New Storage Building Completed

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) has completed construction of a new 24-by-36-square-foot storage building. And not only is the building construction been completed, but the space is already filled floor to ceiling with canoes and other collections items, many of which had been received by the museum over the last couple years and for which space was becoming an issue.

The construction project was completed in cooperation with the City of Spooner. Erection of the building first required a land swap between Thompson Trust and the City of Spooner to acquire the land for the building. The city already owned the museum land and building, but not the land directly behind the museum on which the new building was to be constructed. Once the swap was completed the Spooner City Council then voted to assist the museum with up to $18,000 of the building's cost, to be paid out over the next three to four years. The city will then retain ownership of the new building as well as the main museum building. Total cost for the building project currently stands at $16,020 (some interior fixtures have yet to be completed), well under the city assistance limit.

WCHM Will Host 2017 Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly

The Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly is an annual gathering of canoeing enthusiasts from throughout the Upper Midwest and beyond. Some are trekkers, explorers, guides, and authors. Some are collectors of antiques and rare or historic canoes. Some are builders or manufacturers of equipment and supplies. Many are members of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA). The event has been previously hosted in various locations throughout the Midwest by regional chapters of the WCHA, including Marquette (MI) in 2016 and Lansing (MI) in 2015. The Assembly usually features a canoe and wooden boat show, building and restoration workshops, paddling demonstrations, a parade of canoes, paddling trips to local waters, outdoor recreation vendors, swap meets, and many other types of activities that are of interest to both the canoeing enthusiast as well as the general public and visiting tourists.

The Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum (WCHM) in Spooner (WI) will host the 2017 Upper Great Lakes Regional Canoe Assembly on August 25-27 with activities taking place in a variety of locations during the three day period and during the week preceding. The main activities will take place on Saturday in Memorial Park & Campground on the shores of Shell Lake in Shell Lake (WI), just five miles south of the museum. The attractions there will be the assemblage at the canoe and wooden boat show, with dozens of antique wooden boats on display for the public. There will be building and restoration workshops, paddling demonstrations on the water, exhibitions of freestyle paddling, an evening parade of Continued on back page...
Canoe Building & Restoration Classes Being Planned For 2017

WCHM is planning to repeat two of its most popular shop classes again in 2017. The first is the cedar and canvas canoe building class taught by Alex Comb of Stewart River Boatworks in Knife River MN. The second is the collaboration with Little Lakes Canoe Restoration of Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, to host a five-day canoe restoration class in the WCHM canoe shop. Dates have not been set for either class, and anyone interested is encouraged to contact WCHM and express their interest in when the classes may be held.

In the past, the canoe building class took place over a seven day period. On the first day cedar ribs were bent over a solid canoe form and on the following day planking the canoe with thin cedar “planks” began. Once planked and the hull constructed, canvas was stretched over the canoe and filled with water-proof filler. In this hands-on approach everyone in the class took part in the construction and by the end of the week the canoe was ready for paint and varnish with seats, thwarts, yokes and gunwales installed. The number of participants is limited to insure that each participant has a real hands-on experience.

The canoe restoration class was held over a five day period. Participants enroll their own canoes to be restored under the guidance of instructor Dave Osborn. Dave has been restoring canoes and wooden boats since 1999 and has worked on Old Town, Thompson Brothers, JR Robertson, Kennebec, Carleton, Rehbein, Penn Yan, BN Morris, Peterson Brothers, Rhinelander, War Canoes, American Traders, Seliga, and others. This class is limited to three canoes and six participants (each canoe enrollment fee covers two partners). The class is intended for complete or partial restoration, repair, or rescue of vintage wood canvas canoes. The goal is to restore or repair the canoes to near factory condition or better, using original materials where possible, and to make each canoe structurally functional without sacrificing the vintage patina.

Anyone interested in these classes is encouraged to watch www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org for upcoming details or to write WCHM at info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org or call 715-635-2479 for additional information.

Thank You to Our 2016 Business Supporters

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Pair O’Lakes Lodge, Spooner WI
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Spinning Wheels Publishing, Trego, WI
News Briefs & Upcoming Events

2017 Raffle Canoe Construction Underway

A new canoe is under construction in the WCHM Canoe Shop in preparation for the 2017 WCHM fundraising raffle. It is a Loon Works Duet designed by Tom Mackenzie and David Yost. The form was acquired earlier this year from the estate of Tom MacKenzie. The new craft is expected to be completed in time to be displayed at the Canoecopia event in Madison. The drawing will take place on Saturday September 30th, 2017 (the last day of the season for the exhibit hall). Tickets are available now for $20 per ticket or six for $100. A limit of 500 tickets will be sold, and the winner will have a choice of canoes or $1,000 cash prize.

Look For The WCHM Booth At Canoecopia 2017

The WCHM traveling promotional booth will be attending Canoecopia at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison WI (1919 Alliant Energy Way) on March 10-12, 2017. Canoecopia is the world’s largest canoe, kayak, and standup paddle expo. There is no other venue that has this breadth and depth of outdoor knowledge in one spot for three days. We expect to have our new 2017 raffle canoe on display there, among other items, and it’s a great place to renew your WCHM membership, pick up some souvenir WCHM merchandise, and get that first raffle ticket of the year.

The Fishing Is Always Better In A Canoe You Built

WCHM member and exhibit hall volunteer Ron Carlson posted this photo of himself and a nice BWCA walleye he caught in his Karbon Indian Girl canoe which he built in the WCHM shop this past year. Members are encouraged to post their photos on the WCHM Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/WisCanoeMuseum. Thanks for the photo Ron, and good luck on your upcoming 1951 18’ Chestnut Guides Special restoration project.

Kennebec Salesman Model Returns To Display

One of WCHM’s most valuable pieces, a rare 100 year old Kennebec Salesman’s Model, has been returned to its display case after traveling a couple thousand miles this past summer to two events. The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA) held its annual Assembly in July at Paul Smiths College in New York. This national event featured Kennebec Canoes, and among their long list of events was a “Display of rare salesman’s model canoes.” On the way home to Spooner from New York, the Kennebec model stopped off in Marquette (MI) to be displayed as part of the “Century Circle” at the Upper Great Lakes Regional Assembly. The model is over five feet long and was recently appraised at between $15,000 and $18,000. “It has been quite a process of carefully packaging this item and evaluating possible shipping options,” says WCHM Executive Director Jed Malischke, “we are being extremely cautious with this irreplaceable antique.” Thank you Craig & Judy Kitchen and Dan Miller for taking such good care of the Kennebec model in all it’s travels this past summer.
Shop Activity Picking Up For Winter Months

The WCHM canoe shop usually sees a lull in activity during the fall hunting seasons, and then picks up during the winter months after the first of the year. But this year we are already seeing several shop projects getting under way in November. Available space is pretty much booked through the end of 2016, with three restorations and one building project scheduled.

Ken Jones of Webster (WI) is hoping to get started on the restoration of a 1962 Old Town 16’ Guide that he has had for quite a few years awaiting just such an opportunity. Ron Carlson of Spooner, having recently completed construction of a new 17’ canoe based on a Morris, has started work on restoring an 1951 Chestnut 18’ Guides Special. Kevin Kuehn of Shoreview (MN) is finishing up work on a 1913 Old Town that he started as part of a restoration class held at the WCHM last January. And of course work on a new raffle canoe for the WCHM is also ongoing.

Get Ready For The 2017 Canoe & Wooden Boat Show

WCHM invites participants for its seventh annual Canoe & Wooden Boat Show, to be held in conjunction with Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day on May 27, 2017. This one day free event 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. Now is the time to make plans to be an exhibitor and display your canoe, wooden boat, or other canoe related items of interest. 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 download a booth reservation form from the WCHM website at www.WisconsinCanoeHeritageMuseum.org, or request one by emailing to info@wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org or calling 715-635-2479 for additional information.

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