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# The Flipper

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Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

December 2007

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Kristina Konen

## President's Corner

### 2008 GLA Meeting Schedule

#### *Notes from Tim:*

**Happy Holydays to all, & to all, be thankful we can celebrate together.**

1. Thanks to Steve for taking over the Flipper.  
I know first hand, the difficult job this is. Everyone is glad to see it back. Jan & I are here to help.
2. The Flipper needs your input. This means YOU GLA members.
3. The banquet was great. We missed our friends who couldn't be with us.
4. It was good to see our Pres. David Albright I hope things continue to go well. Special thanks to Judy.
5. Thanks to Jan O. Steve K. ....Ah I'll forget someone, so to all 20 who were there & made this a special night,  
**THANK YOU**
6. GLA's new board, will evaluate what we did right last year, & improve on our new format.
7. Well inform you ASAP Re: sch. mtg's trips ect.
8. Thank You for commitment to GLA. We are a blessed group.

#### **THANK YOU!!**

**Robert McGreevy for your donation of prints for our annual banquet. You are always very generous to our club.**

## Programs

### SCHEDULE

**January meeting: Farmington Community Library. 7:00 pm**  
**January 16th.** Program: Hugh Walton/Bonaire Video. Also 2008 Dive/Event calendar planning. Meeting treats : Linda Walton  
**.February Meeting: Farmington Community Library. 7:00 pm.**  
**February 20th.** Program to be announced. Meeting treats: Bunny Kunder

### OTHER DIVE RELATED INFORMATION:

#### FOR SALE

Call, or email Steve Kunder to place your ad.

O'neil Drysuit, size XXL with weights. \$250.00 Gary Morgan

#### DIVERS DELIGHTS

**From Joanne Westman**

#### Corn Casserole from Leenau Country Inn

**15 1/2 oz can whole kernal corn**  
**15 1/2 oz can cream style corn**  
**one pkg of 8 1/2 oz Jiffy Corn Muffin mis**  
**1 cup sour cream**  
**1/4 cup butter**  
**Melt butter & add undrained whole kernal and creamed corn, muffin mix and sour cream. Mix weel. Pour into a 1/12 quart flat casserole. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes and until the top is brown and center firm.**  
**(I tripled this recipe so it took an hour to bake)**



Tim

Article supplied by Chuck Pickett

## Navy divers reflect on bridge recovery mission

By Trisha Volpe, KARE 11 News

Divers with the U.S. Navy are packing up their gear, ready to head back to their base in Virginia after more than two weeks on a recovery mission in Minnesota.

"Just to see the scale of the devastation and to see there was loss of life here, real people, not acting, it's a very unique experience you can't even put into words I think," says Navy Diver First Class Clarence Allen.

At 2am on August 6th, five days after the 35-W bridge fell into the Mississippi River, Navy divers went into the water with a job few of us could fathom ? the recovery of eight missing people.

There were 16 divers here, along with several command people. They were in the water for two weeks, nearly 24 hours a day. Only lightning forced them to temporarily suspend the recovery operation.

But this past Monday, they pulled the final victims of the bridge collapse, out of the river.

And when you're considered the best of the best, the expectations are high.

"You have a job and there's no if's, and's or but's, you must complete the mission," says Allen.

"I felt proud that they wanted us to come up and help. I know that if it was my family down there, I'd want somebody to bring them home to me so they had closure," says Navy Diver First Class Brett Eversmann.

The members of the Navy dive team navigated unknown dangers they could barely see.

"A lot of twisted steel, concrete, rebar," says Navy Diver First Class Brian Bennett. "There's a lot down there that stacked on top of that and we'd have to find holes where we could dive in."

"Very tight spaces. You gotta have a lot of trust on your dive buddies and the guys topside and just start working. It's really dark, stuff moving around," says Eversmann.

They fought the river's current, suffered cuts, fuel burns, and risked their own lives - to bring the missing - home.

"It was a good feeling to know that we completed our mission," says Eversmann.

"I have a family myself and if something like this happened to them, I would want you to give your best effort to find my wife or my children and so I'm very proud of what we did here," says Allen.



PHOTO BY JOHN WESTMAN

**What this? The Girls of Bonaire Starting a new tradition? Looks like it. The cocktails were flowing that day. What a way to end a day of diving!**

### EDITORS NOTES

*Well its month 2 for my rendition of the Flipper. I received some input from members for this issue in the way of articles. As Chuck Pickett put it when he sent some to me "here is some FLIPPER FOOD" so keep the Flipper Food coming. Thanks to Tim and Jan for hosting the pizza party/ election meeting. We will have a new treasurer for 2008. Steve Mahr will be taking on that position. Thank You Steve. Assignments were also given out to research some of the trip locations for upcoming discussion to plan the next GLA trip or trips. Also I am wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy ,Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. Look forward to seeing you at the January meeting AT THE LIBRARY. Lets plan some great events for 2008, even some that include diving.*

*Steve*

Article supplied by Steve Kunder

## Treasure Tales and Treasure Stories About Michigan from the Archives of *Lost Treasure Magazine*

### Buried Gold

From *State Treasure Tales* By Michael Paul Henson

This story of \$74,000 in buried gold near Benton Lake, in Newaygo County, has several versions that are all basically the same. One story is that somewhere on the north shore of Benton Lake there is almost a half million dollars (at today's prices) in buried gold, taken during a stage coach robbery in 1874.

In August of that year, near what is now Traverse City, a gang of desperadoes decided that the gold paid the loggers (lumbering was Michigan's largest industry at that time) would be better off in their pockets. In classic Jesse James fashion, they laid in wait for the stage coach carrying \$74,000 in gold to a large lumber camp in the area.

The robbery came off as planned and the thieves made good their escape. But \$74,000 worth of gold was far too heavy to carry. The bandits, knowing that the lumberjacks would soon be on their trail, decided to bury the gold until the news of the robbery had died down.

They selected a site between two tree stumps on the north shore of Benton Lake. There they put the money into an old cast iron stove, dug a deep hole, and buried the whole thing.

It was never learned exactly who the bandits were, but several undesirable characters in the area were suspected of having committed the robbery. It wasn't until years later that a man told of the hold-up when he was dying. His story was that five men had taken part in the robbery. They were afraid to spend any of the money and after burying it they separated but kept in touch with each other. They never returned to dig up the gold for fear of being arrested or lynched by the lumberjacks. The dying man who told the story was the last one of the robbers left.

Two other versions of the story come from the Newaygo County Historical Society, I quote:

"Dear Mr. Henson:

"Your letter to the Newaygo County Clerk regarding Benton Lake has been referred to me for reply.

The story of buried gold that you mention has cropped up from time to time in various forms.

"Harry L. Spooner, Newaygo County Historian in the 1920's wrote in a story of the area published in the Muskegon Chronicle, June 13, 1925: 'The story is told that before lumbering began there, a stage coach ran from Pentwater to Big Rapids, skirting the north shore of the lake. One day it was held up and robbed, supposedly by Indians, of whom there were many in the neighborhood. The story is told also that a white settler was warned by the Indians to leave, and he buried his tools and left and never returned. Asa Dingman discovered the tools years ago, so he says, and they are there to this day unless they have rusted away. Several Indian mounds in the vicinity give evidence of, occupation by these people.

"Ed June tells the story that about eighteen years ago a man came to Benton Lake saying he was from Montana. He had a map showing where a treasure was buried. He said that a bank in the west was robbed several years previous, but the money taken, \$72,000 in all, had been brought east and buried near Benton Lake. He explored all summer but was unable to locate it.' Mrs. Martha Evans, President, Newaygo County Historical Society, White Cloud, Michigan."

The general location of the buried gold is easy enough to find but there are some difficulties involved. Benton Lake is still there on the left side of Highway 37, driving north. The lake is also south of Baldwin and west of the hamlet of Brohman. The problems are largely due to the time lapse. The two stumps have no doubt rotted away, and the shoreline of the lake may have changed, but this is still a good location for someone that wants to spend a vacation camping on the lake and treasure hunting.

## Annual GLA Dues

Payable now thru January 31, 2008.

\$30 per year per individual or per family member at the same address.\*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address (if you have one) is important to notify you of last minute club information such as scheduled dive changes and meetings. Also, we need it if you wish to receive the Flipper via email.

Mail your dues payable to GLA to:  
Linda Walton, 38483 Lancaster, Livonia, MI 48154.

\*Each family member must have a membership app on file.

Article supplied by Jan Ouellette

Japan marine park captures rare shark on film

### 'Living fossil' species has changed little since prehistoric times

Reuters, updated 9:33 a.m. ET, Wed., Jan. 24, 2007

TOKYO - A species of shark rarely seen alive because its natural habitat is 2,000 feet or more under the sea was captured on film by staff at a Japanese marine park this week. The Awashima Marine Park in Shizuoka, south of Tokyo, was alerted by a fisherman at a nearby port on Sunday that he had spotted an odd-looking eel-like creature with a mouthful of needle-sharp teeth. Marine park staff caught the 5-foot long creature, which they identified as a female frilled shark, sometimes referred to as a "living fossil" because it is a primitive species that has changed little since prehistoric times. The shark appeared to be in poor condition when park staff moved it to a seawater pool where they filmed it swimming and opening its jaws. "We believe moving pictures of a live specimen are extremely rare," said an official at the park. "They live between 600 and 1,000 meters under the water, which is deeper than humans can go." "We think it may have come close to the surface because it was sick, or else it was weakened because it was in shallow waters," the official said. The shark died a few hours after being caught. Frilled sharks, which feed on other sharks and sea creatures, are sometimes caught in the nets of trawlers but are rarely seen alive.

