

WIGWAM[®]

NEWS



2023
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Giovanni Cecconi
Wigwam Correspondent
Venice

English translation by
Massimo Ciarla,
Wigwam Correspondent
Washington D.C.



The world needs love, and we will try to spread it as you did with your welcoming smile and kindness by practicing what you loved exploring most



**Wigwam
Local Community
Washington D.C.
USA**

MEMORY OF DOUG LEVIN OF THE WIGWAM COMMUNITY MARYLAND

On August 23rd, a great friend and traveling companion passed away, loved by his family and the extended Wigwam family

Dear friend, mentor, and brother Doug,

As we face the sad news of your passing on August 22, 2023, I write these words with a heavy heart. It is with deep sadness that we farewell you and we are preparing to honor your memory during the funeral services that will be held in Preston, Maryland, on Satur-

day, November 18, 2023, at 1:00 in the afternoon.

Doug, you left an indelible mark on the lives of everyone that has known you. Your passion for what you were involved in, is in front of all of us and most of all you spent your life doing what you loved most. You created special bonding with friends, family and, above all,

with those who considered you a master.

You have touched the hearts of many people, and it is our job now to carry on your legacy. Your teachings and your spirit will live on through us, and we will continue to learn from your invaluable lessons. In these difficult times, following your teachings, we will take care of ourselves, our



Doug the geologist

THE MEMORY OF A FRIEND



families, the world, and its young people, because we know that's what you would have wanted.

The world needs love, and we will try to spread it, as you did with your captivating smile and your kindness by practicing what you loved to explore the most: the aquatic environment from rivers and lakes, to lagoons, estuaries, beaches, to the ocean waters together with the human soul.

I am inserting to this note some photos of the week spent in Venice together with **Jorg Imberger** where we promoted the **EARTHBOOK**: an active laboratory for citizens that used to monitor their own city's water in a network with other cities in the world.

Under the "*Asta la vista Doug*" project we taught the elementary and high school students how to measure the tides and currents. This project, from now on, will bear your name, Doug, and we will teach the participants to build rafts capable of overcoming the world record of

50 golf balls, an exciting game on the stability of self-built floating bodies, which you introduced to us during your Venice trip, and has been repeated for five years, involving our children organized in challenging teams, especially on the occasion of the "*Cantieri Wigwam di Esperienze Partecipative Transgenerazionali*".

With indelible affection and memory, **Giovanni Cecconi** Venice Lab, Wigwam Venice Local Community and on behalf of the entire network of local communities represented by **Efrem Tassinato**, President.

Hope you are well. See you, Brother!

**DOUG COME TO VENICE
SIX YEAR AGO**

On May 23, 2017, I met Doug, who was in Venice to participate in the Global Ocean Science Education Workshop at the UNESCO Venice Office. Together with Francesca Santoro, Barbara Franquet and Francesca Alvisi we immediately began to develop a proposal for a joint project named:

"How to involve citizens and local governments in the participatory management of the coasts".

Doug was, at that time, working with Washington College's Center for Environment & Society as Chief Innovation Officer, but presently he returned as associated researcher at the University of Delaware, building water monitoring buoys and continuing to map the seabed with sonars.

In 2017 we met again and from 13th to 19th of November of that year, we visited by car several friends and common colleagues. We went to New York to meet Walter Munk of the Scripps Institute. Walter accompanied Francesca d'Asburgo to the presentation at the United Nations of the film on her marina research for ocean protection in the Gulf of Mexico. Later we went to the Washington College, in the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where the new graduates were managing the GIS services with the aim to improve and make local government safer. He was very proud of these services and





also of the new low-cost buoys, and the “Build a Buoy game” and the “ROV Building Kit”.

During this trip I slept in his house, a cabin always opens to friends, a kayak's distance from the Choptank River and with the view of the lights of the Dover Bridge on the Chesapeake Bay. There we played with his memorable electric trains and we remembered his father with his clothes hanging on the wall; we greeted the ducks and other water birds that nested outside his windows; we visited his shop with the vintage cars and we discussed his projects to restore an old truck, to transform an ambulance into a coach of games and to build a new Sport and Study Center on the Bay, a building in wood and glass, designed by a famous architect.

Then together we went to present the Venice MOSE at the Horn



June 28, 2018. Doug "Scientist in Residence" at Bahia de Los Angeles Ocean Discovery Institute (San Diego). In his element "geologically" and with the students... giving them a new perspective in seeing their surroundings every morning and working with them on their various research projects

Point Laboratory where he introduced me to Court Stevenson, an old friend with whom he has exchanged visits since 1989 treasuring Stevenson's advanced knowledge on the estuarine ecosystem and pollution from widespread sources, since the Chesapeake Alliance of 1988.

Then we went to Philadelphia at Drexel University, with **Franco Montalto** to present **Lele Coppola's** “Aqua Granda” film and to present the Mose project to Joe Vietri, and

Roselle Hen of the USACE North Atlantic Division and to other East Coast district leaders. The evening of this very long day ended at Mamma Mia's Abbruzzese restaurant in Philadelphia, with my friend **Massimo Ciarla**, who lives and works in Washington DC, with the preparation of hand-rolled “tagliatelle” pasta in accordance with the recipe of my mother, **Ida Sabbatucci**, that she learned when she was six years old. Finally we went to Washington DC, to visit USGS and NOAA and to discuss with them how to create and maintain a global network of informed citizens, in the world's least fortunate cities built near/or on the water.

In November 2019, thanks to the donations raised through the activities of Wigwam Venice Lab, I was able to return the hospitality by inviting Doug to Venice. He arrived with three suitcases of hydraulic toys, together with a beautiful multi-parametric low-cost probe. This



probe was very simple to use, and allowed me to monitor the dispersion of fresh water at the mouth of the lagoon, and the turbidity of the water across the lagoon channels, before and after the quiet of the COVID times.

On that occasion together with the students, we installed, in the gravity drainage canals of the high waters, hydrometric rods to measure the delay of the tide from the city of Venice to the city of Mestre, demonstrating that those were also lagoon waters of the same tide, waters only slightly more "tired and polluted".

He participated to the EARTH-BOOK Conference and to the first Discovery Kid event on "Acqua Alta" (1°KAADI-2019), together with Australian professor with boots and a boat, Jorg Imberger, winner of the Water Stockholm Prize, a sort of Nobel Prize for water studies, and for many years director of the Water Research Center in Perth. Jorg is the world's leading expert on water change in estuaries, lakes, and lagoons, a highly esteemed opinion leader among his large network of universities located in the on-water main cities of the world.

On that occasion, at the San Giuliano nautical club, we awarded the



schools and students that had best measured the propagation of the tide and its delay compared to Punta della Salute. The winner was the Lido's Oddone Parmigiani primary school, headed by the teacher, Lisa Ferro.

On 28 Jun 2018 during the "Scientist in Residence" event at Bahia de Los Angeles Ocean Discovery Institute of Bahia de Los Angeles (San Diego), Doug was in his "geologically" element and with the students... giving them a new perspective in seeing, every morning, their surroundings and working with them on their various research projects.

Last but not least, I would like to mention the CEP's Venetian program on the construction sites of participatory experience, which, with three events, will be dedicated to the memory of Doug Levin. These events will be promoted with the collaboration of the Council of Europe on the lagoon and will take place at the "Canottieri Mestre" of Punta San Giuliano.

- CEP Hydraulic Games in San Giuliano, "Build a Buoy" and "ASTA LA VISTA DOUG" (September 23-24, 2023);
- Fifth edition of the EARTH-BOOK hydraulic games, at San Giuliano. Fifty seven years after the flood of November 4, 1966, and three years after the MOSE came into operation (November 4, 2023);
- Motorboat trip in the Venice lagoon to celebrate the new and old Venetian participants, on the day of Saint Mark, the Patron Saint of Venice (April 25, 2024).



Schedule of CEP Hydraulic Games in San Giuliano, "Build a Buoy" and "ASTA LA VISTA DOUG". Two day event on the occasion of the re-opening of the buildings of the new Nautical Center organized by the Municipality of Venice (September 23-24, 2023).

- At 3.00 pm: a welcome introduction to the tides and hydrometer rods by Giovanni Cecconi;
- At 3.30 pm: screening of an excerpt from the film "I Vagantivi" by the Vital Resources Committee;
- At 4.00 pm: build a raft capable of carrying more than 50 golf balls, game by Doug Levin;
- At 5.30 pm: what's under the translagoon bridge? Boat trip to see the oyster beds, mud, and seaweed.

Preliminary schedule for the 5th EARTHBOOK (November 4, 2023).

- At 9:00 am: welcome to the par-



“The world that we like is not that of borders, bureaucracies and reasons of state, but rather that of Local Communities, human groups which, in the different territories have been able to express cultural identities and well-being, based on the resources of the territories, groups that have taken care of the common home and their habitats, with the love of mothers and fathers, and have kept in consideration the future generations. Supportive, open, and inclusive local communities interconnected and communicating directly with each other and with the world”.

- participants by the Municipality of Venice and by the Superintendent of Public Works (OO PP);
- At 9:20 am: president Workshop by Prof. Marcomini, Director of DAIS, Cà Foscari University of Venice;
- At 9.30 am: wise Development by Efrem Tassinato, President of Wigwam Local Communities;
- At 10:00 am: the EarthBook for social plasticity and healing by J. Imberger (remote presentation from Pert Australia);
- At 10.30 am: ASTA LA VISTA DOUG for KAAD_5° The Venice Leverage Lab: Venice as a trustful playground for Co-exploration, production, and management by Giovanni Cecconi;
- At 11:00 am: Kid Engagement by (TBD Care of Doug's representative);
- At 12:00 pm: the Mose flood barriers facing sea level rise challenges by Giovanni Cecconi;
- At 1.00 pm: lunch.

Also this year the Wigwam Local Community Network will be present at the event of the 23rd and 24th of September 2023, with the European Heritage Days established by the will of the Council of Europe, the European Commission and promoted, since 1985, by the Creative Europe Program.

Efrem Tassinato, President of Wigwam, remembers Doug Levin with this plea:

Doug immediately understood that the history of the Wigwam Local Communities, started in 1971, was also his history because there cannot be well-being without solidarity, or solidarity without care for the environment ■

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Sending a final farewell to EMSEA's dear friend

We regret to inform you about the passing of one of our active members, Doug Levin, aka Doug the Geologist. Doug had a rich career in building and deploying seafloor mapping and buoy systems. But we in EMSEA mostly knew Doug as an inspiring and gifted teacher-scientist who lived with a sense of wonder, passion, and scientific curiosity. He made rocks and sand cooler than they already are.

Doug was a positive person, full of life, and a forever source of laughter. For many, he was a mentor and friend, and a true advocate for women, especially in marine science. He never questioned if you could do something, it was only a question of when you would. He touched the hearts of many of us and will be missed.

Just as a fossil is magic forever impressed in earth and rock and valued for its uniqueness, so too will your legacy be impressed upon all who knew you.

