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Scuba Emporium

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1985 - Aquatic Stewart?

Turns out this was and still is one of my favorite classes to teach. I had been diving a lot in the middle of Indiana at France Park. I loved the paddle fish there. I started to notice more and more fresh water jellyfish and could not believe my eyes by that fall, how much they just exploded in population. I went to a friend of mine, Tim Early, a PADI Instructor, and asked him about this. He taught me a bunch and together we developed this program. Tim passed away from cancer, but his dreams and thoughts live on with the Tim Early Foundation that is part of the big SCUBA EXPO in the Midwest, Our World-Underwater, and we remember him with our classes on aquatic programs. In this course we identify fresh water flora and fauna, learn about the fresh water algae and its function. We exam closely the jellyfish and spoonbills as they eat. We also have identified fresh water sponges on Lake Michigan. What is interesting about them is they are white, but absorb color from what they grow on. So one may be reddish or brown depending on the color of the board or steel of the wreck that it is growing on. This is pretty interesting and can surely highlight any pictures. What is so cool about writing outlines, is getting out and doing the research first. I learned so much from Tim and then working on the outline, it made me a more responsible diver. For years I thought I was looking at fresh water plants. I had no idea paddle fish lived in the waters I was diving, and I never knew we had fresh water sponges even though I must have swam over them a hundred times.

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