



The Tritons



Board of Education - 411 Fact Sheet

Information from *The Tritons* Board of Education

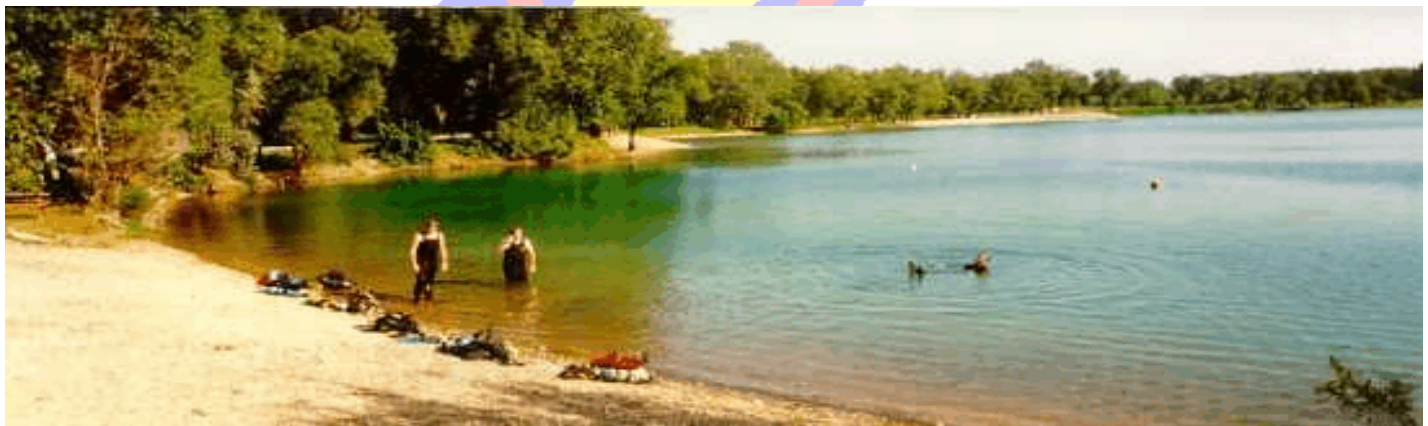
Diving Pearl Lake

Pearl Lake has been a staple for *The Tritons* for well over twenty years. This is a great place for us to relax, check out equipment, visit with friends and generally have a lazy day. It is also an ideal training site within easy reach of the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

When it comes to interesting attractions for the certified diver or an exciting first tour for the student, Pearl doesn't fall short. The east beach offers an old step van and several boats. Just north of this area, a narrow channel bisects two shallow sand flats and harbors what is perhaps the lake's most interesting "wreck" - a 33' yellow submarine! Resting on a sloping bottom in 20. depths, it's a scaled-down version of a World War II U-boat.

Off the north shore, divers can explore a full size school bus, a 30' cabin cruiser, a statue of "The Lady of the Lake", or they can drift along railroad tracks left over from the days when this was a busy sand and gravel producing operation.

The west shore offers several more small boats, another large cabin cruiser, a statue of an alligator, and a Beechcraft twin-engine airplane. This area also attracts some of the larger fish in the lake due in part to the habitat offered by the dozens of concrete drainage tiles scattered along the bottom; many large enough to swim through.



Every area of the lake represents a healthy natural habitat and an ideal freshwater ecosystem to be explored. Huge smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye and yellow perch cruise the bottom. Massive schools of several varieties of bluegills drift through the shallows and pester divers for handouts. White suckers scour the bottom and, on occasion, one of the lake's 20-30lb. channel catfish will add an extra heartbeat or two for the diver surprised by one approaching out of the gloom. A number of species of aquatic plants add an emerald hue to the environment and the presence of several varieties of invertebrates makes exploring the bottom more interesting. An observant diver will find three species of clams, several varieties of snails, and a prolific population of crayfish. Turtles are frequently sited in the shallows, and some years, in the fall, freshwater jellyfish are present.