

THUNDER BAY 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>

Archaeologists Document Sanctuary's Oldest Known Shipwreck



Wreck of the side-wheel steamer New Orleans. Photo: NOAA

Building on research conducted in 2001 by the Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management, a team of archaeologists from NOAA and East Carolina University explored the side-wheel steamer New Orleans, the sanctuary's oldest known shipwreck. Built in Detroit, Mich., in 1844, the vessel ran aground during heavy fog on June 13, 1847. All passengers and crew were removed safely, but heavy winds the next day sank the vessel. The archaeological documentation will be used to develop a site plan for public education and provide baseline data for future monitoring. The team also installed a permanent mooring buoy.

Thunder Bay Receives Funding to Preserve Historic Photos

NOAA awarded \$25,000 to digitize a collection of negatives recently loaned to them by the University of Wisconsin-Superior's Ken Thro Collection for use in the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection. The negatives largely depict 20th century Great Lakes watercraft and will greatly enhance the scope of the collection which presently focuses on 19th century watercraft. This funding compliments a \$235,000 grant now being used by the sanctuary and Alpena County Library to digitize the collection's 65,000 historic photographs. Digitization will accelerate the pace of historic research, foster greater public access to the collection, and aid in the preservation of fragile documents by reducing the need for physical handling.

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit: sanctuaries.noaa.gov

Reaching Out to the Community and Beyond



The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Mich. Photo: NOAA

Since its September 2005 opening, the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center has received nearly 30,000 visitors from the community and across the nation who get to explore Thunder Bay's shipwrecks and observe artifact conservation in progress. The center hosts guided tours, educational programs, and group meetings in the education room and theater. Nearly 30 live broadcasts have been brought into the center to bring the wonders of the nation's marine sanctuaries to visitors.

Maritime Festival Brings History of Region to Life

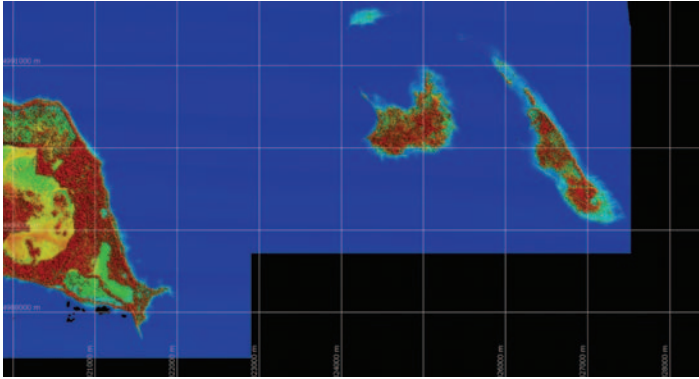
The Great Lakes once governed community life in northeastern Michigan coastal towns and villages. In order to reconnect with this living heritage, sanctuary staff hosts the Thunder Bay Maritime Festival each year. The 6th Annual Thunder Bay Maritime Festival in 2006 brought nearly 10,000 visitors to participate in family boat-building, maritime entertainment, kids' activities, educational workshops, diving and ROV demonstrations, and tours of the new Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Sanctuary staff will continue to host the festival to share with children and adults the maritime history that makes Thunder Bay a national treasure.



Face painting is one of many children activities offered at the annual Thunder Bay Maritime Festival. Photo: Richard Albin

Shallow Waters of Thunder Bay Studied

Researchers used remote sensing technology in shallow waters to further characterize areas of the sanctuary. The data collected will be used to update existing information, and to locate and document maritime heritage resources in the targeted areas. This information, when combined with a powerful geographic information system application now under development, will allow researchers and resource managers to effectively manage the resources, and to interpret and share the knowledge with the public.



In 2006, the sanctuary used a remote sensing system that uses light pulses from an aircraft to illuminate the terrain below, to update existing shoreline information and to locate and document maritime heritage resources in shallow areas of the sanctuary. Photo: NOAA

Science on a Sphere Awes Visitors

In February 2006, the program received \$100,000 from NOAA's Office of Education to install Science on a Sphere at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. *Science on a Sphere* uses four projectors to cast rotating images, or data sets, onto a six-foot-diameter sphere to create the effect of the Earth spinning in space. The sphere has awed thousands of visitors, connecting them to NOAA's global research. In the future, programming will be developed for *Science on a Sphere* that focuses on the Great Lakes and maritime heritage.



Science on a Sphere on display at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center.
Photo: Amy Lisenbe, *The Alpena News*

Plans for 2007

- Exhibits for the 9,000-square-foot exhibit area at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center are expected to be completed in late 2007. Titled *Exploring the Shipwreck Century*, the exhibits will help visitors appreciate the role of the Great Lakes in American history, and will foster public awareness and appreciation for Great Lakes' shipwrecks.
- Construction is underway on the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail behind the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, which will feature dock age for visiting tall ships, a boardwalk, a pedestrian bridge, acres of new landscaping, historically themed lighting, and 12 interpretive panels.

Sanctuary Maps Now Available



New sanctuary atlas maps depicting physical ocean and land features, other state and federal managed areas and parks, and other basic atlas features are now available on the sanctuary program Web site: sanctuaries.noaa.gov.

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