



# **NORUMBEGA CHAPTER ~WCHA**

The Southern New England Chapter of the  
*Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, Ltd.*

October 25, 2020

## **Bulletin**

I know you have all been asking “When are we going to have another Chapter Project”

Well, the short answer is “soon!”

The Norumbega Chapter has been gifted a 1969 Old Town 15-foot Light Weight model to be used as a fund-raising project.

Here it is as it arrived at the canoe shop.



The interior is very clean with little damage, the canvas is falling off. Other than that, it is almost perfect.

In 1969 William Borowski returned home from a tour in Viet Nam and received a \$300 veteran's bonus from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The first thing he did was buy a brand-new Old Town canoe, then he married Marilyn Benedetto from Marlborough, MA. For almost 30 years he carefully used the canoe. Unfortunately, it spent a little too much time in outdoor storage as you can see from the canvas.

In 2001 William was diagnosed with cancer related to his time in Viet Nam and shortly before he passed the canoe was hung from the rafters in the neighbor's barn, where it sat until last week.

Marilyn contacted us for advice on how to part with the canoe. She has settled on making a generous donation to our Chapter with the understanding that we do the restoration and put it up for auction with the proceeds to benefit the WCHA, as we have done before. This time the donation is to be made in memory of William Borowski.

With the Covid-19 situation continuing it is impossible to predict when we will be able to start work on this project. It will need to be stored in a safe place until such time that we can safely gather in a confined space. When the time is right, we should be able to have this ready for Assembly 2022. For 2021 we already have the 1911 Ideal ready to go.

So, 2 things. 1: Wait patiently for this to get started, and 2: if you can provide storage space for the duration, please contact me at 978 374 1104 or [stevenscanoe@gmail.com](mailto:stevenscanoe@gmail.com), I have run out of room here at the canoe shop and I don't want to have it out in the yard under a tarp all winter.

Thanks,

Steve Lapey  
Editor of the Newsletter