toy Lake Hike	1
Boat, Car and Airplane Event	1
Forest History and YCC Driving Tours	1
Time Traveler Hike Trout to Palette Lakes	1
Camp Mercer Interpretive Trail Hike	6
MW Pub Crawl Hike	1
6 Pause Portage and Logging Ice Road Snowshoe	1
Kayak Tours	1
NLDC fundraising pontoon and TFF fishing trips	3
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Booth at Town Hall	1

Led Dillinger tour with North Lakeland Elementary School and Mrs. Wallace's class

Facilitated a hike at Camp Mercer with North Lakeland Elementary School and Mrs. Wallace's class

Led an historic kayak trip for Lady Yakkers

Conducted 6 private historic pontoon tours

### **Archeological Work**

Contracted an archeologist to record three new Manitowish Waters sites on the Archeologic Site Index

Assisted DNR foresters in locating logging camps, ensuring site preservation

Worked with UW-Platteville professor Evan Larson and retired State Archeologist John Brohian on documenting culturally modified trees at Chippewa Retreat

Supported the Wisconsin Archeological Society event at Camp Mercer

Supported U.S. Army contract archeologists regarding army facilities at Camp Mercer

Jim Bokern updated several historic sites on the Archeological Site Inventory for preservation and protection

## Signs

Supported the Forest History Association of Wisconsin with the Landmark Pines sign development on County HWY M

Led DNR Trout Lake interpretive sign project creating 9 signs installed in 2023

**Collaborated by presenting to businesses, community groups, historical societies, government and libraries:**

- North Lakeland Discovery Center
- Winchester Library
- Manitowish Waters Athletic Club
- River's Edge Outfitters
- Wisconsin Archeological Society
- Wisconsin DNR
- WJFW Channel 12
- White Oak
- Mercer Library
- Rhinelander Historical Society
- Iron County Outdoor Recreational Enthusiasts
- Natural Resource Foundation
- Wisconsin Historical Society
- Aurora Borealis
- Pioneer Park Museum in Rhinelander
- North Lakeland Elementary School
- Little Bohemia
- Blue Bayou
- Pea Patch
- Anglers
- Ye Olde Shillelagh
- Lady Yakkers
- Forest History Association of Wisconsin
- Koller Library
- Manny's
- Greer's Pier
- Crandon Historical Society
- Camp Manitowish
- Northern Wisconsin Heritage Council
- Office of the State Archaeologists
- George Brown Jr. Museum and Cultural Center in Lac du Flambeau
- Price County Historical Society
- Eagle River Historical Society
- Trees For Tomorrow
- Milwaukee Public Television

- Manitowish Waters Sno-Skeeters
- Manitowish Waters Bureau of Tourism
- Town of Manitowish Waters
- Manitowish Waters Skiing Skeeters
- Phelps Historical Society
- Northwoods Prop

### **Miscellaneous**

Responded to dozens of documents and photo requests

Greatest contributor in Clio content to the Northern Wisconsin Heritage Council