Lake Ontario a mass graveyard of old ships becomes a hotspot for divers.

WINTER DIVING

What mysteries await beneath the ice?

THE 12 PRESERVES

Underwater preserves of Michigan

WRECK DIVING MECCA

Lake Ontario a mass graveyard of old ships becomes a hotspot for divers

COSTA RICA

An oceanic looking glass

Volume 6 Issue 1

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NORTHEAST US DIVES

10 Kingston: Wreck Diving Mecca

Kenn Feigelman has been around the world diving on wrecks and filming aquatic wildlife for most of his life. But for all the places Feigelman has been, nowhere has been more interesting than in his own backyard: the eastern waters of Lake Ontario. Come explore his backyard with him. By Jordan Press

12 Winter’s a (n)ice dive season

When the temperatures dip below freezing, and the bitter winds of winter begin to blow, many divers retreat to the comfort of their living rooms but there are some divers who still need their diving fix. Join these adventurous souls as they extend the local dive season and conquer what awaits beneath the ice. By Michael Salvarezza and Christopher P. Weaver

MIDWEST DIVES

18 The 12 Michigan Preserves - Preserving North American Shipping History

They are the final resting places for much of the shipping history of the North American Great Lakes. Twelve areas of water set aside for the preservation of the past. Shipwrecks come alive through the mask of divers from all over the world as we make a stop in Michigan to explore the 12 Michigan Underwater Preserves. By Rick Stratton and Jamie Farris

TROPICAL DESTINATIONS

24 Costa Rica - A Diver’s Close-up of Biodiversity

Costa Rica is a diver’s window into biodiversity offering its visitors a grand look through an oceanic looking glass that would have wowed even Alice with its abundant sea life and intriguing volcanic formations. Visit a land where the oceans are brimming with seagoing experience and slip your fins into the waters of Costa Rica. By Carlos Hiller and Rick Stratton

JANUARY 2010

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BEDROCK PUBLICATIONS
P.O. Box 1494
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Now that the temperatures are lower than your post-holiday bank account, it’s time for the sport that can be enjoyed only in northern climes: ice diving.

That’s right. Just because local dive boats are shrink-wrapped in plastic at marinas and the busted budget won’t support a trip to paradise doesn’t mean we can’t have fun. Dive shops from the Eastern Seaboard through the Great Lakes offer outings to ice-covered lakes and rivers this month and next. Those who have never tried ice diving can add another certification to their log book.

They are joined by seasoned divers from earlier years in a truly awesome experience. Life doesn’t stop when the surface freezes over, it just slows down. Freshwater fish that had been skittish in the summer laze about. Wrecks that had been obscured in murky waters often can be seen in crystal clarity from stern to stem. The colder the top-side temperatures the more spectacular are the ice formations overhead. And the lower air temperatures plunge, the warmer the water will feel to the diver.

For the support crew, though, icy temps are a different matter.

Ice diving is more than just seeing your favorite site in a new light. It’s about camaraderie. Out of the cold will come a warmth of friendship that will last a lifetime. And those bonds are more dear than the price of any mid-winter trip to more luxurious resort you can’t afford now anyway.

We treasure the friendships we’ve built with you, our readers, over the years. We hope during the winter round of Northeast and Midwest dive shows that we’ll get to renew our bonds with members of the region’s biggest dive club.

Bob Stern
As we begin another year, there are plenty of reasons to be dismayed. Our national economy is nearing the bottom of the tank, taking our dive economy along for the ride. In these “challenging” economic times, every small business is looking for more customers. Even restaurants and bars are feeling the pinch as consumers cut back on discretionary spending but dive retailers are especially feeling the strain. Scuba diving is considered by most to be a luxury sport and luxuries are often the first to go in these lean times.

As everyone else, I am concerned about the economy. As a small business owner, especially a news magazine, we feel it more than most and we get a front row seat to watching it happen. However I refuse to be discouraged by the economic gloom and look forward to many challenges yet to come. As I am fond of quoting Henry Ford – If you think you can or think you can’t, you’re right.

In a move to help retailers find new customers, the Dive News Network (DNN) is leading a grass-roots effort campaign called Dive into Scuba Month. Working in cooperation with many other dive professionals, we are coordinating a new activity campaign for the entire dive industry. June 2010 has been selected and will be promoted as Dive into Scuba Month. The program encourages and helps dive retailers to connect with their past, present or future customers. Each participating retailer can host an event in the month of June 2010 and we will use our advertising resources to promote them for FREE.

Any dive business can participate in this program and host any type of event. The DNN will provide support for these retailers by providing digital files for posters, flyers, brochures, web pages, press releases or event planning support. This program is also supported by all the major training agencies and we will work cooperatively with those agencies to support their respective retailers.

All the events will be shared online at diveintoscubamonth.com. Divers can go online and search our database for an event near them or retailers can go online and sign up to host an event – all free. Each event will be verified by our staff before being listed but is run entirely by the hosting retailer.

Encourage your local dive center to host an event. Volunteer to assist them in running the event. Reconnect with your dive buddies. In our industry, we are all in this together – chained together at the ankle - on the steep slopes of the Mount Everest challenge of our economic times. If we pull together we will gain some ground in our economic fight for survival.

Help make 2010 our best year yet!
Happy New Year!

--Rick

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**AQUASTAR 3X STANDS UP TO THE COMPETITION**

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*Data from Scuba Diving Magazine Jan/Feb 2009 Dive Light Review
†All Trademarks and Brand Names belong to their respective owners.
59TH BOSTON SCUBA SHOW ON THE SCHEDULE

The 59th edition of the Boston Scuba Show is scheduled for Feb. 27th at the Holiday Inn and Resort, in Marlboro, Mass at the junction of routes 495 and 20. Under the direction of Alan Budreau, the show will feature (in person) Jonathan Bird’s Antarctic Underwater Adventure, Dallas Edmiston’s Diving Lake Erie Wrecks, “Folly Cove” the movie by Fred and Chris, Doing Scuba Right with Fred Calhoun, Dave Clancy’s The Monitor Revisited, and selected short subjects. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by writing to Cecil Christensen at 2 Ocean Ave (1-H), Magnolia, Mass 01930. For more info call (978) 525-3432. Leave a message.

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES DIVES VANDENBERG

Underwater Adventures hosted a group dive on the new Vandenberg site as part of their advanced check offs. They finished the advanced class with several days diving on the Spiegel Grove and Eagle wrecks along with several reefs in Islamorada, Fla. For info visit www.underh2oadventures.com

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR JERSEY AVIATRIX

Gertrude Tompkins Silver most certainly is gone but not forgotten. The Jersey City, N.J., aviatrix took off in a dense fog from Los Angeles on Oct. 4, 1944, to deliver a new P-51D Mustang to Newark, N.J., and disappeared into the late afternoon mist. Last summer the Gertrude Tompkins Search Team scoured the Pacific Ocean depths west of Los Angeles International Airport trying to solve the mystery. The 32-year-old newlywed was one of 1,074 women pilots in the Air Corps in World War II. She remains the only one missing.

SECONN’S PLANS WINTER BANQUET

SECONN, the South East Connecticut club, will host its Winter Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 6 at Go Fish in Mystic, Conn. Social hour will begin at 7 p.m., with dinner beginning at 8 p.m. For info visit www.seconndivers.org

NH DIVER RELOCATES TO FLORIDA

David Champagne from Dover, N.H., recently relocated to the Florida Keys and purchased Key Dives in Islamorada, Fla. They specialize in guided dive tours. Contact www.keydives.com for information.

LEHIGH VALLEY HAS NEW WEBSITE

Lehigh Valley Dive Center, in Bethlehem, Pa., has given its website a major makeover and added many new pictures and equipment offerings online. The new website will allow their customers to do some “window” shopping online 24-7. They have also announced their 2010 schedule of events and all kinds of New Year’s resolutions. Learn more at www.LVDive.com

INDIAN VALLEY SCUBA IN PHILADELPHIA TOP 100

The Wharton School and Philadelphia 100 have named Indian Valley Scuba as one of the fastest growing companies in the Delaware Valley Region! For each of the past 20 years the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania has monitored the growth of privately-held businesses in the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. They select the businesses that have exhibited continual and substantial growth over the last three years. Indian Valley Scuba was selected from over 700 businesses in the study and ranked as the 52nd fastest growing company in the region. For info visit indianvalleyscuba.com

DAN SEEKS ROLEX DIVER NOMINATIONS

Do you know a diver who has gone above and beyond the call in his or her contributions to Divers Alert Network or dive safety? If so, tell DAN about it for consideration as the safety organization’s DAN / Rolex Diver of the Year Award. Now in its 22nd year, the honor is given annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to dive safety or the mission of DAN, either regionally or nationally. To submit a nomination, simply send a brief description of the individual’s merits and contributions to DAN or dive safety to Scott Norris via e-mail at snorris@dan.org. Nominations can also be sent via traditional mail to Norris c/o DAN/Rolex Award, Divers Alert Network, 6 West Colony Place, Durham, N.C., 27705. Nominations must be received by Jan. 15.

DAN DIVING FATALITIES WORKSHOP

Divers interested in learning more about the causes of dive fatalities and how to prevent them are encouraged to take advantage of a special offer and register now for the DAN® Diving Fatalities Workshop April 8-10. Hosted by the DAN Research department, the two-and-a-half day program will be held near the DAN headquarters in Durham, N.C.; the workshop will feature an international panel of experts discussing topics intended to offer insights to industry professionals. Register online or by calling DAN Research at (919) 684-2948 x 260.

TREASURE DRAWS $1.6 MILLION AT AUCTION

Daniel Frank Sedwick conducted a live, on-line auction of treasures recovered from sunken ships on Oct. 15-16. Bids totaled...
more than $1.6 million with some of the highest priced items, like a gold Escudo Mexican cob dated 1709, selling for $46,000. More than 70 other gold Escudos were on the block along with hundreds of silver cobs and minted coins. The next Sedwick sunken treasure auction will be held in April 2010. Consignments will be accepted until Jan. 31. For any interested in Spanish colonial history, shipwrecks and numismatics the auction can be followed online live or advance bids can be mailed or faxed. For more information visit Sedwick’s website at www.sedwickcoins.com or call them at (407) 975-3325.

BENEATH THE SEA CELEBRATES 34TH YEAR WITH A BANG

Beneath the Sea will open its doors Friday March 26th with a series of public service diving seminars and lectures presented by professionals and supported by a DAN team working with Beneath the Sea.

At 6 p.m. Friday, the Beneath the Sea exhibition floor opens followed by a Tech/Wreck Party celebrating everything that’s right about diving here in the Northeast.

At the same time, but in another part of town, the Friday evening black tie dinner and charity auction The Fish’ n Famous begins the celebration of Dr. Phil Nuytten as: Legend of the Sea.

Look at Beneath The Sea’s website, www.beneaththesea.com, to see who is presenting and what workshops are in progress across the weekend. Saturday evening’s Awards Banquet celebrates the Divers of the Year, Legend of the Sea Dr. Phil Nuytten, diving pioneer Dr. Eugenie Clark, and the Tenth-Anniversary of the Women Divers Hall of Fame.

Then the International Film Festival begins, celebrating the Williams Brothers as the first motion picture photographers to venture beneath the sea. Emceed by Mike deGruy, filmmaker, reporter, and humorist. The Film Festival will also feature Stan Waterman, Nancy McGee and Anna Deloach with some Sensational Seas, and Leandro Blanco’s “Voices.”
A cultural research diver’s mission is to advance marine environment education and preserve New York State’s rich marine heritage. Captain Gene Ritter, a lifetime resident of Coney Island in Brooklyn, N.Y., has devoted over 20 years toward the goals of this never-ending, on-going project. Thanks to his dream and diving expertise, he and his team have returned an icon of Coney Island’s colorful amusement park history back to daylight after its untimely disappearance almost 100 years ago.

In the early 1900’s Dreamland, Luna Park and Steeplechase were three big popular amusement parks filled with exhibits, entertainment, food stands and thrilling rides and roller coasters. Marked by thousands of bright lights, the attractions lined the boardwalk and wooden piers jutting precariously out over the splashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Always in competition with the other parks, Dreamland was busily preparing for the season’s opening day in May 1911, when exploding light bulbs in a concession called Hell Gate led to a series of events that accidentally caused a fire….and well, all hell broke loose.

The blaze spread rapidly, raging for 18 hours. The 1,200-foot-long “New Iron Pier” that was built in 1881 collapsed amid the engulfing flames and the 500 pound bronze bell that once heralded the arrival of guests by steamboat crashed into the sea. Left in its wake was complete destruction and acres of smoldering rubble.

Ritter knew all about the bell and its history, but assumed it had sunk deep into the muck and debris over the years. Nevertheless, he and his buddy, Louie Scarcella, began a search.

“We discovered the bell on Nov. 4, 2008, about 400 yards off shore in just 25 feet of water,” Ritter said. He assembled a dive team as well as topside support and began preparations for recovery. Almost a year later, with the financial assistance of John D’Aquino, donations, good friends and good weather conditions, the bell was brought to….
Northeast & Midwest Dive News JANUARY 2010  www.mwdivenews.com

the surface. The Superlite Model 27 and Model 37 dive helmets Ritter wore and the underwater communications equipment was provided Connie Morgan, owner by Kirby Morgan Dive Systems.

“We raised the bell using a 200-pound lift bag,” Ritter said. He wriggled the bell free from the clutches of 100 years of mud and muck and walked it across the ocean floor to a 10-foot polypropylene cargo net. Once it was secured and shackled in the net, they rigged it with a 2,000-pound pillow lift bag. “Towboat US towed us to the Gateway Marina in Brooklyn by Floyd Bennett Field.” The next day they brought the bell on a truck and delivered it on a forklift to the History Project Museum and Shop operated by Charlie Densen and curator Tricia Vita in the shadows of the famed Coney Island roller coaster, where it was readied for display.

“This is just a wonderful day,” Ritter said with a smile as wide as the Brooklyn Bridge! “The outpouring of support from the media is just phenomenal. It made every newspaper in the country!”

The 3-foot-high bell stood proud, mounted on a sturdy frame over a large tub where it was constantly kept awash with freshwater to maintain preservation. Portions of the metal is tinged with green from years in the sea, but the name James Gregory, New York, 1885, boldly embossed on its side, can be easily read. Gregory was the foundry owner who cast the bell.

With great fanfare, accompanied by the applause of local admirers, Ritter rang the bell for the first time back on Coney Island ground. It rang true and clear, affirming its return home, giving hope and encouragement to those who continue to work on restoration and The History Project. “It has a new life. It’s a new life for Coney Island, it’s a symbol of Coney Island and it belongs in Coney Island!” exclaimed Ritter.

Plans are under way to transfer the bell to the New York Aquarium, located right next door, where viewing opportunities and preservation will continue throughout the winter.

The Dreamland Bell will be on display at Beneath the Sea, North America’s largest dive and travel exposition, at the Long Island Divers Association booth on March 26-28.

Behind Ritter, the Cyclone Roller Coaster rumbled by, and the wooden supports vibrated fiercely. The joyful screams of the passengers trailed off while the cars started making the familiar clickity, clackity, clack sound as they climbed the next incline … exciting sounds from my teenage years I’d long forgotten. Two blocks down is Nathan’s, and that wonderful aroma from the home of the original hot dog wafted through the air, tickling our noses while we stood on line waiting for our turn to ride on the world famous roller coaster. You know, of course, where we were headed next.

Janice Raber is a member of the Womens Scuba Divers Hall of Fame and the Long Island Divers Association. Contact Janice at seashe1@aol.com.

Meet The Team

Captain Gene Ritter wishes to acknowledge those who assisted in making this historic recovery effort a reality.

John D’Aquino: Aqausition Productions offered it’s 36-foot vessel and filmed the recovery underwater and above.
Paul Bartha, Vincent Paul Ten, Louie Scarcella, Michael Sica: crew, topside support and back up divers.
Captain B. Fioriello: press transport and support vessel.
Captain Jack Schachner: White Cap Marine/US Tow Boats for equipment and towing the bell.
Charlie Denson and Tricia Vita: History Project Support.
Carol Albert: Museum owner.
Connie Morgan: Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, diving and communications equipment.
For additional information visit www.researchdivers.org

Long Island Divers Association
Serving the Long Island and Greater New York Diving Community for More Than 25 Years!

Hampton Dive Center
Riverhead, NY
631-727-7578
www.hamptondivecom

Kings County Divers
Brooklyn, NY
718-648-4232
www.kcdivers.com

QC Scuba
Wantaugh, NY
516-826-7922
www.qcscuba.com

LIDA is a not-for-profit regional organization dedicated to the promotion of local diving and is staffed completely by volunteers.
Kenn Feigelman has been around the world diving on wrecks and filming aquatic wildlife for most of his life. Down in Cuba, the joke is that he is the “old man in the sea,” notwithstanding his Hemmingway-like beard and hair, which, like the great writer, has turned silver and white with age.

But for all the places Feigelman has been, nowhere has been more interesting than in his own backyard: the eastern waters of Lake Ontario near Feigelman’s home in Kingston, Ontario. It’s here in one of Canada’s oldest cities that Feigelman and his team of divers and researchers with Deep/Quest2 Expeditions has been documenting on camera the wrecks that litter the bottom of the lake, some possibly 200 years old.

Feigelman says he keeps diving around his hometown because of the immense amount of sunken history around Kingston, a waterfront city of about 117,000 people that not only boasts some of the best freshwater sailing in the world, but also some of the best freshwater diving.

“Kingston is just a Mecca for divers. The diving is superb and clear and tons of shipwrecks to see,” Feigelman says. The diving takes up the first part of the Deep/Quest2 mission: Explore.

The next ‘E’ in the mission is Educate, which the company is trying to do with a new PBS series. When the series finally airs, it will become the second educational series Deep/Quest2 has put out in the last year, but this one will stretch across the border and reach Canadian and American viewers, teaching them about the sports diving potential at the eastern edge of Lake Ontario.

Feigelman and others have tried to promote the area as a place for divers, and efforts are slowly paying off. His main focus is still with Deep/Quest2 Expeditions, a company that has been part of his life for more than 30 years. What Deep/Quest2 has morphed into today is nowhere near what Feigelman first envisioned.

He created the company in 1973, ostensibly as a summer research project for him and fellow divers to search for underwater American shipwrecks in Lake Champlain. Their work continued the following year and eventually Deep/Quest2 became a non-profit organization and research society.

In the mid-1990s, the organization and the Ontario government became embroiled in a funding dispute for an international underwater research project in Prince Edward County, about a 40-minute drive west of Kingston. Feigelman resigned and the company faded into oblivion for more than a decade.

In December 2005, Feigelman restarted Deep/Quest2 as a private venture. Work for the group has increased exponentially over the ensuing years, work that has sent Deep/Quest2 divers all over the world to film, photograph and document wrecks and marine life. The workload hasn’t eased up as Feigelman is a regular speaker about all things underwater: He has spoken at New York City-based...
Explorer’s Club, of which he is a member and where he will be this winter. Feigelman spoke in March at the Ghost Ships Festival in Milwaukee, put on by the Great Lakes Shipwrecks Research Foundation.

“I’d say (our future is), quite frankly, very bright. There’s no shortage of interest in what we’re doing,” Feigelman says.

Lately, though, Feigelman and his team of divers have turned their attention to the waters in Canada and specifically the ones around Kingston. The bottom of Lake Ontario is a mass graveyard of old ships that is becoming a hot spot for divers and a capturing public interest.

The number of boats that have disappeared between Kingston and Prince Edward County is similar in nature to the infamous Bermuda Triangle and its strange habit of swallowing boats and planes. This local triangle is known as the Marysburgh Vortex.

There are estimated to be 450 wrecks in the vortex. About 80 shipwrecks are in the waters directly around Kingston, which was a boat-building center for the British during the War of 1812. Among the wrecks open to divers are the passenger-freight Comet, the George A. Marsh, a three-masted schooner.

Continued on page 31
When the temperatures dip below freezing, and the bitter winds of winter begin to blow, many divers retreat to the comfort of their living rooms. With gear stowed and log books closed, many Northern divers begin to dream of warm summer days and the dives to come. Some divers escape the grip of the ice and snow and travel to far away destinations, leaving the winter behind for a brief time to get their diving fix.

But for the adventurous souls who wish to extend the local dive season and conquer a new challenge, a different diving frontier awaits beneath the ice.

Ice diving is one of the most exhilarating activities local divers can undertake. Despite obvious dangers, ice diving can be conducted safely with the proper training, equipment and techniques. The rigors of diving below ice, with water temperatures at or near freezing and with surface conditions even worse at times, can be physically and mentally challenging.

But the rewards are great. There is the thrill of penetrating below ice covered surfaces, and the sense of accomplishment of having conquered yet another hostile environment. Ice divers see that the aquatic world continues to thrive despite the harshness of the season.

Ice diving should never be conducted without proper training from a qualified dive instructor as part of a certification course. You may find that your local dive shop does not offer the course, but don’t despair! With a little research, you should be able find a shop that does. We took our PADI Ice Diver certification at a dive shop three hours away from home, but it was well worth the effort.

The course consists of several hours of classroom work followed by a series of dives out on the ice. Because of the need for ice-covered surfaces, dives are often conducted on inland lakes where the surface has frozen completely over. There are numerous locations in the Northeast and Midwest. Two New York locations are Lake Ronkonkoma on Long Island and Oneida Lake, near Syracuse, but there are many others throughout the region.

Beyond training, ice divers must pay careful attention to preparing the dive site; they must be diligent about using the right equipment, strictly adhere to established procedures and make sure that adequate protection from the elements is available.

Before divers can enter the water, a proper dive site must be created by first evaluating...
the ice. The ice must be thick and strong enough to support the entire dive team and transport vehicles such as snowmobiles. It’s also a good idea to measure the bottom depth if you are not familiar with the area. Once the ice is determined to be safe, the next step is to prepare the dive site.

Cutting the dive hole requires special cutting equipment such as handsaws, breaker bars, chippers, augers and/or chain saws. Triangular holes are preferred because there is less ice to cut and the corner angles make it easier to enter and exit the water. The hole should be large enough to accommodate two divers and a safety diver at one time. On the surface, a visible marker should mark the site. Often, a tall branch is used, which can be left behind to indicate that there was an opening here that is now being left to re-freeze.

Once the hole has been created, additional markings can help divers under the ice to more easily find their way back to the opening. If there is a covering of snow, concentric circles are dug in the snow surrounding the site at predetermined intervals, along with intersecting lines and arrows that point toward the opening. Ambient light will penetrate below the surface in the shape of the markings, which can help a disoriented diver find the way out from under the ice. A surface design shaped like a wagon wheel is the most commonly used system.

With the site created and secured, preparation for the actual dives begins. Of critical importance is the proper functioning of dive equipment, the adequacy of thermal protection and, perhaps most important of all, the securing of a safe and effective rope system.

Regulators must be rated for use in cold-water environments. Divers exploring below the ice must guard against regulator freeze-ups, which inevitably cause free-flows. Some divers employ special shunts on the hoses near their second stages to enable them to quickly turn off the flow of air in the event of a free-flow. Divers also must be careful not to exhale into the second stage while above the water in freezing conditions, as this will frequently cause a freeze-up. Redundant air supplies are another important safety consideration.

Divers should not under-estimate the effect of cold water. Drysuit divers should use undergarments rated for these temperatures. Integrated glove systems that allow air to flow around the hands, are beneficial as is an ice cap underneath the regular wet or dry hood.

Because of the danger of diving in an overhead environment such as a frozen lake, ice diving is a team activity that is made up of support personnel, divers, tenders and safety divers.

The line tender plays out and takes in line so that the diver does
not get tangled. Ropes are attached to the diver’s chest harness via a locking carbineer to minimize the likelihood of the rope disengaging from the diver. Safety ropes leading to the divers are secured to the ice surface using ice-screws, which prevent the rope from accidentally slipping into the water.

A safety diver is always suited up and ready to enter the water at a moment’s notice to assist the primary diver in the event of a problem. Safety divers will always have their own line tender.

Communication to the diver or to the surface is accomplished by simple line pulls. Each series of tugs on the line means a different thing. It is vitally important that divers and tenders agree and understand all rope commands. While there may be variations to these techniques employed in different locations, the general principles are the same. Yet because different techniques might be used, it is all the more reason to carefully rehearse with all the divers working the site what techniques will be used on the dive.

While divers in the water are often comfortable, the surface conditions can be quite harsh. The flat surface of a lake affords little shelter from the wind, and the temperatures may be far below freezing. Some form of protection from the elements should be brought onto the ice if at all possible to guard against hypothermia while donning and doffing equipment as well as keeping divers warm between dives. A small tent can serve as a windbreak, which can mean all the difference while waiting on the surface between dives.
Beneath the ice, divers enter a completely alien and spellbinding world. Often, the winter water is clearer, affording unheard of visibility. And, while the winter temperatures have chilled the lake water, fish have nowhere to go. They still thrive in these frigid waters. Divers can often observe aquatic life that is often difficult to approach in the summer months.

And for those who are looking for activities beyond observing the underwater environment, ice divers often search for sunken equipment and other items of interest. For example, in many northern lakes, ice divers are sometimes approached to salvage sunken snowmobiles and other types of equipment that have fallen through the ice.

So now that the snow is falling, temperatures are below zero and the wind is howling from the north, it seems like a good day for diving.

Michael Salvarezza and Christopher P. Weaver have documented a world of adventure topside and underwater through their Long Island, N.Y.-based business Eco-Photo Explorers. They are popular lecturers and their work has been published in leading diving and general interest magazines. Learn more at ecophotoexplorers.com.

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ADAPTIVE DIVING SYMPOSIUM AT OWU DIVE SHOW

Diveheart Foundation, Our World Underwater and Midwest Dive News are co-sponsoring a first-ever Diving with Disabilities Symposium on Friday, Feb. 19th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago III. The Symposium will investigate some of the aspects of adaptive diving for people with disabilities including “Who’s Who” in the adaptive dive community, “Can you, or a loved one dive with a disability” and “What kind of disabilities keep people from diving”. Professionals will also explain the business aspects of working with divers with disabilities. To attend or participate in the Adaptive Diving Symposium, contact Jim Elliott, President of Diveheart at (630) 964-1983 jim.elliott@diveheart.org or Rick Stratton, Publisher of Midwest Dive News (360) 240-1874 Skype: rick.stratton1

DIVERS! HELP MATT FROM MINNESOTA

Diveheart is reaching out to help a Matt Johnston, a young man who is a friend and inspiration to many around the world. Matt contracted muscular dystrophy as a young boy and his life expectancy was just 30 years but Matt is about to celebrate his 33rd birthday. Matt is a young Minnesotan who became the first ventilator-dependent quadriplegic in the world to scuba dive. Now, Diveheart is teaming up with Conch Republic Divers, and The History of Diving Museum to bring Matt to the Florida Keys to realize his dream to again scuba dive in the ocean for a once-in-a-lifetime birthday celebration. Please consider making a donation to the Matt Johnston Florida Fund by visiting any TIB Bank or online to contribute through Conch Republic Divers to help Matt’s dream come true. For info visit www.Diveheart.org

SHARK RESCUE ACCEPTING ENTRIES TO WIN A TRIP

Win a Trip and help the sharks! A contest will be held with a lucky draw to happen on Feb. 1. There are two grand prizes. Winners can choose between a 10-plus day live-aboard cruise in Indonesia including Komodo and Raja Ampat, said to have the highest marine biodiversity in the world. The prizes are worth about $5,000 each and winners can choose routes, trip dates and more. It would be the trip of a lifetime. Learn more at www.sharkrescue.com/contests

BOY SCOUTS ADD DIVING MERIT BADGE

The Boy Scouts of America now started offering a Scuba Diving merit badge last month. Pamphlets are available for local council service centers and scoutstuff.org. The first new merit badge in over three years, Scuba Diving reflects the new direction in scouting to develop merit badges based on youth / scout input to assure relevance and excitement around the merit badge offering. This badge was developed in association with the Professional Association of Diving Instructors and leverages scouting’s spirit of outdoor adventure while expanding its aquatics offering. For info visit scoutstuff.org

DUI RELEASES 2010 DOG RALLY CALENDAR

Each year, 17 local dive destinations, 150-plus dealers and 1,000-plus volunteers help 2,500 divers experience the joy of diving dry and having fun in their own backyards. In its 13th year, Diving Unlimited International has a 38-foot trailer filled with 130 drysuit systems, buoyancy compensators, Weight & Trim Systems, two 20- by 40-foot tents, displays; basically everything needed for a fun-filled, local diving weekend. DUI and its dealers enthusiastically welcome new drysuit divers and old DUI friends known as DOGs (DUI Owners Group). Mark your calendars now for one of the most successful marketing programs in the diving industry. For info on DOG Rallies near you visit www.DUI-online.com

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www.OurWorldUnderwater.com
O ur World-Underwater will hold its annual Film Festivals on Feb. 19th and 20th at Donald Stevens Convention Center, Rosemont, Ill., where it is holding its 40th annual show.

Ty Sawyer will emcee the Friday Film Festival from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Sawyer is an award-winning writer, photographer and editorial director of the Bonnier Dive Group and “Islands” magazine. He is also a frequent on-camera award-winning writer, photographer and editorial professional underwater photographers.

Wes Skiles will emcee the Saturday Film Festival from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Skiles is a director, producer and cameraman who has been actively exploring, mapping, and filming the underwater coves of the world for over 30 years. He will introduce the lineup which includes, Howard and Michele Hall, film directors and producers who are perhaps best known for their underwater IMAX films. They will give a “Behind the Scenes” description of the challenges of making underwater wildlife films in 70-millimeter IMAX 3D. Jonathan Bird, an award-winning professional underwater cinematographer and photographer, will share an alluring profile of “Diving the Mexican Underground”, a video of the Cenotes of southern Mexico. Paul Cater Deaton, after shooting on six continents over three decades has become an award-winning writer, producer, director and cinematographer. His work has reached audiences all over the world via MTV, HBO, VH1, Showtime, Warner Brothers, Paramount, Tri-Star, the Travel Channel, E!

“A Lateral Line” is a new film produced by award-winning filmmakers Joe Romeiro and Bill Fisher that takes viewers on a journey to see pelagic sharks that can only be found in the wild. They produce films that help aid in the conservation of sharks and the marine environment. Michel Gilbert and Danielle Alary, will present their latest multimedia piece, which was three years in the making. Nancy McGee, the assistant and protégé of filming legend Stan Waterman will show her profiles of Fiji and Tonga.

Greg Lashbrook and Kathy Johnson are authors, artists and experts in Great Lakes marine life with over 40 years of experience. As a special tribute to the Our World-Underwater show’s 40th anniversary the couple will present a commemorative painting that Greg created underwater! Jim and Pat Stayer, authors and videographers who have been diving in the Great Lakes and around the world for more than 35 years, will present a stunningly beautiful video “Magical Maldives with Mantas and Whale Sharks”. Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver, a prolific writer and photojournalism team who have presented at many shows, will present the EcoPhoto Explorers, “Antarctica: Journey to the Frozen Wilderness”.

Capping the show, Stan Waterman, will present “Night of the Mantas” truly sensational footage of manta feeding off Hawaii’s Kona Coast. Patrick Hammer, the founder of Scuba Emporium and OWU Event Producer, will present the OWU Award.

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See website for more details.
By Rick Stratton and Jamie Farris
Dive News Network

They are the final resting places for vessels that plied the water of Great Lakes. Each of the wrecks in Michigan’s 12 preserves is a history lesson in situ. They range from schooners and wooden sailing ships with intricately designed figureheads to huge modern freighters. Some are mere shells while others look like they could be raised and simply sailed into the sunset.

These preserves are the wards of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council. MUPC was formed to protect the underwater museum and to educate divers and non-divers on their history and aid in their preservation. Each preserve offers a vastly different glimpse into the past. Ron Bloomfield, MUPC president, says preserves such as the off Marquette are the reason the organization was developed.

“Our organization collectively represents all 12 preserves,” Bloomfield said. “We help maintain dive access, protect the wrecks and give a voice to the preserves in terms of marketing. Everything from speaking up in the legislature for the preserves to marketing and publishing a divers guide helps bring attention to the preserves. The state is supposed to maintain the preserves but they have a shortage of money and need the help from other organizations. That’s where we come in.”

THE 12 MICHIGAN PRESERVES
Preserving North American Shipping History

All five of the Great Lakes are visible in this Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) image taken during the Aqua satellite’s afternoon overpass over the United States and Canada on April 5, 2004. Credit Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC

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**KEWEENAW PRESERVE**

The Keweenaw Peninsula is on the South shore of Lake Superior near Calumet. Because of storms and collisions, the 103-square-mile preserve that host a variety of shipwrecks, including the 1989 wreck, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Mesquite.

Craig Oshnock, owner of Sea the World Scuba Center in Farmington Hills says that most of the preserves are easy to get to. “It takes Metro Detroit people 45 minutes to reach a preserve and it is worth it,” Oshnock says. “Some of the size of the wrecks are impressive. The Charles Price is popular dive. It’s 600 feet long and it’s an easy dive. In the preserves a new diver can dive on a large shipwreck. The Regina is another impressive wreck. There is penetration on this one and there is still a telegraph in the communication room.”

**MARQUETTE PRESERVE**

The Marquette Preserve is an area that was, and still is, a major shipping port on Lake Superior near Marquette. The Marquette Underwater Preserve was established in 1990. The preserve has incredible scuba diving along Lake Superior’s shoreline in two areas of Marquette County, the Marquette Unit and the Huron Islands Unit.
WHITEFISH POINT PRESERVE

Whitefish Point reaches into Lake Superior at the southeast end of the Lake, providing the geographic separation between the greatest lake, Whitefish Bay and the entrance to the Sault Locks near Paradise. It is a favorite among locals like Kim Volz instructor and co-owner of The Dive Shop in Flint. Volz has been diving in area since 1975.

“I have dove each other preserves at one time or the other,” Volz says. “Some have shore diving, some have great wrecks, but Whitefish Point is my favorite because of the quality of the wrecks and the clarity of the water. I can take people up and let them dive some of the shallower wrecks and if I want to go tech dive I can do that too from the same access point.” Volz adds that it is really cool to see the connections of the wrecks to the world above. “The Mather is a great dive and the cool thing was that there is another ship called The Mather still on the water and it’s grandfather on the bottom.”

Tom Farnquist, executive director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, located eastern Lake Superior, said a lot of people want to come to Whitefish Point because it marks the beginning of the shipwreck area. “Over 80 percent of the shipwrecks are close to Whitefish Point,” Farnquist said. It has a cross section of shipwrecks at different depths. A lot of the wrecks that have been found are in shallow water but there are still a lot of wrecks in deep water, which we are starting to search for and find.

STRAITS OF MACKINAC PRESERVE

The 148 square miles of the Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve are at the northern tip of lakes Michigan and Huron near Mackinaw City. A historically dangerous area for ships the Straits are a diver favorite. Dave Kasper owner of Huron Scuba in Ann Arbor says the Straits area is a wonderful vacation destination.

“St. Ignace, Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island offer plenty of lodging, fine restaurants, charter services and air,” Kasper says. “I believe this is the best concentration of intermediate to advanced diving wreck diving in the Great Lakes.”

Don Wrona owner of Anchor Bay Scuba in Fairhaven agrees. “I have had the store for two years but I started teaching in 1981 and have been diving the area for 40 years,” Wrona says. “We do the Sanilac and Mackinac Preserves. It’s nice for beginning divers to be able to see a wreck at 40 feet while the deeper divers have wrecks such as the New York, which is in the Sanilac Preserve. When they first found the Regina, which is also in the Sanilac, some of the folks were doing surveys for the state and while they were doing that we were some of the first people to dive the wreck, that was interesting.”

Doug Cogswell owner of Great Lakes Dive Locker in Grand Rapids enjoys the wrecks like Stopper and the Young. “The Young was found five years ago. I love wrecks like these because of the wood structure, the masts. They aren’t split open and there is a lot to play with. A vis of 25 feet and currents that aren’t real strong make diving the Mackinac a lot of fun.”

Larry McElroy owner of Straits Scuba Center and Dive Shop in St. Ignace likes the charters in the Straits mostly because of primary sites such as the Cedarville. “The Cedarville is the third largest shipwreck in the Great Lakes, McElroy says. “It comes up to within 40 feet of the surface. There was a loss of life on this ship. There were a lot of local history involved.”
**MANITOU PASSAGE**

The Manitou Passage Underwater Preserve offers divers a variety of attractions including historic dock ruins and shipwrecks dating back 200 years. It completely surrounds North Manitou Island and South Manitou Island. Jack Enger, owner of Great Lakes Scuba in Traverse City, has been showing divers the preserves since 1991. “I take people to the Manitou Preserve or Grand Traverse Bay Preserve the most. There are bigger wrecks in Manitou and they are shallower. There is, for instance, the Three Brother’s wreck because it is such an interesting dive and it is fairly easy to get to people enjoy it.”

**DETOUR PASSAGE PRESERVE**

The Detour Passage is located at the easternmost tip of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula just south of Drummond Island. The area, which includes Drummond Island, became the state’s 10th underwater preserve and features a variety of dive sites. The John B. Merrill lies south of Drummond Island at a depth of about 65 feet. This wreck offers divers an opportunity to see tools, ship hardware, and personal effects.

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<td>Our World Underwater</td>
<td>Feb. 19-20</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>VCI ▪ ECT ▪ VRT ▪ OCCT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghost Ships</td>
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<td>Dive Into the Past</td>
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<td>Beneath the Sea</td>
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ΘΕΡΙΝΟΙ ΝΑΥΑΓΟΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΛΙΜΝΗΣ

Παγωτική και κακή άδεια του λιμνικού πάγου και της ακτοπλαγιάς κατέστησαν τον Θήρινο Ναυάγο την ονομασία του “Λογοτεχνείου Ναυαγών.” Στην περιοχή της Αλπένα, υπάρχουν πολλοί ναυάγοι που μέχρι στιγμής μένουν ανακαινισμένοι. Κιμ Πάκερ, ιδιοκτήτης της Aquatic Adventures of Michigan στη Μπριντόντ, πλούτισε την θάλασσα του γεγονότος διπλωμάτης του Ναυαγού της Σανιλακκ. “Πάντα είναι πολύ διασκεδαστικό να πάρετε τους αγοριάδες του Μπουάις και να δείτε τα μάτια τους να ανακαίνονται και να δουν τους ναυαγούς που υπάρχουν στον πράσινο ωκεανό,” είπε ο Πάκερ.


Ο Τζο Σαβζάκ, ο ιδιοκτήτης του Thunder Bay Scuba στη Αλπένα, διπλωμάτης στον Ναυαγό της Αλπένα. “Η θάλασσα θέλει να πάει όπου έχει ανθρώπινη αποδράση και όπου υπάρχουν ναυαγοί,” είπε ο Σαβζάκ. “Πολλοί μαθητές της Τεχνικής Πλοήγησης έρχονται να πλούσινες τις μάχες μετά από να τους παραδώσουμε για να δουν τους ναυαγούς.”
TRAVERT BAY PRESERVE

The Grand Traverse Bay Great Lakes State Bottomland Preserve protects bottomlands off Traverse City and the Old Mission Peninsula of Grand Traverse County just a few miles from Traverse City. In June 2008, the Grand Traverse Bay Bottomland Preserve was listed as Michigan’s 12th underwater preserve. Many locals dive this preserve such as Chris Doyal who also serves as president of the Grand Traverse Bay Preserve. “Traverse is the newest preserve. We are doing a complete inventory of what is in the bay while we promote the diving,” says Doyal.

Jack Spencer owner of Scuba North in Traverse City was instrumental in establishing the Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve but says that all of the preserves are important. “We do own charters and the Grand Traverse Preserve has five boat launches so it is easy to get into but there is also a lot of history in all of the preserves. “Traverse Bay alone goes back to when the Indians settled here. The preserves hold a lot of underwater archeology. These preserves feed recreation and ecology as well as education.”

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN UNDERWATER PRESERVE

The Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve, located outside Benton Harbor, is especially rich because of the variety and duration of human activity. Native Americans found the region’s network of rivers and lakes a convenient means of transportation because rivers eventually flow into Lake Michigan. Today divers visit the preserve in order to get a sense of what came before. There are a number of wrecks in this area but also Indian artifacts can still be found.

SANILAC PRESERVE

Some of the most exciting shipwreck diving in the Great Lakes is found in the 163-square-mile Sanilac Shores Underwater Preserve in Lake Huron just off Port Sanilac. Gary Venet owner of Rec And Tec Scuba Dive Charters is based out of Lexington. He charters between Sanilac and Thumb Bay on weekends. “The most popular wrecks in Sanilac are the Regina and the Mary Alice B, “In the Thumb Bay Preserve it’s the Thunderberg they all come to see. The dives vary from easy to advanced, there really is something for every type of diver here.”

Jerry “Bruno” Burnosky owner of Bruno’s Dive Shop in Clinton Township has been diving the Sanilac Preserve for 35 years. “The reason people dive the Preserves is because the wrecks are protected. All the divers can see them in a pristine setting. The ships are just like they were when they first went down.”

Michigan’s 12 Preserves all offer divers a look back into history. Whether you are a new diver or an advanced one these waters hold something for everyone and are a chance to really get a sense of what the nautical history of the Great Lakes has been about. So if you are a history buff and want to see the incredible preserving power of fresh waters visit the Michigan 12, you won’t be disappointed.

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COSTA RICA

A Diver’s Close-up of Biodiversity

By Carlos Hiller and Rick Stratton
Dive News Network

Costa Rica is a diver’s window into biodiversity. Visitors get a grand look through an oceanic looking glass that would have wowed even Alice with its abundant sea life and intriguing volcanic formations. If you are looking for adventure in a land where country is everything to the native people and the oceans are brimming with diving experiences, Costa Rica is a place for you.

Costa Rica is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west and south and the Caribbean Sea to the east. It sports 1,290 kilometers, or 800 miles, of coastline. More than 25 species of marine mammals can be seen off Costa Rica. There are chances to see a humpback whale and pilot whales. Bottlenose, spotted and spinner dolphins regularly frolick in the waves. Snorkelers can observe moray eels, jacks, king angelfish and barracudas and divers can swim through the colorful coral and volcanic rock formations that house of the local sea life. Cano Island, the northern Pacific’s Playa del Coco, the Bat Islands and the Catalina Islands all offer as much the diversity in experience as the waters offer diversity in species.

Local artist Carlos Hiller has spent much of his life painting the area in all its glory. “You know I first came here more than 20 years ago,” Hiller says. “I spent a few months and went back to my country to tell my family and friends that I was moving to Central America, to Costa Rica.”

Visit us online for some awesome images of Costa Rica from Ultimate Dive Travel. Special thanks to Ken for sending us those!

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Hiller said that at first his family was shocked and asked if he was actually talking about Puerto Rico but he told them, “no, Costa Rica. But let me give you a warning about the dangers you can find here,” Hiller said. “You can be attacked by the splendor of the jungle and hit by the beauty of the ocean,” he laughed, “you can fall in love with the friendly people. That was what happened to me. I love the jungle, I love the ocean too, and here both meet in an extraordinary conjunction, wild, untouched and primitive. It is for this reason that I paint what I see, what better way to share it with the world.”

Hiller is but one of many who have fallen for Costa Rica. Bill Beard of Bill Beards’ Costa Rica, one of the largest businesses in the area, agrees that Costa Rica is an incredible place for anyone looking for adventure.

“I have been here 40 years,” says Beard, “and I can tell you that there is much more to do than dive even though the diving is fantastic.” Beard says that if you like to see a lot of fish and animals then Costa Rica is where you want to go. “There is a lot of volcanic and pinnacle formations to dive. In
fact, there are over 41 local dive spots including Monkey Head and Argentine Point.” Beard should know where all the really good dive spots are; after all he ran the only dive shop in Costa Rica for over 15 years.

Arturo Napoles, owner and general manager of Rainforest Tours based in San Jose, is also in the business of introducing Costa Rica to others. Rainforest Tours provides personalized planning for people visiting Costa Rica. “People come from all over the world and all over US to visit the country each year”, Napoles says, “Costa Rica allows you to do a lot of activities within one country and you have access to two oceans. People can dive both the Caribbean and that Atlantic experiencing completely different marine life.”

Brad Jonson of the Aguila de Osa Inn has been in Costa Rica for 20 years. He too was originally bitten by the dive bug. “I started diving when I was 17 and have always loved it,” Jonson said. “In fact, I have done some diving all over the world but there is a lot to do in Costa Rica, fishing, great wildlife and diving. I always come back here.”

Jimmy Cimpos of Ocean’s Unlimited and Rolando Arburola of Costa Rica Dive also say Costa Rica offers world-class diving. “From January to March, a popular dive period, you can see a lot of sea life,” Cimpos adds. This is the best time for visibility but throughout the year divers will still be able to enjoy a vis of up to 30 feet.

Arburola, who has lived in Costa Rica for 30 years, also touts the wildlife in the area. “You can see Manta’s all year around. I don’t sell people, I want to make my living with integrity and so I give people something real and this area has real marine life to see.” Arburola adds that depending on when you visit paints the picture of your experience. “Your experience in Costa Rica depends on the time of the year you come visit; each time of the year offers a vastly different experience.”

Ken Scarbrough, who owns Ultimate Dive Travel in Woodridge, Ill., is not only familiar with the allure of Costa Rica but understands completely the pull it has on divers. Scarbrough has spent more than 15 years showing people the world of diving through Ultimate Dive Travel but he says that one of the best trips that he has ever been on personally was to Costa Rica
on the *Argo Hunter*, a boat designed to also carry a submarine. “These guys know the sites and their boats are head and tails above the rest,” Scarbrough said. “They offer the most comfortable and comprehensive dive trip that I have ever been on in Costa Rica. Scarbrough adds that one of his best experiences on the *Argo Hunter* was seeing a whole cloud of hammerheads sharks. “This is a destination that has all of the big stuff.” He says he also has even been “buzzed” by a very large group of tuna while in the waters of Costa Rica. “It was an incredible experience; I was on a safety stop and was by myself when a group of about 50 huge tuna buzzed me. They came straight at me and to be honest with you those tuna made me more nervous than the sharks.”

Scarbrough says that Costa Rica is not necessarily for the macro-photo diver. “If you want to dive coral that isn’t what this dive is all about. This dive is about the big animals.” He was enthralled with the idea of the submarines. “I didn’t get a chance to do the sub dive last time but I will go back to do it. They offer three different types of submarine trips each going deeper than the last. How can any diver worth their salt not want to experience a sub?”

Hiller also says that you can come to Costa Rica to enjoy the nature. “You don’t have to be in a national park to enjoy the nature of Costa Rica. This morning I heard the howler monkeys very close to my house. I live in a small fishermen-touristic town. It is very common to see them hanging on a tree in the main street. Of course, for us living here, the show is the reaction and surprise of the tourists. As for the diving, I started diving here in Costa Rica and it changed my life. I was dedicated to painting the jungle but after diving I started to include marine animals in my paintings; very soon the ocean filled my canvas, flooding my paintings with the fantastic underwater sceneries. After diving Costa Rica, I was never the same.”
Local Diver Starts New Company

A native to Shamokin, Pa., Mr. Dennis Kaleta forged his new company from little more than a dream and inspiration followed by lots of hard work. He began diving in his late 20s after meeting a diver at Indian River Inlet, Del., who let him borrow some gear and give it a try. In 1994 he earned his certification as a scuba diver and has been an avid diver ever since, logging over 800 dives. Whether exploring a sunken shipwreck off the coast of North Carolina or searching for artifacts in the icy waters of Maine, Mr. Kaleta cannot get enough of his favorite pastime. “Diving provides me with a sublime sense of oneness with the sea; it gives me a freedom different from anything I’ve ever experienced. I simply cannot imagine my life without it.”

Always looking to improve his diving experience Mr. Kaleta kept himself open to learn techniques and experiment with new and better equipment. One piece of equipment he found difficult to use is called a dive reel. It consists simply of a length of line on a spool and is used to help a diver navigate through potentially dangerous areas where low visibility or the lack of light presents a challenge. It was common for the line on the spool to become tangled or ‘bird nest’ and prove all but useless. In addition it was extremely difficult to use while juggling other gear, like a flashlight or spear gun. After one particularly bad experience Mr. Kaleta was determined to find a better way. Since there were no technologically advanced reels available in the dive market at the time Mr. Kaleta decided to take a bold step and invent one.

In September of 2005 he developed a prototype out of crude materials and subsequently took that prototype to a local machinist for development. The Latovich Machine Shop of Mt Carmel worked together with Mr. Kaleta and eventually formed a partnership. In January of 2007 the company, Spectrum Diving Equipment, was incorporated. Countless challenges and obstacles needed to be addressed and overcome, including securing over $250,000 in funding, development of the final product, finding vendors, market research, building a website, attending dive shows, and so much more. Numerous hours of work were devoted to the project. Sacrifice and sleep deprivation became the norm.

The result of all the hard work is now realized in The Reeler; according to the aleta the most advanced dive reel on the market. Using a unique combination of a line leveler and tensioning system, tangling has been eliminated. Moreover, the design allows it to hold more line and makes it much easier to wind in than any conventional reel. It even has a flashlight accessory slot.

Mr. Kaleta received a patent for The Reeler in November 2008 and by the spring of 2009 had launched their first product. Currently The Reeler is being shipped throughout the U.S. and also to Canada, Spain, and Poland. As expected Mr. Kaleta is very proud of his invention and stated, “We are going to make truly first rate products that are a large step ahead of anything out there and make them right here in Pennsylvania.”

For more information visit www.spectrumdiving.com

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SIGN UP FOR DIVING

Dave van Stijn’s and Mike Harterink’s “Scubasigns” is a handy guide to underwater communication. Unlike some hand-signal guides that attempt to create new extensive hand-signal languages, the 288-page soft cover shows nearly 500 hand signals that are regularly used by divers. The new authors are diving professionals who have trained instructors and divers at resorts around the world, so their first book is essentially a documentation of signals that they learned in the field. The book is divided into 13 chapters on the surface, basics, night, marine life, numbers, teaching, problem solving, environment, wreck, tech, fun and alternative communications. More than 800 full-color photos illustrate the signals, which are accompanied with short verbal descriptions that often show a bit of humor. A complete index helps readers quickly find signs for specific occasions or species of marine life. The book was printed by McFarland press has the details on the 160 shark items on display in 26 institutions throughout the country. These items range from teeth and vertebrae to entirely preserved specimens. Those family members and some that have never been published.

DIVE INTO COUSTEAU’S LIFE

Brad Matsen’s biography “Jacques Cousteau: The Sea King” is a timely arrival at bookstores as the adventurer’s beloved boat Calypso is nearing restoration and thoughts are on the environment in the wake of the Copenhagen conference late last year. The 320-page hardcover from Random House’s Pantheon division traces the explorer, inventor, ecologist and filmmaker from his birth in 1911 up to the family feud that continues to this day. While being respectful of Cousteau’s legacy, Matsen provides a good look at his rakish side of the tireless ladies man whose secret second family emerged to control the Cousteau Estate. Between the tabloid-worthy exploits, however, Cousteau was a genius who advanced science and filmmaking with little formal training in the fields. His derring-do as a spy for the French resistance helped the Allies in World War II. Divers owe a debt to his many inventions from the two-stage Aqualung to cameras that became the Nikonos line, lights, protection suits and many accessories. Only now are we learning the urgency of his conservation message. Matsen, who also wrote “The Titanic’s Last Secrets” and for leading environmental publications, strikes a masterful balance in presenting the life story of a very complex man. Accompanying the text are photos, many from family members and some that have never been published.

DRY DIVING FOR WHITE SHARKS

Divers who find local waters too bracing this time of year can get the background for good local virtual diving by picking up “Great White Sharks In United States Museums”. The 214-page soft cover from McFarland press has the details on the 160 shark items on display in 26 institutions throughout the country. These items range from teeth and vertebral to entirely preserved specimens. Those interested in museum museums will enjoy the descriptions of various ways to preserve organic material. The authors also document the few instances of white sharks being kept in captivity at aquaria. They also present, of course details on the species’ biology, ethology and ecology, all illustrated with black and white photos and drawings. Co-authors Alessandro de Maddalena and Walter Heim are highly qualified on the topic. Maddalena is president of the Italian Ichthyological Society and curator of the Italian Great White Shark Data Bank. He’s produced thousands of shark drawings. Heim is a leading underwater photographer who specializes in shark shots. Translate scientific terms into layman’s language for easy reading.

Read earlier Book Log reviews by genre or call attention to books and videos to review at www.sternereditorial.com.
## DIVE DIRECTORY

### CONNECTICUT

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<td>Divers Cove LLC</td>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>(860) 767-1960</td>
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<td>Scuba Made Easy</td>
<td>Pawcatuck</td>
<td>(860) 303-4612</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seaview Scuba Inc</td>
<td>Quaker Hill</td>
<td>(860) 442-7279</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Scuba Diving</td>
<td>Southington</td>
<td>(860) 621-8265</td>
<td>Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt. Saam’s Scuba School</td>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td><a href="http://www.Capt-Saam.com">www.Capt-Saam.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>New England Dive Center</td>
<td>Wallingford</td>
<td>(203) 284-1880</td>
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### NAUThoRALE

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<td>NE Charter Boat Company</td>
<td>Eliot/Portsmouth</td>
<td>(603) 235-5526</td>
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<tr>
<td>MaineDiversScubaCenter.com</td>
<td>Portland</td>
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### Diving directory

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<td>Sunken Treasure Scuba Ctr.</td>
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<td>Divehards International</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>(412) 363-3483</td>
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<td>Newport Diving Center</td>
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<td>Simply Scuba</td>
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<td>(401) 247-2420</td>
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<td>Avie’s Ski/Sports</td>
<td>Wasterly</td>
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<td>Adventure Scuba Company</td>
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<td>Lynnhaven Dive Center</td>
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<td>Burlington Scuba</td>
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<td>Anchor Diving Services</td>
<td>Buzzards Bay</td>
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<td>Northeast Scuba</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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<td>Andy’s Sport Shop</td>
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<td>Dive Adventures</td>
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<td>Bottom Time Dive Charts</td>
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<td>Jeanne II Diving Charts</td>
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<td>“Euphoria” Dive Boat</td>
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<td>National Aquatic Services</td>
<td>East Syracuse</td>
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<td>Long Island Scuba</td>
<td>Lindenhurst</td>
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<td>Aqua Visions</td>
<td>Mamaroneck</td>
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<td>Wantagh</td>
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<td>Diver’s World</td>
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### MICHIGAN

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<td>Detroit</td>
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<td>Chicagolandscuba.com</td>
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with the wheel still intact, and a series of wrecks that date to the War of 1812. Two of them are at a depth of 15 feet. Currently, Parks Canada is trying to identify one particular wreck in time for the war’s bicentennial that local divers know about and have dived on for years.

Feigelman and his team were out diving on the wrecks last year, documenting them in high-definition video for use in the Public Broadcasting System series. They had previously used footage from other wrecks as part of a local series on public broadcaster Cogeco that went out to schools in the Kingston area for free. The six-part series called “Awesome Oceans” introduced school children to aquatic life locally and abroad.

“You’re out there, watching and hoping that a class of 30 or 40 kids out there down the road is watching with wide open minds and they love to learn,” he says.

It’s part of my genetic makeup. I’m a pretty gregarious, outspoken individual,” Feigelman says with a laugh. “I love kids and they have responded from the classrooms that took a chance on the series that will re-air for free again this coming school year. Each hour-long episode includes 30 minutes of interaction with viewers, who can call or e-mail questions to the Deep/Quest2 marine biologist hosting the show.

Soon, though, the group will have to switch gears and focus on the PBS series, which will be more expensive to produce.

Feigelman has a contract with the network’s Watertown, N.Y., affiliate to produce 13 half-hour episodes that will follow him and his crew on their travels through international waters as they explore shipwrecks, sea animals and the marine ecosystem.

Over the course of the series, whose working title is “Deep/Quest - Into the Blue,” Feigelman and his companions will see Greenland sharks off Quebec, whale sharks and sea turtles near Mexico, West Indian manatees around Florida, and an assortment of underwater caves and coral reefs. The group is also in line for a grant from the National Science Center to complete the work.

Feigelman says he can’t see Deep/Quest2 ever giving up on the two television series. Education like diving, he says, is in his blood.

“It’s part of my genetic makeup. I’m a pretty gregarious, outspoken individual,” Feigelman says with a laugh. “I love kids and they have open minds and they love to learn,” he says.

“Here we are in Kingston, a so-called sophisticated inland city where kids aren’t exposed to this stuff unless they read National Geographic or watch (educational programs). It’s all trying to inspire the kids to learn more and hopefully some of these kids will be inspired enough to get into the marine sciences.” For information on Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions visit deepquest2expeditions.com.
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