

Activity Update Commercial program planned for August 6

WUAA members Craig Fink and Bob O'Donnell will conduct a program on the application of commercial diving equipment and techniques to u/w archeology at the West Point Dive Park near Red Granite, Wis., on Saturday, Aug. 6, 1994.

The one-day program will include an introduction to hard hat diving equipment and procedures, u/w communication systems, and video photography equipment.

There will also be field exercises in low visibility diving techniques, underwater inspection-communication, and lift bag recovery procedures. The cost is \$50 per person, including park admission.

Located less than two hours north of Madison and one hour west of Oshkosh, West Point Dive Park is part of the Waushara County Park System. For more information, call Bob O'Donnell at 1-800-236-5739 or Craig Fink at 1-414-722-0051.

U/W research course planned for September

WUAA members Dick Boyd and Dave Cooper of the State Historical Society will conduct a research diver workshop at Pearl Lake in South Beloit, Ill., on Sept. 17, 1994.

The one-day program will include classroom instruction on research diver tasks, application of scientific techniques and methods, primary applications of research diving techniques, acquiring subject background knowledge, the research survey sequence, and survey tools.

Two open water dives on a simulated research project in Pearl Lake are also part of the program. PADI divers can receive Research Diver Specialty certification for the program, which costs \$135 per person (add \$25 for registrations after August 17).

For more information on the program, contact WUAA member Greg Kent at the Pearl Lake Dive Store, Highway 251, South Beloit, IL 61080 (tel. 815-389-1479).

Schooner project highlight of spring meeting program

A presentation on plans to build a replica of a 19th century sailing in Milwaukee highlighted the fourth annual WUAA Spring Meeting on April 9.

David Falzetti of Milwaukee Lake Schooner Ltd. presented a video and program on his group's efforts to build a 100-foot, three-masted sailing schooner on the city's Lake Michigan lakefront. Falzetti discussed the combination of modern and historic ship-building methods that will be used to construct the schooner beginning some time in 1995.

During the business session, Treasurer Dave Neudek reported that the association has a checking account balance of \$1,665. The only currently outstanding bill was from Bob O'Donnell for \$355 which covered the printing and distribution costs for the past five newsletters.

In light of the surplus in the treasury, the

membership voted to become institutional members of the Association for Great Lakes History and the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society for a total cost of \$80. In addition, the executive committee will be looking at the cost of creating a traveling display for WUAA that could be used at dive programs and other events around the state.

The cost of such a display will be discussed at the Fall Meeting which will be held October 8, 1994. The meeting was supposed to be held at the Oshkosh Public Museum, but due to a major fire at the museum this spring the site has tentatively been moved to the State Historical Society building in Madison.

The membership also approved allocating \$500 towards the cost of publishing a book on the history and nature of the Four Lakes area of Madison. WUAA members Tom Villand, Dave Neudek and Danny Aerts are involved

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Great Lakes Shipwrecks in Review

Lady Elgin saga coming to an end

By Dick Boyd

Editor's Note: This is the continuation of a column that first appeared in the January-February newsletter. The column covers some of the more important diving events with respect to the discovery, research, preservation, and archeology of sunken ships that have occurred over approximately the past 2 years in the Great Lakes.

In Lake Michigan, the ongoing story of the *Lady Elgin* has perhaps come to a final chapter. The *Elgin* was one of the most historical shipwrecks ever to occur in the Great lakes.

This 1,000-ton steamer sank in September of 1860 after being rammed by the schooner *Augusta*, resulting in the second largest loss of life in a lakes' maritime disaster. Among the victims were many

prominent Milwaukee citizens including members of the local council, the city band, the police department, and several militia.

The ship had been chartered by members of the Union Guard militia to transport 3rd Ward Irish Democrats and their families to a Chicago rally for Stephen A. Douglas. A further purpose of the trip was to raise funds for militia armaments; thus many of the passengers were in full official regalia. Of the 393 people on board, 297 perished.

The site of the *Elgin's* demise has been sought for decades without success by many individuals. In 1989, commercial diver Harry Zych of Chicago found the remains of the *Elgin* in relatively shallow water off Winnetka, Ill.

Located on a sandy bottom, a large debris

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Summer projects

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in the project.

A discussion of summer projects followed the business portion of the meeting. Several WUAA members were scheduled to meet

with Cindy Stiles of the DNR concerning an inland waters project in the Manitowish Waters area for June or July (Editor's Note: A meeting at the end of May unfortunately determined that the project is not feasible at this time).

In addition to a possible inland waters project, continued work on the Leathem & Smith site in Sturgeon Bay and a deep dive project on the DANIEL LYONS were also discussed. The LYONS is a three-masted schooner that sits in about 115 feet of water near Sturgeon Bay.

Since the dates for many summer projects is uncertain, it was decided that a data base of WUAA member skills and interest should be developed to help notify members of

projects that might interest them (see page 3 of this newsletter). In addition, postcards will be sent out for specific events, similar to those used for the spring video program.

In addition to group projects, the need to encourage more independent projects and publication of project results. To that end, Bob O'Donnell will be gathering information on the publishing forms and procedures used by Save Ontario Shipwrecks for distribution in an upcoming newsletter.

Dick Boyd and John Jensen also discussed tentative plans for training program at Pearl Lake this summer (see page 1 for more details). Additional training programs this summer may also include another seminar on remote sensing techniques.

Wisconsin's

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Lady Elgin wreck

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field existed abounding with ship's artifacts and personal property of the passengers. It is clearly an outstanding historic site. Zych and his associates formed the Lady Elgin Foundation and laid claim to the vessel and its artifacts.

However, the State of Illinois countermanded the title claim because the federal Abandoned Shipwreck Act was then in force. A series of complex legal maneuvers followed.

Zych won title in the state District Court, but this was reversed by the Court of Appeals. An eventual appeal was made to the

U.S. Supreme Court, but the High Court refused to hear the case thus allowing the Abandoned Shipwreck Act to stand.

Unfortunately, during this legal jousting, the location of the Elgin became known to various people and unauthorized diving took place. All indications suggest some looting occurred.

In the most recent developments on the legal front, a final ruling from the District Court awarded title to Illinois with help from Zych. Apparently some co-operative deal was struck, the exact details of which are yet to be made public. We'll certainly hear more on this matter in the future.

UW archeology lab to be open to public

The Mississippi Valley Archeology laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse will open its doors to the public this summer.

Visitors will be given the opportunity to help wash and sort artifacts coming in from on-going summer field digs and get a tour of the lab. For more information, call UW-La Crosse at (608) 785-8463.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| July-Sept. | Fieldwork Season — Both WUAA and State Historical Society projects are planned for both Lake Superior and Lake Michigan sites. Because of the nature and timing of the projects, volunteers will be drawn from the new data base being developed by the WUAA (see page 3). In addition, flyers on individual projects will be mailed as more information becomes available. |
| July-August | WUAA Field Training Program on Remote Sensing Techniques — Dick Boyd has again offered to lead an on-water training program in Door County. More details will be available when a date has been set. |
| August 6 | Commercial Diving Techniques — A program on the application of commercial diving techniques to u/w archeology will be held at the new West Point Dive Park near Red Granite (see page 1 for details). |
| Sept. 17 | Research Diver Program — A program on the procedures and tools used in underwater research will be conducted at the Pearl Lake near South Beloit (see page 1 for details). |
| October 8 | WUAA Fall Meeting — A business meeting and speaker program, including the long-awaited presentation by Harry Alden on a brigantine restoration project, will be held at the State Historical Society Building beginning at 9:30 a.m. More details in upcoming newsletters. |

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(608) 233-2066 evenings.

WUAA Fieldwork Data Sheet

To increase fieldwork opportunities for WUAA members, the Association is creating a data base of members' skills, equipment and resources. This information will be used to notify members of upcoming fieldwork opportunities, plan for new WUAA fieldwork projects, and assist members in finding other members of similar interests and skills to work together on independent projects.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Evenings: _____

I. Underwater Skills/Resources:

Diving Certification Agency: _____ Year of Certification: _____

Specialty Courses: _____

Type of Dives experienced in (check all that apply):

____ Shallow (0-40 feet) ____ Mid-Range (40-100 feet) ____ Deep (over 100 feet)

Water Conditions experienced in (check all that apply): ____ Wet Suit ____ Dry Suit

Photography equipment: ____ Still ____ Video

Other special equipment/skills: _____

II. Publication/Research Resources (check all that apply):

____ Computer System describe hardware: _____

Word Processing Software: _____

Desktop Publishing Software: _____

Graphics Software: _____

____ Modem (tel.: _____) ____ Fax (tel.: _____)

Other special equipment/resources: _____

III. Fieldwork Preferences:

Do you prefer weekend or week-long field work projects? _____

What geographic area(s) of the state would you like to work in? _____

**Mail completed questionnaire to Dave Neudek, 1205 Melby Dr., Madison, WI 53704
or FAX to 608-246-0970 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.**

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 _____

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 ☐ Organization
 - ☐ Training ☐ Membership
 - ☐ Other: _____

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

Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association

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