

Record Crowd Attends Great Lakes Underwater

A record crowd of 180, including 25 teachers from Wayne County, NY, attended the March 2008 Great Lakes Underwater conference in Oswego, NY. A surprise guest joined keynote speaker Dennis Hale, the sole survivor of a steamship that sank on the Great Lakes in 1966. Norman Lagowski was among the US Coast Guard seaborne rescuers searching for Hale who was rescued by helicopter after 38 hours in a life raft. The conference was the first ever meeting of the two.

Conference presenters also included noted underwater explorers **Jim Kennard** and **Dan Scoville** talking about using the high tech sonar they built to find a 19th century Canadian shipwreck. Eastern Ontario Artificial Reef Association members spoke on the planned sinking in the Canadian waters of the 1000 Islands of HMCS (*Her Majesty's Canadian Ship*) *Terra Nova*. New York State Divers Association members shared Two Tank Tips two wrecks-for-one dive sites in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, the St. Lawrence River, and several other NY waters. **Doug Pippin** of SUNY Oswego spoke on archaeology. New York Sea Grant's



After 42 years keynote speaker Dennis Hale (l.) met for the first time Norman Lagowski, a Coast Guardsman who had been looking for him. After nearly two days in a life raft, Hale was rescued by helicopter. Photo by Dave White

Dave White gave an update on the *Dive the Seaway Trail* project, a series of freshwater dive sites that are marked, buoyed and maintained by community-based stewards. Interim Director **David Decker** reported on the New York State Blueway Trail, an effort to connect and promote dive sites and diving trails statewide.

— Kara Dunn