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2008 Underwater Archeology Diver Specialist

Why Did I Do Underwater Archeology Diver?

I love history and the history and findings underwater even more than land. Over the years I have found some fascinating things underwater, like pans, lights, guns and ship parts. I found myself many times trying to find out where an item came from or how it may have ended up on the lake bottom. I also have seen a lot of destruction on wrecks, the worst is from many years of us all dropping anchor on the ship. Think back to the seventies where we would get near a wreck based on land markings and then drag the anchor till it hooked. Well that hook may have been the ships rail. Today a lot of those ships are piles of wood on the bottom. I start learning about the preservation of historic findings, as well as the care when bring an item up. I feel a wreck diver should be an underwater archeologist and should study the wreck before diving the wreck. With help from some friends I came up with the underwater archeology specialist course. My intent here is to teach the basic skills needed on any find and promote preservation not destruction. What I wanted to offer was a lesson in ways to research a find, identify unusual items and the way to properly work the find, research it, photograph it and then recover items. Lastly I need a way to teach diver to preserve items. Wood after a hundred years on the bottom must be treated, so we go thru the proper treatment of wood, metals and not just how to bring it up what must be done immediately. What makes this class so much fun is when you set up a grid and actually start working the grid, you feel like you're working for National Geographic or something and that this is all real? I hope afterward a student does have a great dive and does give that find the respect and archeologist would.