

FOUR LAKES SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 25

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September 2004

WWW.FOURLAKESSCUBACLUB.ORG

INFO@FOURLAKESSCUBACLUB.ORG

Meeting

Wednesday
September 8, 7:30 pm
Coliseum Bar

Officers

President

Randy Lee 243-8359
President@FourLakesScubaClub.org

Vice President

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Ocean Ecological Issues

Pam Blackledge, Great Lakes Regional Organizer for the National Environmental Trust is bringing the plight of our oceans to the Midwest to campaign for protective legislation. She is a graduate of Iowa State in Fisheries and Wildlife biology and experienced as an environmental organizer. (see story inside)

Justin Tells How It Is

Many thanks to Justin Sargent, who in a well prepared talk, described the life of a dive professional. An instructor and retailer, he laid out the hard facts of the financial limits of the field. Enthusiasm for diving continues to be his driving motivation.

Fontana Sports

Air fills are now available at their new westside store.

September Raffle Prize

A Super Tube, diver locating device, so you won't have to fear open water.

Tuesday Adventure Dives

At last check this is still going on, Lake Mendota only. Meet after work. Contact Ken Jungenberg for details 837-1039.

September Club Picnic & Jarts Challenge

September 19, 11-5, Shelter 3, Lake Farms Park

Bring a friend and a *Dish-to-pass*. A-L bring anything but beans, M-N may bring beans, O-Z bring anything but beans. A special request has been made for a *Hot Dish*. Sizzlers and beer/soda provided. \$2 donations accepted to defray costs.

Thursday Research Dives

Beginning June 6 throughout the summer, Kurt Welke of the DNR will direct volunteers every Thursday night for Zebra Mussel counts. Meet at Diversions at 4 pm, travel to different lakes, dive off a DNR boat. Isaac Gomez coordinator.

(Has anyone been to this? Please report back to the editor.)

Volunteers Needed

The Ironman Wisconsin Triathlon will take place in Madison Sept. 12. Volunteers are still needed to help with the swimming part, divers especially. Contact Howard Schuck at 833-1619 or attend the volunteers meeting Sept. 9 at 5:30 pm at the east end of Law Park by the old boat launch.

Fall Underwater Hockey Season Begins

Monday nights 8:00–9:00 at the McFarland High School pool. Cost is \$4 per person or less if well attended. Contact Danny Aerts, 821-0048, DJAerts@wisc.edu. Play dates are:

September: 13, 20, 27

October: 4, 11, 18, 25

November: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

December: 6, 13 (20th pending.

Probably no game the 27th)

January: 3, 10, 24, 31 (no game the 17th)

Why Oceans Matter

Pam Blackledge

Oceans have provided people a seemingly inexhaustible bounty for millennia. This changed, however, during the last half century, marking a sharp environmental decline. Yet unlike polluted air or clearcut forests, the oceans' plight went undetected for many decades while at least 19 known species of marine fish and mollusks, birds, and mammals became extinct largely because of humans. Today, many more species, considered threatened or nearly so, are drifting toward extinction. While we worry about visible environmental problems, our oceans are slowly collapsing.

Healthy oceans concern all Americans, even those who live hundreds of miles inland. US consumption of seafood in 2001 was more than 14 pounds per person – over 80% of it imported, and total consumer spending for fish and shellfish was \$55.3 billion. Fish has grown in popularity

across the country. Surprisingly, three-quarters of the most popular fish sold in the upper Midwest are ocean species – orange roughy, cod, and haddock, and a quarter of all retail fish sold there is fresh.

Domestic consumption accounts for only part of the value of US fisheries. In 2000, coastal and marine commercial fishing generated \$28 billion for the economy and supported 28.3 million jobs.

Add to this the importance of recreational fishing and diving, eco-tourism, and the intrinsic importance of oceans to life on this planet, and by every conceivable measure this resource is vital to our survival.

Biography – Pam Blackledge Great Lakes Regional Organizer For The National Environmental Trust

After growing up in northern Iowa and attaining my BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University in 1995, I moved to Washington DC to begin working for a non-profit environmental organization – focusing on gathering the skills necessary to become an effective environmental organizer. I have been organizing around environmental and social issues ever since. I have worked on issues ranging from protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to trying to reduce hunger and homelessness. Happily, I have been fortunate enough to move extensively and have experienced many areas in the US. From coast to coast I have seen how a suffering environment

impacts us everywhere.

Working on ocean issues is new to me, but I am finding it more than fascinating! I am excited to be learning more about this vast resource that has been taken for granted for too long. This campaign does not come a moment too soon. The region I am organizing is Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, which we are calling the Great Lakes Region for the purpose of this campaign.

I'm excited to be bringing the plight of our oceans to the Midwest as it's not an issue that gets much coverage here. This does have its challenges, however! But in order to make serious headway in crafting and passing legislation that works to protect this wilderness, we will need the support of individuals across the country, not just those on the coasts. I'm hoping the campaign will build the necessary support so together we can create concerned and knowledgeable leaders here in our region that will actively work toward a sustainable ocean future.

Contact: Pam Blackledge
Conserve Our Ocean Legacy
National Environmental Trust
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pblackledge@earthlink.net

Sent in by Diane Schuck from a trade-zine.

Diving Association Points Out The Many Fallacies In 'Open Water' (08/26/2004) *Gay Nagle Myers*

SAN DIEGO -- Acting swiftly to deflect negative impressions of

scuba-diver operations generated by the movie "Open Water," the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association (DEMA) launched a campaign to support the dive industry and to point out inconsistencies in the film. The trade group represents dive destinations, equipment manufacturers, retailers, resorts, media and training agencies that cater to recreational divers in the U.S.

"Open Water" is a thriller based on the experiences of an American couple left behind by their dive boat in shark-infested waters off Queensland, Australia. Everything depicted in the movie after the couple's disappearance is "speculation and fiction," according to DEMA's executive director, Tom Ingram.

He said the events in "Open Water" were highly unlikely due to safety procedures in the dive industry. These procedures include a name system used by dive boat operators to account for each diver and emergency signaling devices worn by many divers to identify their locations.

Inconsistencies in the movie apparently are as rampant as the sharks themselves. For example, actress Blanchard Ryan slips below the surface in her wetsuit and with an empty air tank. "In reality, both are buoyant and would not allow a diver to sink," Ingram said.

Also, the dive boat crew does not clean the boat until the next day, which is when they discover equipment left behind by the

missing divers. Dive boats are "normally cleaned right after the trip, so any unaccounted-for diver would be recognized," according to Ingram.

"Open Water," which debuted in 47 theaters in 19 cities Aug. 6, grossed more than \$1 million in its first weekend. It was released nationwide on Aug. 20.

SCUBA Equipment Recalls

Found at www.scuba-challenge.com/Recalls/recall.htm

Oceanic [6/04] -- Reliant BC Inflators

Uwatec [6/03] -- Smart Dive Computers

Aqua-Lung [6/04] -- Powerline Airway Ribbed Hose

Aqua-Lung [6/04] -- ABS Octopus Exhaust Grid

Halcyon [5/04] -- Stainless Steel Power Inflator

Sherwood/Genesis [2/04] -- BCDs

Light & Motion [7/04] -- Sunray Mod Light

Hawaii Dive Instructor Needs Your Help

Friends and colleagues of Matt Isham, a dive instructor at Kauai's Blue Dolphin Dive Charters, are raising funds to help pay medical expenses after a training accident led to the amputation of the 25-year-old's left leg.

Isham was leading a group of student divers at Makole Reef on the Na Pali Coast, when one of the students lost control of his buoyancy and began floating toward the surface. Isham chased

after the student and was trying to bring him back down when a passing tour boat ran over them. The boat's propeller cut into Isham's leg in four places while also gashing and breaking the student's right arm. Both men were pulled from the water and received immediate medical attention, but Isham's leg had to be amputated above the knee.

A special fund has been created to help Isham and his family. Divers who would like to donate or learn more can do so at www.mattisham.com.

A Carp Shoot

Jon can now take very short movies of shooting carp taken from a mount on his spear gun. Not quite jaws, but still drama on a smaller scale.



**Christmas is
Coming! Get Your
Diving Loved One
a Great Resource
Supplies Limited!**



Our Four Lakes

Second Edition

is written and produced by club members. This great book includes background and historical information on Madison lakes, local dive clubs, and loads of dive sites. Divesite maps and descriptions of many local dive sites are a great reference to new and old divers.

Available at the meetings and through local dive shops. \$14.95. See Danny at the meetings or call 821-0048.

If you have material you think should be in this newsletter (stories, reviews, dive reports, gear for sale) contact the editor.

Please submit your written trip reports by email as YOU were there and I WASN'T. If you are willing to receive your newsletter electronically instead of by US mail and are not already doing so, send an email and let me know at:

News@FourLakesScubaClub.org

Calendar 2004

Club Picnic - September 19
11-5, shelter 3, Lake Farms Park.

September 22 - Board Meeting
Ken Jungenberg's house 7:30 pm

 **October 13 Meeting: Rick Kruger Surprise**

October 16 - Phoenix Party
Dick Steinfeld's house

October 30 - Halloween Party at John and Ellen's

 **November 10 Meeting: George Socha Travels**

Four Lakes SCUBA Club

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www.FourLakesSCUBAClub.org



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