

## LAKE ERIE'S UNSOLVED MYSTERY: MARQUETTE & BESSEMER No. 2

The Marquette & Bessemer No. 2 has been the "holy grail" for Lake Erie shipwreck hunters since it was lost in the great storm of December 1909. This 350-foot steel car ferry left Conneaut, Ohio for Port Stanley, Ontario loaded with rail cars of coal and one passenger, who was rumored to have \$50,000 in cash in his brief case.

## COLLISION OF THE MORNING STAR AND CORTLAND

In June of 1868 the side wheel steamer Morning Star and the bark Cortland came together in the middle of Lake Erie with tragic results. The investigation into the loss of both vessels led to the navigational lighting used today.



## THE DYNAMIC DOZEN

Discover one dozen recently found shipwrecks from a schooner sporting a large brass bell to a long sought after steamer.

## COMMODORE & JAY GOULD

On June 17, 1918, the last battle of the two Robber Barons who built these vessels came to an end as the barge *Commodore* and steamer *Jay Gould* went to the bottom. The *Gould* has been a popular dive site for years. But, the *Commodore* lay lost until her discovery in 2011 by the Wachtlers.

Georgann and Mike Wachter are authors, shipwreck hunters, divers, and researchers. They provide enthralling presentations to scuba and maritime conferences, libraries, museums, civic groups, and dive clubs.

Lighthouses and shipwrecks are always fascinating.

**Erie Wrecks**  
**SHIPWRECK GUIDES**  
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**Shipwreck Hunters**  
**Georgann & Mike Wachter**  
**Present**

## Great Stories of the Inland Seas

Georgann & Mike are the  
authors of

***Erie Wrecks & Lights,***  
***Erie Wrecks East***  
***Erie Wrecks West*** and  
***Shipwrecks of Lake Erie***  
**GPS Map**



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# G R E A T S T O R I E S O F T H E I N L A N D S E A S

## WHAT HAVE THEY PUT IN OUR LAKES?

In addition to shipwrecks, an array of planes, train cars, autos, snowmobiles, weapons and even a couple submarines rest on the bottom of the Great Lakes. Hear some amazing stories of items found on the bottomlands and view photos and video of this vast treasure trove.

## THE PRISON SHIP SUCCESS

Constructed of Burmese teak in the Far East, the "Convict Ship" Success is the most fabled ship lost in the Great Lakes. While much of her story is true, showmen who exhibited her around the globe invented many yarns to impress visitors to the floating wax museum.

## The Steamer Sun & 7 Discoveries

Mike and Georgann have been privileged to discover over 30 shipwrecks in Lake Erie. This program explores how they discovered the steamer Sun and examines the wreck in depth.

Highlights of seven other recent shipwreck discoveries including a rum runner are included in the program.

## Armored Warriors of the Deep

Early hard hat divers called their diving suits "dive armor." This program tells the story of these early diving pioneers in the Great Lakes. As we tell their tales of salvage and treasure we will see some of this commercial equipment demonstrated.

## TILLER STEERED VIRGIN SCHOONER

There are no ordinary shipwrecks but there are extraordinary shipwrecks. We invite you to come and explore an extraordinary discovery. You will experience our first dive on the wreck & come face to face with the wonder and awe the remains inspire. You will examine the range of possibilities and search for clues to its identity. Was she in the war of 1812? Was she a treasure ship? ... a merchant vessel? You will explore the history of the "most likely candidate". So, come stake your claim to the excitement of shipwreck hunting!

## SHIPWRECKS OF LAKE ERIE — FIRE, STORM, COLLISION

Lake Erie has perhaps the largest concentration of shipwrecks per square mile of any body of water in the world. From the 1700's to the present a variety of military and commercial vessels have been lost on her waters. The talk explores wreck types with their stories in chronological order.

## Sidewheel Treasure and Tragedy

On the open waters of the Great Lakes, sidewheel steamer mishaps account for 6 of the 10 worst loss of life disasters. These accidents escalated in severity, from the beaching of the Walk-in-the-Water in Lake Erie, to the sinking of the Lady Elgin on Lake Michigan. Many of these were true treasure ships, since they carried gold and the personal possessions of hundreds of immigrants. Highlights of disaster causes, paddle wheel engines, and comparisons of the wrecks on the bottom to current museum sidewheelers completes this talk.



## ROMANCING LAKE ERIE

For Mike and Georgann, unlocking this Great Lake's secrets has been exciting and often frustrating, but is always rewarding.

Join us as we share many of our best discoveries. Hear stories of the romance and intrigue of shipwrecks, including rum runners, pristine, ancient, and newer shipwrecks; plus, some targets that are not even boats.

## A CAPTAIN'S PREMONITION, THE WRECK OF THE C. B. BENSON

Credited with opening direct trade from the Great Lakes to Europe, the C. B. Benson made several successful voyages of the Atlantic before succumbing to the waves of Lake Erie.

## Erie Lights & Lighthouse Lore



Lighthouses...what stories can they tell? Some are haunted. Others have some been silent sentinels witnessing tragedy. All are beacons full of romance. We also take a look at how the lights operate, and when they were built.

## OPERATION HAILSTONE: THE SHIPWRECKS OF TRUK LAGOON

Chuuk Lagoon, known as Truk Lagoon during WWII, is the premier wreck diving destination in the world. On February 17, 1944 the tropical skies over Truk Lagoon exploded with rage as U.S. Navy Task Force 58 - made up of 7 battle ships, 9 aircraft carriers and a host of other cruisers, destroyers and subs, launched an attack on Truk Lagoon. Mike and Georgann will take you back in history to explore the shipwrecks of Chuuk and the events leading to their loss.

## THE BIG THREE: LUCITANIA, EASTLAND, EDMOND FITZGERALD

Perhaps the three greatest shipwreck disasters of the last century. Do these three ships have a secret in common? Georgann and Mike will tell you their stories and explore the secrets of these tragic shipwreck disasters.

## BLACK FRIDAY — LAKE ERIE'S "PERFECT STORM"

The name "Black Friday" was given to the date of October 20, 1916, after a violent storm sank ships and ended lives on Lake Erie. The whaleback *James B. Colgate*, the lumber hooker *Marshal Butters*, the steamer *Merida*, and the barge *D.L. Filer* were all lost in a convergence of storms that created Lake Erie's "Perfect Storm". The captains were the sole survivors on two of these vessels.

Schedule a presentation today! Call 440-933-4601 or Email: [Wachter@ErieWrecks.com](mailto:Wachter@ErieWrecks.com)

[www.ErieWrecks.com](http://www.ErieWrecks.com)