



ON THE BOTTOM — It might be a bit murky, but the bottom of Madison's five lakes can offer up many finds. Shown above left is an overturned fishing boat discovered in Lake Waubesa in November of 2013. The boat was in 16 feet of water. Pictured above center is a car that went through the ice in 1964 on Lake Kegonsa. The car caught fire and sank; the roof has rusted away. Shown above right is a much older car that sank to the bottom of Lake Mendota, off of Fox Bluff, in 1928. Directly at left is a circa 1940 wooden Century boat. The boat was found in Lake Mendota. At right is another boat's steering wheel and dashboard. The boat, which is full of silt, was discovered in Lake Mendota. All the boats shown here originally were located by diver Rick Krueger. All these photos were taken by Tamara Thomsen. Use a smartphone or tablet and scan the QR code here to view a brief related video on the Outdoor Treasures website.



Mysteries abound in Madison's lakes

(Editor's note: This is the first of a monthly column by Fort Atkinson's Jim Furley. He will be sharing stories and photos or people, places and things relating to the Great Outdoors as he tours the state and beyond. Enjoy!)

The Madison chain of lakes draws visitors from across state lines. People come from near and far to fish and boat on the four historic waterways created by a glacier over 10,000 years ago. Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa make up the chain, all connected by the Yahara River.

While the general public concentrates its recreation above water, there are individuals who focus their activities below. Rick Krueger, a lifelong resident of Madison is one. He has been scuba diving these lakes since 1991, trying to unlock their many secrets.

The retired Krueger says diving is his hobby and passion. Since reaching the 600-dive milestone years ago, Krueger quit counting. He's on the water about 125 times per year, either diving, searching for objects with side-scan sonar or fishing.

You name it, Krueger and his diving partners probably have found it ... from knives, fishing lures, rods, reels and anchors to complete wooden ice fishing shacks. He's found boats and outboard engines. Boat lifts normally sit in shallow water next to piers; however, Krueger once discovered a metal boat lift in Lake Waubesa, resting in silt in 23 feet of water.

Over the years, Krueger has found 50 sunken boats.

"One of the first boats I found still had a cooler of beer in it," he recalled.

The boat had been there quite a while, as evident by the hull numbers.

"The boat registration expired in 1969," he said.

Krueger has found submerged and abandoned canoes, fiberglass runabouts, aluminum fishing boats and sailboats, some of these craft dating back to the late 1800s. Many of Krueger's larger discoveries are professionally photographed by fellow diver Tamara Thomsen, owner of Diversions Scuba, a Madison diving shop.

A diver friend of Krueger's once found an antler on the bot-

tom of Lake Mendota. The local university later determined it to be an elk antler. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), elk inhabited at least 50 of Wisconsin's 72 counties in the 1800s.

Krueger finds considerable "garbage" as well.

"Many years ago, it was normal to use the lake as a trash bin," Krueger explained.

Twisted metal and other debris of years gone by litter the lake beds. A metal I-beam, stuck upright in the middle of Lake Monona, was located several years ago. That I-beam attracts a lot of crappies, Krueger said, noting that "Fish will relate to any kind of structure."

Krueger remembers a sunken boat he found in Lake Waubesa off of Hog Island a few years ago. That, too, attracted aquatic life. While Krueger was observing the craft with an underwater camera, two muskies swam by, along with a walleye and a carp.

And, "above the boat was full of bluegills," he said.

Relics located in Lake Monona are from what Krueger believes was the aftermath of a

hotel fire. Hotel plates, silverware, beer mugs and a spice rack rest on the lake bottom near the previous location of the Tonyawatha Springs Hotel. According to the Blooming Grove website, that hotel was one of the grandest lakeshore structures on Lake Monona. It burned down in 1895.



With the help of an underwater metal detector, Krueger unearthed civil war bullets buried deep in the silt of Lake Mendota. He donated the finds to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. How the bullets got there will probably never be known.

On another dive, Krueger came upon a steel tractor wheel. He believes it might have been used years ago as an anchoring point to moor a boat. He and other divers have found old train wheels and millstones from the 1800s, which might have been used for the same purpose.

Krueger's been a fisherman since his youth and that led to his diving interest. During his first years of underwater exploration, he worked on documenting fishing cribs submerged in the Madison lakes. Cribbs are man-made structures approved by the DNR through a permit process. They are used underwater to create fish habitat or spawning grounds.

"The records of cribs in the lake were very sporadic," he said. "So I figured I would make an accurate record of the ones I found, along with GPS coordinates."

In order to pay for gas and the upkeep of his boat, Krueger emails these records to anglers for a fee.

"There is tons and tons of stuff out there," he said.

The spreadsheet has more than 1,000 waypoints of cribs, rock bars, logs, weed lines, mud humps and other depressions that people like to fish.

Krueger gets calls from people when they lose sentimental keepsakes or things of value. In 2003, a boater on Lake Monona lost his \$13,000 Rolex watch as he was anchoring his boat prior to the Blues Festival at Olin Park. When he threw out the anchor the rope might have caught his wristband and into the water splashed the Rolex. Krueger showed up with a metal detector and found the watch in a weed patch in 15 feet of water. The owner was appreciative, and gave Rick a \$500 reward.

Many vehicles are found immersed, as well. Krueger says frozen lakes were used as shortcuts to get around Madison in the early days.

"There are a lot of vehicles out there that haven't been

found," he believes.

Krueger is aware of four cars that currently sit on the bottom of Lake Mendota off of Fox Bluff. It is believed they all dropped through the same ice hole or pressure crack in the winter of 1928. At least two people are known to have perished on the lake that year.

there are laws that must be followed.

In 1992, Wisconsin passed the Underwater Archeology Act for the protection and management of underwater archeological resources, including historic shipwrecks. In general, all sites and objects 50 or more years in age may be of archeological interest. According to the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association (WUAA), the State of Wisconsin asks that divers "take only pictures and leave only bubbles."

Adding to the lake's many tragedies, the often-called "king of soul," singer Otis Redding, lost his life in an airplane crash on Lake Monona on Dec. 10, 1967. Four other musicians, his manager and the pilot also died. When rescuers arrived, they found debris, including drums, floating in the icy water; along with one survivor.

Wreckage from the twin-engine Beechcraft eventually was salvaged off the lake bottom in 40 feet of water. However, according to Krueger, one of the plane's two engines was never recovered.

"That's one of the projects I'm working on; I'm trying to find that engine," he said. "There's lots of mysteries out there."

Krueger also is helping the not-for-profit Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association write its third edition of "Our Four Lakes." The book is an underwater history and diver's guide to the four lakes of Dane County. It should be available later this year.

To read more about the legends, sights and secrets of the four lakes, email Tom Villand at the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association (WUAA) at tvilland@charter.net or mail them at P.O. Box 510173, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Rick Krueger may be reached by email at rk_diver@hotmail.com.

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Defense begins case in Boston bombing

BOSTON (AP) — Lawyers for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev started their case by trying to show that his older brother was the driving force behind the 2013 terror attack.

The defense called one of its first witnesses on Monday. A cell site analyst testified that Tsarnaev's cell phone was being used in southeastern Massachusetts — where he was attending the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth — while pressure cookers were being purchased north of Boston in Saugus 2 1/2 months before the bombing. The analyst also said large quantities of BBs were purchased a little over a month before the attack in two Wal-Mart stores in New Hampshire, at a time when Tsarnaev's cell phone was again being used

near the university. Twin bombs filled with BBs and shrapnel exploded near the marathon's finish line on April 15, 2013. Three people were killed and more than 260 injured.

Prosecutors rested their case Monday after jurors saw gruesome autopsy photos and heard testimony from a medical examiner about the blast injuries that killed 8-year-old Martin Richard.

At least three jurors cried and wiped their eyes with tissues as they looked at photos of the boy.

Dr. Henry Niels, chief medical examiner for Massachusetts, said Martin suffered injuries to virtually every part of his body, including lacerations of his liver, left kidney and spleen, broken bones and burns.