

Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage

Vol. 2 No. 2

A publication of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association

May-June 1992

Great Lakes News Door museum expanding

The Door County Maritime Museum has begun work on a \$25,000 expansion project at the museum's Gills Rock site.

The Maritime Museum operates two museum facilities, one in Gills Rock and the other in Sturgeon Bay adjacent to Bay Shipbuilding. The 1,400 square foot expansion at the northern museum location will be used to house a 60-year old commercial fishing tug, the Hope, which the museum purchased last fall.

The fishing tug is 45 feet long and weighs 20 tons. It was built by Palmer Johnson in Sturgeon Bay. Another commercial fishing tug, the Reindeer, has been exhibited outdoors at the Gills Rock site for several years but has deteriorated badly.

The Hope is currently moored at Sturgeon Bay and will be sailed north to Gills Rock as soon as construction begins on the exhibit site. Plans call for a video to be made of the tug on its final fishing excursion, which will become part of the new exhibit.

The museum's board of directors has approved a plan to begin raising funds to cover both the cost of the facility expansion at Gills Rock, and also the considerable restoration work that will be required on the Hope. For more information, contact the Door County Maritime Museum, P.O. Box 246, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

New wrecks?

According to a recent wire service story, pending federal legislation would encourage states to acquire and sink mothballed ships in the Great Lakes for recreational purposes.

Currently, there are over 200 merchant ships in mothballs at various ports in the Great Lakes. Under the pending legislation, the owners of those vessels would receive ownership of a comparable ship in the National Reserve Defense Fleet if the

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Governor partially vetoes state u/w preserve legislation

This spring Governor Tommy Thompson partially vetoed the first serious legislative effort in years to begin work on an underwater preserve system in the state of Wisconsin.

Last fall, Rep. Larry Swoboda (D-Luxemburg) introduced legislation to create a council to begin managing submerged cultural resources in the state. Most of those resources involve shipwrecks and other submerged archeological sites.

The council was to be the first step in the possible creation of underwater preserves in Wisconsin, along the lines of the Michigan's preserve system. As proposed, the council would contain 10 government officials and 6 public members.

Further, the six public members had to include an archeologist, a marine historian, and a representative of a maritime museum.

Two of the six public members were required to be certified divers.

At a public hearing in January, the WUAA and other diving groups supported the legislation but asked that the number of public members of the council be increased. Although those recommendations were not acted upon, the legislation did pass the state Assembly and Senate in February.

However, in March, Governor Thompson vetoed the funding portion of the legislation (\$154,000) which would have gone in part to create a new enforcement position in the Department of Natural Resources and a research position in the State Historical Society.

Specifically, the DNR would have assigned a full-time warden to the enforcement of state and federal laws that forbid the removal of artifacts from shipwrecks on state-owned

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Diving history, seminar plans highlighted spring meeting

The second annual spring meeting of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association was held at the Milwaukee Public Library on April 25, 1992.

During the business portion of the meeting, it was noted that the association currently has a balance of \$967.00 in its treasury. The membership present approved a motion to use a portion of these funds to complete our incorporation as a non-profit corporation as soon as possible.

It was also decided that a portion of our funds will also be used to contribute more toward the costs of the association's newsletters, which are currently paid for by Bob O'Donnell. The association will also be purchasing additional equipment for use by members on research projects.

It was noted that WUAA currently owns two base lines, which are available from Dan Aerts or Tom Villand. Upcoming summer projects were also discussed.

Those projects include additional work on the Sturgeon Bay site, and a Lake Winnebago dive in conjunction with UW-Oshkosh. It also appears the Dave Cooper of the State Historical Society may be needing help on some projects this summer. More detailed plans will be available after the training weekend in Door County (see inside for details).

It was also noted that members are encouraged to develop their own projects and to begin reporting their results to both the WUAA and Dave Cooper of the State Historical Society. Individual project should be documented

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New wrecks

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Great Lakes vessels were sunk.

Since NRDF vessels are located at ports on the East and West Coasts, their new owners would avoid the cost of towing vessels out of the Great Lakes to foreign scrap yards, thus increasing their profits. According to the Gannett News Service, the bill passed the House in February and was pending in Senate.

According to Tom Farnquist, the director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the newly sunken lakes ships would be a major attraction for both sport divers and charter fishermen. They would also take some of the pressure off older, more historically significant wrecks in the region.

Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage

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Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association Field Training Seminar

Mary 29, 30 and 31, 1992

Lodging: On the Rocks Diving Resort, Gills Rock (Tel. 414-854-2808)
Classroom Sessions: Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, Ellison Bay

Instructors:

Dick Boyd, Inland Seas Underwater Consulting
Dave Cooper, underwater archeologist with Wis. State Historical Society
Craig Fink, NASDS diving instructor and owner of Inland Seas Diving
Pat Labadie, curator of the Canal Park Museum in Duluth

Registration: Call Tom Villand (608-221-1996) or Dave Neudek (608-246-0351)
Cost: \$150 per person payable in full no later than Friday, May 29.

Schedule

Friday, May 29, 7:00 p.m. in Ellison Bay

- Welcome and Orientation (Tom Villand, WUAA president)
- Dive Safety Briefing (Craig Fink)
- Lecture on General Archeological Methods (Dave Cooper)

Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. in Ellison Bay

Study Group I (Pat Labadie)

- Classroom session on bulk cargo vessel design
- Boat dive on two wrecks in the bay of Green Bay
 - the Louisiana at Washington Island
 - the R.J. Hackett on Whaleback Shoals

Study Group II (Dave Cooper and Dick Boyd)

- Classroom session on Great Lakes schooner construction
- Lecture on mapping techniques and trilateration
- Shore dive on the Fleetwing in Garrett Bay
- Remote sensing workshop

Saturday, May 30, 7:00 p.m. at Ellison Bay

Lecture and presentation on bulk carriers of the Great Lakes (Pat Labadie)

Sunday, May 31, 9:00 a.m. at Ellison Bay

Study Group I (Dave Cooper and Dick Boyd)

Study Group II (Pat Labadie)

Other Information:

- 1) The seminar fee includes lodging, and two boat dives on Saturday or Sunday
- 2) Participants are responsible for their own meals, sleeping gear (some bed linen is provided), transportation, and dive gear, including two filled cylinders of air at the beginning of the weekend (all additional air fills are included in the seminar fee).
- 3) Lunches should be packed for Saturday and Sunday.
- 4) Although all of the dives are relatively shallow (30 feet or less), participants should have some experience and be prepared for diving in cold water conditions.

Meeting

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using the standard forms that were provided at last spring's meeting, a copy of which is to be included in the May-June newsletter.

During the discussion of the newsletter, all members were encouraged to submit stories and ideas for stories to Bob O'Donnell. The association is now publishing four newsletters each year: January-February (Jan. 15 deadline), May-June (May 15 deadline), August-September (Aug. 15 deadline), November-December (Nov. 15 deadline).

Due to personal and work conflicts, the association's vice president has been unable to attend several meetings during the past year, and has expressed an interest in resigning from the position although remaining active in the association. Therefore, the officers present decided to name Craig Fink of Neenah as WUAA's new vice president.

The membership also discussed Governor Thompson's recent veto of funding for the establishment of an underwater preserve program in Wisconsin.

Although the Governor's veto does not prevent the establishment of a board to manage the state's underwater bottomlands, it was noted that none of the WUAA's recommendations for increased public participa-

tion were included in the bill.

Therefore, to create more of a constituency for a preserve program in Wisconsin, it was decided that WUAA should attempt to bring together various members of the diving community in the state, similar to the effort that lead to the establishment of the Michigan preserve system. Bob O'Donnell volunteered to head up the effort, and is looking for volunteers.

The second half of the morning session was a program on a history of Great Lakes shipwreck diving since the 1950s by Dick

Boyd. The program highlighted both the early equipment used for sport diving, and some of the misguided salvage efforts that damaged many of the region's diving sites particularly in Door County.

The afternoon session included a tour of the Marine Collection of the Milwaukee Public Library. In addition to viewing a number of artifacts, the session also discussed the library's extensive collection of ship records, much of which has been computerized and all of which is available for use by the public.

Governor's partial veto

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bottomlands. The State Historical Society would have hired a specialist to manage a grant program for local preservation efforts, such as placing mooring buoys at wreck sites and building shoreline exhibits.

In a recent interview in the Door County Advocate, Dave Cooper of the State Historical Society described the partial veto as creating "a half-loaf situation or maybe a crumb of a loaf."

"Naturally, we're disappointed about getting saddled with the responsibilities without the funding," Cooper said. "It would only allow us to create paper preserves,

which I don't think would serve anyone's interests, not the divers or the preservationists or tourism."

At its spring meeting in April, the WUAA decided to create a committee to begin creating some grassroots support within the state's diving community for a preserve system. Bob O'Donnell has volunteered to head up the committee and is looking for volunteers.

"Whether we get funding will depend on how much support we get from Door County, and the Apostle Island-areas with heaving diving tourism," said Cooper in the Advocate interview.

WUAA Membership Application



As a private, non-profit organization, the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association presents an opportunity for both individuals and organizations to participate in and contribute to state efforts in u/w archeological research and preservation. Dues are \$15 per year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evenings _____

Since we are a new organization, we would like your input on the types of goals the association should have:

- Documentation of state underwater archeological sites
- Training individuals in u/w archeological methods
- Exchange of information between members
- Preservation of state underwater archeological sites
- Public education on underwater heritage
- Creation of state underwater preserves
- Others: _____

I would like to be involved in the following activities:

- Archival research
- Training in archeological methods
- On-site work - shoreside
- On-site work - underwater
- Association Committees:
 - Newsletter
 - Training
 - Organization
 - Membership
 - Other: _____

Make \$15 check payable to "WUAA" and mail with this form to:
Wis. Underwater Archeological Association - P.O. Box 6081 - Madison, WI 53715

WUAA Spring Training Seminar

WHEN: May 29 thru 31, 1992

WHERE: Gills Rock and Ellison Bay

For those interested in learning more about underwater archeology and the maritime history of Door County (see page 2 for details).

Cost: \$150 per person, including lodging, classroom sessions, and two boat dives.

Pre-registration required:

**Call Tom Villand at 608-221-1996
or Dave Dudek at 608-246-0351.**

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May-June 1992

For those interested in
preserving Wisconsin's underwater history