

August 2013

FREE



The Guide

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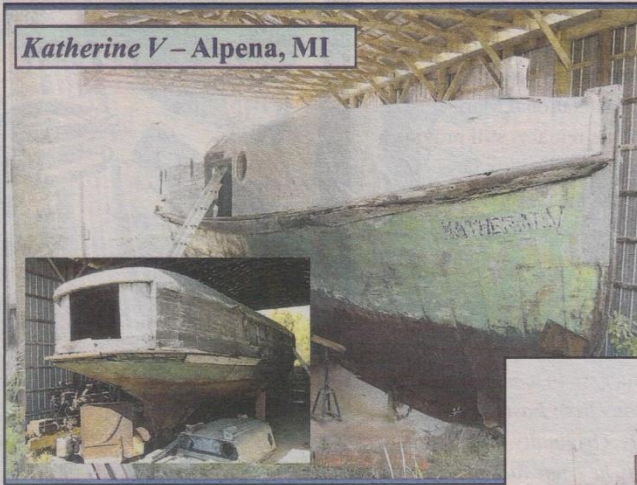


See the calendar:

Victorian Art Fair, Northern Michigan Relief Sale, Rendezvous in Mackinaw,
Tawas Uncork'd, Blues by the Bay, Black Iron Days and county fairs galore.

New Class goes deeper than Shipwrecks

Katherine V – Alpena, MI



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& **DANIEL MOFFATT**

special to The Guide

ALPENA – Mapping shipwrecks with marine archeologists, researching Great Lakes fisheries of past and present, and building remotely operated vehicles to explore what lies below Great Lakes waters are commonplace experiences for some Alpena High School students.

Shipwreck Alley: Shipwrecks, Science, and the Marine Sanctuary, a new class offered at Alpena High School, teaches local Great Lakes science and history

in hands-on fashion. This one-of-a-kind class enriches student learning of Lake Huron's natural resources and Great Lakes maritime heritage preserved as part of the NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary by connecting students to resource professionals.

An Earth Science elective, students learn about geology and meteorology, Great Lakes ecology and environmental

issues like invasive species. Their studies are brought to life through a greater understanding of how people and communities of northeast Michigan are connected to the Great Lakes through history, economic issues and maritime archaeology.

But don't let all this classroom talk fool you. The class is founded on field-based experiences; and in Alpena, locally relevant experiences for students enrolled in this class seem almost endless.

On any given day during the trimester you may find students learning to snorkel at Plaza Pool while practicing underwater archaeological techniques.



On another, they could be loading the busses to visit 40 Mile Point Lighthouse and investigate the shipwreck *Joseph S. Fay*, which has been stranded there on shore since 1905. On yet another field-day, students could embark on the glass-bottom Lady Michigan to deploy their built-in-class ROVs on historical wrecks within Thunder Bay. Nearly all the field work is funded by grants and donations.

While designing the course, instructor John Caplis sought content guidance from the staff



in partnership with



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and secured start-up funding from the Besser Foundation to launch his vision. Kicking off in 2012, the class has since grown greatly and gained the interest of students and administrators alike, expanding to involve about 100 students last year while expecting almost 200 next year. Receiving additional support through B-WET, the NOAA Great Lakes Bay -Watershed Education Training program, the class is an example of how humans, and history can be woven together through watershed studies.

Expanding into new project partnerships within the NEMI GLSI, the class is now partnering with the Besser Museum and Michigan Sea Grant to collect

oral histories from commercial fishermen who worked on Lake Huron. According to Caplis,



students hope to preserve these stories and learn more about the lives of these men and the health and history of the Great Lakes fishery. Documenting

this commercial fisheries history specific to northern Lake Huron, students will help create an interpretive exhibit for the *Katherine V.* – a historic commercial fishing vessel that operated out of Rogers City and is now housed at the Besser Museum in Alpena. Through their research students capture a record of local history and raise awareness of the value of our Great Lakes, while developing exhibits to interpret our heritage and encourage lifetime stewardship of the Lake Huron fishery.

Students learn about science, history, writing and technology during these hands-on, multi-disciplinary learning experiences. The enthusiastic youth explore first hand the wealth of careers connected with Great Lakes science. When they apply those lessons learned from experts, students find themselves equipped

to take on real-world projects like the *Katherine V.*, which is a valuable contribution to the mission and work of the Besser Museum.

This Alpena High class project is place-based education in action: students are contributing to their community by enhancing maritime heritage studies and environmental stewardship of Northeast Michigan through their education.

Above all, the work of these students in their community – whether studying and mapping shipwrecks or interviewing commercial fisherman – is creating a greater interest, raising awareness, increasing educational opportunities and generating community pride. 🇺🇸



The Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

The Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative is a regional partnership of schools and community partners working to promote place-based, community-based learning experiences. This network serves to engage youth as partners in protecting our Great Lakes and natural resources of Northeast Michigan through hands-on, feet-wet learning in (and with) the community.

The NE MI GLSI supports:

- **Place-based education programs with youth:** Hands-on, place-based education is a proven method for developing knowledgeable and active stewards of the environment.
- **Educators and school improvement:** Through training and professional development for teachers, NEMI GLSI supports the use of best practices that maximize the effectiveness of PBE.
- **Strong school-community partnerships:** Schools and communities working together producing powerful partnerships that are beneficial to all.

Funding in support of the NE MI GLSI provided by Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Community Foundation for NE MI, NOAA B-WET, and Toyota 4-H20, among many other local contributing partners.

www.NEMIGLSI.org

Visit **NEMIGLSI** online to see projects in action & learn how *you* can participate
www.NEMIGLSI.org

Help NE MI GLSI support youth development and environmental stewardship in our communities!

To donate contact:
Community Foundation for
Northeast Michigan
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or
www.cfne.org