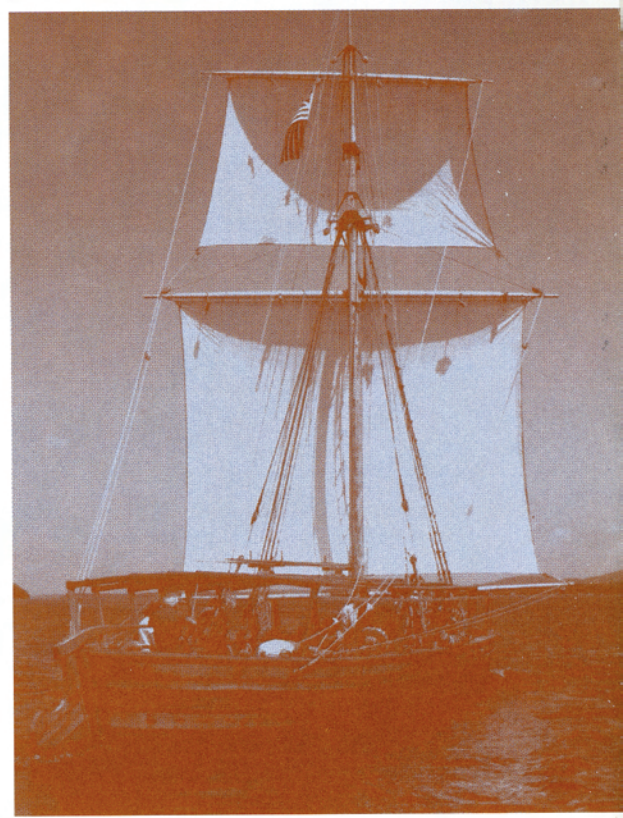


Great Lakes Underwater!

On March 28, Great Lakes Program Director Dave White and the Oswego Maritime Foundation's Philip Church hosted *Great Lakes Underwater!* along Lake Ontario on a spectacularly sunny, warm Saturday. With over 100 people in attendance, many of them divers, White updated the progress of several ongoing shipwreck search and documentation projects presently occurring. Electronics expert Tim Shippee demonstrated the use of side scan sonar and diver/photographer Mike Williams gave a pictorial cruise of shipwrecks and dive sites in northeast Lake Ontario.

The keynote speaker, Arthur B. Cohn of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, related the recent discovery of Benedict Arnold's last gunboat that was lost during the 1776 Battle of Valcour Island in Lake Champlain. Said Cohn of this remarkable discovery, "You have a huge part to play to guide and preserve it" and "together with society, value this historical resource." Should such submerged cultural resources be left below and divers instructed to dive at their own risk and to leave cultural sites undisturbed? Should the lakes be inventoried and perhaps certain wrecks brought to the surface so that divers and non-divers alike can enjoy and learn about them? At present certain wrecks are threatened with obscurity by zebra mussel colonization. A lively discussion about this issue followed the thought-provoking presentations.



The Gunboat *Philadelphia II* under sail. The underwater wreck of a similar vessel, the last gunboat of Benedict Arnold's Revolutionary War Fleet, has recently been discovered in Lake Champlain. A management plan for the vessel is underway in conjunction with the US Navy. Courtesy Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Basin Harbor, VT.

O'Neill Spreads the Word in Ireland

"Zebra Mussels in Ireland: An International Workshop," was held February 19-21 in Galway, Ireland. The workshop was attended by more than 120 government, academic, and private sector representatives. Included in the roster of distinguished international workshop faculty was Sea Grant coastal specialist, Chuck O'Neill who presented three papers and served as the wrap-up speaker, summarizing what had

transpired during the workshop. O'Neill gave "the attendees their charge to go out, learn everything they can about the zebra mussel in Ireland, and to identify and implement the appropriate actions to minimize its spread throughout the island and mitigate its impacts on the island's natural and infrastructural resources." He worked to convey the importance of establishing good baseline data on the ecology of the pre-zebra mussel waterways so that the Irish agencies can better determine the mussel's ecological impacts as the invasion progresses and the mussel's Irish range expands.

Photo NY Sea Grant



O'Neill heard many comments on the value of Sea Grant and extension education, both of which are lacking in Ireland. The Irish agencies, especially utilities and researchers, are now much more aware of the potential impacts of the mussel on the country's water resources and economy.