



# Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

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## This Month's Meeting Wednesday, March 13, 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: Gina LaLiberte

Gina LaLiberte leads response and communication on cyanobacterial bloom issues as the Statewide Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A life-long resident of the Great Lakes region, she has a BS in Biology and a MS in Resource Ecology Management from the University of Michigan. She has studied algae for over 30 years.



### What's that Green Stuff? Algae and Blue-green Algae Blooms

Algae are more than just "green stuff" in the water – they're important parts of freshwater communities, and many have interesting forms and life histories which you can appreciate when you take a closer look. We will review some common types of algae from around the Great Lakes region. We will also examine blue-green algae blooms, learn to assess potentially harmful blooms, and review practical tips for how to stay safe on and under the water.

## The Return of Ghost Ships

By Brad Acker

Several members went up to the Ghost Ships Festival a couple weekends ago. After a several year hiatus, the festival was held in Manitowoc this year. It was very well-attended--the banquet hall was nearly full.

One of the highlights was a roundtable discussion on 3D Photogrammetry from several experts. Zach Whitrock shared his experiences capturing shipwrecks in extremely challenging conditions, such as doing photogrammetry for the Trinidad at a depth of 300 feet. He had to take thousands of photos of the ship in just 12 minutes, followed by a couple hours of decompression.

Kendra Kennedy from the Wisconsin Historical Society presented on the process and reasons for listing shipwrecks on the National Register of Historic Places, followed by Caitlin Zant updates happening in Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

In the afternoon, there were several talks on the history and discovery of the Trinidad by Brendan Bailod, and the Arlington by Dan Fountain.

There were a couple dozen booths at the exhibit floor, a "VR Cave" where you could put on an Oculus VR headset and experience a shipwreck in 3D as if you were standing on it, and the Ghost Ships Bar.

The festival will be held in 2025 in Manitowoc again. It's always a fun and interesting weekend—I would recommend attending if you're able!



## Remembering Paul Humann

By John Fafinski

Paul Humann, an esteemed marine biologist, and prolific author, passed away, leaving behind a legacy of profound contributions to marine science. His renowned "Reef Fish Identification" series served as a cornerstone for divers and enthusiasts worldwide, enlightening countless individuals about the wonders of marine biodiversity. Paul's concern for the welfare of the marine environment led to the founding of REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) in 1990, ([www.REEF.org](http://www.REEF.org)). Their mission is to protect biodiversity and ocean life by actively engaging and inspiring the public through citizen science, education, and partnerships with the scientific community. You can read more about Paul [here](#).



We met Paul on a Belize trip where he and his partners, Ned and Anna Deloach, were working on a project. In the evening, he would give fish identification presentations for the guests. We used to carry our Fish, Creature, and Coral identification books with us on our trips and our favorite memory was when Paul autographed our books, but wrote different dates in each one: 3/10/99, 5/10/99, and 5/10/98.

## Free Think & Drink Series Presentation: Spooky Lakes: Environmental Education Through Art

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum "Think & Drink" series continues on April 4th with Geo Rutherford presenting. The description of this talk is:



There is a fascinating world just below the waves of our lakes and rivers. From sunken ships to lakes that turn bodies into soap, learn how TikTok creator and educator Geo Rutherford uses her platform

and art to teach us about the wonderful and haunting world of hydrology.

Visit their [website](#) for more information on how to attend in-person or virtually.

## Dues Month Approaching!

Please remember that May is dues month. If you'd like to get a head start, feel free to bring your checkbook and attached membership renewal form. The price remains \$24 for a single membership and \$36 for a family.

The board is already organizing fun events for 2024, including:

Clean Up Dives on May 18, 19, 25, 26

Picnic on June 8

Mini Golf Night

And more!

The membership dues allow us to host these activities and we appreciate everyone's contributions. If you have ideas for new club events, please contact a board member!