

UnderWauder Productions' latest film delights many

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She couldn't take her eyes off the screen when David Waud of UnderWauder Productions in Lake Forest premiered his latest film, *Seafari*, at the Gorton Community Center last week.

Eleanor Sherman, 9, of Lake Forest is no stranger to Africa and safaris, and her mom Wendy Sherman loves scuba diving. Maybe that made the newest educational film Waud shot with his family in the Maldiv Islands and on safari in Kenya last year even more meaningful for her.

"I liked it," Eleanor Sherman said of the half-hour look at how sea creatures in the Maldives compare to above-water animals in Kenya, China and the Galapagos Islands. "I liked the manta rays and the zebras best."

With wit and an engaging style, Waud narrates his movie live, taking his audience on a journey that explores black-and-white, tall-and-wide, long-and-curvy and other interesting aspects of the animals that he and his family encountered.



David Waud of Lake Forest talks with Mark and Carolyn McMahon, also of Lake Forest, prior to the showing of his latest underwater film at Gorton Community Center. — Dave Shields/For Pioneer Press

Beautiful moments

Waud and his son Tucker filmed the large manta rays as they glided in a slow-moving circle around them. Though Waud, a veteran at scuba diving and underwater camera work, struggled with a malfunctioning camera, he still captured beautiful moments for the viewer to enjoy.

The Jan. 30 premiere (which was actually the sec-

ond premiere of *Seafari*, for those who couldn't make the Jan. 27 one) was Waud's 10th at Gorton. He told the nearly 75 audience members who ventured out on a cold night that he has produced these shows since the mid-1970s.

"I started out with slides," he explained, changing production methods as technology changed, from film to video to digital tech-

nology. He films a new show roughly every two years.

Over the years, UnderWauder Productions' films have reached elementary school age audiences at more than 1,000 schools in 28 states in what he terms SCUBA Assemblies.

It's a role Waud plays well, having a good rapport with children who he picked out at the two premieres last week to answer his

questions.

"What is this for?" he asked, holding up a gauge attached to his scuba tank.

"To measure air pressure," a young boy in the audience replied when called on.

"Very good," Waud said, as he walked his audience through scuba diving basics.

Such questions will continue as Waud takes this lat-

est title in his series to schools in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin later this month.

But first, Waud and his wife Pam have gone to Guatemala to work with Hearts in Motion, which organizes mission trips in that country. Hearts in Motion was the benefactor of the recent movie premieres, which raised more than \$50,000 for the group.