

N E W H A M P S H I R E BOAT MUSEUM

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For Immediate Release

NH Boat Museum to open May 29

Wolfeboro, NH--May 19, 2021--Saturday, May 29 is a big day for the New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM), which opens its doors for the start of the 2021 season with the return of the Millie B on Lake Winnepesaukee, exciting programs, and events.

“We’re excited to take people back out on the lake,” said NHBM Executive Director Martha Cummings, who said the Millie B is a 28-foot, mahogany boat, a 1928-style triple cockpit Hacker-Craft. “It’s a wonderful way to experience lake life.”

Lake life will be explored in various ways throughout the season at NHBM, highlighted by a rowing exhibit, “Who’s In The Boat?”. In this exhibit, visitors will discover New Hampshire’s relationship with competitive and recreational rowing, which dates back to 1852 in Center Harbor where the first intercollegiate competition of any kind began with the Harvard - Yale crew regatta.

“In the rowing exhibit, we also look at the role Granite State women have played in crew,” explained Nancy Black, NHBM board member.

Exhibit highlights include Stratham, NH’s Ernestine Beyer, known as the “mother of rowing,” and Wolfeboro’s Hilary Gehman, who is currently training and coaching women athletes for the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics. Gehman will also participate in NHBM’s Lecture & Arts Series, which features virtual lectures and local art in the museum.

“Hilary will share the story of her aspirations, the grueling training, and her humbling opportunity to represent the U.S. on the international stage,” added Black.

Other speakers in NHBM’s Speaker Series, generously supported by a NH Humanities Community Grant, include Kathy Keeler, a local summer resident and former competitive rower and Olympic gold medalist. She was “in the boat” in stroke position when the American women's eights team won the gold medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics.

“They were the first women’s crew to win gold in U.S. history,” said Black, who said Keeler will share her insights about women in crew racing and the impacts of Title IX.

NHBM will also feature its “Locally Produced” exhibition, highlighted by several boats (and their stories), including the Ganges (1926 Johnson Bros launch), a newer acquisition and part of the Stowell Family Collection gift. The Ganges will be featured alongside the Regina, a 1913 Goodhue & Hawkins laker, donated by Howard Newton.

Other highlights this year include Youth, Family, and Adult Boat Building Classes, sailboat sharing and sailboat cruises on the museum’s newly acquired 2017 Colgate 26. NHBM is also partnering with other organizations to promote boating, including South Shore Outboard Association (SSOA) in its Granite State Title Series (hydroplane racing).

Courtesy of Eastern Propane & Oil, Thursdays are free admission days, while Saturday, June 19 is New Hampshire Residents Day, which also features free admission.

“We look forward to a wonderful year,” said Cummings. “We are so fortunate to have great members, terrific partners, and invested sponsors with us for what we believe will be an exciting and dynamic year.”

Founded in 1992 by vintage boating enthusiasts, NHBM is sponsored in part by Goodhue Boat Company, Eastern Propane & Oil, Meredith Village Savings Bank, FL Putnam, Stark Creative, and Bank of New Hampshire and NH Humanities.

To learn more about NHBM, visit NHBM.org.

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