



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



End-Of-Year Endowment Campaign Will Triple Your Donation's Value

It's been nearly five years since the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum established the WCHM Perpetuity Endowment Fund "to ensure the financial stability and continued operations of WCHM for the long term." Established with an initial fundraising campaign that raised \$30,000, it has since grown by 50% while being managed by the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, an arm of the Wisconsin Historical Society. "We need to continue growing this fund," says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, "if we want to make sure the museum is still here in twenty or thirty years and beyond."

As a step towards that objective WCHM has set a goal of raising another \$30,000 for the fund by February 1, 2022, in an end-of-the-year campaign to grow the fund by 60%. An enthusiastic donor has already agreed to match all donations in the campaign up to \$10,000, and the WCHM Board has agreed to transfer monies to the fund equal to the donations raised also up to \$10,000. "We're already two-thirds of the way there," explains Malischke, "and now each new donation will be tripled in value until we reach our goal." In addition, all contributions of \$500 or more will have the donor's name added to the permanently displayed Endowment Establishment Plaque in the museum. "This is a great opportunity to make a contribution that will really count towards the long term future of the museum."

Natalie Warren, Hudson Bay Bound Author Coming Thursday January 27

The remarkable 85 day journey of the first two women to canoe the 2,000 mile route from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay will be the subject of a presentation and book signing by author Natalie Warren at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner (312 N Front St) on Thursday, January 27, 2022. The talk and signing begins at 7:00 pm and is free and open to the public. The museum will be open for a pre-presentation reception and museum tours starting at 6:00 pm.

Unrelenting winds, carnivorous polar bears, snake nests, sweltering heat, and constant hunger. Paddling from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay, following the 2,000-mile route made famous by Eric Sevareid in his 1935 classic *Canoeing with the Cree*, Natalie Warren and Ann Raiho faced unexpected trials, some harrowing, some simply odd. Warren's spellbinding account retraces the women's journey from inspiration to Arctic waters, giving readers an insider view from the practicalities of planning a three-month canoe expedition to the successful accomplishment of the adventure of a lifetime.

"From the foggy swirl of excitement as Natalie and Ann launch their canoe into the flooded Minnesota River to their final paddle strokes down the Hayes River, Hudson Bay Bound provides a vivid account of an awesome adventure." - Amy & Dave Freeman



5 Days, 5 Stops, 2,500 Miles. Circumnavigating 4 Great Lakes To Get It Done.

Pandemic delayed tasks were piling up; there were a number of museum pickups waiting. So as soon as the northern border reopened WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke set out on a trip that would take him around four of the Great Lakes.

After successfully crossing the border from Upper Michigan into Ontario, the first stop of the trip was Bell Lumber in Renfrew, ON, to pick up 1,400 board feet of clear white cedar lumber. The museum had made a similar purchase about ten years earlier, and owner Raymond Bell still had the old receipt to show me upon arrival. The current purchase had been made in March of 2020, just as the pandemic hit North America and the border closed. It re-opened again on August 15, 2021, and I was there to pick up the order on August 19. After loading the lumber I quickly headed for the Eastern border and exited Canada into New York the same day.



After a brief stop to visit Dan Miller, a WCHM Board Director, in Cape Vincent, NY (thank you Dan for the place to stay and the after hour tour of the Antique Boat Museum), I was on my way to a parking lot in East Syracuse, NY, to meet Norman Sims, co-author (along with Mark Neuzil) of *Canoes: A Natural History in North America*. Norm had graciously agreed to drive five hours West from his home in Winchester, NH, to bring me a 1905 Morris Veazie canoe that he was donating to the WCHM. It is believed to be one of only four known Veazies with the “keyhole” deck, and one of only two confirmed to have two pairs of cant ribs, an identifier of pre-1905 Morris-built canoes. The canoe was featured in Sims’ book as it was being restored by Tom Seavey.

Stop number four was just outside of Dayton, OH, at the home of Pat Beckerman. Pat was donating a B.N. Morris canoe, circa 1911, to the museum. He had received the canoe in 1995 from a neighbor who thought it was an Old Town. He restored it in 1998 with the help of Bill Whalen and Ben Guild, fellow members of the Dayton Canoe Club and the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA). They received instruction from Gilbert Cramer, owner of the Wooden Canoe Shop in Bryan, OH. Pat kept it indoors for the next twenty years, and now says he “just wants it to find a good home.”



Next up was the home of Paul Klonowski in Gurnee, IL. Paul was donating a 1919 Old Town Heavy Water canoe with serial number 52727. The exciting thing about this canoe is that Old Town started construction on it just a few days after the armistice that ended World War I, as if someone decided “the war is over, let’s go back to making canoes.” The canoe is a restoration project waiting to happen. Paul decided he was not going to get to it, so maybe someone else should have the chance. You might be able to pick it up in the opening day auction at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum.

Thank You to Our 2021 Business Supporters

Crystal Creek Natural, Spooner WI

Shell Lake State Bank, Shell Lake WI

Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Rice Lake WI

Spooner Riverplace Motel, Spooner WI
Red Cross Pharmacy & RC Gifts, Spooner WI
T&T Manufacturing, Spooner WI
Indianhead Credit Union, Spooner WI
Hitch Exclusives, Manitowish Waters WI
Spinning Wheels Publishing, Spooner WI

Tim Reedy Insurance, Spooner WI
Northwind Book & Fiber, Spooner WI
St Croix River Association, Saint Croix Falls WI
Myka Canoe Loaders, Sheboygan WI
Northwest Canoe Company, Clearwater MN
Schmitz’s Economart, Spooner WI

News Briefs & Upcoming Events



2021 Canoe Raffle Winner Claims Prize

Jim Klosterman from Tamarack, MN, is the lucky winner of the 2021 WCHM canoe raffle. His winning ticket, which he purchased while visiting the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum this summer, was drawn by WCHM President Rich Taylor during the post-dinner program at the second annual Canoe & Brew event held on Sunday, September 26th at Pinebrook Farm. The event marks the last regular season open day for the museum, and the Canoe & Brew event celebrates the conclusion of another successful year for the museum as well as the annual canoe raffle drawing.

Canoe & Brew Enjoys Perfect Day & Attendance

A beautiful fall day with temperatures in the sixties made for a near perfect Canoe & Brew event for the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum on Sunday, September 26th. A capacity crowd of 80 enjoyed the commanding view of the fall color countryside during the pre-dinner happy hour on the hillside outside the Big Barn at Pinebrook Farm. During a post-dinner presentation, WCHM President Rich Taylor announced results of the recent WCHM election, described some highlights and achievements from the past year, and drew the winning canoe raffle ticket. WCHM thanks Roundman Brewing and Pinebrook Farm for helping put on this second annual event for the museum.



In-Person Canoecopia Planned For 2022

Darren Bush, owner of Rutabaga Paddlesports, has announced that Canoecopia is back, and will be in-person at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI, for the first time in three years on March 11-13, 2022. In addition they will be offering a virtual event as well. The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum had a virtual booth at the 2021 virtual Canoecopia, and has already registered to return for an in-person booth in 2022. Canoecopia is the largest paddlesports consumer event in the world. For more information about Canoecopia visit www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia.

Recent Shop Activity - Seliga Canoe Recanvased

Dana Wangrin and his son Thomas of Sturgeon Bay, WI, recently used the WCHM canoe shop to re-canvas the Seliga canoe that they have used on trips to the Quetico for over 20 years. Shop manager Jamie Dunn assisted them during the weekend project. A couple of other projects scheduled for the WCHM shop this winter include the recanvassing of a 1946 Old Town Guide and the restoration of a Shell Lake canoe once used by the Forest Service in the Superior National Forest. That canoe is destined for a new Forest Service Museum in Montana.



2022 FreeStyle Paddling Event Dates Announced

The FreeStyle Paddling Community has announced event dates for 2022. They include: The Western Pennsylvania Solo Canoe Rendezvous, June 3-5 at Cooper's Lake Campground in Slippery Rock, PA; The Wisconsin Canoe Symposium, June 17-19 at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, WI; and The Adirondack Canoe Symposium, July 14-17 at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, NY. While they are hoping to hold most of their events in 2022, they note they cannot predict what Covid mitigation efforts may be in place at each Symposium location and last-minute cancellations, therefore, are entirely possible. For the latest information visit FreeStyleCanoeing.com.

Ancient Canoe Found In Wisconsin In Lake Mendota

Maritime archeologists with the Wisconsin Historical Society have recovered what may be the oldest completely intact water vessel known in Wisconsin. On November 2nd, just a few months after learning of its existence, divers lifted a historic dugout wood canoe from the bottom of Lake Mendota. Carbon dating indicates that the vessel is approximately 1,200 years old and was in use around A.D. 800, centuries before European arrival. Ho-Chunk Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Bill Quackenbush, was onsite for the recovery of the canoe, which was raised from a depth of about 30 feet with the assistance of the Dane County Sheriff's Office dive team. The canoe was transported to Wisconsin's State Archive Preservation Facility and placed into a custom-built storage vat containing water and a bio-deterrent to protect the canoe from physical deterioration. The canoe will enhance opportunities to learn about the history of DeJope (Four Lakes) and its residents of 1,200 years ago. Photo by Dean Witter, Wisconsin Historical Foundation.



WCHM Receives Donation of Two Joseph Lucius Canoes

The WCHM canoe trailer recently traveled to Sturtevant, WI, to pick up two Joseph Lucius canoes from Kathy Strasser at School Days Mall Antiques. Kathy inherited these wonderful examples of Lucius' work from the estate of Henry Lamont, and is now donating them to the WCHM Collections. The two canoes are 15 foot and 12 foot representations of Lucius' iconic Brule River Guide boats. Lamont acquired the canoes from his uncle, Wilmer Baker of Gordon, WI, who purchased them in the 1950s from Lucius. They are in wonderful condition, having been stored indoors, and both come with original paddles, poles, purchase receipts and hand written letters from Joe. WCHM member Marty Aitken came from Racine to help get the canoes down from the third floor of the old school building. The canoes are now in WCHM storage.

Thank You to These Exceptional Contributors

Jill Weber Dean & Jeffrey Dean, Tucson AZ

Mike Cichanowski, Winona MN

Jim Hart, Wadsworth IL

Terrence Panian, Hayward WI

Jeff Day, Berkeley CA

Benson Gray, Falmouth ME

James & Nancy Baxter, Dane WI

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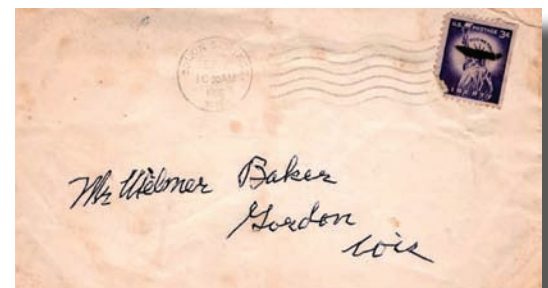
Bob & Pam Buss, Waupaca WI

Jerry Fruetel, Bloomington MN

BJ McQueen, Birchwood WI

Jan Place (for Bud Place), Hendersonville TN

George Munkwitz, Sauk City WI



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