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MUSEUM RELAUNCHES ICONIC *WILD GOOSE*

CLAYTON, NY (July 2, 2012) -- The Museum publicly launched its restored logo boat *Wild Goose* at the June 30th *River Reunion*. Executive Director Frederick H. Hager conducted the ceremony which honored volunteers, staff and generous donors who made this historic event a reality.

Mr. Hager began by saying: "Together we celebrate the relaunch of *Wild Goose* back into her River waters, and acknowledge those who made this day possible. To our volunteers who gave countless skilled hours, and to our extended Dodge family donors who financed her restoration, thank you!"

Watercraft Conservator Mike Corrigan, who spearheaded the two-year *Wild Goose* restoration effort, then honored the three volunteers Bob Brown, Chuck Burlingame and Duane Chalk. "This enormous undertaking simply could not have been accomplished without the skill and experience, not to mention *TLC* that Bob, Chuck, and Duane generously provided."

Two major commitments made this restoration a reality: special thanks to Trustee Chair Bob Easton for providing the bridge funding while the Museum worked with Bill Rueckert to create the Dodge Foundation Challenge.

"Please join me in acknowledging the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation President Bill Rueckert and Sally Dodge Mole, a member of the Foundation's Board, for creating the generous \$50,000 Foundation Challenge Grant. The Foundation matched donations 2:1 with gifts ranging from \$100 to \$6,000. Gifts from members of the extended Dodge family generated in excess of this matching grant and raised over \$76,000 in total for the restoration project, Mr. Hager added."

In recognition of the Museum's gratitude, Executive Director Hager presented the Dodge Foundation a special Michael Ringer print of the original painting, *Wild Goose Returns to River*. Artist Michael Ringer produced an historic limited edition of 11 *Wild Goose* prints with each canvas signed and hand-numbered. Every frame contains an actual piece of wood removed during the restoration. The print presented to the Dodge Foundation is number XI. Five of these special prints (VI to X) were made available during the evening's silent auction, along with five future two-hour *Wild Goose* cruises.

The original painting was also on display and will be auctioned on Saturday, August 4, during the 48th Annual Boat Show & Auction Exhibitor's Dinner. Proceeds from these auctions support the Museum's public programming and in-water fleet.

Mr. Hager concluded his remarks by thanking the Foundation again: “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, members, volunteers and staff, our sincere thanks to the Dodge Foundation for making *Wild Goose’s* return to the River possible and for the Foundation’s ongoing role in making this Museum a reality. Thank you, again.”

Joan Dodge Rueckert then blessed *Wild Goose* with River water so she can begin another century of life on the River.

The Antique Boat Museum is the premier freshwater nautical museum in North America. Located on the St. Lawrence River in the 1000 Islands, the ABM features over 300 antique and classic boats among thousands of recreational boating artifacts. From May to October, the campus comes alive with speed boat rides, boat shows, and educational programs for all ages, special events and more. For more information please visit the Museums website at www.abm.org.

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