

# *THE AMERICAN DREAM*

## *“Salvaging Spanish Sunken Treasure”*

### The Bob “Frogfoot” Weller Summer Seminars



# 2009



Conducted by

**Margaret “Lady Gold-Diver” Weller**

“When you consider that over 3,000 shipwrecks line the east coast of Florida alone, then the American Dream of Salvaging Spanish Sunken Treasure is within the realm of possibility. Florida is considered the epicenter of salvage activities, with the 1622 *Atocha* recovery west of Key West as the greatest treasure to date at \$400 million. The important fact is that there is still treasure left to be recovered.”

—Bob “Frogfoot” Weller, 2008.

Bob left us a tradition and a legacy ... his Sunken Treasure Seminars. His team of Friends and Guest Lecturers and I have made the decision to continue these sessions in his honor. Herewith is a tentative Seminar Schedule, based on his most recent Series and tailored to the 2009 Season. The list of divers, scientists, beach hunters, historians and other professionals on page-4 are the Lecturers from which this year’s team will be selected, as our own agendas permit.

Interested persons have already contacted us by e-mail, letter, and telephone, but, of course, without the dates and times we now have, no commitments could have been made by either party. This brochure is the first “official” announcement of the 2009 Summer Seminars, and I sincerely recommend that you notify me of your interest/intentions promptly, since these classes usually fill up quickly. I have ten “seats” reserved for each of the two four-day sessions for a total of 20 attendees.

**Tuition is \$750 for the four days, \$250 deposit at registration/balance due on arrival.** This will include your workbook and a copy of *Salvaging Spanish Sunken Treasure*. When you commit, I will send further details regarding the seminar and a list of local accommodations. Please contact me at (your choice):

**CROSSED ANCHORS SALVAGE**

**1818 17th Avenue North**

**Lake Worth, FL 33460**

**Phone: 561-588-2903 — E-Mail: [bobfrogfoot@comcast.net](mailto:bobfrogfoot@comcast.net)**

*Thank you, Margaret A. Weller*

**SEMINAR SCHEDULES 2009**  
**First Session (Schedules subject to adjustments)**

Monday—22 June:

- 9:00—10:00 a.m. “Introduction and Outline” of four-day seminar. —**Margaret Weller**
- 10:00—10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:15—12:15 “Discussion of Salvage Contracts”, followed by “Locating and Recovering Shipwrecks.”  
—Featured Lecturer.
- 12:15—1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:00—3:00 “Major Salvage Projects in Works/Completed.” —**Bill Matthews, Hank Parker.**
- 3:00—3:15 Refreshment Break
- 3:15—5:15 “Beach Hunting with Metal Detectors.” —**Greg Bouillon, Gary Drayton.**
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Tuesday—23 June:

An Auto Tour of the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet Sites  
Lunch at Captain Hiram’s waterfront restaurant in Sebastian.  
Visits to the Fisher Treasure Museum in Sebastian and the McLarty State Treasure Museum in  
Wabasso.

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Wednesday—24 June:

- 9:00—10:00 a.m. “Introduction to Search & Salvage Equipment.” —**Brad Williamson.**
- 10:00—10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:15—12:15 “Gold and Silver Coins and Bars of the Spanish Fleets.” —**Ernie Richards.**
- 12:15—1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:00—3:00 “Major Salvage Projects in Works/Completed.” —**Carl “Fizz” Fisser.**
- 3:00—3:15 Refreshment Break
- 3:15—5:15 “Major Salvage Projects in Works/Completed.” —Featured Lecturer.
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Thursday—25 June:

Dive trip to Plantation Key, Florida. Established Charters Operation to provide dives on the 1733 Spanish Galleon *El Infante* and the 1733 Galleon *San Pedro*. Leave by auto from Weller’s Cove at 9:00 a.m., stopping for lunch at 12:00 noon in the Islamorada area. Board the charter boat for dive trip at 1:00 p.m., returning to the dock at approximately 5:00—6:00 p.m. Return to Lake Worth. End of Seminar.

**SEMINAR SCHEDULES 2009**  
**Second Session (Schedules subject to adjustments)**

Monday—6 July:

- 9:00—10:00 a.m.      “Introduction to the Treasure Fleets”. —**Margaret Weller / Dr. Eugene Lyon.**
- 10:00—10:15          Coffee Break
- 10:15—12:15          “...Intro continued.” “Locating and Recovering Shipwrecks.” —**Dr. Eugene Lyon.**
- 12:15—1:00 p.m.      Lunch Break
- 1:00—3:00              “Gold and Silver Coins and Bars of the Spanish Fleets.” —**Ernie Richards.**
- 3:00—3:15              Refreshment Break
- 3:15—5:15              “Beach Hunting with Metal Detectors.” —**Greg Bounds, Gary Drayton.**
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Tuesday—7 July:

An Auto Tour of the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet Sites.

Lunch at Captain Hiram’s waterfront restaurant in Sebastian.

Visits to the Fisher Treasure Museum in Sebastian and the McLarty State Treasure Museum in Wabasso.

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Wednesday—8 July:

- 8:00—10:00 a.m.      “Introduction to Search & Salvage Equipment.” —**Doug Gossage.**
- 10:00—10:15          Coffee Break
- 10:15—12:15          “Major Salvage Project: Manila Galleon “Concepción.” —**Bill Mathers / Hank Parker.**
- 12:15—1:00 p.m.      Lunch Break
- 1:00—3:00              “Major Salvage Projects in Works/Completed.” —**Carl “Fizz” Fismer / Carl Ward.**
- 3:00—3:15              Refreshment Break
- 3:15—5:15              “Fisher Family Projects: Atocha, Sta. Margarita, 1715 Fleet.” —**Taffi Fisher-Abt / Bill Moore.**
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Thursday—9 July:

Dive trip to Plantation Key, Florida. Established Charters Operation to provide dives on the 1733 Spanish Galleon *El Infante* and the 1733 Galleon *San Pedro*. Leave by auto from Weller’s Cove at 9:00 a.m., stopping for lunch at 12:00 noon in the Islamorada area. Board the charter boat for dive trip at 1:00 p.m., returning to the dock at approximately 5:00—6:00 p.m. Return to Lake Worth. End of Seminar.

**NOTE:** The Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Coin Show is being held at the Convention Center in West Palm Beach beginning today (July 9th). There will be displays of shipwreck coins, gold and silver bars, and artifacts...many of which will be for sale. The Convention Center opens at 10:00 a.m.

## Featured Lecturers, Past, Present, and Potential

**Greg Bounds:** Salvage diver, beach hunter

**Tracy Bowden:** Salvage diver

**John Brandon:** Salvage diver, marine historian

**David Crooks:** Salvage diver, attorney, author

**Gary Drayton:** Beach hunter

**Taffi Fisher-Abt:** Salvage Diver, Director of Mel Fisher Center, Sebastian

**Carl Fismer:** Salvage diver

**Doug Gossage:** Divemaster, salvage diver, dive shop operator

**Jack Haskins:** Salvage diver, researcher

**Dr. Eugene Lyon:** Historian, researcher, author

**Corey Malcom:** Marine Archaeologist

**Bill Mathers:** Salvage diver, author

**R. Duncan Mathewson:** Archaeologist, salvage diver, author

**Bill Moore:** Salvage diver, conservator

**Hank Parker:** Salvage diver

**John S. Potter, Jr.:** Salvage diver, author

**Ernie Richards:** Salvage diver, numismatist, writer

**Jim Sinclair:** Archaeologist, conservator

**Carl Ward:** Salvage diver

**Burt Webber:** Salvage diver

**Bob Weller:** Salvage diver, author, host. It was he who initiated the seminars and in whose honor these lectures are being continued. Bob died 13 October 2008.

**Margaret Weller:** Salvage diver, host

**Rob Weller:** Wreck tour guide, host

**Brad Williamson:** Salvage diver, boat captain

