

# Scuba & H2O

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION \$20

ADVENTURES MAGAZINE

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TOURNEY

BATTLES LIONFIH INVASION

**26** LIDA, HISTORY  
AND A STAIRCASE

CONNECTING DIVER TO THE HMS CULLODEN

**54** COMMERCIAL  
DIVING  
SWIMMING THE BLOCKS



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MAY 2019

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# From the Editor

Life is full of risks. There are those we can plan for and those that just happen, changing our lives forever in the blink of an eye. Only a short while ago I watched my son jumping into the ocean for the first time; his eyes wide with excitement as he experienced the thrill of encountering new species and staring into the darkness below. He was 12 years old. This healthy, happy, agile child woke up a month ago and as he stepped out from his bed his back failed him; he was unable to move, searing pain resonating through his body. In an instant he went from a healthy 17-year-old high schooler to a young man living in pain, watching his every step, meeting doctors and specialists. His life upside down. He was unaware that he had a hidden illness, one that had slowly deteriorated his back – no warning signs – just an instant when his bones had finally reached their breaking point. My son’s entire life changed as he accepted the news – he would have to change everything he knew about living. With strength and courage, he acknowledged the future – held my hand and smiled.

Everything would be alright.

How we respond to these changes we experience along our lifeline will go a long way in determining what becomes of us.



*Selene Muldowney*  
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### About the Cover:

Reagan Muldowney in Hawaii Exploring the Ocean -Taken in 2012 by Rick Stratton \*Please refer to Pub Note

### FOR THE RECORD:

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BITES

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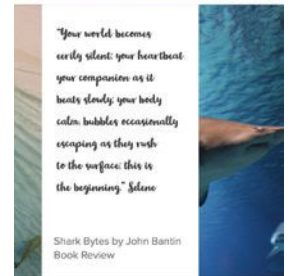


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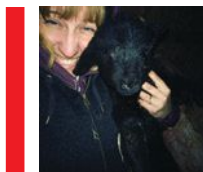
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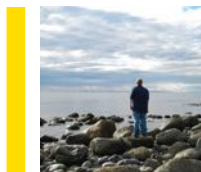
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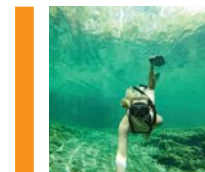
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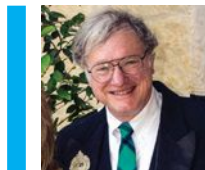


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Caitlyn is Content Writer and Editor for Divers Alert Network in Durham, NC. She is an active PADI and NAUI Instructor, RAID Rebreather Instructor and graduate of the University of Georgia.

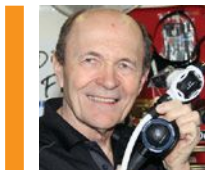


A BEACH IS NOT ONLY A SWEEP OF SAND, BUT SHELLS OF SEA CREATURES, THE SEA GLASS, THE SEAWEED, THE INCONGRUOUS OBJECTS WASHED UP BY THE OCEAN. **HENRY GRUNWALD**



GARY  
LEHMAN

Gary came to diving later than most, and loves to get away when he can – which is not enough! Some of the most memorable experiences ever for Gary have been underwater with his club buddies, turtles and sharks! When not diving or thinking about it, he writes about it!



ALEC PEIRCE

Alec Peirce is recognized as one of the finest scuba diving presenters of his generation. He holds instructor certifications with seven different scuba training agencies plus many honorary awards from the scuba industry including the prestigious "Platinum Pro 5000 Diver".



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Elizabeth Babcock, LCSW has been a certified diver since 2000. She is a psychotherapist and community educator who has written extensively on topics of interest to anyone seeking to maximize their health and overall enjoyment of life, though her primary specialty is the treatment of overeating. She recently published "[Why We Overeat and How to Stop.](#)" (available at Amazon.com).



JAMES  
LAPENTA

I am a recreational and technical SCUBA Instructor whose primary goal is to create divers that are safe, skilled, and competent. I'd rather lose business than certify an unqualified diver. It is my moral and ethical duty to call out unsafe practices, standards, and those who defend or use them.



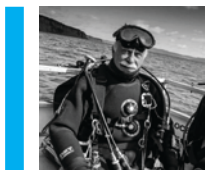
BONNIE  
MCKENNA

Destined to a life with adventure, Bonnie McKenna took her open water dive in 1955 with no wetsuit or BCD, a J-valve tank, double hose regulator, and fins that weighed a ton. She explored the world, with camera in hand, as an international flight attendant. Now retired, she spends her time working as a photojournalist and conservationist.



JOHN C  
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The author Dr. John Christopher Fine is a marine biologist, Master Scuba Instructor and Instructor Trainer. He is an expert in maritime affairs and has authored 26 published books. His large format coffee table book: *TREASURES OF THE SPANISH MAIN* contains information and photographs of Spanish colonial shipwrecks.



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An accomplished wreck explorer, historian, speaker, instructor, and business owner, Gene is a man who wears many hats, and who has made significant strides in surfacing the deep history of New Jersey shipwrecks. Gene has over 40 years of experience in these fields, and we look forward to sharing his stories and expertise in future editions.



MICHAEL  
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Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver have been diving the waters of the world since 1978. In that time, they have spent thousands of hours underwater and have accumulated a large and varied library of photographic images. They have presented their work in many multi-media slide presentations, and have appeared previously at Beneath the Sea, the Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic, Ohio ScubaFest and Our World Underwater.

Eco-Photo Explorers (EPE) is a New York based organization and was formed in 1994 to help promote interest in protecting the environment through knowledge and awareness through the use of underwater photography.



CHRISTOPHER  
WEAVER



JEFFREY  
GALLANT

Jeffrey Gallant is the Editor of the Diving Almanac and a shark researcher. He started diving at age 14 in 1982 and has since led scientific and training expeditions around the world. Among other accomplishments, Gallant was trained as an aquanaut in Romania in 1995 and he dove with Equipe Cousteau in 1999.



A canon recovered from the wreck of the HMS Culloden

© Eco-Photo Explorers

# LIDA, HISTORY AND A STAIRCASE:

MICHAEL SALVAREZZA & CHRISTOPHER P. WEAVER

The Revolutionary War defined the beginnings of an independent United States but it was a struggle of historic proportions both on land and on sea. Throughout the colonies, battles were fought and lives were lost. Long Island, New York, is home to numerous sites central to the fight for independence. The Battle of Brooklyn, the attack on Fort Slongo and the Culper Spy Ring are all examples of how Long Island affected the war.

# CONNECTING DIVERS WITH T

The fight for independence on Long Island extended to its surrounding waters.

In early July 1780, a French fleet of 13 frigates and 7 "ships-of-the-line" were successfully put into the harbor at Newport, Rhode Island. Ships that were equipped to fight in the line of battle were referred to as "Ships-of-the-line". This was an attempt to assist the patriot army in their battle with the British by supplying ships, artillery and 6000 troops.

By September 1780, 14 British warships, including the HMS Culloden, arrived on Long Island to provide



reinforcements to a small fleet in Gardiner's Bay and by October the HMS Culloden was stationed in Gardiner's Bay. The Culloden, along with three other vessels, were instructed to patrol the area between Montauk Pt. and the Nantucket Shoals, and to defend against any French ships trying to enter this area. Essentially, they formed a blockade.

On January 20, 1781, word was received that the French were preparing to leave Newport and were going to run through the blockade. The HMS Culloden, and two other vessels set sail from Block Island Sound in pursuit of the French vessels.

On January 23, a strong winter storm rose up and the ships became lost and disoriented in the severe weather and blinding snow. The HMS Culloden eventually came to rest in 15 feet of water just off shore at a place called Will's Point, now named Culloden Point, in Fort Pond Bay, just west of Montauk Point.

The remains of this historic shipwreck have been lying in the shifting sands of Fort Pond Bay for over 200 years, often completely buried, and sometimes with just a few timbers exposed to indicate the wreck site. Divers who wish to dive the wreck find that, although shallow, it is a difficult wreck to locate. Despite this, the wreck of the HMS Culloden remains one of Long Island's premier dive targets.

Over the years, a number of artifacts from the wreck have been professionally recovered and are displayed at the East End Maritime Museum. A large canon, copper sheathing and a section of the sailing ships' rudder are all preserved and offered for view to the public. The HMS Culloden is a genuine part of local maritime history.

# CULLODEN POINT BEACH STAIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

A TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PROJECT

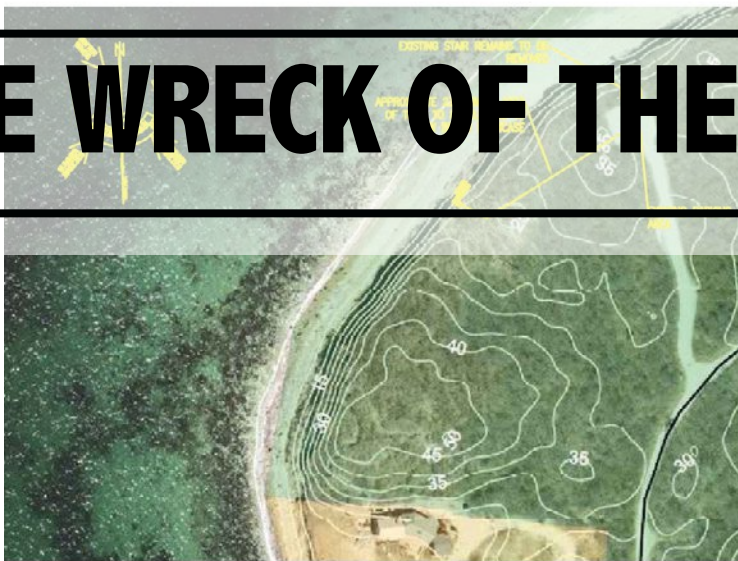
**NOTES:**

1. THE SUFFOLK COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER FOR SUBJECT PARCELS ARE: 300-003-02-07
2. THE OWNER OF THESE PARCELS: TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, 159 PANTIGO ROAD, EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937
3. THE APPROXIMATE TOTAL AREA OF THESE PARCELS IS: 14.4 ACRES.

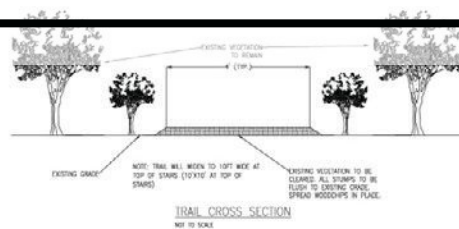


DRAWING LIST	
DRAWING NO.	DRAWING TITLE
C1	TITLE SHEET, ACCESS TRAIL PLAN
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# THE WRECK OF THE HMS CULLODEN



SITE PLAN







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Recognizing that the wreck of the HMS Culloden is of interest to local divers, the Long Island Divers Association (LIDA) championed a successful effort many years ago to secure diver shoreline access to the site and also arranged for the construction of a staircase to the site along a steep bluff. Without the staircase, a dangerous rappel was required of determined divers wishing to dive the wreck.

Sadly, this staircase was destroyed with subsequent hurricanes and winter storms. Diver access to the site effectively was washed away with it.

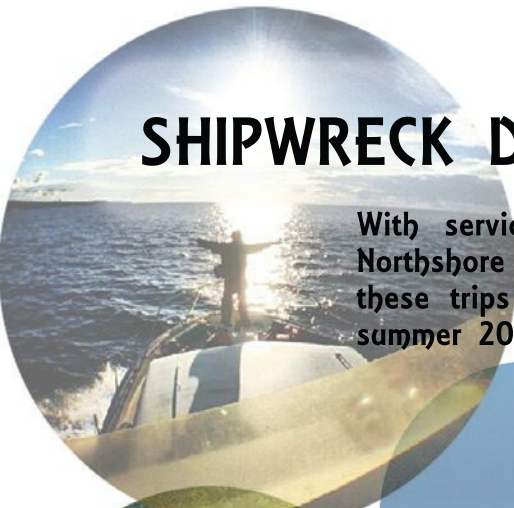
Now, efforts by LIDA to regain diver access to the wreck of the Culloden have culminated in an announcement that the town of East Hampton will rebuild the staircase. In fact, LIDA has been in contact with the Town of East Hampton in 2017 and 2018 advocating for the rebuilding of the stairway down to the beach where the old shipwreck can be accessed. The construction of the stairway is now out to bid for the work to be completed for the summer season of 2019.

“Recent efforts of the Long Island Divers Association have resulted in divers regaining the entry points for diving previously lost at the HMS Culloden in Montauk and Secret Beach in Greenport”, says Barry Lipsky, President of LIDA. “In addition, saving the Ponquogue Bridge from demolition and, instead, helping to secure nearly two million dollars of improvements to the bridge is a huge success for the entire Long Island dive community.”

Divers on Long Island continue to enjoy the underwater wonders of the Atlantic Ocean, the Long Island Sound, Peconic Bay and Fort Pond Bay. Shoreline access to the water for divers, however, is becoming more and more difficult to find as a maze of permits, private property and legal restrictions conspire to keep divers out of the water. LIDA exists to advocate for diver rights, including access to dive sites such as the HMS Culloden, a true example of American history that belongs to all of us.

# SHIPWRECK DIVING AT IT'S BEST

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Wooden rudder from the sailing ship HMS Culloden



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