

Association News WUAA research diver program was a success

A new WUAA workshop on applied underwater archeology had a highly successful "first run" on the weekend of Sept. 17-18, 1994 at Pearl Lake Resort near South Beloit, Ill.

According to WUAA Director Dick Boyd, about 40 enthusiastic divers/students attended the program with a significant number of applicants on a waiting list. Students completing the course earned the PADI certification of "research diver."

The research diver course was taught by Dick Boyd and Dave Cooper, Wisconsin state underwater archeologist. Assisting in the program were WUAA members Dan Aerts, Dave Neudek, Betsy True, and Tom Villand, along with Pearl Lake staff/WUAA members Greg Kent and Janet Defnet.

The two-day program began with a morning lecture series which was followed by dry-land mapping practice. The class was then split in half for underwater coursework with one group diving on Saturday afternoon and a second on Sunday morning.

The lecture part of the training covered several topics including research planning and design, search methods, site location and fixing, site research, underwater surveying and mapping, shipwreck documentation and diver safety.

After an on-land mapping practice, students conducted underwater trilateration exercises and mapped a sunken twin engine aircraft on the lake bottom.

Because of the success of the workshop, WUAA has been invited to give a second program at Pearl Lake in 1995. Dick Boyd and Dave Cooper will also give a presentation based on the workshop at Our World Underwater in Chicago on March 31, 1995 from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Spring conference
April 22 in Manitowoc**

Preserves program back on hold due to state budget cuts

The work of several years went out the window last month, when Governor Tommy Thompson's budget eliminated funding for the state's underwater preserves program.

In 1993, the State Legislature passed a bill that authorized the creation of an underwater preserves program in Wisconsin. Thompson, however, used a line item veto to eliminate the funding for the program.

In 1994 after much lobbying, Thompson authorized funding that would have created a state preserves coordinator and provided additional monitoring and protection of shipwrecks by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as well as the production of public information materials.

However, a personnel hiring freeze prevented the State Historical Society from filling the coordinator position. According to Dave Cooper, state underwater archeologist, without the staff to run the program, very little progress can be made in designating and developing preserves.

Cooper and others had hoped that the freeze would "thaw" after the November elections and that a preserves coordinator would be on board by late winter. However, the need to provide \$1 billion in property tax relief in the next two years has caused drastic budget cuts for all state agencies.

Although little can probably be done in the current political climate, the WUAA Board of Directors is encouraging all underwater preserve backers to contact their legislators to keep the issue alive for the day when funding is available (see page 3 for details). In the meantime, the state Submerged Cultural Resources Council will continue to monitor the state's underwater preserves effort.

The Council, made up of divers, archeologists, state legislators and government agency representatives, provides a forum for divers to be heard on underwater archeology and preserves issues. For details of the next SCRC meeting, contact David J. Cooper, state underwater archeologist, at 608-264-6493.

Shipwreck Preservation News War of words continues over new law

Editor's Note: Although many of us think that most divers have adopted a preservation ethic in regards to Great Lakes shipwrecks, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin continues to receive criticism for its efforts.

What could be considered the "Great Wisconsin Shipwreck War" continued in the press and mails recently.

Following the introduction of new penalties for shipwreck looting last March, rumors ran rampant at the 1994 Our World Underwater program in Chicago that Wisconsin was prohibiting all sport diving on wrecks in the state.

In an article in *Underwater USA*, Dave Cooper, state underwater archeologist, refuted those rumors and explained that "nor-

mal diving and looking for wrecks is not a crime."

Most of the rumors and continuing controversy over shipwreck preservation in the state can be traced back to a group which refers to itself as S.O.S. Save Our Sport which was formed in 1994. The group's founding members included A&T Recovery, Inc. of Berwyn, Ill.; American Diving & Salvage Inc. of Chicago, Ill.; and Aqua Adventures of Washington Island, Wis.

In a recent mailing, Save Our Sport claimed that the "sport of scuba diving is under bureaucratic siege" and the group needs the support of all divers, dive clubs and dive shop operators to fight "some career bureaucrats (who) are bent on expanding government by

Continued on page 2

Wisconsin's**Underwater Heritage**

is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association. The WUAA is a non-profit association of individuals who are interested in studying and preserving the underwater cultural resources and historical sites of Wisconsin.

In addition to publishing this newsletter, the Association also holds two annual meetings and provides financial support to members' research and publication projects.

President:

Tom Villand, Madison
Telephone: 608-221-1996

Vice President:

Bob O'Donnell, Wausau
Telephone: 715-842-1762

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Neudek, Madison
Telephone: 608-246-0351

Directors:

Dick Boyd, Delafield
Telephone: 414-646-2092

Craig Fink, Neenah
Telephone: 414-722-0051

Bob Korth, Shawano
Telephone: 715-787-4444

Mike Tock, Sheboygan
Telephone: 414-452-5725



Preservation news

Continued from page 1

attempting to perpetuate the myth that they are needed to manage our waters."

The group will sharing a booth with the Lady Elgin Foundation at Our World Underwater in Chicago on March 31-April 2, 1995. The Foundation recently lost in its bid to overturn the Abandoned Shipwreck Act (ASA) and related state shipwreck preservation laws.

Among the more interesting items in Save Our Sport's February 1995 newsletter is an item entitled "Most Restrictive State: Wisconsin." In the article, the unidentified author states that "through the efforts of Mr. Cooper and his NOAA-approved 'comfort language' Wisconsin is still the most restrictive state in the Great Lakes! Mr. Cooper can still for the time being seize boats, cars, and your diving equipment solely because of suspicion of a 'probable violation' of his new state act."

The article goes on to state that "Mr. Cooper is still in the stage of denial as revealed in recent press releases attacking S.O.S. Please Mr. Cooper, no rhetoric about precious resources, just the facts please. Pull out a copy of your new law! Not too good for tourism!"

Meanwhile, in the February 1995 issue of *Underwater USA*, R. Bruce Longman of Mount Prospect, Ill. stated that "wrecks and

other historically significant locations are covertly being found, dived, photographed and videotaped" because of restrictive state shipwreck laws and the Abandoned Shipwreck Act.

"As a result," Longman continued, "many interesting and historically significant artifacts remain on the bottom instead of being recovered, preserved and put on display."

"As one who has fought long and hard to prevent the Abandoned Shipwreck Act from being passed," he added, "I feel this is just another example of what happens when the activities of sincere folks are pitted against unnecessary government regulations."

In the same issue, Dave Cooper is quoted as saying that "divers are the ultimate beneficiaries (of the ASA). Preservation of the resource means preservation of the sport."

"The argument that Mother Nature is taking these things to pieces is spurious and self-serving on the part of treasure hunters," Cooper added. "For perhaps 10 years (after a wreck) the major corrosion, deterioration and ice damage take place. Then the sites stabilize. The real trouble is the deterioration that can be avoided: intentional artifact removal-looting."

He also noted that, while groups like Save Our Sport claim to represent the interest of sport divers, "divers' voices are not being heard. Someone out there is claiming to represent sport divers while destroying the resources . . . Trees grow back. The shipwrecks won't"

Upcoming Events and Conferences

- March 31 **Our World Underwater.** Site: Chicago. In addition to displays, there will also be programs on freshwater ecology, underwater archeology, and underwater photography. For more info., contact Our World Underwater, P.O. Box 4428, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 666-6525.
- April 22 **WUAA Spring Meeting.** Site: Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc. The morning business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. In the afternoon, there will be a tour of the museum's gallery and a trip to the **Lottie Cooper** display in Sheboygan.
- May 6 **First Annual Door County Shipyard Tour.** Site: Sturgeon Bay. Tours of Peterson Builders Inc., Bay Shipbuilding Co. and Palmer Johnson Co. For more info., contact Door County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 406, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235; (414) 743-4456.
- May 20-21 **The second annual Door County Lighthouse Walk.** Site: Door County. For more info., contact the Door County Maritime Museum, P.O. Box 246, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235; (414) 743-5958.
- June 17 **The 1995 Lake Michigan Conference** of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association. Site: Oshkosh. Meeting and tours of four Lake Winnebago lighthouses. For more info., contact GLLKA, P.O. Box 580, Allen Park, MI 48101.

State Historical Society Update

Recent publications highlight state archeologists' work

By Dave Cooper

State Underwater Archeologist

In addition to field work, the staff of the State Historical Society's underwater archeology program is also involved in writing articles on a variety of maritime and marine subjects. The following are some recent examples.

The Wisconsin Archeologist has published a special maritime archeology double-issue (vol. 73, no. 1-2) which included the following articles: "Wisconsin Underwater Archeology: An Introduction" by Dave Cooper; and "Gently Down the Stream: An Inquiry into the History of Transportation on the Northern Mississippi River and the Potential for Submerged Cultural Resources" by John Jensen.

Other articles of interest included "Wisconsin's Underwater Archeological Resources: A Federal Perspective" by Dave Berwick. The 110-page double issue is now available for \$10 (or \$8 for WAS members) from Blane Hansel, Wisconsin Archeological Society, P.O. Box 1292, Milwaukee, WI 53201; (414) 229-4273.

The Society for Historical Archeology

has recently published the proceedings of its two most recent conferences. In *Underwater Archeology Proceedings from the Society for Historical Archeology Conference*, articles from the 1993 (Kansas City) conference include "Synthesizing the Archeological and Historical Record of Great Lakes Maritime Transportation" by Dave Cooper; and "Development and Disaster: Shipwrecks of the Northern Mississippi" by John Jensen.

In the Society's 1994 (Vancouver) proceedings, Dave Cooper had two articles published including: "Come All Ye Gentlemen Volunteers: Perspectives on Avocationalists in Underwater Archeology" and "In the Drink: Naval Aviation Resources and Archeology." Copies of the conference proceedings are available for \$17.50 per copy plus \$2 S&H from the Society for Historical Archeology, P.O. Box 30446, Tucson, AZ 85751.

A new Great Lakes heritage tourism book entitled *Historic Northeast Wisconsin: A Voyageur Guidebook* is now available and includes a chapter entitled "Shipwrecks: Our Underwater Museums" by John Jensen. The

book costs \$10 including S&H and can be ordered from the Brown County Historical Society, P.O. Box 8085, Green Bay, WI 54308; (414) 465-2446.

The Spring 1994 issue of *The American Neptune* (No. 54-2) contains an article entitled "Oak Trees and Balance Sheets: James Davidson, Great Lakes Shipbuilder and Entrepreneur" by John Jensen. The article is a product of the State Historical Society's research for the nomination of the wrecks of the *Frank O'Connor* and *Pretoria* for the National Register of Historic Places.

Back copies of *The American Neptune* are available for \$6, plus \$4 for the companion supplement, and can be ordered from the Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem, MA 01970; (508) 745-1876.

NEW U/W ARCHEOLOGY BOOKS

The publisher of *Lake Superior Magazine* has published a softcover edition of the National Park Service's underwater archeological survey of the shipwrecks of Isle Royale during the mid-1980s, including detailed drawings and photographs.

Continued on page 4

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 underwater archeological research and preservation. Dues are \$15 per year.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: Day _____ Evenings _____

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 ☐ Projects
 ☐ Training ☐ Membership
☐ Other: _____

Make \$15 check payable to "WUAA" and mail with this form to: Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association - P.O. Box 6081 - Madison, WI 53716

Publications

Continued from page 3

Shipwrecks of Isle Royale National Park: The Archeological Survey is available for \$34.95 plus \$4.25 S&H from Lake Superior Magazine, P.O. Box 16417, Duluth, MN 55816; (800) 635-0544.

The Nautical Archeological Society of Great Britain has published an excellent manual in underwater archeology directed towards both the professional and the avocationalist. **Entitled Archeology Underwater: The NAS Guide to Principles and Practice**, the 336-page softcover book is available for \$40 including S&H (\$35 for NAS members) from Jim Radz, NAS, 303 Brantley Harbor Dr., Longwood, FL 32779.

Boats: A Manual for Their Documentation is another excellent technical manual that is now available. Although the book is geared towards the museum community and boat restorationists, most of the techniques discussed in the manual are directly applicable to archeological recording.

The softcover book is available for \$40.95 including S&H from the Museum Small Craft Association c/o David Dillion, P.O. Box 988, Rockport, ME 04856-0988.

WUAA 1995 Spring Conference

When: Saturday, April 22, 1995
starting at 9:30 a.m.

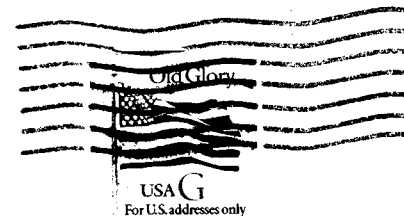
Where: Wisconsin Maritime Museum
75 Maritime Dr., Manitowoc

During the morning business portion of the meeting, we will be discussing upcoming training and research projects. A tour of the museum's gallery, and a trip to the *Lottie Cooper* display in Sheboygan are planned for the afternoon.

For more information, call
Tom Villand at 1-608-221-1996 or
Bob O'Donnell at 1-715-842-1762

Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association

Newsletter Office:
1406 Prospect Avenue
Wausau, WI 54403
715/842-1762



Winter 1994-95

For those interested in studying and
preserving Wisconsin's underwater historical sites