

Currents

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The Newsletter of the Center for Great Lakes Culture

Issue 5, Summer 2003

CGLC 2003 Annual Awards Announced

BEST WEB SITE

"Seeing the Light: Lighthouses of the Western Great Lakes"

<http://www.terrypepper.com/lights/>

Since 1999, the Peppers have been scouring the western Great Lakes to photograph and document hundreds of lighthouses on the great inland waterways. The site features stunning photography, clear and extensive commentary, illustrations, photographs, maps and detailed discussions of lighthouses of many sizes and descriptions. The site was chosen over competing nominations for its ease of navigation and sustainability of content. It will be a permanent resource for information on Great Lakes lighthouses far into the future.



Watch the CGLC website or sign up on our listserv (<http://greatlakes.msu.edu/services.php>) for announcements about the next round of nominations.

BEST BOOK AWARD (FICTION/POETRY) "Borealis"

poems by Jeff Humphries and woodcuts by Betsy Bowen, University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

This book, a collection of poems, is itself a work of art, with stunning black-and-green woodcuts interspersed throughout the text and an unusual 4-inch by 10-inch format. The poems and woodcuts have a haunting quality that captures the mystery and beauty of the northern landscape. The art and words are sharp and crisp in both line and language.

BEST BOOK AWARD (NON-FICTION)

"Windjammers: Songs of the Great Lakes Sailors" by Ivan H. Walton with Joe Grimm. Publisher: Wayne State University Press, 2002.

In this book, the late Ivan H. Walton, who devoted his life to the study and promotion of Great Lakes literature and culture, and Joe Grimm, an author and Detroit Free Press editor, present stories, lyrics, musical scores and illustrations relating to the songs of the sailors who worked on the five Great Lakes during the 19th century. Fifteen of the songs are performed on an accompanying CD by folksinger Lee Murdock. Readers learn about shipping life on the Great Lakes and its influence on the region's cultural heritage.

BEST EXHIBITION

"Schooner in the Sand: Unlocking the Secrets of a Great Lakes Shipwreck." Michigan Historical Museum, Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, 2002. Director: Phil Kwiatowski.

This exhibition highlighted the excavation of a small, unidentified Great Lakes fishing schooner found in 1990 at the mouth of the Millecoquins River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The landowners of this site, the Hiawatha Sportsmen's Club, donated the artifact collection to the Office of the State Archaeologist of Michigan. These artifacts formed the core around which an engaging and interactive exhibit was built. The exhibit told two stories: how this ship and its cargo represented the early history of travel, trade and daily life on the Great Lakes, and how archaeology and historical research can help unlock the mysteries and stories of the region's maritime past.



The Center for Great Lakes Culture
MSU Museum
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
greatlakes@cal.msu.edu
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How to Nominate

Want to nominate a book, author, website, or exhibition? Contact Center Director Kurt Dewhurst, <dewhurst1@msu.edu> for more information, or visit our website.

Events of interest

Through 11/1/03
Pittsburgh, PA
"Home/land: Artists, Immigration, and Identity"
Contact: Janet L. McCall, 412-261-7003.

Through 12/31/04
St. Joseph, MI
Exhibit - "Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes," original objects and artwork on loan from 15 different institutions in the U.S., Canada and France. Contact Fort Miami Heritage Society, 269/983-1191 or visit <http://www.fortmiami.org>

9/23/03 at 6:30pm
Golconda, IL
When Lewis and Clark Came to Southernmost Illinois
Contact Seryl Durham, Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau, at 1.800.248.4373.

9/24/03 at 7:30pm
Chicago, IL
War Affect: Artists
The impact of war on the local community, specifically veterans, their families, and artists.
Contact Robert Karimi at 773.227.6117 or visit www.guildcomplex.com

9/24/03 at 7:00pm
Waukegan, IL
Immigrant Illinois:
Yesterday and Today
Contact Trish McLaughlin, 847.623.2041 ext. 231.

9/26/03 - 11/1/03
Washburn, WI
Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon.
Contact Terry Wagner, 715-373-5135 or visit <http://danenet.danenet.org/whc/BarnStorm/barnstormwi.htm>

9/27/03
Oshkosh, WI-The Works and Life of August Derleth. Contact Kathleen McGwin, 920-261-6592.

9/27/03 1:00pm - 12:00am
Macomb, IL
Al Sears Jazz Festival
This event will honor the legacy of Macomb's own jazz legend Al Sears, member of Duke Ellington's band.
Contact 309.833.1315 or visit www.alsearsjazzfestival.com.

9/27/03 at 2:00pm
Crystal Lake, IL
The Art and Life of Frida Kahlo
Contact Louise Nee, 815.459.1687 ext 103.



Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst, Director

When summer finally arrives in the Great Lakes, a change of the weather brings a change of residence for many. People embrace a whole series of activities related to their "alternative places." Lucy Lippard has described a particular new American orientation of having

two places as a growing practice of living in a "multicentered society." Families and individuals make their way to their "cabins," "cottages," or favorite places like migratory birds. Returning at least annually, they engage in annual traditions that involve recreational activities like fishing at that favorite spot, preparing that family recipe with local ingredients, and visiting local bars, restaurants, or gathering places.

We create meaning in a variety of ways that all contribute to the patterns of everyday life in our region. These second homes or special places contribute to the local culture of the region and only recently has there been much attention given to this "cottage culture" or "river/lake culture." Like the "deer camp," for many, some cannot imagine not having that "other summer place." The Center for Great Lakes Culture has a keen interest in documenting the cultural traditions that shape our region and the Center is committed to fostering a deeper understand-

ing of how these seasonal patterns express shared cultural values. I want to invite you to share your perceptions on these summer patterns and "other places" on our free CGLC listserv, cglc-ig@h-net.msu.edu. Information on how to subscribe can be found at the "services" link at our website, <http://www.greatlakes.msu.edu>.

This issue of CURRENTS provides an overview of our recent CGLC Awards, Newberry Library Fellows, CGLC MSU Faculty Fellows, and CGLC Visiting Fellows. In addition, you will find an invitation to participate in our annual conference on the theme Great Lakes Maritime Culture scheduled for September 19-21 in Cleveland. The Center continues to develop – involving more scholars and organizations interested in the cultures of the Great Lakes region. Please help us pass the word and encourage friends and colleagues to join the CGLC interest group listserv.

Finally, we want to thank Addie Guzman, our CGLC Education Extension Specialist, who has recently relocated with her husband to Illinois. Addie contributed in many ways since the founding of the Center. Dr. Peter Knupfer (a Steering Committee member) has kindly assumed the role of Editor for this issue of the CURRENTS newsletter and his support and commitment to the Center is especially appreciated.

On the web...

The Great Lakes Maritime History Project

<http://webcat.library.wisc.edu:3200/GreatLakes/welcome.html>

Drawing upon rich and massive photographic, art, and manuscript collections on maritime history at five premier historical societies and museums in Wisconsin, the Great Lakes Maritime History Project enables web visitors to view hundreds of photographs and images of ships, shipwrecks, and shipping-related events on the Great Lakes, with special emphasis on Wisconsin's maritime heritage. The collections include catalog records, photographs, advertisements, tour books, construction plans, and personal correspondence. The search engine is effective and powerful; the catalog metadata are informative, but do not provide citation information for those wishing to link or refer directly to images in the archive.



**9/27/03 from 1:00pm
— 3:00pm**

Macomb, IL
Key Ingredients: A day of activities
In conjunction with the traveling exhibition "Key Ingredients: America by Food." Contact 309.833.1315, or visit www.prairie.org/MOMS/KI.asp.

9/29/03

Mahanoy City, PA
Lecture: The Mystery in the Molly Maguire Trials.
Contact: Lorrie Bennick 570-874-7546.

10/3/03 - 11/16/03

Sewickley, PA
Exhibit: Our Ohio River — History Flows By - Sewickley Valley Historical Society, sponsored by Adult Resources, Inc..
Contact: John Seitz, 412-264-0870

10/9/03

Toronto, ON
"Hidden Treasures," a fundraising party
Contact Ontario Crafts Council at 416-925-4222 ext. 221

10/17/03

East Lansing, MI
Michigan Writers Series:
Author Tom Bissell
Contact: Stephanie Mathson, 517/432-6123 ext. 183 or visit <http://www.lib.msu.edu/events/writers.htm>

10/23/03

Houghton, MI
Lecture-Presentation:
"The Huron Mining Company: History and Historic Preservation"
Contact: MTU Archive, 906/487-2505

10/26/03

Merrill, WI-Ghosts of the Forests. Contact Beatrice Lebal, 715-536-7191.

11/6/03

Gettysburg, PA
Lecture: "The Making and Unmaking of the Pennsylvania Empire"
Contact: Russell M. Swody, 717-334-4723

11/6/03

Sparta, WI-Life in Wisconsin's Logging Camps: Myths & Realities. Contact Jarrod Roll, 608-269-8680.

11/21/03

Michigan Writers Series:
Michael Steinberg
Contact: Stephanie Mathson, 517/432-6123 ext. 183 or visit <http://www.lib.msu.edu/events/writers.htm>

Michigan Writers Collection:

http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec_col/writer/index.htm

The Michigan Writers Collection serves as a primary resource for the recognition, study, and appreciation of the literary tradition that exists and continues to evolve in Michigan. It is housed in Special Collections of the Michigan State University Libraries and is devoted to collecting and making accessible all the manuscripts and published works of selected writers with important ties to Michigan. Although in existence for less than a decade, the collection already features several of the most outstanding writers of the last quarter century who have received a Pulitzer Prize, the Yale Younger Poets Award, National Endowment for the Humanities awards, and Guggenheim Fellowships. It began as an attempt to recognize MSU students who later went on to achieve national and international reputations for their novels, short stories, mysteries, poems, and screenplays. Among these writers are Jim Harrison, Tom McGuane, Richard Ford, Dan Gerber, Carolyn Forché, Lev Raphael, Jim Cash, and Jack Epps. Given the important writing talent that exists throughout the state, the collection was later expanded to include among others the poets Jim Daniels and Diane Wakoski, and mystery writer Loren Estleman. Today the collection has a growing list of over 25 writers and is used by MSU students, faculty, in addition to outside researchers. If you wish further information about the Michigan Writers Collections, please see http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec_col/writer/index.htm

Supporting this collection is the Michigan Writers Series, which annually invites writers from around Michigan to appear in the MSU Libraries to give readings from their works. Since 1999, over 50 Michigan writers have appeared in East Lansing as guests of the series. In Fall 2003 mystery writer Craig Holden, poet Diane Suess, novelist Tom Bissell, novelist Rainelle Burton, and essayist Michael Steinberg will all appear in the MSU Libraries to give readings and discuss their writings with their audience. The events are free to the public and a schedule of readings can be found at www.lib.msu.edu/events/writers.htm

Fellowship Report

2003 CGLC/Newberry Library Fellowships Awarded

Dr. Deborah Skok (Dept. History, Hendrix College)

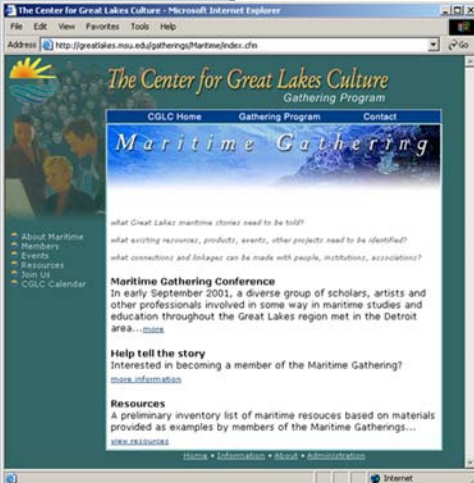
The CGLC/Newberry Library Fellowship will support research on a book project entitled, *Catholic Ladies Bountiful: Chicago's Catholic Settlement Houses and Day Nurseries, 1893-1930*. The book will explore the network of settlement houses and day care centers across Chicago that offered clubs, classes, day care, medical services, libraries, exercise, and summer outings. The book will add to the understanding of the role of women in social mobility, both in acquiring white-collar jobs, and in taking on middle-class habits.

Dr. Joseph A. Dimurro (Dept. English, UCLA)

The CGLC/Newberry Library Fellowship will support research in preparation for the reissue of Henry Blake Fuller's first Chicago novel, *The Cliff Dwellers* (1893), that Dr. Dimuro is editing for Broadview Press. The new edition will be the first to include a varied selection of pertinent documents intended to help readers place the achievement of *The Cliff Dwellers*, as well as the significance of Fuller's literary career, into their relevant historical, social, and aesthetic contexts.

Looking Ahead: Coming in 2003

CGLC to Combine Annual Meeting with Great Lakes Maritime Conference



More information on the conference is available on the CGLC website: greatlakes.msu.edu

Come join us for a CGLC conference and workshop, "Exploring Our Great Lakes Maritime Heritage," at Cleveland's downtown waterfront, 19-21 September 2003. The Center for Great Lakes Culture is partnering with the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History for a weekend of fellowship, scholarship, and aboard-ship activities, including interpretive tours, teaching panels, and presentations about the maritime history and life of the Great Lakes region at the Cleveland Public Library, the historic Hyatt Cleveland Arcade, and the steamship William G. Mather. Special events include:

- * K-12 teacher workshop track on maritime-themed curriculum development (how-to sessions on using maritime themes, resources, and locations to improve education).
- * Scholar-practitioner track to explore Great Lakes maritime themes and ways to preserve the culture (authors, managers, museum staff, scholars, and others explore ways to preserve and use Great Lakes cultural resources).
- * Musical performances and stories presented by three well-known Great Lakes musicians: Lee Murdock (balladeer); Dan Hall (who works with youth and community groups to write and perform their own music and stories); Foster Brown (Cleveland Metroparks, who works with local groups and performs, including canal era music)
- * Presentation of the 2003 annual CGLC Excellence Awards.
- * Presentation of NEXT STOP, FREEDOM!, a costumed storytelling program about the maritime role in the Underground Railroad, performed by Bette Lou Higgins, produced by Eden Valley Enterprises.
- * Capstone session on "What Exactly IS Great Lakes Culture?" by Dr. Pat Mullen, Ohio State University. Program, hotel, and schedule are available at <http://www.greatlakes.msu.edu>.



The Center for
Great Lakes Culture
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Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI
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Name
Organization
Address
City, State Zip