

UASC WreckChecker

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MISSION STATEMENT—

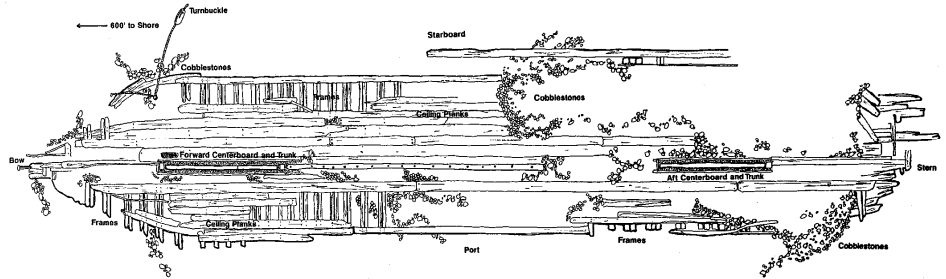
The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago (UASC) is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Illinois' shipwrecks and other underwater cultural resources.

The UASC conducts shipwreck site surveys, which employ field drawings, underwater photography and videotape. Field survey work is augmented by academic historical research. The Society attempts to preserve sites by studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

Membership is open to everyone. The Society presents the opportunity to meet, work together, and socialize with others who share similar avocational interests. It allows members to apply their diving or other skills to group projects that produce site maps, published surveys, technical drawings and educational programs.

The UASC shares the results of its work with the community through publications, museum exhibits and presentations to all interested public and private groups.

Through its work, the Society hopes to add to the body of archaeological data available to local historians and maritime enthusiasts of future generations. It also seeks to enhance the enjoyment and value of local sport diving.



News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

HISTORY, MYSTERY AND MAYHEM UNDER THE LAKE By Liz Jurkacek

On November 6, 2005 the UASC will present the collection of its most recent work in Phelps Auditorium at the Shedd Aquarium. There will be two performances: one at 2 p.m. and the other at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance for adults and \$10.00 for children under twelve. Adult ticket prices increase to \$18.00 at the door. The advance ticket price for UASC members is \$10.00 through November 5, 2005.

This year's show is called "History, Mystery and Mayhem Under the Lake." There are three programs featured: the David A. Wells, the SS Michigan and Early Steam Engine Tugboats. More information can be found on our website at: www.uwarchaeology.org.

Each performance will also include maritime songs and performances by local performers and UASC members: Lee Murdock and Tom & Chris Kastle. Our group has been lucky enough over the years to enjoy both sets of performers wherever and whenever they perform. Both have graciously agreed to provide their latest work for our show.

The David A. Wells was a canal built wooden schooner which sank four miles off of Montrose Harbor in October 1880. The SS Michigan was a 209 foot steamer trapped in an ice-covered lake for 42 days. The vessel sank and remained undiscovered from 1885 until 2004. The wreck, in 275 feet of water, remains largely intact. John Loftus' presentation, *Early Steam Engine Tugboats*, covers several vessels found off of Chicago whose efforts contributed to building this great city and our lakefront's shoreline.

The UASC has been providing performances covering our work since 1996. The group has surveyed thirty five shipwrecks. There are approximately 300 known shipwrecks in the Chicago area. The Great Lakes have, at last count, claimed an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 wrecks. Underwater location and recovery equipment has made shipwreck discovery a little easier and the wrecks more accessible, so research and preservation opportunities of freshwater shipwrecks are in no short supply. The UASC has long attempted to breach the gap between professional archaeologists and the general public by working to collect data using accepted standards with volunteers interested in preserving these wrecks. Each wreck is a time capsule of the moment it sank. We strive to bring the shipwreck and its crew back to life by showing how the wreck sank, the ship's history, and what unique set of circumstances brought the vessel to rest at the Lake's bottom.

The UASC does not locate shipwrecks. Most of the locations are disclosed to the group from shipwreck salvagers and ship captains sailing the lake. The group has the location of a couple of wrecks whose exact identities are still not fully confirmed. Daily newspapers dating back into the 1800s reported major boat accidents and lake catastrophes with information concerning a ship's loss. The trick is to tie the wreck to where the boat sank and which storm or event caused the damage. We work to sketch, image, and inventory the wreck and the main features. Plenty of research and above water work is required before, during and after the wreck is discovered, observed and explored.

Each one of the stories we will tell on November 6th will be unique in telling a different aspect of life on the Lake. We hope you can attend and see all three programs. UASC members can contact Liz Jurkacek at ejlaw1@aol.com for advance tickets. The Shedd is also selling tickets \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. The Shedd Aquarium ticket sales telephone number is 312-692-3333.

The show promises to be a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon or evening and it is open to the public. A question we are often asked is whether a person has to scuba dive to enjoy our shows. The answer is no. As long as you enjoy learning a little more about what is under the lake and how it got there, you will have a good time. Plus we have some of the most gifted underwater photographers working with us to provide an amazing journey under the lake. We encourage our members to invite their family and friends to see what is new under the lake.

UASC in Scuba Diving Magazine

Chicago was named one of the "10 Best Cities for Divers" in the United States and Canada in the October 2005 Issue of *Scuba Diving* magazine. The magazine article highlights the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago and Great Lakes wreck diving.

Also in this issue, our own Cris Kohl names his picks for the top 10 wooden shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. Check it out...

Save the Date — Local Shipwreck, Diving and Maritime Events

- October 26, 2005** **UASC October Meeting***— Dr. Ken Schoon, Author of *Calumet Beginnings*, will speak on the geological history of Lake Michigan's southern shoreline. He will also cover the history of the early Indian Trails and stagecoach routes.
- November 6, 2005** **UASC Presentation** – **Shipwreck Show at the Shedd Aquarium** – See cover story for details
- November 7, 2005** **Archaeological Institute of America** – **Lecture on the Excavation and Reconstruction of the PEPPER WRECK.** Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL 7:30pm contact Thomas Sienkewicz toms@monm.edu
- November 12, 2005** **UASC Presentation** – **Sauk Trail Archaeological Society** – November 12, Crystal Lake
- November 30, 2005** **UASC November Meeting*** – Martin Touhy, from the National Archives will discuss what resources are available for research in the National Archives and how to access them.
- December 2, 2005** **UASC/LOUP/CASA** – **Club Holiday Party**, Burnham Harbor Yacht Club, Chicago, IL
- January 30, 2006** **UASC January Meeting*** – Jay Bonanzinga, Author of a recent book on the Eastland Disaster will discuss this great disaster. Check out more information on Jay and his new Best Seller, *Frozen*, at www.jaybonansinga.com.
- February 18, 2006** **Chicago Maritime Festival** – (tentative date) **4th Annual Maritime Show.** Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, IL. Presentations, Exhibits, music and an evening seafarers' concert.
- February 24-26, 2006** **Our World—Underwater** – **36th Annual Show.** Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL. www.ourworldunderwater.com
- March 24-26, 2006** **Ghost Ships Festival** – Milwaukee, WI. Exhibits and presentations

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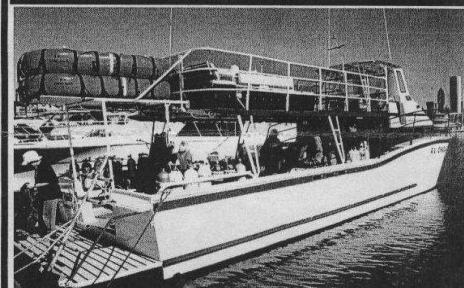
UASC Meetings

* UASC Monthly Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL. Enter through the side door, located on the northwest side of the building. Metered street parking is generally available (quarters only)

More Events...

- For more Shipwreck, Diving and Maritime event information, please visit our website: <http://www.uwarchaeology.org/>
- For Great Lakes Singers/Songwriters (and UASC members) Tom & Chris Kastle's concert schedule, go to <http://www.kastles.net>
- For Great Lakes Singer/Songwriter (and UASC member) Lee Murdock's concert schedule, go to <http://www.leemurdock.com>

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FEATURE: Portrait of the Artist as a Wreck Diver

by Michael Angelo Gagliardi

I have been told that what a man is and what he becomes is determined by what he does. I draw. I paint and I sculpt. I make art. Whether that art is good or bad, will last or be forgotten, or whether or not it makes any difference in this world is something to be determined by others. That is determined by its viewers. I simply draw.

I was named Michael Angelo, which in my mind proves the existence of a slightly twisted higher being with a really warped sense of humor. I don't remember a time in my life when I haven't drawn pictures. Almost every adult thought it cute to give young Michael Angelo a crayon or marker set, so it all came very natural to me. Throughout my life, in whatever endeavor I have done, I have made images on paper of that event. So, at the age of 35 when I learned to scuba dive and shortly thereafter wreck and cave dive it was no shock that I would begin to make renderings of a wet world.

"If you haven't surveyed it, you haven't dived it." These words mean a lot to me. What I do is a form of survey. My goal is not to make art. Art is an image created from within and is a goal in and of itself. As I draw underwater I want to become a mirror and reflect back an event. To simply draw what I see, not what I think I see or what I want to see but only what is there. In this way I can document in image as an event, be it historical event (shipwreck), Cave formation (geological event), or fauna (biological event). By doing this I can add another layer to a site survey besides cartography and photography. And then sometimes something else happens. Although making art is not a goal, sometimes art happens anyway.

I primarily document this event through direct observation. Using proper dive planning and the use of both cave and wreck diving techniques, I first have to get to the event or object I am drawing. I need to see it, to experience it in order to draw it. I am there as a trained observer and since I am trained as an artist as opposed to a scientist, I record these observations in artist terms. Drawing on Mylar paper with a pencil, I record in image and notation, color, shape, texture and perspective.

Methods Used:

1. **DRAWING FROM MEMORY:** Used when I am diving with a new partner or on a dive when stopping and drawing on slate is not practical. The key to drawing from memory is to look at the object and soak in as much information as you can memorize. Commit to memory as many of its aspects as possible. Decide what's important about this object because you will not remember everything. Draw it as soon as possible after the dive, during deco if possible. If you wait any chance at detail is lost.

The finished drawings in Figures 1 and 2 were drawn in a Wisconsin dinner after a shore dive. These types of renderings tend to be flatter and lack some of the details of later drawings.

2. **DRAWING ON SITE ON MYLAR PAPER:** My most used method, simply descend to the wreck, stop, draw the wreck, take some notations, take some reference photos, and ascend. I will solo dive or dive with a buddy who is well aware that I plan to stop long before thirds and draw. In the best of dives my buddy becomes a helpful partner lighting the object for me. Other times he does his own surveying or simply enjoys the dive. Most times I also carry an AL 80 stage bottle even if a stage isn't necessary to complete the dive. My buddy AL never deserts me. It extends my bottom time and adds a good safety factor. After all no one ever dies from having too much extra air at the end of a dive.

In Figures 3 and 4 we see the windlass of the Kate Kelly. It is a single piece in a scattered debris field. Figure 3 is the actual Mylar drawing done on site while the Figure 4 is the finished drawing done in studio.

(Continued on Page 4)



FIGURE 1: Midship on the steamer

THE VOLUNTEER



FIGURE 2: The broken bow of the Steamer *THE VOLUNTEER*

Portrait of the Artist as a Wreck Diver (Continued from Page 3)

I will make notations on the slate observing color and texture and foreground and background. Even though I chose to make the final drawing a black and white I still noted as much information during the dive. I also shot reference photos on this dive. This method gives me the best detail for drawing an individual object. Since I am not moving and expending little energy, I have much less air consumption than a normal swimming dive. This allows time to pack in a lot of information into the drawing. These drawings are about a specific wreck feature or section and not a general landscape. But, because the focus is on an individual object, it is important to make sure the background doesn't fade away totally leaving the object disassociated from its environment.

How detailed the slate drawing becomes depends on how long I can stay in one place. Deep dives, long penetrations, high current, or high silt areas tend to lead to less time actually spent drawing. These slate drawings tend to be less detailed renderings but often contain more notations. Snapping reference photos becomes essential at these times. These renderings are often "tightened up" from memory during the 20 foot deco stop or on the boat during surface interval.

3. **DRAWING FROM PHOTO MONTAGE:** This is an extension of drawing from reference photos. Digital cameras have made this method much easier. With a 35mm camera I had maybe 36 exposures to maybe get something useable. Now I have 186 high quality exposures to shoot reference shots. I use a Reefmaster digital point and shoot with either a wide angle or macro lens and single external flash. I am by no means a talented photographer but it has allowed me to shoot good quality reference photos. Staying in place I literally shoot the feature every two feet, sometimes shooting up to 60 shots. If it is a larger section I will float over it keeping my distance and angle consistent. At home on my computer I lace these shots together into a coherent image. Many of the 60 shots are discarded and I may end up with blanks in the image, but these can be filled with information gathered on the slate drawing.

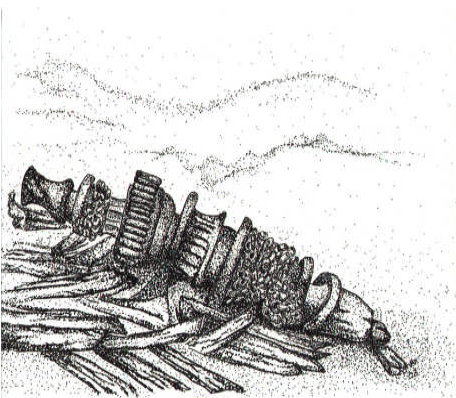


FIGURE 4: FINISHED DRAWING IN ILLUSTRATORS PEN

All these methods are tools. They overlap each other and none is more important a method than another. Most of my drawings are a combination of all these methods to one degree or another. No matter what method I use, these drawings become meaningless in and of themselves if I do nothing with them. There is no point in keeping these drawings to myself. These drawings are tools themselves, tools designed to convey information. I want to explore and bring back this knowledge and say "look see what's down here, don't you see why this is important." I can do this in several ways. I digitize the drawings and create limited edition signed prints. These are for

sale at affordable prices thru my website at www.Michael-Angelo-Art.com. Yeah sometimes art happens. I donate prints as fun raisers to organizations such as NSS-CDS, NACD, CDF, and Milwaukee's Ghost Ships Festival. Working with archeologists, historical archivists and other scientist such as NOAA (Monitor Project) Underwater Archeological Society of Chicago and Great Lakes Shipwreck Research Foundation I can help to record images of shipwrecks, caves and fauna

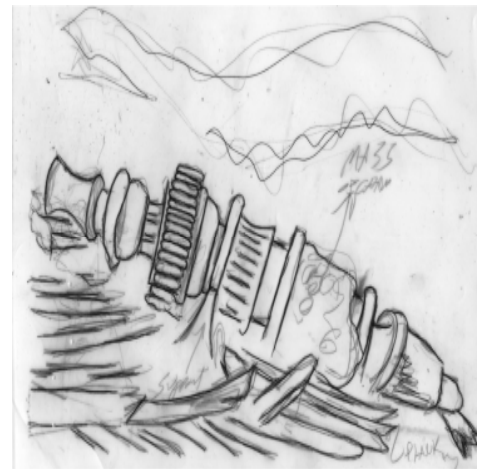


FIGURE 3: SLATE DRAWING: Windlass of the KATE KELLY

Figure 5 is the photo montage shot of the bilge pump of the David Wells. Excellent even and level buoyancy is required to keep shots in line with each other. Figure 6 is the final drawing done in inks and Illustrator pen. The holes in the montage were filled with slate notations, a quick thumbnail slate sketch and memory.

Drawing during surface interval becomes important. If I am sitting on the boat I will pull out the slate and tighten up the rendering I started on the wreck. Memory is freshest at this point and this is the perfect opportunity to put the information onto paper.

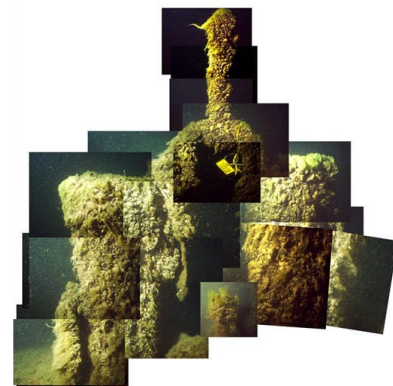


FIGURE 5: Photomontage of the bilge pump of the DAVID WELLS

Portrait of the Artist as a Wreck Diver (Continued from Page 4)

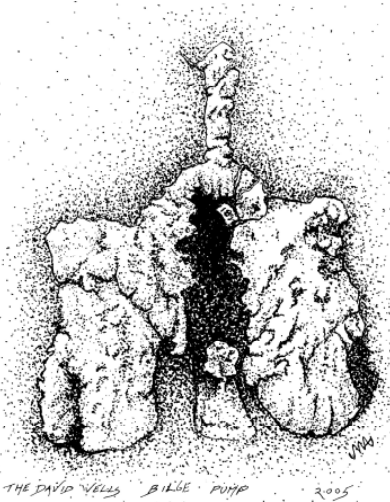


FIGURE 6: Finished illustration of the bilge pump of the DAVID WELLS

In the future I hope to add to the documentation and archiving of Chicago Area and Great Lakes shipwrecks. I'd like to work with writers and historians to document these wreck in book form. Perhaps an illustrated history of Chicago Area Shipwrecks.

About the Author

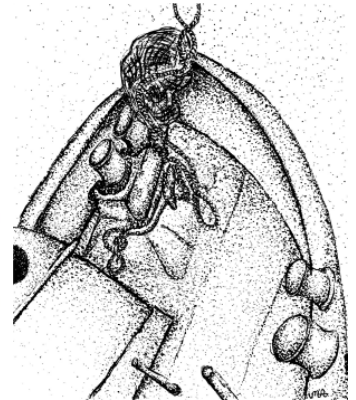
Michael Angelo Gagliardi was born in New York City in 1962 to Irish and Italian Parents. He received a B.F.A. in painting and sculpture and a M.A. in Theatrical Design from C.W. College of Long Island University in 1985.

Michael Angelo became a certified scuba diver in 1996. He has since received certifications in technical diving including Full Cave and Technical Gas Certifications. He began drawing the wet world almost immediately after he began diving.

Michael Angelo has a particular fascination with the caves and springs of Florida and the shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. His was honored when he was chosen to be a diver/artist aboard the 2002 USS Monitor expedition which raised the gun turret. He made multiple dives and drawings of that famous ship. Most recently Michael Angelo has worked with Larry Green to produce illustrations for the upcoming NACD training manual. He has bought his retirement land in cave country Florida, where he opened Chateau H2O. This cottage is rented exclusively to cave divers thru Eagle's Nest Technical Divers.

He has, since 1989, lived in Chicago where he works as a Stagehand doing sets, lights and props for Broadway Musicals. He has a non-diving wife and two children who continue to be entertained by his stories from a Wet World.

At the right are the slate drawing, photo Montage and finished illustration of the bow of the tugboat the SLEVICK



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Members cannot participate in dive activities if membership is not current.

Please circle your areas of interest:

Boating wreck diving shipwreck surveying public relations u/w still photography
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UASC WRECK CHECKER —

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