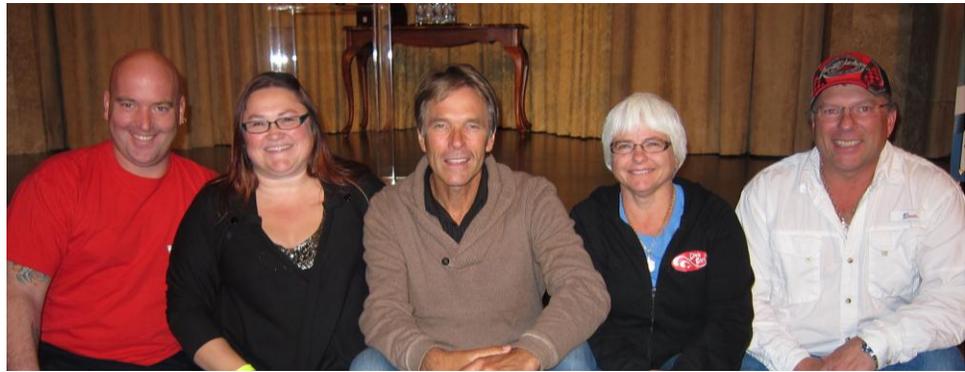


Oct 21, 2012

Inspiring! A room full of divers has so much fun!



Kevin, Roxanne, Mike Fletcher, Connie & David share stories.

Divescapes: The AUC's Scuba Conference was incredible. The respected speakers, interesting topics, visiting with the divers from around the province that we don't see too often we enjoyed a great dive holiday in the middle of Alberta, without even diving! Congratulations Cathy McCuaig, Brian Nadwidny and the AUC council for putting on a great show.

We met TV personalities that all divers know – Mike Fletcher of Sea Hunters, Scott Wilson of Descending, filmmakers Michael Pitts and Pat & Jim Stayer, as well as other entertaining and informative speakers. They were all very approachable and interesting to talk to between seminars. The divers enjoyed Canadian presentations about a new cave in Vancouver Island, shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, a NASA project in a BC lake, and the Boeing 737 fish habitat in BC. We also listened to the coolest stories about TV shows the Sea Hunters and Descending, diving in Socorro, shipwrecks in England,



Connie, Scott Wilson and Leana scheming.

It was interesting to hear from these TV personalities, filmmakers, scientists and explorers. They shared their stories about how they started in diving, and how they got to the place they are in the industry. It was a fascinating insider's view of the business of shooting films.

It is not always as easy as it looks – the efforts and expense for a 30 second beer commercial are mind blowing - how would you get Michael Pitts' underwater shot of 6,000 bottles of beer being poured from a sea can, dropping 20' and landing in the ocean? Remember that you have to contain all broken glass and not harm the environment or the cameraman. And then figure out how to get the bottles of beer to swim upstream to their source like the salmon runs.

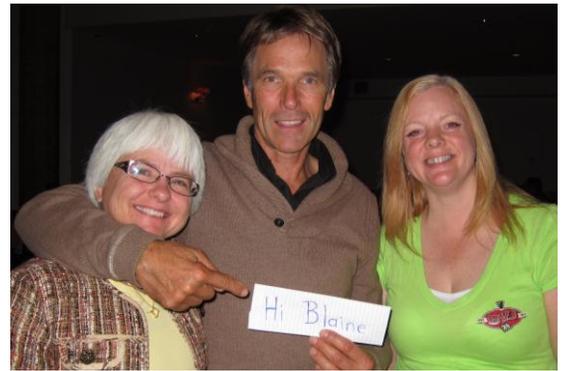


Michael Pitts- Blue Planet cameraman.

Favourite seminars: All the seminars and films were very good – fabulous actually!

Michael Pitts – an Emmy award winning cinematographer, and one of Britain's foremost underwater cameramen, had behind the scenes stories of filming the shipwrecks of England, and also scenes from making several of his underwater movies.

Mike Fletcher – we all know and love Sea Hunters and Deep Sea Detectives. This was the story of how Mike got the gig to work with Clive Cussler and James Delgado. He had some legal adventures along the way with the US government – Mike was defending a shipwreck in Canadian waters right outside his home on the great lakes.



Pat & Jim Stayer – these accomplished and professional



videographers had

a pre-conference seminar on fish behavior, and how to get them to cooperate with your camera; a seminar on three newly discovered, pristine, shallow wrecks in the Great Lakes, and ended with the sharks of Socorro.

Donnie Reid – a fascinating look into how the study of a little lake in BC with unusual fresh water coral

growth has evolved over the years to an annual expedition of scientists, astronauts and divers involving NASA, Kennedy space centre, and Phil Newton's neoprene suits and dive vehicles. This research is related to human exploration of deep space. It blows your mind away to think of the possibilities, and the Canadian dive connection. And the most coveted dive job – who would have guessed it is being a 'sub bumper'!

Tom Wilson – gave a unique and humorous look at the evolution of a diver – with photos and licence plate illustrations. Everyone fits somewhere on the scale.

Scott Wilson – with a good dose of laryngitis Scott still entertained us with how the show Descending was proposed to the networks after the success of Departures. He told the behind the scenes look at becoming a scuba diver so he could shoot the series, and some of the locations he has dove in.

Peter Luckham – spoke of the growth of life on the Boeing 737 artificial reef in the past six years. There were many draws during Divescapes, and Mark Faas won a day of diving on the plane with Peter.

John McCuaig opened the conference with the story of the 'expedition' him, Brian N and a few other hardy divers organized to check out a new cave on Vancouver Island. As with all of the presenters, the pictures and video clips make you feel like you are part of the story.



Search & Recovery: Molly and Jonas had lost a dive computer at the pumpkin dive, near the dive bell. Kevin Hay and David went for a dive last weekend, and found it. Molly picked it up at Divescapes. Thanks for the reward Molly – we will share the bubbly with him!

David and I enjoyed visiting with the speakers, and also reconnecting with diver buddies we haven't seen in ages. Although this year's speakers will be hard to top, plans are already underway for the next Divescapes. This

year's speakers are helping to drop names and connections for speakers for the 2015 Divescapes.

Make plans to attend Divescapes 2015 – in Edmonton – it would be so cool to fill several tables of Alberta Adventure Divers.

Connie & David Faas

Alberta Adventure Divers

www.albertadivers.ca