



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



Hudson Bay Bound Presentation Cancelled, Rescheduled For April 7

Due to a possible Covid exposure, and through an abundance of caution, the presentation that had been scheduled at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum for Thursday January 27th from Natalie Warren, author of "Hudson Bay Bound," was cancelled. The story of the remarkable 85 day journey by canoe of Natalie Warren and Ann Raiho, paddling from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay and following the 2,000-mile route made famous by Eric Sevareid in his 1935 classic "Canoeing with the Cree," has been re-scheduled for Thursday April 7th.

Along the route Warren and Raiho met the many people who live and work on the waterways, including denizens of a resort who supply much-needed sustenance; a solitary resident in the wilderness who helps plug a leak; and the people of the Cree First Nation at Norway House, where the canoeists acquire a furry companion. Warren will bring us into her experience, so we can join these modern women as they recreate this historic trip, including the pleasures and perils, the sexism, the social and environmental implications, and the enduring wonder of the wilderness. The talk and book signing will begin 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. For more information email to info@WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org.

2022 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show

Spring is on the way and it's time to get ready for Canoe Heritage Day and the 12th annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show on Saturday May 28, 2022, at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner WI. Now is the time to make plans to be an exhibitor and display your canoe, wooden boat, or other canoe related items of interest. WCHM invites participants for this one day free event that will also include museum tours and open house, the unveiling of new displays, ongoing activities in the canoe workshop, and live music and food and beverage in the beer garden.

Wooden boats of all shapes, sizes, and designs are welcome, both classic and modern, as well as all kinds of classic and vintage water and paddling related items. Whether you have items to sell, or you just have something to show off, there will be many interested folks attending this free event. Exhibitors can include individuals, commercial entities, non-profits, authors, government agencies, educators, crafters, and businesses whose products or services are relevant to boaters and wooden boats and canoes. Booth space is free, and reserving a space is easy. You can register with an online booth registration form available accessible from the WCHM website at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org, or request a printable or hard copy form by emailing to info@wisconsin canoeheritagemuseum.org or calling 715-635-2479. Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day is produced by the WCHM each year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.



WCHM Collections Manager John Haack Passes Away

John Charles Haack died unexpectedly on November 29, 2021 at the age of 63. His untimely passing left his many friends and associates stunned and in shock.

John began a career in the outdoors by earning a degree in wildlife biology at the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point. He spent 37 years in natural resources related jobs with the state of Wisconsin, his first position being with the Department of Natural Resources and his last position being Natural Resources Educator with the UW Extension.

In retirement John was involved in many outdoor hobbies and volunteer natural resources educational activities. His life-long love of learning and teaching about the outdoors including things such as bee keeping, maple syrup making, hunting, fishing, and wild rice harvesting just to name a few. Always ready to share his knowledge, John volunteered as a Wisconsin Hunter Safety instructor, gave nature talks and hosted workshops at the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, and led tours for the Natural Resources Foundation.

One of John's passions that involved canoes was wild rice harvesting and processing. At the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum John gave several lectures on the history of wild rice and the canoe. He also taught workshops on making ricing poles and knocking sticks. When the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) Regional Assembly was held in Shell Lake WI in 2017, John was on the program to lead a paddling trip through local ricing areas.

John also contributed behind the scenes for the WCHM. Making use of his professional skills, in 2013 he facilitated a meeting with the WCHM Board of Directors at which they developed their first strategic plan. He spent almost ten years as a WCHM "Keymaster," one of the many volunteers that open the museum to visitors during the summer months. And for the past three years he filled the position of WCHM Collections Manager. John was the WCHM's third Collections Manager, and at the time of his passing he was involved in a major project to inventory and update all of the museum's collection records.

In lieu of flowers, John's family requests you consider a donation in his name to the National Kidney Foundation <https://www.kidney.org> or Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary <https://hunthill.org>.



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
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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



2022 Canoe Raffle Will Feature 1946 Old Town Guide

The 2022 WCHM Canoe Raffle is underway, and tickets are now available. This annual fundraising activity will once again feature a choice of two canoes, but for the first time one of the choices will be for an antique cedar canvas canoe. Currently undergoing restoration in the WCHM shop is an 18 foot 1946 Old Town Guide serial #146660. The second canoe is a 15' cedar canvas solo canoe, built in the WCHM shop in 2020 on the MacKenzie-Yost Nakoma form. The drawing will be Sunday September 25, 2022 during the third annual Canoe & Brew event in Spooner. The holder of the winning ticket will have choice of one of the two canoes previously described. To find out how you can get tickets contact WCHM at info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org.

MacQuarrie Pilgrimage To Feature Brule River Canoe Trip

The Gordon MacQuarrie Pilgrimage is an annual event presented by the Barnes Area Historical Association. It features tours of locations in Northwest Wisconsin that served as settings for stories written by Gordon MacQuarrie, one of the first of outdoor writers who came onto the scene in the early decades of the 20th century. Scheduled for Aug 26-28, 2022, the sixth annual pilgrimage will feature a narrated, guided canoe tour of river sites on the Brule River described in MacQuarrie stories, and where MacQuarrie fished with "Mr. President." The river trip will be led by famed Brule River guide Damian Wilmot. For more information contact Larry Bergman at larrybergman@yahoo.com or 612-868-2010.



Busy Winter In WCHM Canoe Shop

The four work bays in the WCHM Shop have been mostly full this winter. Ken Jones of Webster is finishing up restoration of a 1922 Old Town Otca. Norb Pintens from Rice Lake is putting the last paint details on a new Bob's Special. Mike Johnson of Spooner has just started building a new canoe on a MacKenzie-Yost MyPal form. Meanwhile, on behalf of the museum, shop manager Jamie Dunn is recanvassing a 1946 18ft Old Town Guide Canoe that is to be one of the prize choices in the 2022 WCHM canoe raffle. The dust has been flying all winter long.

WCHM Joins USCA

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) has joined the United States Canoe Association (USCA) as a business affiliate. The USCA was formed in 1968 as a non-profit, educational, charitable and athletic association. Their focus is on the "Five Cs" - Cruising, Conservation, Camping, Competition, and Camaraderie. They also publish the quarterly magazine "Canoe News." More information about the USCA can be found at www.uscanoe.com.



FreeStyle Paddling Reissues MacKenzie Paddling Video

The FreeStyle Paddling Community is offering a reissue of an instructional canoeing video made by the late Tom MacKenzie. Originally produced in 1994 and out of print for some years, the video remains the single most comprehensive and informative overview of FreeStyle technique extant from which any single-blade paddler will greatly benefit. Topics range from the most basic (braces, sideslips, and the very useful palm roll) to more advanced maneuvers (linkages in all four quadrants such as the forward/cross, forward/reverse, and cross-reverse). Tom MacKenzie was a long-time master builder of modern high performance canoes, and a paddler of extraordinary skill, knowledge, and innovation, as well as a teacher, mentor, and friend to many in the paddling community. For more information <https://freestylecanoeing.com/instructional-video>.

Endowment Fund Campaign Beats All Expectations

A recent fundraising campaign for the WCHM Perpetuity Endowment Fund was completed on January 31st, and all indications are that the results have far exceeded all expectations. The campaign began on December 1st with a goal of raising \$30,000. \$10,000 had already been pledged by a generous donor as a match, and another \$10,000 committed by the WCHM Board from the WCHM general funds, if the first \$10,000 could be raised from the WCHM membership.

“I was confident that we would have no problem raising the 10K from our membership,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “but their response to our campaign has been truly inspirational.” On the closing date of the campaign total contributions had broken the \$20,000 mark. “In the last days of the campaign an early contributor pledged to insure that level was reached with an additional contribution,” explained Malischke, “and with that pledge issued a challenge to the matching donor and the WCHM Board to increase their commitments as well, which they did.” With the matching donation increased to \$15,000 and the board commitment to \$20,000, the total raised that will now be placed in the Endowment Fund will exceed \$55,000.

“The really exciting part,” Malischke added, “is that along with the recent investment increases the fund has enjoyed, this new addition will put the fund over \$100,000 and into the realm where it can be converted to a continuing source of revenue for the museum in perpetuity. We have a lot to be thankful for.”

Thank You To Our 2021-22 Endowment Fund Campaign Contributors

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