



WCHM News

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum



Historic Hudson Bay Bound Canoe Arrives For Canoe & Brew Display

Natalie Warren, paddling adventurer and author of *Hudson Bay Bound*, has donated her Langford Prospector to the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum as a collection piece. It was picked up in Minneapolis by WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke in time to have it on display at the recent WCHM Canoe & Brew event.

The canoe is a 17 foot Kevlar named “Kawena Kinomaeta” (No Worries in Cree). The name harkens back to Eric Sevareid and Walter Port’s canoe named “San Sousie” (No Worries in French), which they paddled for their 1930 expedition from the Twin Cities to Hudson Bay, the adventure Sevareid wrote about in his well-known book “Canoeing With The Cree.” In 2011, Natalie Warren and Ann Raiho became the first two women to canoe from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay, following the 2,000-mile route made famous by Sevareid over 90 years ago. It is a modern day canoeing adventure that Warren has written about in her book “Hudson Bay Bound.” In 2013 she also paddled this canoe down the length of the Mississippi River, completing a split of the North American continent.

The Hudson Bay Bound canoe was displayed at the WCHM Canoe & Brew event on September 24th, along with video of Warren and Raiho’s adventures. Autographed copies of Warren’s book were available for purchase at the event and will also be available in the museum gift shop.



WCHM Now Closed For The Season

“The WCHM Exhibit Hall is now closed for the season,” so reported Executive Director Jed Malischke to the WCHM Board of Directors at their fall meeting on October 18th. Along with that pronouncement Malischke included a few facts on the year’s success. The museum exhibit hall was open 97 days in 2023 (one more than the previous year) and was open more days each week in September than originally planned. “Next year we may just plan ahead to keep the weekly summer schedule going through September,” Malischke added in his report.

Of course, more volunteers are needed to be open more days. During 2023 eighteen different “Keymasters” filled 169 shifts at the museum, some doing as many as 25 and others just one or two, but all contributing to the overall success. More open days also mean more visitations. Those same Keymasters recorded 672 visitors, an average of about seven per day. Visitations, admission fees, and store sales were all up about 5% over the previous year, which will help the bottom line when things are tallied up for the year.

The WCHM Exhibit Hall will open again for the traditional spring season opening event “Canoe Heritage Day” on May 25, 2024. To visit by appointment before then you can write to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org or call 715-635-2479.

Museum Finishes Season With Successful “Canoe & Brew” Event Held Indoors

WCHM closed out its 2023 season with its 4th annual “Canoe & Brew” event on Sunday September 24 at Round Man Brewing in downtown Spooner, Wisconsin.



Well over 100 museum supporters attended the event, by far the most ever. Attendees enjoyed music from the Steam Machine Duo and Les Fils du

Voyageur, viewed several museum collection pieces from museum storage, sampled the many brews from Round Man, and dined on the soup and salad bar. There were also numerous door prizes and the drawing for the annual canoe raffle (WCHM wishes to thank Dave Zeug for the photos).



Thinking of Jill Dean Fifteen Years Later

During the recent WCHM Canoe & Brew event, a giant “Thinking of You” greeting card was circulated for friends and supporters of the museum to sign for Jill Weber Dean, who is currently in hospice care and living along with her husband

Jeff Dean at the Via-Elegante Tucson Mountain Assisted Living Facility in Tucson (AZ). In the accompanying photo Canoe & Brew organizer Debbie Koehn displays the card and the signatures collected in front of the Henri Vaillancourt Maliseet birch bark canoe that is on display in the museum and that was donated to WCHM by Jill Dean in 2014.

It was the Dean’s private canoe collection that was the catalyst that became the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum fifteen years ago, with the loan of twenty-four antique canoes from their collection. All of the canoes in this original loan have since been donated to the museum, as well as several others not part of the original loan. Two additional canoe donations are waiting to be picked up from the Dean home in Tucson.



Peter Marshall The Canoe & Brew Meet & Greet Celebrity

Peter Marshall and his Labrador Passage Atkinson Traveler canoe were the “Meet & Greet” celebrities at the 2023 Canoe & Brew. The canoe was commissioned by WCHM to be built by Rollin Thurlow in Maine in 2014 and used by Peter Marshall for the 2018 PBS filming of “Labrador Passage.”

The film follows Marshall and Andrew Morris as they set out to retrace the historic Hubbard expeditions of 1903 and 1905 through Labrador. Marshall was on hand at the Canoe & Brew to talk with folks about the canoe and his exploits in making the film.



News Briefs & Upcoming Events



2023 Canoe Raffle Winner Announced

WCHM held its annual canoe raffle drawing on September 24th during its Canoe & Brew event. Guest of Honor Peter Marshall assisted his young son in pulling the winning ticket out of the raffle drum. And the winner is....Peder Yurista from Duluth, Minnesota. Peder came to the museum a week later to claim his prize from newly elected board member Mike Knuth, who had sold the winning ticket to Yurista when he had visited the museum earlier in the summer. Mike had sold him the ticket during one of his many stints this summer as “Keymaster” at the museum. Peder selected the 16’ cedar canvas “Duet” canoe that was built in the WCHM Canoe Shop in 2023 on the MacKenzie-Yost Duet form.

WCHM To Be At Canoecopia March 8-10, 2024

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) will be returning to Canoecopia on March 8-10, 2024. Sponsored by Rutabaga Paddlesports and held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison (WI), Canoecopia is the largest paddle sports consumer event in the world. The WCHM booth usually features the first of the annual canoe raffle tickets on sale, plus one or two canoes from the WCHM Collections on display. For more information about Canoecopia visit www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia.

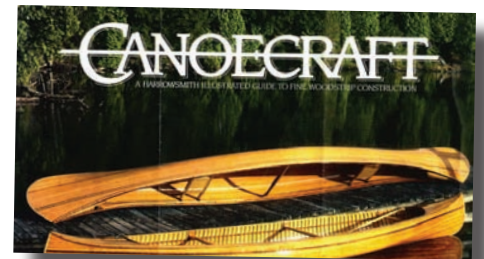


Blu Kanu to Return For 2024 Opening Day May 25

Blu Kanu, the two sibling troubadours Artie Anderson and Rhoda Anderson Hadedank, were so popular on the “Back Porch Stage” on Canoe Heritage Day 2023 that they have been asked to return next year. “You can’t beat sibling harmony,” says Artie, one half of the award winning brother and sister singer/songwriter and singalong duo Blu Kanu. The opening day event at the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum is scheduled for May 25th, 2024, the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. It’s not too early to start planning for the 2024 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show.

Peterborough Canoe Strongback Available

Paul Douglas of Brooklyn (WI) is offering to give away a 16 foot Peterborough Canoe strongback and stand, complete with bow mold, stern mold, intermediate molds, 20 bar clamps, and miscellaneous cedar strips. The strongback was constructed from plans out of the book “Canoeecraft” by Ted Moores and Marilyn Mohr. Anyone interested can contact Paul at 608-2285-1792.



Your Very Own Dugout Canoe?

Jim Backus of Eau Claire (WI) has a dugout canoe to give away to a good home. It was built in 1946 and is complete with outriggers and sails. Anyone interested can contact Jim at 715-579-8423.



WCHM Election Results, Mike Knuth Joins Board of Directors

The WCHM Board of Directors has announced results of its recent election. Ballots were mailed to all WCHM members along with the Summer 2023 newsletter in early August. There were four candidates listed on the ballot as well as one space for write-ins. Members were asked to vote for up to four candidates. A return envelope accompanied each ballot.

Fifty-five ballots were returned with new candidate Mike Knuth receiving 52 votes and incumbents Dan Miller, Benson Gray and Jamie Dunn each with 50 votes. Outgoing board member Elizabeth Vollmer-Buhl was honored at a recent board meeting with a proclamation thanking her for her service.

Thank You to These 2023 Supporting Members

Terrence Panian, Hayward WI

Kurt & Susan Sroka, Somerset WI

Jean & Clark Shannon, Fernandina Beach FL

Jim Hart, Wadsworth IL

BJ McQueen, Birchwood WI

Bob Hinderholtz, Milwaukee WI

Randy Pfeifer, La Valle WI

Stephen Young, Denver CO

Steve & Mary Hemsrott, Shell Lake WI

Bill & Jackie Smith, Shell Lake WI

David Karon, Spooner WI

Roy & Peg Ivey, Anderson SC

Steve & Mary Hegna, Black River Falls WI

Tim Reedy, Spooner WI

Michael Hase, Wausau WI

Dan & Lynn Miller, Cape Vincent NY

Lon Blakey, Oak Creek WI

Thom & Cindy Gerst, Spooner WI

Wayne Johnson, Anchorage AK

Mike & Linda Cichanowski, Winona MN

James & Nancy Baxter, Dane WI



Vernon Donates Old Town

Nile Vernon, of Stone Lake (WI), recently donated his 1945 Old Town Yankee canoe to WCHM. The canoe had been restored some time ago by Dennis Williams of Williams Wooden Boats in Sarona (WI) and is in quite good condition.

The WCHM Collection Committee has determined the canoe does not meet the needs of the museum's permanent collection at this time, and Vernon has donated it for other uses without restriction. We may see it in the spring auction at WCHM during the Canoe & Wooden Boat Show on May 25th.

Contact WCHM

www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org
info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org
PO Box 365, Spooner WI 54801
715-635-5002, 715-635-2479