



# Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

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October 2021

## This Month's Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 PM

**Hop Haus (Fitchburg Location)** - 2975 Sub-Zero Parkway, Fitchburg, WI 53719

### Topic: Lake Michigan's Fox Islands - Filthy with Shipwrecks!

Join Great Lakes Shipwreck Research Group founder, maritime historian and author Brendon Baillod as he explores the historical research and the physical remains of the ridiculous number of shipwrecks at Lake Michigan's North and South Fox Islands. Lying just south of the Beaver Islands in Lake Michigan, the Foxes boast beautiful dune beaches, crystal blue waters and an unusual number of historic shipwrecks. These shipwrecks are rarely visited due to their remote locations and many have never been identified.

Brendon takes you on a virtual visit to these wrecks using Google Earth, underwater photos and cutting edge photogrammetry. Brendon will also share his work to research and identify these anonymous hulls as well as three new discoveries he's made at the Foxes.

Brendon Baillod is an award winning diver, author, maritime historian and shipwreck hunter based in Wisconsin. He is a founder of Milwaukee's Ghost Ships Festival, a past president of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association and a past trustee of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Brendon has appeared on the History Channel, Travel Channel, National Geographic Channel and Discovery Channel discussing Great Lakes shipwrecks and is the author of *Fathoms Deep But Not Forgotten: Wisconsin's Lost Ships*, an encyclopedia of southern Wisconsin ships and shipwrecks. He is an avid collector of antiquarian Great Lakes books, maps and ephemera and has the largest private collection of Great Lakes antiquities in existence. Brendon was awarded the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History's Award for Historic Interpretation for his work translating the original letters of the French explorer LaSalle related to his ship *Le Griffon*. He is also the creator and admin of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Research Group on Social Media with nearly 4000 active members. Brendon has been involved in the discovery of dozens of shipwrecks on Lakes Michigan and Superior and is an expert on the use of sidescan sonar. He is well-known across the Great Lakes as a marine historian, antiquarian and public speaker.

## Cleaning the Yahara River

Randy Lee

Sunday morning, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, prior to the Mendota Locks opening, divers from the Four Lakes SCUBA Club completed their fifth

community service cleanup dive for 2021 in the Yahara River. This was a 2½ hour shallow drift dive between the MSCR Pontoon area and the Rutledge Street bridge. The team consisted of three divers, a canoe team gathering trash from the divers, and shore support to get trash into barrels.



What was found: all forms of liquid containers—plastic, aluminum, and glass—golf balls, hub caps, a muffler, bike wheels, a whole bicycle, clothing, blankets, towels, a small but heavy part of a train bridge trestle, metal pipes, a laptop computer, a speaker, a weight lifting weight, fishing gear, part

of a Radio Flyer wagon, multiple traffic cones, a dive mask, various odds and ends, and a 9mm pistol, which was taken custody by the Madison Police Department.

Thank you to everyone who participated:

Divers: John Fafinski, Ellen Evans, Greg McCune, Brad Acker

Canoe crew: Rob & Mary Stroud

Shore crew: Howard Schuck, Randy Lee

## Successful 2021 Phoenix Party

Ellen Evans

After a year off we had the annual Phoenix party. We had a record number of anchors for the fire: 26. There were about as many more that were plastic coated and in good condition that did not need to be cleaned. Gail had so many in her car that it was riding quite low.

After we treat them with fire and a quick dunk in water to pop off the scale and rust they need a day or two to cool down. Then Danny brushes them, Betsy paints them and Howard and Diane store them until they can be sold.

A big thank you to Betsy and Danny for hosting and taking care of the after party anchor prep.

And thank you to Diane for tending the grill and getting the meat.

It was fun to sit around the fire and catch up with everyone. Hope to see you there next year.



## Wisconsin Underwater Archaeology & Maritime History Symposium

Saturday, October 16, 2021

More info and registration here: <http://www.wuaa.org/>

### Items For Sale

4 Tank holders: Global MFG, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. \$20 for all

Wind surfing wet suit: size Medium, RipCurl. In excellent condition. \$50

Soft Weight Belts: \$20 each

Contact Betsy at [btrue@wisc.edu](mailto:btrue@wisc.edu) if interested.



### Four Lakes Scuba Club Officers

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