



Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

Volume 36

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February 2024



This Month's Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 PM



Benvenuto's in Fitchburg - 2949 Triverton Pike Dr.

The meeting starts at 7:00pm, but you may want to arrive at 6:30pm to chat and place your order. Check out Benvenuto's website for information on their loyalty program and menu:

<https://benvenutos.com/>

Speaker: Emily Heald

Originally from northern Illinois, Emily Heald has a BS from Northland College in Natural Resource Management and an MS from the University of Minnesota Duluth in Integrated Biosciences. Emily currently works for the UW Madison Division of Extension, where she coordinates volunteer nutrient, continuous temperature, and aquatic invasive species monitoring for the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program.



Talk: Hidden Creatures

When we think about lakes and rivers, we often think of fish, frogs, and turtles. However, did you know there is an entire world within each lake that is virtually invisible? Join us to learn about all the critters that play vital roles in the water that are "hidden" from most eyes.

Ghost Ships Festival is emerging from the fog of time and is sailing into the Inn on Maritime Bay, in Manitowoc

It's official! Wisconsin's Ghost Ships Festival is back. Last held in 2017, the Ghost Ships Festival was Wisconsin's premier event for Great Lakes diving, maritime history and underwater archeology enthusiasts.



The Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association in conjunction with the new Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Archeology Program, and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum are proud to sponsor Ghost Ships 2024!

The event will be held Friday, March 1st and Saturday, March 2nd in Manitowoc, Wisconsin and will feature speakers and workshops devoted to:

- Recent shipwreck discoveries
- Techniques for documenting historic shipwreck sites
- 3D Photogrammetry
- Remote Sensing Technology
- Great Lakes Shipwreck Diving
- Great Lakes Maritime History

The event will include vendor booths and displays offering interactive 3D shipwreck exploration experiences, technology demonstrations as well as books and merchandise. Sponsorship opportunities are available for interested businesses and organizations.

Advance tickets for the full, two-day event are available at www.ghostshipsfestival.com for \$20 or can be purchased at the door for \$25. People under 18 will be admitted for free.

All events will be held at the Inn on Maritime Bay, 101 Maritime Dr., Manitowoc, WI. All attendees will receive a \$5 discount on admission to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, which is adjacent to the hotel. When booking a room, be sure to ask for the Ghost Ships Festival rate or use discount code TE321R.

Jellen Goes to Indonesia Again

By Ellen Evans

In December we went to North Sulawesi, Indonesia again. We did the Passport to Paradise. We stayed at three resorts. Transfers were by dive boat. We don't repeat a destination very often, but this itinerary is worth it. It is amazing. We see many new things each time.

We flew Chicago-New York-Singapore-Manado. It's a long trip but it went off without a hitch this time.



Manado has sheer walls and so many turtles. More than 50 on one dive. Mostly green and hawksbill. There were huge schools of red-line blue trigger fish and pyramid butterflies on the drop offs. A pod of spinner dolphin followed our boat one day, playing in our wake. We came up into an aggregation of beautiful jellyfish once. Those in shorties got stung, but the burn was short lived. There were plenty of little things like decorator crabs and anemone fish to see when you weren't distracted by all those turtles. The shore dive at night was great. It doesn't look like much at first, but lots of weird stuff came out in the shallows along the breaker. The resort is nice, and the people are wonderful. They go out of their way to make your stay great. Everyone knows your name and asks about your dive. However, the city of Manado has been growing in its direction and the noise level has increased to the point where it interrupted our sleep every night.

Bangka has a lot of variety. Walls, pinnacles, soft corals, and a little muck. We saw 8 pygmy horses on one dive. We saw so many we thought "enough already". There were a lot of mantis shrimp of different species running in the open, tucked in their dens, diving into their holes, and snapping at our pointers. We saw a pair of reef octopus mating. A big squadron of squid. Lots of cuttlefish. Many frogfish. Baby white tipped sharks. We filled the pages of our log books with lists of sightings and descriptions of behavior.



Ellen's favorite dive was on the transfer between Banka and Lembah. Butu Punteng. It is a tall pinnacle with huge schools of triggers, butterflies, and blue striped yellow snap-

per fish moving back and forth in the surge. There were many mantis shrimp including one particularly big Giant Mantis. 4 octopus. A crocodile fish. A frilly dragon nudibranch. And more.



We saved Lembah for last.

The accommodation, food, and diving are great at all three resorts but stand out here. We saw longarm, blue ring, coconut, algae, reef, and mimic octopus. Painted, giant, warty, hairy, short hair, freckled, scarlet, and orange frogfish. Pygmy, needle, flamboyant, and broad club cuttle fish. So many weird species of scorpion fish, anemone fish, crabs, shrimps, seahorses, and ghost pipe fish. We did a black water drift dive. I offered shells to a coconut octopus that rejected them. He came out of his hiding place to move them away multiple times. We saw a cluster of flamboyant cuttlefish eggs and a new hatchling. On our mandarin dive we saw algae octopus mating. We learned how to tell which ghost fish have eggs.

All the dive guides are very knowledgeable. They must go to university. They take tests on the critters and dive sites every year. They are all responsible for learning about the sites at all three resorts. We did 52 dives. The water temperatures were in the low 80's.

On the way home we had a long layover in Singapore. There are several free bus tours you can take through the airport. We took the City Tour. It was fun to see the city and a good way to pass the time.



Thank you Lisie Kitchel

Lisie Kitchel gave an amazing presentation on native clams in January. I knew clams did a great job filtering our waters, but I had no idea how complicated their life cycle is. For example, after a clam's eggs are fertilized, the new glochidium or larva must attach to the gills of a specific fish species. Each clam species uses a different fish species as its host. In order to attract the right fish, the female clam grows an elaborate extension to her mantle which resembles or mimics that fish's favorite food, such as a small fish, worm, or insect. [Here is a link to Lisie's slides](#) for those of you that were in the Philippines.

WAVES & SPARS
Women of the Navy and US Coast Guard in WWII
Thursday March 7th, 2024
6:30pm CST
Funded in part by WISCONSIN HUMANITIES
Think & Drink
First Thursdays

Free Think & Drink Series Presentation: WAVES and SPARS: Women of the Navy and Coast Guard in WWII

Please join the Wisconsin Maritime Museum on March 7th at 6:30pm for our Think & Drink series presentation "WAVES and SPARS: Women of the Navy and Coast Guard in WWII" with Historian Katie Barron. The featured drink of the night will be a Bee's Knees.

World War II wasn't just a man's war – over 350,000 American women served in the Armed Forces through programs like the Navy's WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) and the Coast Guard's SPARS (Semper Paratus, Always Ready). Initially met with resistance, these women answered their nation's call and laid the groundwork for all future women in the Armed Forces.

Alcohol and nonalcoholic drinks will be available for purchase at the limited bar.

Doors and bar open at 6:00 pm. The talk and live stream portion begin at 6:30 pm. To access the live stream of this event, please register here: <https://forms.gle/Rfct7WgBTn9p49zY8>

Admission is free both in-person and virtually.

DIVE HEART
Deep Pool Project
Campaign Launch Event
Feb 15, 2024 | 6:00PM to 8:30PM
Join us for an unforgettable journey as Diveheart launches the Deep Pool Project Campaign, a groundbreaking initiative that will revolutionize adaptive scuba and rehabilitation.
Your presence at this transformative event supports our hope to help make scuba therapy accessible to a wider community.
When: Feb 15, 2024 | 6:00PM to 8:30PM
Where: Embassy Suites
Lincolnshire Deerbrook Ballroom
1445 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield, IL.
RSVP TO INFO@DIVEHEART.ORG

Four Lakes Scuba Club Officers

President:	Ellen Evans president@fourlakesscubaclub.org
Vice President:	Rob Stroud vp@fourlakesscubaclub.org
Secretary:	Nikki Acker news@fourlakesscubaclub.org
Treasurer:	Mary Stroud treasurer@fourlakesscubaclub.org
Dive Safety Officer:	Gayle Orner safety@fourlakesscubaclub.org
Social Media Editor:	Lisa Vorburger media@fourlakesscubaclub.org
Webmaster:	Brad Acker webmaster@fourlakesscubaclub.org