

THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB

OF WESTCHESTER, NY



February 2012



Welcome to the February issue of the *Sea Swells Log* for 2012!

It is hard to believe, but January came and went with just a whisper of a snow storm. While it is not warm enough to even think of local diving - unless you are into 40 degree water temps - TSSC dive buddies don't seem to mind either way, we always have something to talk about, plan or look forward to.

At our January membership meeting Tim Thomas vowed us with slide shows and video clips of his cave diving activities in the Florida spring systems. He explained the intricacies of the specialty, and provided insight into the modified gear needed for this activity. Underwater caves are a completely different environment from conventional scuba diving and require extensive specialized training.

Also at the meeting, our new President, Ruth Emblin, introduced the members of the 2012 Board of Directors and gave an overview of the year's planned activities. Stay tuned for another exciting year!

See you at the February membership meeting!



Are you beginning to chafe at the bit? I know I am. Granted, this winter hasn't been too bad so far, but I am fully aware that we are not completely out of the woods yet. If you believe in the forecasts provided by certain prominent groundhogs, we can't be sure of the outcome either, as they disagreed this year.

In any case, mild weather around our parts does not mean local diving yet - at least not for yours truly - but I have started taking my gear out and checking it over. I want to be ready when the time comes! This is the perfect antidote to banishing the Diver's Blues. Take everything out of your dive bag, check the equipment - do your regs and BC need service? Soak your wetsuit, gloves, booties, hoods, etc. Even if you did so before you stowed everything away, it never hurts to clean everything very well again. Odors tend to stay with the gear, all it needs is one tiny little corner of your wetsuit that wasn't quite dry or clean before storing and you'll get that familiar, potent whiff of 'Eau De Scuba'. Air the dive bag, too. We tend to forget this important piece of equipment, and it may have ended up sitting stiff and smelly in the corner of your closet. I also check my back-up gear,

tool kit, spares, etc., and most of all, look for my certification cards and dive log, so I don't have to start looking for pieces just before getting ready for a trip.

I speak from experience. Last year I was days before leaving on vacation - and I could not locate our c-cards or logs. Fortunately I had made copies of our c-cards, so I was able to prove that we were, in fact, certified divers. NAUI, our cert agency, has replaced our lost cards in the meantime, but I have yet to receive the replacements from TDI.

Cards are generally replaceable, but what upset me a bit was the loss of my logbooks. While I did not keep a log of everything, I always noted particularly enjoyable dives and it was fun to go back into the log to see what dive sites we had been to. I hope that one day I will open some obscure bag in the back of a closet and find them again... my log was like my personal history of diving, and we had over 20 years' worth of notes in a binder with a variety of logbooks and loose leafs. Fortunately we have plenty of photos to document our trips, but I felt just a little sad to have lost - or hopefully just misplaced - our logs.

But we were talking about banishing the blues, so my intent is to look forward to

Banishing The Diver's Blues

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more diving in the near future - and starting a new log for the next 20 years of diving!

See you all at the next meeting!

Ruth Emblin

2012 President

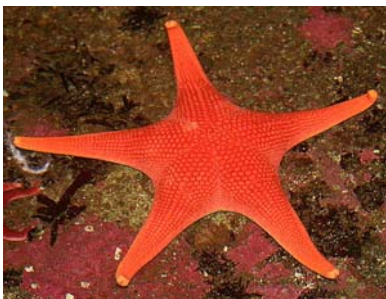




By
Allan
Rios

Diving Puget Sound

A quote I like from famous ocean explorer William Beebe reads; "Instead of gazing down through water buckets and glass-bottomed boats, in addition to watching the fish milling about in aquariums, get a helmet and make all the shallows of the world your own. Start an exploration which has no superior in jungle or mountain; insure your present life and future memories from any possibility of ennui or boredom, and provide yourself with tales of sights and adventures which no listener will believe - until he too has gone and seen, and in turn has become an active member of the Society of Wonderers under-sea." I try to live by this credo whenever possible, and whenever the opportunity arises to scuba dive in a new locale, I take it. This past fall, a family wedding gave me the opportunity to visit Washington State for just a week. Most of my time would be dedicated to family commitments. I had wanted to return to the state to dive for years, after a brief dive trip to the San Juan islands many years ago. When I found I had the opportunity to dive just one day for some undersea adventure, I decided to dive an area I had heard about as a diving destination for years, Puget Sound.



The Puget Sound area is a neighborhood playground for divers, hikers, whale watchers, kayakers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Local residents regularly spend time during the work week and weekends enjoying this beautiful area. Because of the nutrient rich currents, the sound is abundant with sea life. As a result, scuba diving in Puget Sound has earned a well deserved reputation as being spectacu-

lar. That icon of undersea exploration Jacques Cousteau is on record as naming Puget Sound as his second favorite place to dive for temperate water conditions. This locale is known as the emerald sea and is littered with dive locations that range from Tacoma to Seattle to Canada. The area brims with life, giving the Pacific Northwest a well earned reputation as one of the top 10 locations to dive in the world. The area is also full of unique creatures, beautiful scenery and amazing aquatic life that includes wolf eels, orca, six gill sharks, Giant Pacific Octopus, rockfish, ratfish, and invertebrates of many colors and sizes.



My fist dive was at a location called Z's-reef. The site was a long wall, almost 200 yards long. Most of the wall started in about forty feet of water to a bottom of about sixty feet. The landscape seemed to consist of undercuts forming small caves and crevices intermixed with boulders and stacks of rocks. The site was heavily covered with marine organisms, including sea stars, barnacles, and sea cucumbers. The site was also heavy with numerous rockfish congregating at the site; mainly copper, brown and quillback rockfish. Painted greenling fluttered about many of the crevices. Many of the small rock ledges were also home to one fish with a bulbous head with a supremely ugly face and large gummy puffy lips with sharp canine-like teeth. Sometimes referred to as the "Ugly old man of the sea," this gruesomely attractive face belonged to the Wolf-eel, *Anarrhichthys ocellatus*. These fish are a favorite of Puget Sound divers. Many local divers I met during my stay in Washington State regaled me with stories of their docile nature while hand feeding wild specimens with sea urchins. As a newbie



northwest diver, I gave them the respect their supremely ugly faces seemed to deserve and enjoyed their strange appearance from a respectful distance. These fish live in rocky reef-type habitats from the intertidal zone down to about 740 feet. The coloring of a wolf eel changes dramatically throughout its life. Young animals can appear with vibrant orange and red colors, and can be found in shallow areas. As the animals age, they lose these bright colors, and become gray, with dark spots and blotches that help provide camouflage. Both males and females have a dorsal fin that stretches from head to the end of their 6-8 foot long body, and both have spot patterns that appear to be individualized. Scales are imbedded in the skin. Their diet consists of sea urchins, crabs, scallops, and other assorted crustaceans and mollusks. As I fin kicked over the rocky landscape I looked down on many of them peering out of their rocky homes. They had an appearance that at times was a ghostly white, made spookily more dramatic in the Pacific Northwest's moody emerald colored water.

My second dive was at a location called Maury Island. The site consists of several pilings that are covered with marine life, as well as three large barges in various stages of decay that line up near some of the pilings. This site was also crowded with many Puget Sound underwater residents such as rockfish, plumose anemones, and sea stars. But one particular Puget Sound local was present here in large numbers. It was

Continued Page 3



Diving Puget Sound

Continued...



TEMPERATE FISH OF THE MONTH



a fish I had heard about but never seen; the Ratfish. Often seen by divers at night in the Pacific Northwest, this harmless shark relative gets its characteristic name from a pointed rat-like tail. Ratfish (chimaeras) are cartilaginous fish that are related to the sharks and rays, and are sometimes called ghost sharks or rabbitfishes. Most ratfish are a deep water species. The range of depths in which this fish is found extends from 0 to 3,000 feet, but here in Puget Sound they are found in shallow diveable depths. Like other members of the class Chondrichthyes, these fish have a skeleton constructed of cartilage. Their skin is smooth and lacks scales, and their color can range from black to brownish gray. For defense, most ratfish have a venomous spine located in front of the dorsal fin. They resemble sharks in some ways: they employ claspers for internal fertilization of females and they lay eggs with leathery cases. They differ from sharks in that their upper jaws are fused with their skulls; and they lack the many sharp and replaceable teeth of sharks, having instead a few large permanent grinding tooth plates. They are a common sight for divers in the Puget Sound region and are often indifferent towards divers and occasionally bump into them. On this dive they appeared to be unconcerned as I swam close to them and scanned them with my dive light. As the beam of my light reached them, their ghostly sliver silhouette shimmered metallicly and their eyes glowed a frosty emerald green. For more info on Ratfish see <http://www.kirotv.com/videos/news/video-why-ratfish-are-the-most-incredible-fish-in-vCq9t/>

My guides during my day exploring Puget Sound were the very excellent local *Bandito Charters* www.banditocharters.com out of

Tacoma. I lucked out on my diving day; as I was greeted by an uncrowded and very friendly boat with a relaxed and professional attitude. Conditions on the sound that day couldn't have been better, as I was greeted with uncharacteristically bright and sunny clear blue skies and calm waters. The crew greeted us with warm beverages and snacks between dives. I would highly recommend *Bandito Charters* for visiting divers to the region.



The *Tacoma Museum of Glass* www.museumofglass.org was close by the dock, and made a nice post dive activity. Although certainly not for everyone (those who define cold water as "any below 80 degrees"), the diving in Puget Sound is in many ways among the best in the world. Those with a drysuit, and are able to think warm thoughts while diving will find countless rewards and amazing marinelifelife in the emerald waters of the Puget Sound.



Allan Rios



The Atlantic Menhaden

Brevoortia tyrannus

Also known as the "pogy," "mossbunker" or "bunker," the Atlantic menhaden comprises one of the most important commercial fisheries on the Atlantic coast. In our area, it is



regularly seen, often in great abundance, during the late summer/early fall, close to shore. They travel in schools of hundreds or thousands, and often are so tightly packed together that a diver in the middle of them will be unable to see outside the school, giving an effect of being surrounded by silver walls, something that I've experienced.

The menhaden is a member of the herring family (Clupeidae) and resembles its relatives in many ways. It generally has a deeper body than the blueback herring, alewife, or Atlantic herring, which also are found in the area. Its head comprises approximately one-third of its length, which clearly distinguishes it from other herring in our region. It has a black spot behind the gill opening. They are dark blue, green or grey along their dorsal surface and silvery along their sides and bottom, with yellowish caudal (tail) fins. It generally grows to 12 to 15 inches in length.

In our area, menhaden are a major staple in the diet of striped bass and bluefish, although they are fed upon by a wide range of predators, including tuna, sharks, and marine mammals. Menhaden feed by swimming with their large mouths open, filtering plankton from the water column through a sieve-like structure in their mouths. Its oily flesh tends to make it unappealing for human consumption, except as fish protein concentrate. That same oily texture makes it very desirable as a bait fish, particularly when ground up and introduced to the water as "chum."

Large numbers of dead menhaden are occasionally found in the headwaters of embayments, harbors and mouths of rivers during the late summer and early fall. These episodes of fish mortality are not caused by pollution. Instead, large schools of menhaden are forced into shallow inshore waters by feeding bluefish, and when confined and extremely crowded in the shallow waters, exhaust the dissolved oxygen in their immediate surroundings and suffocate. Such menhaden die-offs have been observed on the Atlantic coast since pre-European colonization of the New World.

Native Americans used menhaden as fertilizer for their crops. In fact, the name "menhaden" is derived from the Native American word "munnawhatteaug," which means fertilizer.

Rick D'Amico





How we conduct ourselves on this planet does not linearly correlate to how we affect the Land, Air, and Sea. Why do we do the things that we do?, and how do these things effect the environment around us? For hundreds of years our industry, population, and landscape have been changed, shaped and molded by the needs of the Populous on this planet. It is only until recently that we "the Populous" have mildly recognized the visible changes that our planet has gone through in the recent century. Gnarly Storms and Hurricanes(the frequency of them), Earthquakes, Global Warming etc. etc.

I think writing about doom and gloom is counter productive at this point, and is a story that has already been told many times over. The real questions that need to be asked, and actions that need to be taken, is how do we change these effects. As divers, our unique perspective on the world, 3.5 million strong as of 1988 statistics (poll taken from the May, 2007 issue of *Undercurrents*) gives us an unfair advantage from the rest of the populous, who have been exposed to water by pool, beach, or vacation advertisement. What goes on beneath the surface is what should be of concern. The unique balance the oceans hold of life and the lack thereof, is interconnected to the land dwellers above. However, the organisms and mammals and other sea life can not directly change what is going on above. The only way this will happen, is for "the Populous" to become aware of the fact that we are capable of preserving life, or eradicating it, with unbelievable efficiency.

I hope in the future that I can do my part in educating someone who doesn't know about what is going on.

The views and opinions in this article represent my personal opinions, and do not suggest that I represent the views of the club or its members.

Peter Peale



SAVE
THE
DATE!



OPEN HOUSE 2012
April 14th, 2012

N'Awlins Is Coming To The North
Salem Firehouse!

It's Mardi Gras Time!

Don't Miss Our Traditional Spring Party
With Old And New Dive Buddies!

Join the Scuba Sports Club for an Evening
of Hurricanes, Po'Boys, Cajun Spice,
Blues & Jazz

There will be beads and masks for all -
but get in the mood and dress the part!

NORTH SALEM, FIRE HOUSE
301 Titicus Road North Salem, NY 10560
April 14th, 2012, 6 to 9 PM

For details visit our website at
www.thescubasportsclub.org

As always, the club will provide soda and fixin's, the rest of the food will be potluck. Please contact Social Director Tabby Constantino to let her know what dish you would like to bring. We want to ensure we have a balanced spread of goodies!



The Scuba Sports Club, in cooperation
with Captain Mike's Diving of City Island
and the Long Island Divers Association,
invites you to the

3rd Annual Orchard Beach
Clean-Up and BBQ/Clambake
on May 20th, 2012!

Like prior years, this will be a fun-filled day with like-minded people, helping to clean up the Sound. We need divers for underwater clean-up and beach combers for the shoreline. Bring your family!

After the clean-up, there will be a traditional BBQ & Clambake.

Stay tuned for details and updates!

TSSC's "Future of the Oceans" Project: 2012 Competition For Kids

Calling all junior and future
scuba divers and all kids who love
the oceans!

If you are between the ages of 10 and 16 years old, this is your chance to win a day pass to Beneath The Sea, the countries largest dive industry and dive travel exposition! Maybe you've heard of it, maybe your parents are even divers and have been to this show - let me tell you, it is very exciting! You will learn about the oceans, meet interesting people who spend their lives exploring and protecting our oceans. You might even find out if there is a marine career in your future! And let's not forget, raffles, door prizes, cool dive "stuff" and everything you ever wanted to know about diving (www.benaththesea.org)!

All you have to do is write us a 2-page essay on
"Why I love the oceans and why we need to protect them"

We will choose two winners from all the entries split into two age groups: 10 to 13, and 14 to 16 years old.

Each group winner will receive a **day pass for access to the exhibit floor at Beneath The Sea 2012 on Saturday, March 24th**, plus one day pass for an accompanying adult. The winning essays will also be printed in an upcoming issue of the SeaSwells Log.

To enter, please send your 2-page essay in either Word DOC or PDF format by March 10th, 2012 via email to scubafan1@aol.com.

Entry must include full name, age, address, telephone number, email address and name of accompanying parent/guardian and contact information if different (incomplete entries will not be considered).

Good Luck!



Manta Rays' Fate Mirrors Those Of Sharks "Manta Ray of Hope" Report

Manta rays are so popular with divers and snorkelers that a single animal can 'earn' more than US\$ 1 million over its lifetime for local eco-tourism, according to a new report issued by the Manta Ray of Hope Project. Despite their popularity and lucrative tourism value, the report provides shocking evidence that these graceful and gentle giants are rapidly disappearing due to extreme fishing pressure that is largely unknown by the general public or conservationists.

The Manta Ray of Hope Project, a joint effort of two conservation organizations, Shark Savers and WildAid, released a comprehensive report documenting worldwide manta and mobula declines due to the trade in their gills. The report, entitled "Manta Ray of Hope: The Global Threat to Manta and Mobula Rays" provides the most far-reaching research ever conducted into both the intensive overfishing of mantas and mobulas as well as the trade in their gill rakers that are driving mantas and mobulas to the point of population collapse. The destruction of ray populations is the result of demand for their gill rakers, with an estimated market value of \$11 million annually. That is a fraction of the value of manta and mobula ray tourism, which is estimated at over \$100 million per year, globally.

Shawn Heinrichs, Manta Ray of Hope team leader, explains, "While the gills are valuable for this trade, it is also robbing local economies and the environment of one of the most charismatic creatures in the ocean that could draw millions of dollars each year for those communities." Lead investigator Paul Hilton added, "We first came across manta and mobula ray gills in Asian markets several years ago and followed the trail to the dried seafood markets of Southern China. It's sad to see these animals follow the same path to extinction as sharks."

Manta and mobula ray populations are severely impacted by any kind of targeted fishing because they have extremely limited reproductive biology. These rays can take ten or more years to reach sexual maturity and typically produce only one pup every two to three years. In comparison, even the Great White shark which is listed under CITES Appendix II and widely considered to be one of the world's most vulnerable species, may produce as many pups in one litter as a manta ray does over its entire lifetime. As a result, every area with active

fisheries directed against manta and mobula rays reports devastating and rapid declines in populations of these rays. In certain regions, such as the Sea of Cortez, the oceanic manta ray (*M. birostris*) has largely disappeared. The aggressive trade in gill rakers continues in several of the key range states for mobulids with the largest landings documented in Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia.

"If action is not taken quickly, manta and mobula rays will likely face regional extinctions because of unregulated fisheries", said Michael Skoletsky, Executive Director of Shark Savers. "Anyone who has gone diving with mantas knows them to be intelligent, graceful, and engaging animals. It would be a tragedy to lose them." Executive Director of WildAid, Peter Knights, adds that "Mantas can generate tens of millions of dollars of long term sustainable tourism revenue for less wealthy nations, or for a few million we can let them go extinct for an obscure and dubious folk cure. The economics and the moral imperative are clear - we need an immediate moratorium on gill raker trade and measures for complete protection to some populations and to reduce fishing pressure for others."

The gills of manta and mobula rays are dried and boiled for preparation as a health tonic that is purported to treat a wide range of ailments. Yet the report's researchers did not find the gill raker remedy listed in the official Traditional Chinese Medicine manual. However, that has not prevented its use as a pseudo-medicinal tonic, driven by direct marketing to consumers by importers in Guangzhou, China, the primary destination for this trade.

The report, *Manta Ray of Hope: The Global Threat to Manta and Mobula Rays* highlights what is known about the remarkable biology and ecology of manta and mobula rays, explains the



extreme threats they face, describes the fisheries and trade that target these rays, and offers some solutions via alternative, non-consumptive uses for communities to profit from them, sustainably. The information provided in the report will enable decision-makers to move swiftly in enacting critical protections for manta and mobula rays.

Manta Ray of Hope received support from the Silvercrest Foundation, Hrothgar Investments Ltd, and private donors. Manta Ray of Hope: The Global Threat to Manta and Mobula Rays received additional guidance and data from many of the foremost manta researchers and scientists throughout the world.

Download the full report at <http://tinyurl.com/6ryowms>

About Shark Savers: Focusing on action and results, Shark Savers programs result in saving the lives of sharks and rays. By leveraging professional experience and expertise, Shark Savers brings this important issue to the masses in many compelling forms, motivating people to stop consuming sharks and shark fin soup, and working for the creation of shark sanctuaries and other protections. For more information, please visit www.sharksavers.org

TSSC DIVER OF THE MONTH

Every month we honor a member who has shown a special interest in helping out, be it for events, dives, the general running of the club or anything else beneficial to our members.

Our Diver of the Month for February 2012 is

JUDY SIMEK

Judy has a knack of always finding the right, ocean-themed outfit for every one of our events! She attends almost every meeting, brings up dive- and environment-related topics for discussion, and often supplies potential ideas for events and dive trips. Thank you, Judy, for your continuing involvement in TSSC and the sport of diving, and we are looking forward to sharing the club, its events and many more dives with you in the future!

Deadline for nominations for March: February 20th, 2012
Mail to: scubafan1@aol.com






2012 Dive Schedule

All dates and programs are subject to change without prior notice. For more details and updates, either contact Tom Butcher or the dive coordinator shown, or refer to our website at www.thescubasportsclub.org.


Date/Time:	Location	Description	Contact/Organization
May 5th—12th, 2012	Tobago Blue Waters Inn	See details at http://thescubasportsclub.org/travel/tobago-scuba-trip.html (reservation deadline 1/31/2012)	Jim & Joann Sacci
May 20th	Orchard Beach, NY	In-water and above-ground beach clean-up. Divers may be eligible for free airfills (conditions apply, stay tuned)	Denise Kurz, Rick Bates, Capt. Mike
July 27th - 29th	Lake George	Diving & Camping at Hearthstone Point Campground, Lake George Register now - camp sites are going fast!	Denise Kurz, Tom Butcher
Memorial Day Weekend - Sunday	Dike's Point Candlewood Lake	Annual dive and picnic on Memorial Day Sunday.	Tabby Constantino, Denise Kurz, Tom Butcher
Labor Day Weekend	Somewhere in Long Island Sound... exact location tba	Annual Shark Dive Weekend	Tom Butcher, Allan Rios

LOCAL DIVE SHOPS - AT YOUR SERVICE

The listing of local dive shops is provided to you as a reference and public service. For each shop's specialty, dive training and trip programs, please call or visit their website.



Aqua Visions Scuba
118 West Boston Post Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Tel. 914-381-1884
www.aquavisions.biz



Captain Mike's Diving School
530 City Island Ave
City Island, NY 10464
Tel. 718-885-1588
www.captainmikesdiving.com



Ski and Scuba Connection
26 Saint Roch Ave
Greenwich, CT 06830
Tel. 203-629-4766
www.skiandscubaconnection.com



Abyss Scuba
222 E Main Street
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
914-244-3483
www.abyss-scuba.net



2037 Central Park Ave
Yonkers, NY 10710
Tel. 914-779-2966
and
2672 Gerritsen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11229
Tel. 718-769-0099



Marsh Scuba Supply
93 Lauer Rd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Tel. 845-452-8994
www.marshscuba.com

Pan Aqua Diving
460 W 43rd St., New York, NY 10036
Tel. 212-736-3483
www.panaqua.com

Captain Saam's Scuba School
863 E Main St., Ste B
Stamford, CT 06902
Tel. 203-32 SCUBA
www.capt-saam.com

Durland Scuba Committee & School
Venture Crew #53
35 East Grassy Sprain Rd. Ste 204
Yonkers NY 10710
Tel 914-961-1263
<http://www.durlandscuba.org>

Rex Dive Center
144 Water Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
Tel. 203-853-4148
www.rexdive.com

The Dive Shop
439 Federal Rd.
Brookfield, CT 06804
Tel. 203-740-9166
www.TheDiveShoponline.com





Volunteers For Beneath The Sea Wanted!

As every year, TSSC will have a booth at Beneath The Sea, thanks to the continuing generosity of our club's founder, Armand "Zig" Zigahn. Our booth number is the same as last year - 107. While we have already heard from a number of you who would like to volunteer, there are still several functions open. At this time, we have several volunteers both for our booth and some of the BTS-specific areas, but the show management can always use more people to help out. It's not all work - you will have plenty of time to enjoy the show and hang out with interesting characters from the dive industry! Please contact Jim Sacci for details. *Thank You!*

February Program

Directors Meeting:

Wed, Feb. 1st, 2012 at 7.00 pm, location TBA

General Meeting:

Wed, Feb. 8th, 2012 at 7:00 pm

Victor's Restaurant, Hawthorne

Program Note:

Professor Judith Weiss

"Do Fish Sleep?"

See page 8 for details!

March Program

Directors Meeting:

Wed, Mar. 7th, 2012 at 7 pm, location TBA

General Meeting:

Wed. Mar. 14th, 2012, at 7.00 pm

Victor's Restaurant, Hawthorne

Program Notes:

Steve Kulls "The Loch Ness Monster - Unanswered Questions"

Note:

Programs may change without prior notice. See www.thescubasportsclub.org for updates.

WHO'S WHO AT TSSC IN 2012:

PRESIDENT:	Ruth Emblin
VICE PRESIDENT:	Jim Sacci
TREASURER:	Cindy Fisher
SECRETARY:	Judy Keznord
PAST PRESIDENT:	Nick Lappano
NEWSLETTER DIRECTOR:	Peter Emblin
PROGRAM DIRECTOR:	Allan Rios
ENVIRO/LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR:	Bob Bak
EDUCATION/SAFETY DIRECTOR:	Rick Bates
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:	Denise Kurz
DIVE PLANNING DIRECTOR:	Tom Butcher
SOCIAL DIRECTOR:	Tabby Constantino
DIRECTOR AT LARGE:	Dan Levin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	Dennis Orlowski
LEGAL ADVISOR:	Robert Schragar
FOUNDER:	Armand Zigahn
CO-FOUNDER:	Soliman Shenouda
LIST MAINTENANCE:	Ann Judge

Email contact information is available at our website www.thescubasportsclub.org



SOCIAL & EVENTS 2012

For details on individual events, please go to www.thescubasportsclub.org

Date	Description
March 23-25	BENEATH THE SEA Meadowlands Expo Center Secaucus New Jersey
April 14	TSSC OPEN HOUSE Theme: Mardi Gras
May 20	Orchard Beach U/W Beach Clean-Up & Picnic with Capt. Mike and LIDA
May 27	Memorial Day Weekend Dive and Picnic, Candlewood Lake
July 14 or 15 (TBA)	Lobster Pot Clean-Up with Capt. Mike
July 27 - 29	Camping/Diving Weekend Lake George
Aug 18	Dive at Rocky Neck State Pk, Connecticut
Sept (Date TBA)	International Coastal Clean- Up Day w. Project Aware
Nov (Date TBA)	"Sea Stories" at the Explorers Club, Manhattan



Have You Ordered Your BTS Tickets Yet?

Join Us at Beneath The Sea 2012! March 23rd–25th, 2012 Meadowlands Expo Center, Secaucus, New Jersey

TSSC will once again exhibit at a booth and we will be part of many of the BTS events. Our exhibit booth number is 107!

BTS Weekend At A Glance: <http://tinyurl.com/6mxvv82>

Hotel Information: <http://tinyurl.com/8a7mt8s>

Order your tickets now at <http://tinyurl.com/74m2b4z>

Come support our TSSC Diver of the Year, Ruth Emblin, as she receives her award at the Saturday night Award Reception! For tickets to the reception, see order link above.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

While we are contemplating the forecast and scratching our heads due to the rather strange winter we've had so far, it doesn't bother me a bit not to see any snow on the ground. It just means that cabin fever won't be as bad this year - or will it? I see sunshine outside and I wonder whether it's time to relaunch the boat and go diving soon...though this dream was blown away when I checked the average water temps in LI Sound (40 degrees at the surface)! Nevertheless, I know I won't get bored until the season starts again - just look at the program and events TSSC has prepared for the year! First BTS, then the Open House, then summer will start with clean-ups, bbqs, picnics, parties, dive weekends and even trips...there simply is no chance for boredom. Reason enough to let your friends know how much fun we have at TSSC, don't you think?



Peter Emblin

Editor

Must Read Books For Divers

While the holidays are over, it is still winter and the perfect time to read up on everything diving. It doesn't hurt that some of those books contain gorgeous photography, making us look forward to our next dive trip. Here is a list of 'must reads' compiled by Scubadiving.com:

REEF Fish Identification

A reference book by Ned DeLoach and Paul Humann
(www.fishid.com)

Diving Indonesia's Bird's Head Seascape

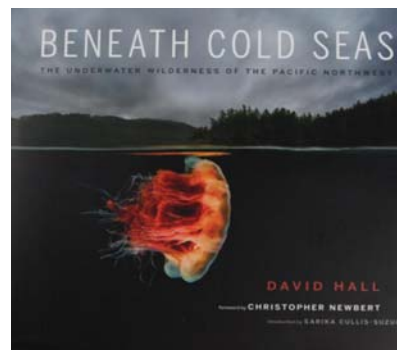
Burt Jones and Maurine Shimlock
(www.fishid.com),

Beneath Cold Seas

David Hall's stunning tribute to BC diving
(www.beneathcoldseas.com),

Angelee Saves the Sea

Children's book by Beverly Factor
(www.angeleesavesthesea.com),



Ocean Soul

Marine Animals, by Brian Skerry
(shop.nationalgeographic.com)

Catching the Bug: The Comprehensive Guide to Catching the Spiny Lobster

by Deerfield Beach, Florida, diver and lobster hunter Jim "Chiefy" Mathie
(www.chiefy.net).

For the entire list and details on each book, go to
<http://tinyurl.com/75deszn>



February Program Notes: Judith S. Weis

Judith S. Weiss, author, will give us some insight on questions about fishes and introduce her book DO FISH SLEEP?

The book is organized in an easy-to-read and accessible question-and-answer format, filled with more than 55 photographs and over 100 interesting facts from fish biology basics to the importance of preserving and restoring fish diversity and healthy populations. A captivating read for fish enthusiasts of all ages—naturalists, environmentalists, aquarists, scuba divers, and students—this is also the perfect primer for those just about to get their feet wet.

From the fifty-one-foot whale shark *Rhincodon typus* to a less-than-one-half-inch fish in the minnow family—the tiny *Paedo-*

cypris progenetica—fish certainly carry a lot of weight . . . or do they?

A fish's heft in water may vary, but these diverse aquatic animals certainly carry a lot of weight in our ecosystems and environment. From freshwater to ocean habitats, DO FISH SLEEP? offers a fascinating look at these deceptively simple creatures. Fishes may appear to live a dull existence, but appearances change once we understand more about how they survive. These wonders actually possess attributes that would make us superpowers—they can change color, sex, produce light and electricity, regenerate injured fins, prevent themselves from sinking, and some can even walk on land.



JUDITH S. WEIS is a professor of biological sciences at Rutgers University. She is the coauthor of *Salt Marshes: A Natural and Unnatural History* (Rutgers University Press).

