

GLU 2004 "Covers the Lakes"

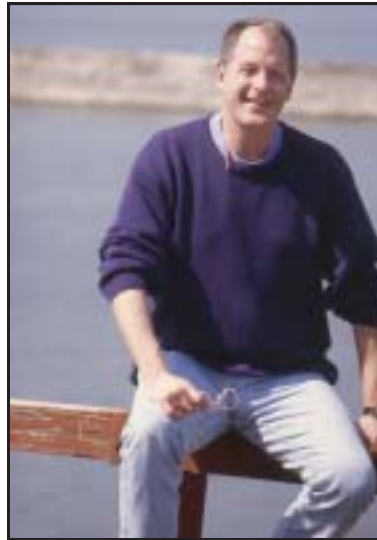
On Saturday, March 6, shipwreck explorers, scientists and educators shared a stage at SUNY Oswego for Great Lakes Underwater. Hosted by Oswego Maritime Foundation (OMF) and NYSG, this eighth annual event included adventurous underwater tales and discussions on existing diving preserves and sites in Lakes Ontario, Erie, Champlain, George and the St. Lawrence River. After almost a decade, interest in the event continues to build. "We have a built-in appeal to divers and non-divers alike," says **Philip Church**, director of OMF's submerged cultural resources program. "Whether you're a history buff or just someone who enjoys true stories of adventure and exploration, we offer a wide range of professional presentations, exhibits, and displays to take pleasure in."

NYSG's Great Lakes Program Coordinator **Dave White** discussed "Diving the Seaway Trail." The 504-mile Seaway Trail is part of the federally-designated "America's Byway" noted for great American road trips.

Joe Zarzynski, pictured along Lake Ontario at an earlier Great Lakes Underwater, returned to discuss underwater preserves and diving sites in Lake George. Photo by Barbara Branca

New York's portion of the trail parallels 454 miles of the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River and Lake Erie shorelines and connects with 50 miles of byway along Pennsylvania's Lake Erie coast.

Ed Scollon, a NYS trooper and member of their scuba team and the Lake Champlain Boat Patrol, outlined Lake Champlain's Valcour



Bay Research Project (VBRP). Since 1999, when a Revolutionary War cannon was discovered in the bay, VBRP has evolved into a full-scale archeological investigation of this submerged battle site.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant's **Anne Danielski** introduced the audience of nearly 130 to the wrecks being explored under the Lake Erie Underwater Preserve Project. As PASG's Education and Maritime Specialist, Danielski focused on

outreach initiatives such as an interactive CD program on the importance of local maritime history. Other efforts include a scuba diving training workshop held for teachers who expressed interest in creating lesson plans on Lake Erie's underwater cultural resources.

— **Paul C. Focazio**



Nearly 100 high school students from 19 high schools across the region participated in the **Bay Scallop Ocean Sciences Bowl** on Saturday, February 28 at Stony Brook University. The competition featured Q&A "buzzer" rounds and team challenge questions that tested the students' understanding in all the sciences related to the ocean. "Getting young people interested in marine issues is essential to fulfilling the goals that have been identified by the Oceans Commission," said **Jack Mattice**, Director of New York Sea Grant, one of the Bowl's cosponsors. "It is their generation that will decide how to recover, develop, maintain or conserve sustainable ocean resources for the future."

David Conover, Dean and Director of SBU's Marine Sciences Research Center, another cosponsor said "We need to attract the brightest young minds to a career in oceanography to help us find solutions to the decline in health of our marine environment."

This year's bowl proved to be very competitive. Said coach

Andy Matthews whose Mt. Sinai High School team captured the Bay Scallop Bowl title in both 2002 and 2003, "This year's team worked pretty hard, but there were a lot of great teams competing." Mt. Sinai placed third in the competition. High school teacher Matthews, a former NYSG Scholar and MSRC graduate was featured in *Coastlines* in 2003.

Another dedicated coach is **Karl Biedlingmaier** who brought two teams on the seven-hour trip from Churchville-Chili High School in upstate New York to the Bowl for the third year in a row. His A team made a strong showing against most of the suburban LI teams, but facing off against teams from Bronx High School of Science and Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn proved challenging. And a new wild card was added into the mix this year. A team from State College area in Pennsylvania took home the number 2 spot.

So it's the winning team from Bronx High School of Science that will go on to compete against 23 other regional champions from around the country in the 7th Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl on April 24th in Charleston, SC. Nationally, the NOSB® is sponsored by the Consortium for Oceanographic Research & Education in Washington, D.C.

— **Barbara A. Branca**

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