

The Scuba Sports Club

Meeting Recap October 13th, 2021

Club Officers & Directors Updates

Melissa Lonquich, President

- Welcome message, welcome and introductions of the first-time guests attending this month's Zoom meeting.
- Share out from members on recent trips
- Anyone that would like to send Gary a write up/ pics about what Dutch Springs meant to you and pics you may have as well as write ups/ pics from recent trips
- Start sending in payments for the Holiday Party on December 4th, 2021 to get the subsidized pricing. \$45 by 11/15 \$65 after for members and \$65 any time for non-members. Location: 4 Brother Pizza Restaurant in Mahopac

Ed Van Dolsen, Vice President

- No Reports

Sheri Buchman, Treasurer

- No Reports

Michelle Memoli, Secretary

- No Report

Kenny Salstrom, Executive Director

- Please "like" our Facebook page and give us a review! If you're not getting notifications about events posted there please follow us as well.
- If there are pictures or things you feel we should put on our Facebook page please let Kenny know.
- Contact Kenny with pictures/ videos to present at the November members meeting

Kevin Cushing, Membership Director

- 2022 membership dues and waivers due before the new year.
- If you know of fellow divers that would like to check out one of our meetings and possibly join please let Kevin know.
- Any tech issues with getting the emails please let Kevin know.

Liza Handziak, Social Director

- Any ideas for social events please contact Liza directly.
- Please see email sent by Liza re: Apple picking/ wine tasting this coming weekend
- November Social event details to come

Gary Lehman, Newsletter (Sea Swells publisher/editor)

- Anyone going on upcoming trips or have other ideas for an article they'd like to see in the newsletter, please contact Gary (his email is on our website). If you need his help writing up something he will be glad to help you.

Gene Miceli, Director at Large

- Send in your vote for diver of the year no later than Sunday , October 16th to have your vote count (Via Google Forms)

Judy Dronzek, Environmental Director

- For more info or ideas to help with environmental or legislative events that support our oceans, wildlife or our planet at large please contact Judy directly (her email is on the website)
- Spoke about EATS Act, more info to come via email

Jack Ricotta, Dive Planner

- If you have ideas for upcoming trips please let Jack know.
- Info given about Egypt trip (Please see emails sent by Jack)
- Info given on the Sea of Cortez Trip (Please see emails sent by Jack)
- More info on future trips to be given at a later date

Joe Rinaldi, Education & Safety Director

- Not in Attendance

Amanda Slattery, Program Director

- Introduce this month's speaker, Q & A

October's Featured Speaker: Tripp Funderburk

Tripp Funderburk is the Manager of the Bay Islands Reef Restoration program (BIRR). He is responsible for nursery construction and maintenance; coral out planting and monitoring; and teaching Subway Go Green Divemaster interns and Turquoise Bay guests how to maintain the coral nursery and outplant coral.

Prior to managing BIRR, Tripp was the Director of Policy for Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF), and Director of International Operations at the Coral Restoration Foundation International (CRFI) in Key Largo, Florida. Mr. Funderburk also served as a Member of the Board of Directors of CRF, and as a Team Leader for CRF's education dive programs.

Tripp also attended the New Heaven Reef Conservation Program (NHRCP) in Koh Tao, Thailand, where he received SSI (Scuba Schools International) Ecological Diver Recognition for Coral Restoration Theory and Methods, Coral Nursery Construction and Maintenance, and Coral Abundance and Health Assessment.

Before working in the coral restoration field, Tripp worked in public policy in Washington, DC, for more than 20 years, including eight years as a legislative assistant on both the House Appropriations and the House Administration Committees. Tripp also worked in the private sector in government relations for The Washington Group and The Livingston Group where he represented Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, non-profit organizations, conservation groups, Indian tribes, and foreign governments.

Mr. Funderburk received his M.B.A. from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Virginia.

** Tripp is Project Manager for the Bay Islands Reef Restoration (BIRR) program in Roatan, Honduras, supported by Turquoise Bay Resort (which was recently visited by a large group from the Scuba Sports Club of Westchester.) Many members of the Scuba Sports Club participated in coral restoration activities including cleaning coral nursery trees and out planting endangered Staghorn (*Acoropora cervicornis*) corals.

Mr. Funderburk will provide some background information on coral biology, coral stressors and the processes employed in BIRR's coral restoration activities. The Caribbean is currently experiencing an outbreak of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, which causing a large amount of coral mortality in affected countries in the Caribbean. Mr. Funderburk will also provide information about the disease outbreak and the efforts being made to slow its spread.

