

Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage

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A publication of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association

Fall/Winter 1995-96

Program announced for 1996 Spring Meeting

Richard Young, an expert in historic wooden ship construction, will be the featured speaker at the WUAA's Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 1996, in Manitowoc.

The Spring Meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Following introductions, Young, who is also a noted wooden ship model builder, will present a lecture on wooden shipbuilding followed by a tour of the Museum's ship model gallery.

During the gallery tour, the architecture of historic Great Lakes vessels will be compared to that of ocean vessels. The cost of the gallery tour is \$3.95 which also includes admission to the Museum's other exhibits.

Dave Cooper of the State Historical Society has arranged for a group lunch at the Coachlight Inn (\$4.95 for soup/sandwich or \$5.95 for buffet style sandwich and soup). However, a minimum reservation of 25 people is needed. If interested, please leave a message containing your name and number in your party for Dave at (608) 264-6493 no later than Monday, March 25.

Following lunch, Joan Kloster, museum registrar and archivist, will provide a guided tour of the Maritime Museum's library and archival collections. The tour will highlight materials that are of particular interest to shipwreck researchers and underwater archaeologists.

The collections tour and shipbuilding lecture are part of a new emphasis on advanced training opportunities that was discussed at the WUAA Fall Meeting (see story on this page for details). Following those programs, the business portion of the spring meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Among the business items on the agenda are 1966 fieldwork projects, introductory training programs, and a combination fall meeting/fieldwork advanced training event at West Point Dive Park. Following the business meeting, there will be an opportunity to visit the Maritime Museum's new exhibit on Great Lakes commercial fishing which is set to open in March.

Fall meeting focused on training and resource council

The need for the Association to offer advanced training opportunities for members and the future of the Wisconsin Submerged Resources Council were two of the items discussed at the 1995 WUAA Fall Meeting.

The meeting was held on October 14 at the Public Library in Sturgeon Bay. During the business portion of the meeting, it was noted that the Association has gained 10 members since the spring meeting and currently has a checking account balance of \$2,777 with only a \$57 bill for newsletters outstanding.

Since the Association has been running a surplus for the past few years, several possible uses of the funds were discussed. Those uses included a donation to the effort to build a new Door County Maritime Museum, and/or becoming an Institutional Member of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History (cost: \$150 per year vs. \$50 per year for regular institutional membership).

The Association members present also discussed the possibility of making a donation to the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society's computer cataloging project and the need for a traveling display on the Association and its activities. It was decided to delay a final decision on any expenditure of funds until the spring meeting after they have appeared in the newsletter.

PUBLICATION PROJECTS

One on-going project that is receiving financial support from the Association is the Madison Four Lakes book project. To-date, the book project's organizers have spent a total of \$558 including \$376 for the services of a professional editor and photo licenses.

Most of the book has now been written and edited with only the introduction and references waiting to be completed. How the book will be published is still an open question.

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Maritime museum news

Commercial fishing exhibit to open

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc will open a new exhibit entitled "Harvesting the Inland Seas: Great Lakes Commercial Fishing" on Saturday, March 23, 1996.

The professionally-designed exhibit will use the development of commercial fishing in Northeastern Wisconsin since the 1830s as a way to illustrate the colorful history of the fishing industry throughout the Great Lakes region. The exhibit's purpose is to help the public understand the evolution of the region's fisheries, and the relationship between man and the Great Lakes environment.

Among the topics covered in the exhibit are the early development of commercial fishing during the fur trading period; immigration's effect on commercial fish-

ing; the development and nature of family fishing businesses; traditions and hazards of the occupation; and technological developments of the 20th century.

The new exhibit will contain a number of unique items including an 18-foot replica of a Mackinaw fishing boat, a restored Kahlenberg engine from a commercial fishing tug, gill and pound nets, fish boxes, and examples the varieties of commercially-harvested fish in the Great Lakes.

A 15-minute video depicting the current state of the region's commercial fishing industry is also part of the exhibit. The video includes interviews with Great Lakes fisherman and their families. The video and exhibit were funded by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's Mariner's Club and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Wisconsin's**Underwater Heritage**

is published by the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association, a non-profit association of individuals and organizations 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.

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Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association

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Fall meeting

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tion. University Press was approached but decided against the project.

Since self-publishing will require from \$1,000 to \$1,500, project organizers are looking for other possible publishers. One option may be to publish the information in a format similar to that used for the WUAA Leathem & Smith Quarry project's final report.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Association members Greg Kent and Janet Defnet again arranged for introductory underwater archeology workshops to be conducted at Our World Underwater in Chicago last spring and the Pearl Lake Resort last July.

With assistance from WUAA volunteers, Dave Cooper and Dick Boyd conducted the workshops in which approximately 60 people participated. As in past years, Dave and Dick generously contributed their portion of the workshops' proceeds to the Association.

A decision on whether to conduct the introductory workshops again in 1996 was expected to be made by the spring meeting. In addition, ways to encourage workshop participants to join WUAA were discussed.

To achieve that goal, the need to offer advanced training programs in 1996 was discussed. Such programs, similar to what was done in Door County a few years ago, would not only help recruit new members but would also help retain existing Association members.

Among the topics suggested for future workshops were training opportunities involving specialized architecture and historical records research. It was decided to include some of those topics in the 1996 Spring Meeting's program.

FIELDWORK PROJECTS

Several Association members were involved in fieldwork at the Yahara River Fish Weir site during that past year (for details see Summer 1995 newsletter). Additional work was planned for December.

In addition to continuing work in the river, project organizers also planned to begin examining adjoining land sites. The area was the site of a saw mill and dam in the 1850s. For more information on the project, contact Tom Villand at (608) 221-1996.

In May, the Association began work on its new survey project on three wrecks at Bullhead Point near Sturgeon Bay. According to project leader Danny Aerts, zebra mussels will be both a benefit and problem when

surveying this site.

In early summer, visibility on the site was excellent resulting in a significant amount of survey work being completed on two of the three wrecks. However, by late summer, the clear water resulted in thick weeds at the site (note: a dive planned for the afternoon of the fall meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather).

In addition to Bullhead Point, WUAA volunteers also participated in several other projects during the spring and summer of 1995. Those projects were done in conjunction with Dave Cooper and the State Historical Society, and included a survey of the *Francis Hinton* near Two Rivers, and recon work on the wrecks of the *Taylor* and *Chamberlain* near Sheboygan.

Survey work was also done on an inland waters site near Lac du Flambeau in 1995. According to Dave, both the Lac du Flambeau and *Chamberlain* sites may see additional fieldwork in 1996.

Also in 1996, Dick Boyd hopes to continue deep-water work on the wrecks of the *Lyon* and *Lakeland*. Although weather and scheduling problems resulted in little work on the sites in 1995, Dick did report on his continuing review of the records in the *Lakeland* case.

That review raises questions about the testimony of U.S. Navy divers about how and where they went in the wreck, particular in the engine room area. Dick hopes the Association's work will begin to produce some answers to those questions.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In addition to projects which WUAA provided volunteer support for, Dave Cooper noted that the State Historical Society also worked on several other sites during the 1995 fieldwork season.

Those sites included a former grist mill near Baraboo and wrecks in Green Bay near Little Sturgeon Bay. The Green Bay wreck project involved students from East Carolina University and was the subject of a story in the October 3, 1995 issue of the *Door County Advocate*.

In other developments, the State Historical Society is continuing to work with the National Park Service and the DNR to establish moorings at the site of the wreck of the *Lucerne* in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. That site will also be the subject of a site on the Internet's World Wide Web in the coming months.

According to Dave, the *Lucerne* project is part of a renewed focus on diver education and site monitoring. To support that effort, the State Historical Society recently produced a new four-color poster for divers

(note: copies are available by call (608) 264-6493). In addition, the National Park Service has produced a series of public service announcements featuring Gene Hackman.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The continuing budget battles in the state Legislature continues to take a toll on positions and programs. In addition to the the elimination of all preserves-related personnel and funding, Lt. Gov. Scott McCallum is conducting a study to recommend the possible elimination of 144 state boards and commissions, including the Wisconsin Submerged Resources Council.

Dave Cooper recently completed a 32-page report documenting the continued need for the Council. After some discussion, the Association members present voted in favor of a motion that WUAA go on record opposing elimination of the SRC (see copy of letter on this page).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On a recommendation from Dave Neudek, the members present voted to create separate positions of treasurer and secretary.

After that vote, the following were elected officers of the Association: Tom Villand, president; Bob O'Donnell, vice president; Dave Neudek, secretary; and Danny Aerts, treasurer.

The following members were re-elected directors: Dick Boyd of Delafield; Craig Fink of Neenah; Bob Korth of Shawano; and Mick Tock of Sheboygan. In addition, Russ Leitz was appointed to replace Danny Aerts as chair of the projects committee.

OTHER ITEMS

Jon Van Harpen reported briefly on the activities of the Door County Maritime Historical Society. Those activities include work on the wrecks at Toft Point and a video on a riverboat wreck being made by member Mike McCormick.

The possibility of WUAA members going as a group to the Lake Superior Marine Museum Association's "Gales of November" program in Duluth next year was also discussed.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Following the business meeting and lunch, Pat Labadie gave a presentation on the historical development of wooden ships on the Great Lakes from the early 1800s to 1920s.

Pat, who is director of the Canal Park Museum in Duluth, described the development of wooden ship types using a time-line approach. That approach and his slides docu-

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The following letter was sent of the Association's behalf to urge continued state support for the Submerged Cultural Resources Council.

Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association

P.O. Box 6081
Madison, WI 53716

October 25, 1995

Lt. Gov. Scott McCallum
State Capital, Room 22 East
Madison, WI 53702

RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMISSION REVIEW SUBMERGED CULTURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Dear Lt. Gov. McCallum:

Our Association would like to voice its support for the state's Submerged Cultural Resources Council. The Council plays a vital role in protecting Wisconsin's "unseen" historical sites: shipwrecks and other underwater remnants of the state's colorful past.

The preservation of these sites is not simply a matter of intellectual curiosity but is also a matter of importance to the state's tourism industry. The shipwreck diving sites in Wisconsin's inland waters and bordering Great Lakes are some of the most well-preserved in the world and attract thousands of divers each year.

However, those resources are constantly under threat from casual and professional looters who are more than willing to place short-term personal gain ahead of long-term community values. The Submerged Cultural Resources Council provides a much-needed central focus to public and private efforts to preserve these valuable resources.

The Council is also a unique example of inter-governmental cooperation between the state and federal agencies when taxpayers are demanding more efficiency in government. Further, it is also the type of public/private partnership that will be needed to generate private funding for efforts like historic preservation as public funding is reduced due to other budgetary priorities.

Therefore, as a statewide organization of private citizens and business organizations, the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association requests that the Submerged Cultural Resources Council be preserved.

Submitted on behalf of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association,

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Meeting

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mented the development, rise and fall of six major vessel types.

Those vessel types included schooners (1840-1890); steam barges with pilot in stern (1866-1880); steam barges with pilot in bow (1880-1900); bulk freighters (1870-1890); package freighters (1850-1900); and propeller package/passenger combinations (1845-1920).

For each major vessel type, Pat also discussed its design evolution and variations. For example, the historical development of schooners included the early use of barques and brigs on the Great Lakes, followed by the development of scow schooners and eventually gaff-rigged topsail schooners.

There was also a discussion of the development ship features, such as centerboards, and evolution of construction techniques.

Pat concluded by noting that much has been documented about construction techniques for ocean vessels while there is little documentation for Great Lakes ships. That knowledge gap, he noted, can only be filled by archeological research.

WUAA 1996 Spring Conference

When: Saturday, April 13, 1996
from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Wisconsin Maritime Museum
75 Maritime Dr., Manitowoc

A new format will be used for this spring's meeting (see page 1 for details). Programs and speakers have been moved to the morning while the business meeting has been moved to the afternoon. In addition, we've arranged for a group lunch at the Coachlight Inn (\$4.95 or \$5.95 per person).

**To register for the group lunch at the Coachlight Inn, call
Dave Cooper at (608) 264-6493 by March 25.**

For more information on the meeting, call
Tom Villand at (608) 221-1996 or
Bob O'Donnell at (715) 842-1762.

Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association

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Spring Meeting in Manitowoc
on Saturday, April 13, 1995