

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Marine Cultural and Historic Newsletter

Monthly compilation of maritime heritage news and information from around the world
Volume 1.4, 2004 (December)¹

This newsletter is provided as a service by the National Marine Protected Areas Center to share information about marine cultural heritage and historic resources from around the world. We also hope to promote collaboration among individuals and agencies for the preservation of cultural and historic resources for future generations.

The information included here has been compiled from many different sources, including on-line news sources, federal agency personnel and web sites, and from cultural resource management and education professionals.

We have attempted to verify web addresses, but make no guarantee of accuracy. The links contained in each newsletter have been verified on the date of issue.

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Federal Agencies

Executive Office of the President of the United States

(courtesy of Kathy Kelley, Marine-Protected Areas (MPA) Librarian NOAA Central Library)

The Bush Administration has released its response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's September 2004 report "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century". The response identifies immediate, short-term actions to provide direction for ocean policy, and outlines long-term actions for the future. A chapter on "Enhancing the Use and Conservation of our Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Resources" addresses coordinating and better integrating the existing network of marine managed areas, and adopting an ocean parks strategy. There is also a section on "Preserving the Nation's Maritime Heritage" which discusses the Sunken Military Craft act in the recently enacted Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005; NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena Michigan; and the intent to propose legislation to implement the International Agreement Concerning the Shipwrecked Vessel RMS *Titanic* to protect the wreck and preserve its status as a memorial to the lives lost when it sank.

"U.S. Ocean Action Plan" is available at: <http://ocean.ceq.gov/actionplan.pdf>

¹ All links current as of 12/29/04

National Park Service (Department of the Interior)

[See [National Park Service Submerged Resource Center's](#) involvement in the National Marine Sanctuarie's [Pacific Region](#) and in public education in [Minnesota](#)]

USS Arizona Memorial

The USS *Arizona* Memorial held its 63rd Annual Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration on Tuesday, December 7, 2004. The ceremony was held shore-side from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center. The remembrance service included military music selections, Morning Colors, a prayer of remembrance, wreath presentation, Hawaiian blessing, rifle salute, and Echo TAPS. A Moment of Silence was held with the USS *Chung-Hoon* Passing in Review. In addition, the Hawaii Air National Guard performed a Missing Man Flyover.

<http://data2.itc.nps.gov/digest/headline.cfm?type=ParkNewsEvents&id=15311&urlarea=eventsalendar>
NPS Digest-DOI,NPS,USA

(courtesy of Robert Schwemmer, NOAA Maritime Heritage Program Regional Coordinator)

The [USS Arizona Memorial's](#) visitor center was designed to accommodate 750,000 people a year when it was built in 1980, but today it's jammed with crowds more than twice that big - and it's literally bursting at the seams. Portions of the shoreside building and plaza commemorating the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor have settled as much as 30 inches and are still slowly sinking, and the concrete structure is cracking. The [Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund](#) is working to raise \$34 million to replace the visitor center.

By Jaymes Song – Associated Press ©

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/10395577.htm>

The Tribune - San Luis Obispo, CA, USA (12/11/04)

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/displaybbs.asp?bbs_id=1275

Navy News Stand (Story Number: navhist041213-01) – USA (12/13/04)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce)

Central Library (Department of Commerce/NOAA)

(courtesy of [Kathy Kelly](#), MPA Librarian)

A new [WWF International Arctic Programme](#) report on the impact of cruise tourism on the natural and cultural heritage of Svalbard, Norway, has been added to the [NOAA Central Library](#) collection and the [National Marine Protected Areas \(MPA\) Virtual Library](#). It discusses tourist impacts to cultural and historical artefacts and sites related to the islands' whaling, hunting, polar expedition, and World War II history; laws, regulations, and international conventions related to these protected areas; and recommendations for tour operators and site authorities such as site visit guidelines and site management plans. See "Cruise Tourism on Svalbard - A Risky Business":

<http://www.panda.org/downloads/arctic/wwfcruisetourismonsvalbard2004.pdf>

Marine Protected Areas Center (Department of Commerce/NOAA)

The MPA Center has produced a [Cultural and Historic Resources fact sheet](#). This one-page document describes some of the types of submerged cultural resources found in United State's MPAs, examples of cultural resource MPAs, and some of the work the MPA Center is engaging in to elevate the value and significance of these valuable nonrenewable resources.

http://mpa.gov/information_tools/pdf/Factsheets/Cultural_Historical_Res1104.pdf

E-mail: Brian.Jordan@noaa.gov

The MPA Center Director and staff met with Department of the Interior cultural resource personnel to: 1) foster a greater understanding and support for the development of the national system of marine protected areas within Interior programs responsible for the management of submerged cultural resources; and 2) obtain feedback from Interior cultural resource personnel on ways to facilitate communication, information sharing, and participation in the development of the national system of MPAs. As a result of the meeting,

For more information about this newsletter or if you have information you wish to be distributed, contact Brian Jordan, Maritime Archaeologist Coordinator, at (301) 713-3100 or e-mail at Brian.Jordan@noaa.gov.

several Interior cultural resources staff will participate in the January federal agency workshop to provide input on national system development. Department of the Interior participants included members of the Office of the Solicitor, Interior Museum Program, National Park Service, Marine Management Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

E-mail: Brian.Jordan@noaa.gov

National Marine Sanctuaries (Department of Commerce/NOAA)

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

(courtesy of Gail Swanson, Florida Keys Historian via Brenda Altmeier, FKNMS)

Karuna Eberl's special was filmed for PBS and highlighted the 177-year-old shipwreck believed to be located off shore of Key Largo within the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#). The *Guerrero* was a slave ship with full cargo bound for Cuba when she met the British warship *Nimble*. FKNMS provided still photographs and video footage taken during the 2004 survey project. In August of 2004, The *Guerrero* Survey Project, a magnetometer survey of the Northern boundary of FKNMS between the National Park and the Sanctuary was completed, supported by a mini-grant provided by NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program. [RPM Nautical Foundation](#) utilized a custom designed survey vessel in the shallow survey area. Two Geometrics-877 proton magnetometers were utilized by suspending them just above the water line from the vessel's bow. To date the magnetometer survey of the northern boundary of the FKNMS has turned up some fifty magnetic anomalies derived from the data collected during the August remote-sensing operations. Of the fifty sites identified by RPM Nautical as having concentrated magnetic data all but 17 have been "ground-truthed" by volunteers and FKNMS divers who visually inspected each of the sites. The remaining anomalies or "targets" have yet to be investigated. The information will be used to assist with future research and monitoring plans.

The Florida Keys NMS web site: <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/>

Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

(courtesy of [Deborah Marx](#), maritime archaeologists, SBNMS)

The Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) winter 2004 newsletter featured an update in the current research section on the sanctuary's maritime heritage resource fieldwork conducted over the past summer. Visit the SHA website at <http://www.sha.org/> for the complete article.

E-Mail: Deborah.Marx@noaa.gov

Pacific Region

A watery grave off the Hawaiian coast is yielding answers about World War II-era aircraft and ships. Explorer-researchers from [NOAA](#) and the [University of Hawaii](#) joined with colleagues from the [National Park Service](#) on an ocean mission off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, to document sites where historic seaplanes, or flying boats, rest on the ocean floor. The joint-agency team surveyed an area around the site of a [Japanese mini-submarine](#) that was discovered by NOAA and the University of Hawaii in 2002. NOAA marine archaeologists conducted two days of survey dives, December 9 and 10, outside of Pearl Harbor. Hans Van Tilburg and Kelly Gleason of the [NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program](#) and LT. Jeremy Weirich of the [NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration](#) conducted non-invasive documentation of known underwater shipwreck and aircraft crash sites of U.S. Navy flying boats dating from as early as the 1920s. They were joined by Jon Jarvis, regional director of the National Park Service and Doug Lentz, [Pearl Harbor National Park Service](#) superintendent. "To create an inventory of historic items, we're using [Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory](#) submersibles to systematically explore the ocean off Pearl Harbor," said Weirich. "That inventory will help us make better management decisions." One seaplane site documented was the Navy's Marshall Mars, a giant flying boat with a 200-foot wingspan that was forced by an engine fire to land at sea off Oahu in 1950, where the seaplane exploded, burned, broke into pieces and sank with no loss of life. The Mars series of aircraft was built to move cargo, primarily between California and Hawaii, and Marshall Mars once carried more than 308 people aloft, a record at the time.

<http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2004/s2354.htm>

NOAA News – Department of Commerce, US

(courtesy of [Hans Van Tilburg](#), Maritime Heritage Coordinator)

Maritime heritage staff at the National Marine Sanctuary's Pacific Regional office were recently contacted by a descendant of a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands shipwreck survivor. In 1837 the British whaler *Gledstanes* ran aground at Kure Atoll in heavy surf. The crew, stranded on Green Island, constructed a 38-foot vessel (named *Deliverance*) from the wreckage and manufactured their own rescue. Thomas King, one for the sailors on board the *Deliverance* rescue boat, remained in the Hawaiian Islands, later becoming a captain in the interisland trades. Our human ties to the sea are the real story behind the maritime archaeology. More information will be forthcoming. Such contacts support Maritime Heritage Program research into the whaling theme and broader maritime connections. The wreck site of the *Gledstanes* is within the survey area for NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program's 2005 field work.

E-mail: Hans.Vantilburg@noaa.gov

Naval Historical Center (U.S. Department of the Navy)

[see entries under [South Carolina](#)]

Activities in States and Territories

California

Caleen Sisk-Franco has seen it herself. Houseboats cruise up to Shasta's rust-colored banks. The occupants hop out onto shore. And they start digging. The buried treasures they seek are American Indian artifacts that have long been lost in the depths of the state's largest reservoir. Untold quantities of those relics are seeing the light of day once more, exposed on or near the shore as the sprawling artificial lake, which had to be partially drained last winter after heavy rains, sinks to its lowest levels in a decade. "It's like someone digging up your grandmother and stealing her teeth," said Sisk-Franco, spiritual leader for the Winnemem band of Wintu Indians. The collection of these artifacts has the [Shasta-Trinity National Forest](#) concerned. Officials recently cited some relic hunters for disturbing the remains of an ancient village. Several other sites around the reservoir have seen similar artifact collections, though details as to where and how many were not available. Many of the area's most sensitive archaeological spots are on the McCloud arm, a deep canyon through which the McCloud River flowed before Shasta Dam was built 60 years ago. The Wintu lived along the McCloud, catching fish and collecting acorns. U.S. Forest Service reports mention 49 Wintu village sites on the McCloud arm, all inundated or at partially inundated after the dam went up.

By Alex Breitler - Record Searchlight ©

http://www.redding.com/redd/nw_local/article/0,2232,REDD_17533_3345646,00.html

Record-Searchlight (subscription) - Redding,CA,USA (11/22/04)

Delaware

A long-lost whaling settlement from the early colonization of Delaware in the 1600s may have been discovered - and ravaged - this fall by a federal dredging crew pumping sand from the floor of the Delaware Bay onto a beach near Lewes. The [Army Corps of Engineers](#) replenishment operation definitely hit something in the silt about a half-mile off the beach on the southeast side of Roosevelt Inlet. Some local history buffs think the pottery shards, glass and other artifacts recently discovered littering the rebuilt beach come from a shipwreck. But state historians who have examined the relics said they think they come from an early settlement - a community established by Europeans on land that long ago became submerged as the sands shifted in and around Cape Henlopen. Some think it could even be the very first Dutch foothold in what became Delaware - the whaling village Swanendael, established by 28 Dutch settlers who lasted a year before being killed by Native Americans. A dive team probably will go off shore to see what remains at the dredge site. "There's no doubt in my mind our dredge hit a buried site about 2,000 feet off the beach," said Robert Dunn, district archeologist with the corps in Philadelphia. Dunn and Craig Lukesic, an archeologist with the state [Office of Historic Preservation](#), visited the beach on Wednesday and began looking at the artifacts that are mixed amid the sand.

By Molly Murray - The News Journal ©

<http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2004/12/09dredginguphisto.html>

The News Journal - Wilmington,DE,USA (12/09/04)

The shards of colored glass, glazed pottery and yellow brick pumped onto Lewes Beach this fall during a sand renourishment project are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle bearing an image of Delaware's earliest Colonial days. But state and amateur historians want to do more than solve the puzzle and learn the exact origin of the 300-year-old artifacts. They also will be sifting for ways to protect other undiscovered troves from Delaware's early recorded history that might remain beneath the Delaware Bay or elsewhere in the Lewes area. State officials and local amateur historians contend there is a need for a comprehensive historical survey of the Lewes area to identify potential historic sites on land and offshore. And more thorough, detailed assessments are needed before similar bottom disturbances by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

By Molly Murray - The News Journal ©

<http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2004/12/13beachartifactsb.html>

The News Journal - Wilmington,DE,USA (12/13/2004)

see a related story at <http://www.capegazette.com/storiescurrent/1204/lewesartifacts121004.html>

Cape Gazette - Lewes,DE,USA

Florida

(courtesy of Della Scott-Ireton, on the [Underwater Archaeology Discussion List](#))

A United States District Court reversed an earlier decision and confirmed the State of Florida's title to an unnamed eighteenth century sailing vessel. The August 17, 2004 decision settles a case, begun in November 2002, when a Florida corporation, Historical Recovery Specialists, Inc. (HRSI), asserted a claim under federal admiralty law for title to the wreck lying in state waters. The State of Florida filed an injunction against HRSI, citing state statutes and case law that would protect the wreck from unauthorized salvage. The unnamed shipwreck was believed to be a Spanish ship, sunk in a storm off the eastern coast of Florida in the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The 2002 admiralty arrest included an area subject to at least two active exploration and salvage agreements between the state and private companies. Assistant State Attorney General Eric Taylor argued that Florida owned historic shipwrecks located on state sovereignty submerged lands. Loss of the case by the state would have put in jeopardy hundreds of [Florida shipwrecks](#), many associated with the Spanish Colonial period. However, United States District Judge K. Michael Moore's ruling confirmed Florida's ownership of the shipwreck and upheld the [Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987](#).

(courtesy of Robert Mutch at <http://www.munarchaeology.com/munarchaeology/news/main.htm>)

Somewhere, in the waters off Jupiter Island could be the remains from the shipwrecked vessel that brought Jonathan Dickinson, the Quaker pioneer whose journal taught the nation about the earliest known Treasure Coast residents and environment. By submitting an application for state historical-preservation funds, officials with the Historical Society of Martin County are hoping they will be able to find the ship and use the new information to further interpret Dickinson's famous journal. "We're looking for and hoping to find Jonathan Dickinson's ship," said Robin Hicks-Connors, Historical Society president. "We know we're going to find something. There's never been a survey of the water done in this area." Spurred by recent progress in the society's effort to have another shipwreck, the *Georges Valentine*, become the county's first [underwater archaeological preserve](#), historical officials said the survey could find other shipwreck sites in south county waters besides Dickinson's *Reformation*. Another ship, the *Nantwich*, also traveled from Jamaica and was reported to have crashed on the near-shore reefs alongside the *Reformation* in 1696. By applying for a grant administered by the governor-appointed [Florida Historical Commission](#), the society hopes to receive a \$50,000 grant from the state -- matched by in-kind donations from professional underwater archaeologists -- to study about 7 square miles of sea off Jupiter Island.

By Suzanne Wentley - The Stuart News

http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-ppark25dec25_0_5753628.story?coll=sfla-news-broward

South Florida Sun-Sentinel – Fort Lauderdale,FL,USA (12/25/04)

Georgia

Underwater archaeology station established [Skidaway Institute of Oceanography](#) has entered into an innovative partnership with Georgia Southern University's [Applied Coastal Research Laboratory](#) and Georgia Department of Natural Resources - [Historic Preservation Division](#) to establish an Underwater Archaeology Station office on the Skidaway Marine Science Campus. DNR underwater archeologist Jason Burns will focus on conservation, recreation, and research at publicly owned archaeological sites on state lands and water bottoms.

Compiled by Brenda Kelley – Savannah Morning News ©

For more information: www.gashpo.org.

<http://www.savannahnow.com/stories/112704/2615688.shtml>

Savannah Morning News (subscription) - Savannah,GA,USA (11/27/04)

Maine

(courtesy of the [Cyber Diver News Network](#))

At 17,000 feet beneath the surface, the temperature of ocean water is just above freezing, oxygen is sparse and currents are relatively calm. In other words, ideal conditions for preserving an airplane that might have crashed into the depths nearly 70 years ago, according to marine explorer David Jourdan, who hopes to answer one of aviation's greatest mysteries -- the fate of famed pilot [Amelia Earhart](#). Jourdan and his Maine-based company, [Nauticos](#), plan to launch an expedition in the spring using sonar to sweep a 1,000-square-mile swath of ocean bottom west of tiny Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. It is the latest in a string of missions to learn what happened to Earhart when she, her navigator and their Lockheed Electra plane disappeared on a flight around the world.

By Stephen Manning – Associated Press ©

<http://www.cdn.information/industry/i041218/i041218.html> [copy of the article]

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/wire/sns-ap-hunt-for-earhart.1,1295092.story?coll=sns-ap-science-headlines> [link no longer active]

LA Times (subscription) – Los Angeles,CA,USA (12/19/04)

Maryland

(courtesy of [Bruce Thompson](#), Maryland Assistant State Underwater Archaeologist)

The [Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program](#) (MMAP), under the auspices of the [Maryland Historical Trust](#) have joined with the [Naval Historical Center](#) and the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museums, Inc. to study a twenty mile square area of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Partners in this project have cooperated on many past undertakings, such as the establishment of the [U-1105 Historical Dive Preserve](#), the archaeological study of the Civil War period gunboat U.S.S. *Tulip* and most recently the recording of the anthracite laden schooner C.S.S. *Favorite*. From the spring of 2003 to the fall of 2004 MMAP staff and volunteers have managed to cover more than 150 acres of side-scan and 135 acres of magnetometer: around two islands and within three rivers in Maryland and within four rivers in Virginia. Of the sixty targets identified by the survey, twenty-seven have to date been tested; e.g., a 17th century land site, a colonial wharf and cribbing, an 18th century land site, an early 19th century log-boat, two 19th century steamboat wharves, four early to mid-19th century schooners and a dozen or more native work boats (such as buy boats, skipjacks and a possible ram schooner). The team will be returning in June of 2005 to continue diver testing of the remaining anomalies.

For more information please visit the Maryland Historical Trust at <http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/> or contact Dr. Susan Langley, State Underwater Archaeologist at langley@DHCD.state.md.us

Michigan

Student pilot Jonathon Freye of Muskegon was flying low over Lake Michigan when he looked down and saw something that led him to bank his Piper Warrior and make another pass, then several more. What the then 16-year-old and his flying instructor, Mike Jensen, saw through the calm, clear water that day in September 2003 was a long, dark object which Freye took to be a wooden ship's hull, resting on its side. Being a licensed scuba diver as well, Freye was uniquely qualified to pursue that theory. Turns out his first impression was the right one. It was the remains of the 170-foot schooner *Interlaken*, which sank just north of Whitehall on Oct. 4, 1934.

By Robert C. Burns – Muskegon Chronicle ©

<http://www.mlive.com/news/muchronicle/index.ssf?base/news-5/1103129116251370.xml>

Muskegon Chronicle - Muskegon,MI,USA (12/15/2004)

A new exhibit will go along with recently completed renovations at the Michigan Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point. The Michigan Humanities Council is contributing \$15,000 towards a U.S. Coast Guard surfboat house display at the historic harbor of refuge. "This project perfectly represents the humanities by creating an educational exhibit about the history of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the U.S. Coast Guard at Whitefish Point," said Janice Fedewa, executive director of the MHC, in a press release.

The Mining Journal ©

http://www.miningjournal.net/columns/story/1222202004_col03-cl1222.asp

Marquette Mining Journal - Marquette,MI,USA (12/22/04)

Minnesota

Fourth graders ... explored the mysteries of underwater archaeology recently and in the process discovered something about Grand Marais history as well as developed new detective skills. Sylvia Frazer, Clay Johnson, Cecilia Schnobrich, Justin Goldstein, Kieran Scannell and Colin Everson couldn't stop talking about all the things they had learned in the shipwreck class taught by [Park Service](#) archaeologist Dave Cooper. Cooper, the fourth graders said, was a 41-year-old underwater archaeologist who had dived in 80 wrecks and had spent a total of 1,000 hours underwater in his lifetime. The students did more than study marine history, too. They also about learned about the physics of diving as well as the research methods used to analyze shipwrecks, Cooper said. In that exercise, students explored (in the dark, with flashlights) a mock shipwreck set up on a classroom floor and tried to figure out what happened, the age of the vessel, the people on board, the type of ship it was — all based on clues from the artifacts.

By Joan Farnam - Cook County News Herald ©

http://www.grandmarais-mn.com/placed/index.php?sect_rank=3&story_id=188511

Cook County News Herald - Grand Marais,MN,USA (12/02/2004)

The search team was still out on Lake Superior this fall when elation over finding a legendary shipwreck gave way to a sobering realization and then to a vow. Team members decided to do what was necessary to protect the wreck of the *Benjamin Noble*, a freighter that sank in a wintery gale in 1914. Its 20-member crew died in the disaster. "We look for shipwrecks kind of for fun, and we do it for the history. But we also respect these sites. And the *Noble*, it's a grave site. It's different from all the other wrecks we've found in that regard," said diver Randy Beebe of Duluth. "We want to make sure the *Noble*, and all wrecks, are preserved." In Minnesota, looting a wreck site is a potential gross misdemeanor crime, said Scott Anfinson, the National Register Archaeologist for the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) in St. Paul. Listing or nominating a wreck to the [National Register of Historic Places](#) can help protect it from personal claims, Anfinson said.

By Chuck Frederick- Duluth News Tribune ©

<http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/10450222.htm>

Duluth News Tribune - Duluth,MN,USA (12/19/04)

New Jersey

[This is a very interesting article told from a personal perspective about a tragedy at sea, personal loss, shipwreck diving, souvenir taking, and how marine cultural and historic heritage connects people to the past. Go to the site and read the entire article - Brians]

It was an ugly ship, and still is. The steamer *Mohawk* was a 387-foot workhorse on the weekly run to Havana, carrying freight and discount passengers in both directions. When it sailed out of New York for the last time, on January 24, 1935, the *Mohawk* had neither fame nor beauty, and it has taken a damn serious beating since then. With insult heaped on injury, the *Mohawk* was left to the mercy of the Atlantic. Decade by decade, the ocean shoved, pulled, twisted, flipped, and buried the ruins of the old boat and its rusting cargo of car parts and china. When scuba diving became a mass sport in the 1960s, a few visitors dropped onto the wreckage, but by the 1990s, as technology ... made it easier to explore wrecks, a new wave of divers began to pick its bones. Hundreds of thousands of certified divers live along the Middle

Atlantic seaboard, and nowadays a dozen or more of them can be found crawling over the vessel on any given summer Sunday. Inevitably, those divers come back up with something: some trophy, some artifact, some souvenir. Weekend by weekend, storm by storm, man and the elements are reducing the *Mohawk* to a memory. This would not concern me in the least, except that my uncle died on the S.S. *Mohawk*.

By Patrick Symmes – Outside Magazine 2002© Reprinted in Cyber Divers News Network 2004

<http://www.cdnn.info/article/a041218/a041218.html>

CDNN - New Zealand

New York

Scuba divers have found the wreck of a US Coast Guard boat that sank several miles east of Nine Mile Point in Lake Ontario on December 1, 1977. The 56-foot 50-ton open-deck vessel, a converted 'LCM' landing craft, sank during a storm in 6-foot waves and 50-mph winds.

By Lamar Bennington – Cyber Diver News Network ©

<http://www.cdnn.info/industry/i041208/i041208.html>

CDNN – New Zealand (12/08/04)

A team of scuba divers from the [Lake Champlain Maritime Museum](#) has explored three underwater shipwrecks in the Hudson River that the lead diver describes as significant archaeological finds. Two of the three wrecks, a canal boat and a sloop found in the river in Nyack, within sight of the Tappan Zee Bridge, were carrying coal. The third vessel, possibly a schooner, appeared to have been abandoned, said Maritime Museum Director Art Cohn. "It's an extraordinary selection of North American shipwrecks that had not previously been studied," said Cohn. All three Hudson River wrecks date to the 19th century, he said. The wrecks were spotted by a sonar scan of the river between New York City and the Capital Region that was conducted by the state [Department of Environmental Conservation](#). That survey was meant to map fish habitat, said Cohn.

By Wilson Ring - Associated Press ©

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=312674&tacodalogin=no>

timesunion.com - Albany,NY,USA (12/09/04)

North Carolina

Researchers have won a 245-thousand dollar grant to help them recover artifacts from the wreckage of a vessel believed to be the flagship of the pirate Blackbeard. The [Golden Leaf Foundation](#) awarded 145-thousand dollars to the *Queen Anne's Revenge* Shipwreck Project to save fragile items and conduct research in new areas. The state Legislature gave the project another one-hundred-thousand dollars to pay for conservation of the artifacts at an [East Carolina University laboratory](#). The money will pay for preparation of a detailed plan for recovery and artifact handling in the field and in the conservation lab. The shipwreck was discovered in 1997 and items recovered from it have been displayed at the state [Maritime Museum](#) in Beaufort and been part of a traveling museum tour.

Associated Press ©

<http://www.cdnn.info/industry/i041201/i041201.html> [copy of the article]

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/3960683/detail.html> [no longer active]

WSOCTv.com - Charlotte,NC,USA

(courtesy of [Richard Lawrence](#), head of [North Carolina's Underwater Archaeology Unit](#))

Updates for the *Queen Anne's Revenge* Shipwreck Project are now available on-line. The [conservation laboratory report](#) discusses the 2004 fall field season, transfer of artifacts to the [North Carolina Maritime Museum](#), cannon dehydration, [East Carolina University public relations](#), and an update on the Gunlock (QAR 326.000). The latest update from the *QAR* Shipwreck Project ([Volume 4\(3\)](#)) is also available. This issue contains some interesting information uncovered about an early 18th-century house that may have belonged to Blackbeard's mistress, a report on a unique shell found on the site, and discusses two new grants for the *QAR* project.

Further information can be found at the *Queen Anne's Revenge* web sites:

<http://www.qaronline.org/OctNov04.htm> and <http://www.qaronline.org/vol4no3.htm>

Rhode Island

Rhode Island legend tells of a spectral ship that haunts the waters off Block Island, bursting into flame and sinking into the ocean. Depending on the version of the story, the ship augurs bad weather, and may also appear on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's. The tales hold that the ship is the ghost of one that wrecked on the island's northern point shortly after Christmas 1738. And while there's good evidence that a British ship, the *Princess Augusta*, carrying a load of passengers from territory that would become Germany, ran aground on the island on Dec. 27, 1738, there's accord on little else about the incident.

By Elizabeth Zuckerman - Associated Press ©

http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2004/12/19/christmastime_shipwreck_sparked_ghost_ship_legend/

Boston.com - Boston,MA,USA (12/19/04)

South Carolina

The waters along the South Carolina coast are littered with the wrecks of warships and now a new [federal law](#) will help better protect them. Under the law, federal agents can seize a treasure hunter's boat and fine him \$100,000 a day for trying to loot such wrecks, which by law belong to the federal government. The law could allow criminal charges to be brought as well. A recent survey by the [South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology](#) identified 46 wrecks in South Carolina waters, some accessible to small boats. In Charleston Harbor, the location of the Confederate ships *Chicora* and *Palmetto State* as well as the Union ironclad *Patapsco* are commonly known. The law applies to military wrecks, but not to commercial vessels. It was needed because new technology has made it easier to locate wrecks, said Bob Neyland, the head of underwater archaeology at the [Naval Historical Center](#) and the coordinator for the Hunley project. "This will go a long way to protecting war graves; and it will go a long way toward protecting archaeological sites," he said.

Associated Press ©

<http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/science/1104/29shipwrecks.html>

Atlanta Journal Constitution (subscription) - Atlanta,GA,USA (11/29/04)

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/local/10300759.htm>

Myrtle Beach Sun News - Myrtle Beach,SC,USA (11/30/04)

In the 1970s, local lore has it, treasure hunters armed with underwater blowtorches prowled the waters outside Charleston Harbor for the [H.L. Hunley](#). They planned to cut it up and sell souvenirs of the Civil War submarine, and perhaps even the bones of her crew, to collectors around the globe. There was a time when such looting was pretty common. Now, with legislation that just passed Congress, federal agents can seize a treasure hunter's boat and fine him \$100,000 for mining the government's archaeological gold. Bob Neyland, head of underwater archaeology at the [Naval Historical Center](#) and the Hunley project coordinator, said the new [Sunken Military Craft act](#) was forced by rapid advance in shipwreck-hunting technology. Nowadays, just about anyone with a boat and a few electronic gadgets can be an amateur treasure hunter.

BY Brian Hicks - Charleston Post and Courier ©

http://www.charleston.net/stories/112904/loc_29shipwreck.shtml

Charleston Post and Courier (subscription) - Charleston,SC,USA (11/29/04)

From the Halls of Academia

Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Automation Research Institute

A robotic fish designed for underwater archaeology, mapping, water cultivation and even fishing has been co-developed by the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Automation Research Institute (of the Chinese Academy of Sciences). The black-bodied robot fish is about four feet long, and resembles a real fish in both shape and movement. It also has automatic navigation controls and swims at about four kilometers per hour for up to three hours. The robofish from China is described as being

"flexible in action, easy to operate and makes little disturbance to surrounding environment." It has been tested in an underwater search of a sunken warship last August.

People's Daily Online ©

http://english1.people.com.cn/200412/07/eng20041207_166401.html

People's Daily Online - Beijing, China (12/07/04)

A related story: http://www.space.com/business/technology/technology/technovel_robfish_041210.html

Space.com – USA (12/10/04)

Burt Township School, Grand Marais, Michigan

[see story of students learning about underwater archaeology from the National Park Service in the [Minnesota](#) section]

Global Perspectives

Australia

An international shipwreck hunter and a Perth-based group dedicated to finding HMAS *Sydney II* have confirmed they will conduct a collaborative search for the ship after a meeting this week. HMAS *Sydney II* and its 645 crew sank off Western Australia's mid-west coast in Australia's worst ever naval disaster in 1941, along with the German raider, *Kormoran*.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation ©

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200411/s1245815.htm>

ABCNews Online – Australia (11/17/04)

China

[See entry under [Halls of Academia](#)]

(courtesy of Robert Mutch at <http://www.munarchaeology.com/munarchaeology/news/main.htm>)

The [Guangdong](#) provincial government has decided to salvage an ancient boat which sank in the waters of this coastal city in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), according to Jing Lihu, deputy director of the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Culture. Local archaeologist Wu Jing said the wooden vessel, which is still in good condition, is thought to contain 60,000-80,000 valuable pieces, more than the total number of historical relics that are now in museums in Guangdong Province. The vessel is 24.58 meters long and 9.8 meters wide. It weighs more than 3,800 tons. The vessel is covered by 2-metre deep silt, Wu said. He believes Nanhai No 1 was made with timber painted or soaked with a special plant oil.

China Daily - China Internet Information Center ©

<http://china.org.cn/english/culture/114855.htm>

China Daily – China (12/14/04)

Ecuador

The last time that Scott Heimdal set out in search of sunken treasure, he ended up being the bounty instead, kidnapped and held for ransom in the jungles of South America for two months not knowing whether he would live or die. Now, nearly 15 years after his central Illinois hometown raised the cash that bought his freedom, Heimdal is preparing to head back to Ecuador to resume a treasure-hunting dream that still burns hotter than his memories of 61 days at the mercy of Colombian rebels. The 42-year-old former hostage says this trip will be much safer. Instead of guerrillas, he says, his biggest worry will be finding a Spanish galleon that sank off the coast of Ecuador in the late 1500s with a cargo he estimates could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

By Jan Dennis – Associated Press ©

<http://www.cdn.info/industry/i041207/i041207.html>

CDNN – New Zealand (12/07/04)

Iran

Iran's cultural heritage is facing almost unquantifiable damage from an ambitious programme of dam building. There are currently 85 dams under construction across the country, part of a programme that the Iranian government promotes with a considerable amount of national pride. It is an understandable concern in a dry country, parts of which are recovering from a seven-year drought. The dams are also connected to a programme of hydro-electric production that is seen as an essential part of a process of modernisation and industrialisation regularly highlighted by government [sic] issued targets and figures. In its desperate attempts to mount salvage operations, the Iran Cultural Heritage Organisation (ICHTO) has found itself not only obstructed by the Energy Ministry, but close to being in open opposition to the government. With little time remaining to survey the sites under threat, it is possible that the true extent of what will be submerged beneath the waters of these reservoirs will never be known, a potential cultural tragedy in a country often referred to as the cradle of civilisation. Of greater significance are the early archaeological sites in the area. In late September, a desperate plea for assistance was posted on the internet by A. Dashizadeh, an Iranian archaeologist directing an ICHTO salvage team, which was given a single month to survey the 50 kilometre-long river valley by Ab-Niroo, the company responsible for building the dam. Mr Dashizadeh said that the team had already located 18 sites from the Epipaleolithic period (20,000-10,000 BC), including 13 caves and four rockshelters. The river valley is also rich in rock-carved reliefs, graves, ancient caves and other remains from the Elamite era (2700BC– 645BC) many of which are now underwater.

By Lucian Harris – The Art Newspaper ©

<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/article.asp?idart=11685>

The Art Newspaper.Com – London, UK (12/23/04)

United Kingdom

(courtesy of Robert Mutch at <http://www.munarchaeology.com/munarchaeology/news/main.htm>)

A replica of a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age boat found near Hull will set sail on the Humber in the new year – close to where the original was discovered. The plank boat, the oldest of its kind found in western Europe, was one of three discovered at North Ferriby by Hull amateur archaeologist, Ted Wright, between 1937 and 1963. Yesterday a half-scale replica, named Ferriby I, was unveiled at the Streetlife Museum, in Hull, where it will be used as a local focus for SeaBritain 2005, a celebration of the UK's maritime heritage. The boat, built in Southampton, has been trialled successfully on the Solent, despite being only half the size of the original.

By Alexandra Wood - Johnston Press New Media ©

<http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=55&ArticleID=904948>

Yorkshire Post Today - Yorkshire,UK (12/15/04)

(courtesy of the [Cyber Diver News Network](#))

A plan to pass off a cannonball as being from the *Mary Rose* shipwreck and then sell it on the internet for £5,000 has been thwarted by police. Hampshire officers discovered 14 of the 16lb cannonballs under a barbecue after raiding a house in West Sussex. They were tipped-off by The Tudor *Mary Rose* Trust and the Receiver of Wreck. An expert from the Trust said the cannonballs were probably 18th or 19th Century and recovered from the shores of the county's River Hamble.

British Broadcasting Corporation ©

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/4115297.stm>

BBC.News – UK (12/21/04)

Upcoming Events

Society for Historical Archaeology will hold the 38th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology on January 6-9, 2005 in York, England.

For more information see conference web site: <http://www.sha.org/About/Conferences/mt2005.htm>

Archaeological Institute of America will hold the 106th Annual Meeting on January 6-9, 2005 in Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information see conference web site <http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php?page=10096>

MPA Center Plans West Coast State Workshop on National System Development. The MPA Center met with state coastal and ocean managers to continue planning the west coast state MPA national system development workshop. The workshop, slated to take place in Tiburon, California on Feb. 2-3, 2005 is being hosted by the Resources Agency of California. Members of the workshop planning team include MPA Center staff Jonathan Kelsey, Brian Jordan, Sarah Lyons, and John Lopez, and state representatives including Brian Baird (CA), Athline Clark (HI), Doug Woodby (AK), Greg McMurray (OR), and Doug Myers (WA). (J. Lopez). Cultural Heritage breakout groups will meet during some of the sessions to discuss the cultural resource component of the National MPA System Development.

The Florida Underwater Archaeology Conference in conjunction with the 57th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society announces the call for papers. Abstracts due by February 10, 2005. Meeting to be held May 13-15, with papers to be given on Saturday, May 14th. Hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History and the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Information and forms on the Florida Anthropological Society's website: <http://www.fasweb.org/>.

The local contact for any further information will be: Donna Ruhl, ruhl@flmnh.edu, 352-392-1721 x. 493