

# CHIP-A-CANOE

Okay, we're almost at mid-March and that means we're only 4 months away from our CHIP-A-CANOE project starting. So, I thought it was time to bring you all up to date. As of this writing, I have 98 names on the CHIP-A-CANOE list. Most of you can accept e-mails but there are about a dozen who can't and I'll snail-mail copies of this notice to them.

I guess the first item of business is to let you all know that we have received a grant of \$2,000.00 from The Illinois State Archaeological Society and we have started a GO-FUND-ME account through The McCully Heritage Project, in Illinois. That account is up to \$1,000.00 as of this writing but we have set a goal of \$3,000.00. McCully will be the site of the canoe shaping.

I'm getting ahead of myself. So here's the tentative schedule for the project.

**First) July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>:** The tulip poplar tree will be topped out, in late June or very early July for safety (some limbs overhang electric wires). On June 3<sup>rd</sup> participants who want to get in on cutting the tree with stone tools will be allowed to set up camp in Pleasant Ridge Park, in Fairview Heights, Illinois. Pleasant Ridge has bathrooms but NO showers. The park is adjacent to the Kinsella property where the tulip poplar is located. Pleasant Ridge Park will allow primitive camping but NO ground fires! We will be able to have a campfire in the evenings at the Kinsella's (about 100 yards downhill from camp). While campers are getting settled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be photographing stone tools and their bits, for future use-wear analyses projects.

**Second) July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>:** Starting at 8:00 AM, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the tulip tree will be felled (using stone tools) and videotaping will commence. It is our intent to document every second of this entire process. Before each participant begins, they will be issued their own clipboard with all pertinent paperwork attached. It will be up to the participant to fill out their daily paperwork. There will be clocks posted so accurate times may be entered on the forms. We intend to have a volunteer or two double-check all paperwork. So, not only will the project be documented in writing but also with video. BTW, if you videotape a portion of the project, please consider sending us a copy.

**Third) July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**: The felled tree will be transported to The McCully Heritage Project just south of the town of Kampsville, Illinois, near the Illinois River. The tree will be placed on a couple of logs to hold it off the ground. This is also the time when participants can break camp at Pleasant Ridge, drive to McCully, and set up camp there, in preparation of carving out the canoe.

McCully has agreed to provide primitive camping to all canoe participants. They also have 4 toilet rooms with showers available!

IF, it only takes a day to haul the tree to McCully, we may start the bark removal and construction of the canoe, earlier than expected. Such determinations will be discussed around the campfire after the evening meals.

**4<sup>th</sup>) July 9<sup>th</sup> to whenever**: On the 9<sup>th</sup>, we will remove the bark in appropriate-sized sections. The Center for American Archaeology, located in Kampsville, can use those bark sections on an experimental structure they are planning to build. Once the bark is removed, we plan to remove 1/3 of the of the tree's mass from one end to the other. This will lighten the log so we can turn it over. After the log is turned over, we will shape the outside of the canoe to its finished shape. Then, we will turn the log once more and shape the interior. We anticipate that it will take 6 to 10 days to finish the canoe to our liking, but we have reserved McCully until the end of July in case unforeseen problems occur, such as weather, for instance.

Once the canoe is completed, we will try it out in one of McCully's ponds then, take it to the Illinois River and try it out there. The finished canoe will be donated to The Center for American Archaeology, in Kampsville. They are considering a new museum and the canoe would fit nicely into their "experimental archaeology" section.

It's not too hard to realize that a project of this magnitude may produce significant logistical problems so, we will need everybody's help to keep those problems as small as possible. One of the biggest problems will be scheduling. So, along with this update, you will receive a calendar. We ask that you print out the calendar, mark the dates (with the appropriate abbreviations, located in the margin) when you can help us then, send the calendar back to us. If we have 50 people volunteering on one day and only 2 or 3 the next, we may have to adjust the schedule and we want to do that in plenty of time for everyone to make the needed

adjustments. So, PLEASE, fill out the calendar and get it to us ASAP. The same goes for the questionnaire we are sending. That information will be of help too so, consider send the calendar AND the questionnaire at the same time. Another problem will be storing and copying the vast amount of video we will be generating. As of this writing, we are still looking for anyone who can help us with the videotaping. Please, let us know if you have someone who could help.

**Please, send all paperwork to: Larry Kinsella, 645 Pleasant Ridge Rd.  
Fairview Heights, IL. 62208**

We know that many of you are constructing stone tools to use on this canoe and we fully encourage everyone to do so! Some of you are even making tools for the public to use!! Thank you, in advance!! So, get those tools hafted and we'll see you in July!!

The McCully Heritage Project,

Larry Kinsella and Michelle Berg (canoe project coordinators)

# CHIP-A-CANOE

We need some basic info from some of you, so, please, fill out this questionnaire:

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_ Age\_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider yourself as

Proficient\_\_\_\_\_

Mid-ranged\_\_\_\_\_

A Novice\_\_\_\_\_

when it comes to using stone tools?

Have you worked in the trades? (carpenter, electrician, laborer, etc)\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a musician?\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be bringing stone tools to use on the canoe?\_\_\_\_\_

If so, what type? (Axe, celt, gouge, adze, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be bringing stone tools for others to use?\_\_\_\_\_

Will you want to videotape parts of the process?\_\_\_\_\_



Mark Boswell came up with this idea for a fundraiser! If you'd like one/many of these T-shirts just mark the number in the appropriate size and you'll get a shirt/shirts during the canoe's construction. The shirts are \$15.00 each and orders need to be in by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Checks should be made out to: McCully Heritage Project. Just send the orders and payment to Larry Kinsella at: 645 Pleasant Ridge Rd, Fairview Heights, IL. 62208

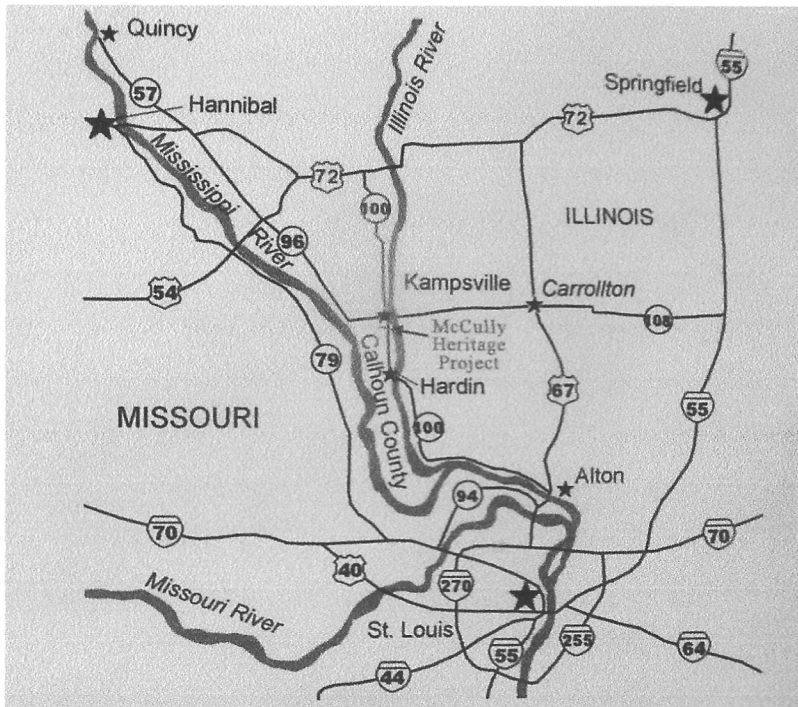
What size T-shirt do you wear? S( ), M( ), L( ), XL( ), XXL( ), XXXL( )

If you can make it to either the felling of the tree or the making of the canoe, or both, will you be taking advantage of our primitive camping (YES\_\_\_\_\_) (NO\_\_\_\_\_). or will you be staying somewhere else? We'd like to know so we can adjust the camping facilities.

Once you fill out the questionnaire, the calendar, and the T-shirt order

(if any) then, send them via e-mail to Larry Kinsella at: [megalithics@hotmail.com](mailto:megalithics@hotmail.com)  
OR mail them to Larry Kinsella 645 Pleasant /Ridge Rd. Fairview Heights, IL.  
62208

Thanks for your cooperation!! We hope you're getting as excited about this project as we are. We'll be in touch a few more times before July so, stay tuned for updates!



**Here are the directions to McCully and a pic of the poplar we will be using.**