

Spring/Summer 2018

**Our Mission**

*To preserve, document and classify the physical history of the Lake Minnetonka area. To provide a means by which everyone can share in the history of the lake area. To stimulate interest in the cultural heritage of the area.*

Founded in 1972, the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society preserves the history of Lake Minnetonka and the communities of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay.

The Society's Museum and Archives are free and open to the public, and hold a large collection of historical artifacts and documents. It regularly presents programs and publishes books on topics of local historical interest.

**ELMHS**

PO Box 305  
Excelsior, MN 55331  
952-221-4766  
info@elmhs.org  
www.elmhs.org

**ELMHS 2017-2018  
Board of Directors**

President: Brianna DePauw  
Vice President: Tom Williams  
Treasurer: Cheryl Ahlcrona  
Secretary: Scott Dake  
Deanna Bunkelman, Mark Read, Tad Shaw, Lisa Stevens, Jacob Westman, Peter Kizilos-Clift  
Emeritus: Jerry Holl, Betty Peck

# The Harborage

## Society's Historic "Onawa," Digitized

By: Ann Merriman, PhD -Maritime Heritage Minnesota

Maritime Heritage Minnesota (MHM) of St. Paul has been awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant (part of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment) to document four Minnesota-produced vessels located in two museum's collections. One of the vessels to be studied is the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society's "Onawa", constructed by Dyer Boat Works in Deephaven. The other watercraft chosen for this project are a Dakota birch bark canoe constructed in Mendota in Dakota County, an Ojibwe birch bark canoe constructed in the Rainy Lake Region in the northern counties of Koochiching and St. Louis, and a wooden and canvas duck boat built at Parker's Prairie Boat Works in Otter Tail County curated at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. In the past, present, and into the future, Minnesota's lakes and rivers have and will provide transportation routes, food sources, and places for recreation. Smaller watercraft have supplied Minnesotans with a means to exploit, use, benefit from, and enjoy the bodies of water around them.



*Continued on Page 4*

*Ann Merriman & Christopher Olson  
during the scanning process*

# Tapping History Programs

## At Excelsior Brewing Company

421 Third Street, Excelsior

*Free & Open to the Public.*

*Doors Open at 6:00pm, Program begins at 7:00pm.*

*Seating is First Come, First Served.*

*For more information: [info@elmhs.org](mailto:info@elmhs.org), 952-221-4766, [www.elmhs.org](http://www.elmhs.org).*

## Monday, March 12 7pm

### ***Underwater Archaeology: New Anomalies of Lake Minnetonka***

with Ann Merriman PhD &  
Christopher Olson MA

Maritime Heritage Minnesota, a nautical archaeology and maritime history not-for-profit organization, has been conducting studies in Lake Minnetonka to identify, document, preserve, and conserve wrecks and other submerged cultural resources. Ann Merriman PhD and Christopher Olson MA will present an update from their talk of October, 2014. At that time, 36 wrecks had been identified on the bottom of Lake Minnetonka. An additional 30 wrecks have been identified in the lake by MHM's staff, the only underwater archaeologists working in Minnesota, and their small group of volunteers.



*Photo By MHM volunteer Kelly Nehowig of MHM volunteer Mark Slick filming the Wooden Trunk Cabin Cruiser Wreck, Minnesota archaeological site number 21-HE-446, that lies in 50 feet of water in Lake Minnetonka*

## Monday, April 9 7pm

### ***Excelsior's Unseen Photos***

with Darel & LaVerna Leipold

Darel and LaVerna Leipold of Leipold's—Excelsior, MN, will share Excelsior Photos from their immense private collection. Darel & LaVerna have previously shared their photos at their Tapping History presentation on the People of Water Street & Apple Day



*Photo from The Leipold's Collection. 10 Water Street.*

Visit Page 5 for Special  
May 2018 Event Announcement!

# Tapping History Summer Series

## Aboard Steamboat "Minnehaha"

Purchase Tickets at [elmhs1.eventbrite.com](http://elmhs1.eventbrite.com)

For more information: [info@elmhs.org](mailto:info@elmhs.org), 952-221-4766, [www.elmhs.org](http://www.elmhs.org).

### Monday, June 11 6:45pm

Board at "Minnehaha" Dock at

687 Excelsior Blvd., Excelsior

Purchase tickets at: [elmhs1.eventbrite.com](http://elmhs1.eventbrite.com)

\$20 ELMHS members / \$35 non-members

### Topic & Speaker to be announced.

Please follow ELMHS on Facebook, check our website or become a member to receive email updates.

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### Monday, July 9 6:45pm

Board at "Minnehaha" Dock at

687 Excelsior Blvd., Excelsior

Purchase tickets at: [elmhs1.eventbrite.com](http://elmhs1.eventbrite.com)

\$20 ELMHS members / \$35 non-members

### Topic & Speaker to be announced.

Please follow ELMHS on Facebook, check our website or become a member to receive email updates.

### \*Special Date & Time\*

### Monday, August 6 11 5:45pm

Aboard the Steamboat *Minnehaha*

Board at Former Bayside Grill

687 Excelsior Blvd., Excelsior

Purchase tickets at: [elmhs1.eventbrite.com](http://elmhs1.eventbrite.com)

\$20 ELMHS members / \$35 non-members

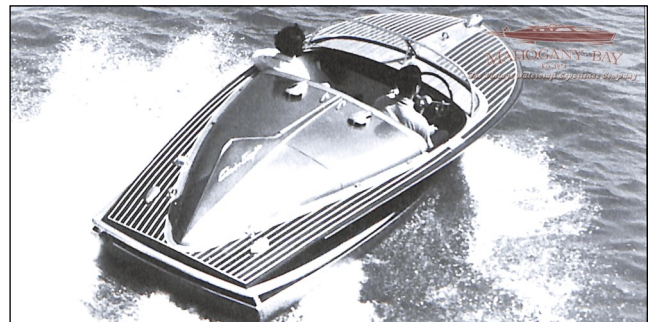
### Annual Classic Boat Cruise

With F. Todd Warner

Join F. Todd Warner aboard the Steamboat *Minnehaha* to rediscover the beauty and significance of classic boats.

Todd is a leading authority in the vintage boating field and is proficient in the history and authenticity of well-known and obscure boat builders and designers. Todd frequently lectures on the historical perspective of restoration procedures for vintage watercraft and has been called upon to be an expert witness in cases involving wooden boats.

Todd will explore the stories of past and present classic boats of Lake Minnetonka. If you have a classic boat on Lake Minnetonka you would like to showcase, please contact The Society at [info@elmhs.org](mailto:info@elmhs.org) or 952-221-4766.



1955 18' Chris Craft Cobra

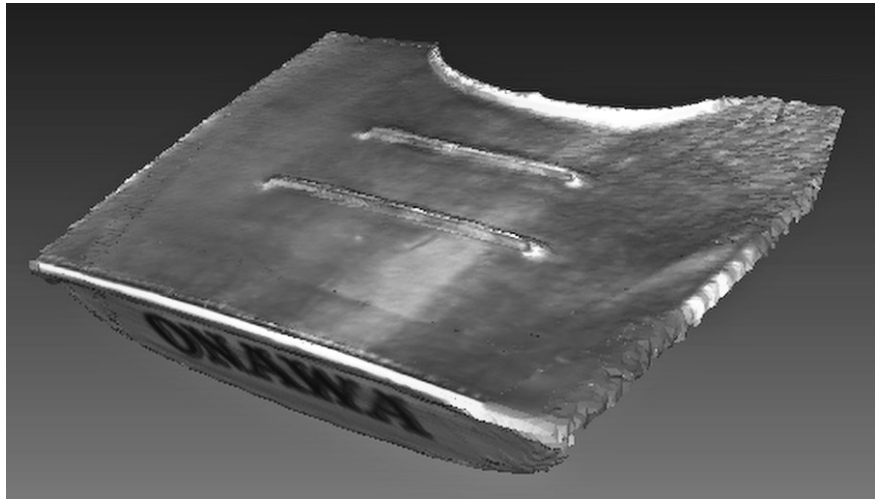
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## Society's Historic "Onawa," Digitized

### *Continued from Page 1.*

The preservation and conservation of these vessels is paramount in telling the maritime history of Minnesota - our shared maritime legacy. The curation and storage of these vessels will be augmented with detailed documentation and historical research to place them into the greater context of Minnesota's Maritime History through this project. Aspects of this history include not only vessel use, but the local construction of purpose-built watercraft. MHM chose these four watercraft for study based on their design: shallow draft, lightly built, and wood construction meant specifically to function with a low freeboard.

The small vessels preserved in controlled museum environments serve as the researcher's source to take preservation one step further: detailed documentation and 3D scanning. In terms of the "Onawa", the wooden sailing racer was designed by 15 year old Ward Burton and constructed by Arthur Dyer on Lower Lake Minnetonka in 1893. This vessel changed the face of small craft racing not only on Lake Minnetonka, but Minnesota and arguably inland racing in the Midwest and beyond. Burton's design idea for "Onawa" stemmed from his use of his own birch bark canoe – his 'Indian Canoe' as he called it - and how it 'glided' on top of the water. Therefore, "Onawa" was developed by European Americans adapting Native American knowledge and design into a competitive racing sloop.



*3D Scan fragment of "Onawa's" stern*

MHM will measure, analyze, and produce 3D scans of the four watercraft focused on in this study. The accumulated data will allow MHM to describe each watercraft, write histories of the boat-builders that span the years 1880-1933, and write histories for each vessel. The information derived from this study will be shared with the general public and scholars through written reports and 3D graphics. MHM will stress the significance of each watercraft to the institutions that hold them, sharing data and analysis of each artifact and explaining their object's place among the corpus of Minnesota small craft. MHM intends for this information to be utilized by the museums as part of their public programs and initiatives.

Maritime Heritage Minnesota is a 501.c(3) organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, documentation, and when necessary, the excavation of Minnesota's finite maritime and nautical archaeological and historical resources within a not-for-profit paradigm where the health and safety of the artifacts is paramount. Beyond the type of watercraft studies described above, MHM conducts side and down imaging sonar surveys of Minnesota's lakes and rivers in order to identify submerged cultural resources and to investigate them underwater to determine their exact nature. In Lake Minnetonka since 2010, MHM has completed two sonar surveys of the Upper and Lower Lakes and investigated 266 anomalies. When this work began, six wrecks were recognized by the State of Minnesota; to date, MHM has identified 60 additional wrecks (and dozens of other sites and objects) on the lake bottom – and the work continues with hundreds of more anomalies yet to be investigated.

# Save The Date: May 9th, 2018

## ELMHS Annual Benefit: “Celebrating Danceland!”



*Tickets will be available on  
[elmhs1.eventbrite.com](http://elmhs1.eventbrite.com)*

Tickets are \$20 per person

Please follow ELMHS on Facebook, check our website or become a member to receive email updates and ticket information.

**Where:** Old Log Theatre  
5185 Meadville St  
Excelsior, MN 55331

**What:** “Celebrating Danceland 1904-1968”—Mini-Exhibit, Speakers, and More!

**When:** May 9th, 2018

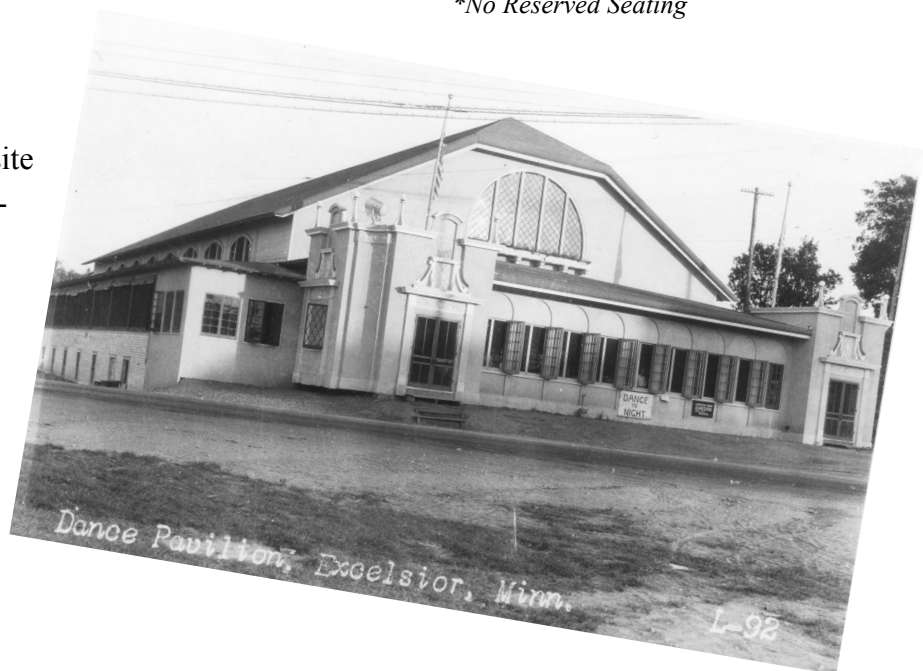
### Schedule

**5:30pm** Mini-Exhibit & Cash Bar Open

**6:45pm** General Admission Seating doors open\*

**7:00pm** Presentation Begins

*\*No Reserved Seating*



## MEMBERSHIP

Members shape the Society's policies and programs, and support our work in preserving the area's history.

*Annual member benefits include:*

- ◆ The Society's newsletter and mailings
- ◆ Invitations to special events
- ◆ Discounts and special member privileges on select opportunities
- ◆ Voting privileges

### Membership Levels

- |                                |          |                               |            |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Platinum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 | Household  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Gold     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Silver   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Senior     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  | Bronze   |                               |            |

Or, make an individual contribution of any amount!

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check made out to ELMHS to PO Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331. You can also join or contribute online at [www.elmhs.org](http://www.elmhs.org). The Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

### VOLUNTEERING

- Please contact me about volunteering for the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

### DONATION OF ARTIFACTS

- Please contact me regarding the donation of historical items to the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

## Volunteer with Us!

The Society is staffed entirely by volunteers and welcomes people of all ages and abilities to pursue their passions and assist in areas including:

- **Archives:** Assisting visitors, scanning, filing, researching, data entry.
- **Museum:** Serving as a host, cleaning and upkeep, data entry.
- **Publications:** Marketing merchandise to vendors, conducting inventories, selling merchandise at events, creating new books.
- **Programs and Events:** Set up and take down for Tapping History, welcoming people, creating new programs.
- **Membership and Fundraising:** Recruiting new members, contributors and volunteers, helping with direct mail appeals and special fundraising events, data entry.
- **Communications:** Writing press releases, creating marketing materials, contributing to social media, maintaining our website.
- **Technology:** Maintaining the Society's computer network and hardware, troubleshooting IT issues.

Training in all areas is provided. Contact us at [info@elmhs.org](mailto:info@elmhs.org) or 952-221-4766 to learn more or visit our website at [www.elmhs.org/volunteer](http://www.elmhs.org/volunteer).

## Donate Artifacts

Donations of historic artifacts, photographs and documents pertinent to the history of the south Lake Minnetonka area are welcome for preservation in our Archives and display in our Museum. Help us share our community's history with future generations by sharing your history with us! (Due to space limitations, the Society is unable to accept all donations.)

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## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

*September 1, 2017 — January 31, 2018*

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### MEMBERSHIPS

#### Platinum Level

Joseph Schwartz  
Lisa Stevens &  
Jeffrey Hatcher

#### Gold Level

Dean M. Akins  
Ron Haberkorn

#### Silver Level

Rick & Joan Ahmann  
Aaron & Angie Bean  
Jennifer & Tim Caron  
Jean Gray  
Bruce & Barbara Jensen  
Woody Love  
Larry W. Opfer  
John Purdy  
Nick & Kathy Ruehl  
Gretchen Wahlstedt  
Tom Williams

#### Bronze Level

Jeff Bailey  
Bruce Hedblom  
F.G. "Woody" Jewett, III  
Debra & Brent McNamee

#### Household Level

Colleen Aldritt  
Janice Barta

Brianna DePauw  
Darel & LaVerna Leipold

#### Individual Level

Susan & Jim Berdahl  
Sue Brakke  
Conley Brooks  
Judith Allen Kim  
Peter Kizilos-Clift  
Ken Kotzer  
Greg Lerud  
Michelle Mullenbach  
Nancy Smith  
Roger & Jane Stein  
Jim Stiller  
Jake & Cari Sturgis  
Mary Upgren

#### Senior Level

Mary A. Ashley  
Linda Bean  
Francis Butch Colby  
Marybeth & Bill  
Darusmont  
Elaine Dunn  
Patrick Dupont  
William Kimber  
R. Bruce & Judy K. Kobs  
Martha Mayer  
Nancy Olmsted  
Nancy Steege

### Life Members

*(No long offered.)*  
Bart Baker  
Alec & Marianne Beck  
Bob & Diane Bolles  
Dr. Milton H. Seifert  
Lisa Stevens & Jeffrey  
Hatcher  
Suellen Douglas  
Don & Frannie Douglass  
Kristin & Ken Dowell  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W.  
Fayfield  
John Gorecki  
John P. & Jan Gray  
Phil & Eileen Hallin  
Paul Huber  
Ron Hughes  
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Julian  
Terrance Kellogg  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson  
Mark Knowlton  
Tom & Carol Knowlton  
Michael Kramer  
Ann Lundsten  
Scott D. McGinnis  
Minnesota Streetcar  
Museum  
Robert L. Naas  
Mr. & Mrs. William  
Naegele  
Aaron Person  
Sharon Provost

Kellie & Gary Ringate  
Kathy Knowlton Schmid  
Carol Schmidt  
Tad Shaw  
Rodney Thompson  
TSP Architecture, Inc.  
Ruth Witrak

### CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Eiden  
Norma E. Erickson  
Sara Witta

Thank you for your continued Support!



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**ACCESSIONS**  
**September 1, 2017 — January 31, 2018**

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- **Bob Bolles:** Photo of Bob Bolles and others with Excelsior Amusement Park roller coaster car.
- **Rolf Erickson:** Various Excelsior and Tonka Bay assessor documents and photos.
- **James Koskan:** Excelsior Amusement Park Funhouse Mirror
- **Scott D. McGinnis:** Numerous photos including 26 Bennett/Wilson family photos, Stereoview of group at Hotel St. Louis by John H. Fouch, cabinet card of White House hotel by John H. Fouch, 1882 Stereoview of "Belle of Minnetonka"; Postcard of Spring Park Pavilion; Minnetonka State Bank money bag; Misc. Excelsior Congregational Church documents and memorabilia; 1908 Twin City Amusement Guide; Misc. Minnetonka High School "Voyager" yearbooks and memorabilia; 1957 Groveland class photo; 1963 Lake Minnetonka Aerial Photomosaic; 1896 Great Northern Excelsior station plats; 1906 plans for St. Alban's Bay bridge; Excelsior Apple Day ribbon; Minnetonka Centennial 1953 Open House Guest Book; "Legendary Homes of Lake Minnetonka" book, 2010; "Old Orchard at Wildhurst" pamphlet.
- **James Moffett:** Bound volume of "Minnetonka Breezes," 1947-1953.
- **Peggy Naas:** Excelsior Amusement Park wooden milk bottle arcade game.
- **Robert Naas:** Coat check fob from Tonka Bay Hotel.
- **Margie Renn:** Lyman Lodge photos, autograph book, programs, Badge, Programs and album containing various photos, memorabilia of Lyman Lodge and Old Log Theater productions, ca. 1948.
- **Rod Thompson:** Postcards of "Twin City-Lake Minnetonka Electric Line" and "The Great White Way."
- **Westonka Historical Society:** Minnetonka High School 50 Year Anniversary Pin.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Excelsior MN 55331  
PO Box 305

