



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

10th Anniversary Commemorative Book

2000 - 2010



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

To all WDHOF Members, Families and Friends,

On behalf of the Women Divers Hall of Fame Board of Directors, we welcome you to our 10th Anniversary Celebration and particularly to this, our 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book. We hope you enjoy reading about these amazing women as much as we enjoy being a part of this wonderful organization. This book is intended as a history lesson, a chance to get better acquainted with WDHOF, and a tribute to all the women who have explored the oceans around the world and continue to be crucial to the underwater community today.

We are also delighted to introduce and welcome our 10 newest members, on our 10th Anniversary, the WDHOF Class of 2010. These women are all truly deserving of recognition and we're very proud to have them join our ranks. You can read all about them on page 12 of this book.

On this, the occasion of our 10th Anniversary, we need to stop and reflect on the last 10 years. We could not have gotten this far without the support, advice and encouragement of many people and organizations within the diving community. Although we'd like to thank each and every one of them, that list would go on for pages, so we'll have to limit it to a few. Perhaps our biggest supporters, and of course one of our co-founders, has always been Beneath the Sea. Without Zig and JoAnn Zighan and the superb staff of BTS, we would never be able to enjoy the benefits of this organization. Having BTS as the underwriter for our 10th Anniversary and this book is indicative of the support that they continue to give us. We would also like to thank our other sponsors for their generosity on helping make the book available. Ron Hand and Amphibico Group, Wendy Benchley, Connie Morgan and Kirby Morgan, Inc. have always supported WDHOF and once again immediately came through for this book.

And finally, we need to thank a few of our own. Of course we would like to thank our illustrious founders, listed on page 10, without whom we would not be here today. We would also like to thank our 10th Anniversary Committee, which has been working for over a year to put together this celebration that we hope all of you will enjoy. There are two of our ladies that we must break out for special recognition. Mary Connelly, WDHOF Trustee and daughter of the late WDHOF member Cecelia Connelly, has been the BTS Expo liaison for the last two years and is responsible for making this all work. We are so proud to have her on our team and we're sure that Cecelia is very proud also! And last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to Darlene Iskra, WDHOF member and the editor of this book. Darlene took a vague idea from the WDHOF Board of Directors and turned it into this fabulous work of art. She is the reason that you get to enjoy this marvelous read. So relax and enjoy!

Bonnie Toth
WDHOF Chair

Bobbie Scholley, CAPT (ret), USN
WDHOF President

Beneath The Sea is honored to have been a part of this exceptional group of women comprised of pioneers, leaders, innovators, record holders in every field of diving: Arts, Science, Diving, Hyperbaric Medicine, Diving Safety, Dive Training, Education, Marine Archeology, Deep Sea Exploration, Equipment Technology, Design, Manufacturing, Military Diving, Free Diving, Commercial Diving, and Dive Media. The Women Divers Hall of Fame represents what is best about women and the world of diving. All of your friends at Beneath The Sea would like to take this opportunity to honor and celebrate the achievements and contributions of this prestigious organization over the last 10 years and look forward to your continued success both on land and beneath the sea.

Congratulations
TO THE WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME
FROM BENEATH THE SEA



"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.
If you can dream it, you can become it."

William Arthur Ward

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A Comprehensive Underwater Instruction Manual, Illustrated With Over 90 Drawings And Photographs

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 Congratulates the women of the Women Divers Hall Of Fame



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Editor's Preface

As the Women Divers Hall of Fame approached its 10 year milestone, the WDHO Board of Directors and Officers wanted to ensure the annual BTS expo weekend and WDHO New Member Inauguration was a very special event. A committee was set up, ideas were brainstormed, and the concept of an anniversary booklet was formed. It began as an idea to highlight some of our more prominent members, but as we began to collect stories, via a member's survey that was sent in early summer 2009, we realized that all of us have something to share, and that the stories were not only interesting but entertaining. As a result, the booklet grew into the book you are holding in your hands right now. I opted to use as a baseline the basic biographies that can be found on our website, www.wdhof.org. I embellished the bios with stories collected either from our members, or found via the internet. The result is a delightful mix of biographical and personal information about all of our WDHO members. Additionally, as I read the bios and the personal input, I realized that I, as a military diver, had very little knowledge about what exactly some of our members did. The acronyms alone had my mind spinning! So I decided to also provide information about the various and numerous areas of diving expertise.

Categorizing the diving fields our members fall under was a challenge, as so many of us boast a variety of talents. One is not just a scientist, but also a speaker and author of technical publications. Another does not just dive wrecks, but uses the highly specialized gear and technology required of deep diving. Thus, the categories you will find in the Table of Contents reflect a trial and error judgment of overall fields of expertise as well as sub-categories. Many of our WDHO members are skilled in more than one specialty area, so it was especially difficult to categorize them into a single area of expertise. As you look through the entries, you will notice that the members are listed under their primary field, as either they or I defined it.

In the pages that follow, you will be introduced to the outstanding women who make up the Women Divers Hall of Fame. From 2000 to 2010, WDHO has grown from our Inaugural Hall of 76 to a membership today of 176 outstanding women who excel in every field in the diving industry. From recreational to scientific, commercial and military divers, our WDHO members encompass all fields. Our members were diving pioneers in the 1950s and today many of them are still hard at work making discoveries and advances in dive medicine, technology and marine environments.

I would like to thank the many members who returned the surveys, for without their input this book would not be possible. I also appreciate the input of Hillary Vidars, Jennifer King, Karin Lynn for helping with the final edits, and especially Bonnie Toth for taking on the gargantuan task of designing the book to be aesthetically pleasing, with graphics and photos.

Darlene M. Iskra

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Welcome Letter | 3 |
| Editor's Preface | 5 |
| Women Divers Hall Of Fame History- How This All Came To Be! | 6 |
| The Founders | 10 |
| Class of 2010 | 12 |
| Chapter 1: The Media | |
| Authors, Journalists, Editors, and Publishers | 14 |
| Underwater Filmmakers, Photographers and other Media Experts | 20 |
| Chapter 2: Specialized Diving | |
| Technical/Deep Divers | 32 |
| Wreck Divers | 36 |
| Cave Divers..... | 42 |
| Freedivers and Spearfishers | 46 |
| Underwater Hockey Experts | 50 |
| Chapter 3: Diving Industry | |
| Scuba Industry, Travel and Recreation Leaders | 52 |
| Commercial Divers | 58 |
| Military Divers | 62 |
| Astronauts/Aquanauts | 63 |
| Civil Engineers | 64 |
| Diving and Salvage Officers | 65 |
| Diving Medical Officers / Research Scientists | 70 |
| Chapter 4: Research, Education, and Medicine | |
| Educators, Instructors, and Safety Specialists | 72 |
| Diving Medicine and Physiology Experts | 82 |
| Marine Scientists and Conservationists | 86 |
| Underwater Archeologists | 100 |
| Appendix A: Diving Pioneers | 104 |
| Appendix B: List of members by year group | 106 |
| Appendix C: Alphabetical list of members and index | 108 |
| Acronyms and Abbreviations / Glossary | 110 |

Women Divers Hall Of Fame History - How This All Came To Be!

The year that the idea of a Women Divers Hall of Fame was first conceived -- 1999 -- was a remarkable year. People everywhere were taking stock of the achievements that had transformed the world over the last century. In that spirit, Armand "Zig" Zigahn, President of Beneath the Sea, Inc. (BTS), wanted to present a spectacular salute to the Millennium as the theme for his annual Beneath the Sea Expo in Secaucus, New Jersey. Among other special events, Zig wanted to pay tribute to the "Greatest Women Divers of the 20th Century." To create such an ambitious presentation, Zig assembled a small group of diving professionals that had numerous connections throughout the global diving community: Hillary Vidars, Ph.D., an award winning writer, speaker and educator; Patty Mortara, co-founder of Women Underwater; Carol Rose, President of The Underwater Society of America (USOA); and Jennifer King, President of the Women's Scuba Association. Ray Tucker, Chief Financial Officer, and Zig, President, from BTS, rounded out this multi-talented "think tank" that named itself "The Women Divers Executive Committee."

After the first meeting of the Women Divers Executive Committee (the Committee), it became obvious that there were far too many outstanding women divers in the 20th Century to select just a few. Off the top of their heads, the Committee members ticked off over 50 women deserving of the title! Each candidate was a world renowned pioneer, leader, or record breaker. The Committee was seeking outstanding women divers whose contributions and achievements spanned every field of diving: Arts, Science, Diving Medicine, Diving Safety and Training, Marine Archaeology and Deep Sea Exploration, Equipment Technology, Military Diving,

Design and Manufacturing, Free Diving, Commercial Diving, and Dive Media. A call to the public was advertised through various media, and nominations for "Best Women Divers of the Century" were requested as well as contact information for the nominees.

Scores of nominations poured in but few included contact information. What's more, these luminaries were spread out around the globe and many were on undersea expeditions and next to impossible to locate. So, with very little contact information, the Committee divided up the names of all the qualified nominees and attempted to find them. Once each woman was located, the Committee obtained her consent to participate in the BTS presentation as well as her current biography and photo. The end result of this lengthy "treasure hunt," was a cadre of 76 outstanding "women divers of the century." After many thousands of work hours assembling this celebrity jackpot, just featuring them in a single event seemed counterproductive. So, with several more months' worth of organization, what began as a one-time presentation at a diving expo catapulted into a permanent honor society. Once the Committee made that decision, many challenges lay ahead, such as deciding on an appropriate name and logo for this new organization, establishing membership requirements and devising a procedure for induction. There were also internal organizational and legal issues to be considered.

Many organizational names were brainstormed and discussed, such as "The Women Divers Honor Roll," and "The Women Divers Club." The female members of the Committee tended to be more grandiose in their vision, so by majority vote, the new organization



was entitled, "The Women Divers Hall of Fame." As soon as the name was agreed upon, Hillary Vidars began working with a graphic designer and she presented sketches of possible logos to the Committee. One design in particular stood out, that of a fully geared up female diver who appeared to be ready to dive into the water proudly holding a torch over her head that bore the initials "WDHOF." Zig's comment on that design was, "Oh my God - she looks like a wild woman!" To which Hillary replied, "And your point is?" Zig continued, "That lady really looks like she means business, not like a girly girl. She looks strong enough to wrestle me to the ground." Where upon the women committee members laughed and declared, "That's exactly what we want! It's a go!"

In preparation for the first WDHOF induction, the Committee voted to create a membership pin and a certificate to present to each WDHOF member. The WDHOF pin was created by Norma Wellington, a noted jewelry designer whose work has been commissioned by the White House and numerous Hollywood and Broadway stars. Norma duplicated the WDHOF logo as an impressive piece of jewelry finished in 18 Karat gold. After the prototype pin was approved, 100 more had to be hand crafted, boxed and gift wrapped. At the same time, Patty Mortara designed the award certificate and a local printer ran off the first 100 copies. Patty also organized a "WDHOF Wall of Fame" display from the photographs and bios of the inductees that the Committee was able to compile. The Wall of Fame was featured in the lobby of the Meadowlands Expo Center throughout the BTS Expo weekend. As the Expo, scheduled for March, 2000, grew near, the Committee stepped up its frantic efforts to put everything in place for a spectacular Women Divers Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony. Zig and JoAnn Zigahn and the Beneath the Sea staff were extremely gracious and accommodating. They allowed the WDHOF Award Ceremony to be part of the BTS Awards Banquet and Film Festival, a black tie gala that was the highlight of the weekend. BTS became the "home base" for WDHOF and has remained so to date.

When the big day unfolded, the Committee members were exhausted but over the moon with excitement. This tiny group, in effect, had created a global platform for women to be recognized in the traditionally all male world of diving. As the WDHOF Inductees arrived from across the U.S., Europe, Mexico, the Caribbean and Australia, they embraced and acknowledged their admiration for one another. It was a meeting of legends. Media crews followed and interviewed the WDHOF Inductees throughout the weekend, and several dozen photographers frantically snapped images of the group at the elegant BTS Awards Banquet. Reflecting on that moment, it must have been an awesome sight to see a bevy of the world's most accomplished, hard core divers in flowing gowns and makeup!

It was obvious from the immediate success of the Women Divers Hall of Fame that this organization was here to stay. But for this to happen, the Committee would have to contend with fund raising to keep WDHOF financially solvent. So, in 2001, WDHOF became incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and began soliciting for donations. That same year, Kathy Weydig, one of the WDHOF Inaugural Members, volunteered to help draft the WDHOF Bylaws and other major organizational tasks. Kathy so impressed the Committee with her hard work and expertise, that they elected her as the first President and Treasurer of WDHOF. Other initial officers were Carol Rose as Vice President, Patty Mortara as Secretary, and Hillary Vidars as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Due to lack of volunteers, the first WDHOF Board of Trustees was comprised of the WDHOF Founders. In 2002, the WDHOF Board granted Kathy Weydig WDHOF Founder status, making her the 6th official WDHOF Founder.

At the 2001 BTS expo, the weekend included WDHOF Board meetings and the first WDHOF General Membership Meeting as well as the WDHOF Awards Ceremony and Sunday Brunch, and 36 more women were inducted. That same year, WDHOF made its first official appearance at the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) show where it held a secondary Induction



Ceremony for members who could not make it to Beneath the Sea 2000. WDHOF officers decorated a booth which displayed WDHOF Members' photos and bios, and a 7 minute video about WDHOF, produced by WDHOF member Sue Drafahl and her husband Jack, playing in a continuous loop. Throughout the DEMA show, the WDHOF booth was crowded with curious onlookers eager to meet their female diving icons. With the support of USOA members Charlie Matthews, Mike Gower and Joe Gomes, WDHOF has maintained a booth at both BTS and DEMA every year since.

As WDHOF continued to expand its membership, the Board decided to expand WDHOF's goals to include a scholarship program. With the support of many generous sponsors, this program has grown to as many as 10 scholarships and grants awarded each year to men and women in various fields of diving and marine science. To more effectively reach out to the rapidly growing membership from around the world, a WDHOF quarterly newsletter was also created with Hillary as the original editor.

The WDHOF Scholarship Program and the growing number of new members increased the need for funding. To that end, various

events have been held over the years, including a raffle at the WDHOF Brunch, and items targeted for WDHOF support at the BTS Silent Auction. The most ambitious fundraising event is the WDHOF Duck Derby which started at DEMA 2003. Created and run by Kathy Weydig, and controlled by the "Duck Mistress" Cathy Church, the event has been well attended by divers and non-divers alike. With the help of Martha Watkins Gilkes, in 2005 it even featured guest host, Robin Leach for a very successful event!

As we celebrate the Women Divers Hall of Fame's 10th Anniversary, there is much for which to be proud. Selection to WDHOF is a coveted honor, and the membership continues to grow, though at a slower rate. The WDHOF Scholarship Program has awarded over \$100,000 to well-deserving recipients. But most important, the Women Divers Hall of Fame's greatest asset remains its members: women of all ages, nationalities, races, religions, and fields of expertise. They are sisters bound by their love of the sea and a commitment to excellence. WDHOF's members demonstrate a remarkable level of achievement that can never be ignored. WDHOF is proud to shine a light on those achievements and to light the path for others to follow.



Hillary Viders, Ph.D.

AUTHOR, SPEAKER, EDUCATOR, CONSULTANT

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
Women Divers Hall of Fame
FOR 10 AMAZING YEARS!

I salute the Members of the Women Divers Hall of Fame for making the Founders' vision a brilliant reality.

You have shown the world that women divers possess a dazzling array of talent, strength and dedication.

And

You have established women as a centripetal force in the diving community throughout the world.



Hillary Viders, Ph.D, Co-Founder
Women Divers Hall of Fame

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The Founders

Beneath the Sea, Inc. (BTS)

Armand Zigahn, President
www.beneaththesea.org



BTS is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to increasing awareness of the earth's oceans and the sport of Scuba diving. As an award-winning organization, BTS helps promote environmental conservation and the protection of marine wildlife through grants to other nonprofit groups. Through its international poster contest for children, called Ocean Pals, BTS helps educate children on the wonder and delicate nature of our oceans. Its annual exposition in March is one of the largest in the industry, and features seminars and workshops, a film festival that showcases the work of world-renowned underwater videographers, and exhibits and demonstrations by manufacturers, dive clubs, dive shops, resorts and the dive travel industry. It also hosts the annual WDHOFF induction ceremony on Saturday night of the exposition, and continues to be an avid support of WDHOFF.

The Underwater Society of America (USOA)

Carol Taylor Rose, President
www.underwater-society.org



The Underwater Society of America was formed in 1959 by the then existing skin-diving councils; it was composed of and represented all divers in North America. It is still the public diving organization of the United States. It is controlled by its executive committee, board of governors and delegates of the member councils and clubs meeting annually. The Society functions to give national recognition to divers, and has been active in issues affecting divers' right to dive, marine ecology, safety, legislation, conservation and the like. Since 1960, USOA has sanctioned four special awards: The NOGI. The award is symbolized by statuettes awarded in four categories: Arts, Sports/Education, Science, and Distinguished Service. The NOGI is the 'Oscar' of diving and has been awarded to Jacques Cousteau, Sylvia Earle, Glen Engstrom, Valerie Taylor, Stan Waterman and Jack Mc Kenny to name only a few. The Society also recognizes divers at the regional level, The Regional Divers of the Year Award in the categories of Art, Sports, Education, and Science and Service.

Captain Kathy A. Weydig
Inaugural Honoree and first President of WDHOFF
 page 40

Women's Scuba Association

Jennifer King, President

The Women's Scuba Association (WSA) was started in 1992 by Jennifer King with the mission to promote diving to women and families, provide women divers with a network of other women divers for professional promotion, and to recognize the accomplishments of women in diving. WSA originally started out as a membership organization, and had a networking directory subdivided by expertise and a newsletter. WSA established the "Woman Diver of the Year" Award in 1996 which they gave (in sequence) to Sylvia Earle, Zale Parry and Bonnie Cardone at the annual DEMA show through 1999.

Women Underwater

Patty Newell-Mortara
www.womenunderwater.com



Through the collective efforts of Patty Mortara & Jill Heinerth, Women Underwater's mission was to be a resource dedicated to inspiring and promoting the accomplishments of women divers. It evolved from a membership based group, to a print publication and then into an online resource. In 1999 Women Underwater was approached to collectively create an event to celebrate the millennium and note the many accomplishments of female divers from the past and present. That "event" would become the foundation of The Women Divers Hall of Fame. Women Underwater continues to support WDHOFF thru the sponsorship of the Women Underwater Training Grant in Technical Diving.

Hillary Vidars, Ph.D.
An Award Winning Writer, Speaker and Educator
 page 97

*Where There Is Water,
 There Is Life.*

**It is one of the most
 fundamental principles
 on Earth.**

**If all the water on our planet
 was represented by a 5-gallon
 bucket of water –
 all the fresh, drinkable water
 would be represented by a
 thimble of water.**

*Hydrogen.
 Oxygen.
 And Human.*

Jeanne Bear Sleeper
 WDHOFF 2000

Photo by Katrina Adams
 Kosrae, Micronesia

Welcome to the Class of 2010

Jane Bowman, 2010, Australia
Cave Diver, Instructor, Tech Diver



Of the 8,000 dives Jane has made, 2,000 have been in caves. One of Australia's leading female cave divers and instructors, Jane's diving highlights include diving in Mexico, Florida, the Nullarbor Cave systems (in the central Australian desert), Palau, Vanuatu, and too many other exotic dive destinations to list. Jane has issued 4,000 diving certifications through PADI and the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA), many at the upper limit of Australian cave diver training. Jane is the current Standards

Director for the CDAA, the first woman to hold this challenging position since the association officially formed in 1974.

Annie Crawley, 2010, California
Filmmaker, Photographer, Master Instructor



Annie is a filmmaker, motivational speaker, photographer and writer, as well as a Master Scuba Diving Instructor and USCG (United States Coast Guard) 100-ton boat captain. She founded the company, Dive Into Your Imagination, and has launched a series of illustrated books and award winning DVDs about our ocean to entertain, educate and inspire. Ocean Annie partners all of her ocean messages with empowerment and leadership skills encouraging our youth that they can create their lives. Annie has worked

throughout the world for two decades; her work has been published and broadcast worldwide.

Sheri Daye, 2010, Florida
Freediver, Spearfisher, Media Personality



Sheri is an accomplished scuba diver, freediver, and spearfisher. She is trimix certified with many dives to 250 feet. She has been a Freedive Spearfishing National Champion and has over a dozen world record fish to her name. Sheri is the host of *Speargun Hunter* on Outdoor Channel, bringing the sport to millions of viewers. She teaches spearfishing with an emphasis

on safety and selectivity, and she organizes "The Blue Wild Spearfishing Expo" -- an annual event with proceeds to charity. Sheri is a corporate manager with a mechanical engineering degree and an MBA. She promotes "Dive Flag Awareness" and "Freediver Blackout Education."

Joan Forsberg, 2010, Illinois
Underwater Archaeologist, Wreck Diver, Public Speaker



Joan has spent much of her life exploring and researching shipwrecks, and promoting shipwreck diving through public speaking, articles, books, and underwater videography. She was the very first woman to be published in the international *Wreck Diving* magazine, for which she now works as Copy Editor. Re-elected to an unprecedented third term as President of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, she has spearheaded research and/or survey work on over 35

shipwrecks, plus 16 shipwrecks in Hawaii and the US coasts. Joan is one of the first women to have successfully completed formal training in underwater archaeology from Great Britain's Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS), as well as becoming an NAS tutor's assistant.

Deb Greenhalgh, 2010, Rhode Island
Special Needs Instructor, Instructor Trainer



Founder of Scuba Made Easy LLC NAUI Training Facility and NAUI Course Director and Instructor (nitrox, International Handicap Scuba Association and National Instructors Association of Divers with Disabilities), Deb is dedicated to teaching scuba to the general public, municipalities, scientific divers, and disabled/adaptive divers. As a Program Manager for the U.S. Department of Defense, she leads an international technical

team producing products and systems for the U.S. Military. She is a WDHOF Trustee and a NAUI Board of Directors, Executive Board officer and Awards Committee Chairman.

Anne Davis Hasson, 2010, Florida
Dive Industry Leader



Anne is co-Founder of Aggressor Fleet -- an international live-aboard dive yacht company. Anne and her husband Wayne Hasson are the modern architects of the luxury live-aboard that began in 1984 with the launching of the Cayman Aggressor. Anne is responsible for Marketing and Sales at Aggressor Fleet and has spearheaded many innovative programs to keep divers diving, accommodating more than 100,000 divers and their children on Aggressor Fleet yachts. Aggressor Fleet has vessels at 11

dive destinations including Cayman, Belize, Turks & Caicos, Utila, Dominican Republic, Kona, Cocos Island, Galapagos, Fiji, Palau and the Maldives.

Diane Scullion Littler, Ph.D., 2010, Washington, DC
Marine Biologist, Researcher



Diane is a Research Associate in the Department of Botany at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, and also Adjunct Senior Scientist at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University. She is a respected authority on marine biology, especially tropical-marine botany. Current research focuses on relative dominance theory, functional morphology, and complex top-down (predation) vs. bottom-up (eutrophication) interactions in coral-reef systems. Other active research includes: monographic and phylogenetic systematics; seaweed experimental taxonomy; biodiversity, ecology, and conservation of tropical marine ecosystems.

Roseanne Oliveros, EAC (SCW/DV), USN, 2010, California
Underwater Construction Technician, Military Diver



Roseanne became the third woman Seabee to graduate from Second Class Dive School in April 2000. She also attended First Class Dive School in 2004 and graduated at the head of her class. From there she went on to become the first and only enlisted woman in the U.S. Navy to become the Officer in Charge (OIC) of a Diving Detachment in May 2009 and led her 15 man team through a grueling 6 month deployment to the Pacific theater.

Chief Engineering Aid (Seabee Combat Warfare/Diver) Oliveros has volunteered twice for duty in Iraq, deploying for six months at a time in 2003 and 2007.

Faith Ortins, 2010, California
Educator, Dive Equipment Manufacturer, Tech Diver



Faith has spent her life educating people about diving through her love and enthusiasm for the ocean. Whether as a biology teacher, Dive Master, dive store retailer, charter operator, equipment manufacturer and distributor, she inspires people and instills in them a passion for local diving. Twenty years ago she worked with DUI to develop the first women's drysuits and now leads DUI's Sales Team worldwide. She created the DUI DOG Rally and Demo

Tour Program which promotes local diving facilities across the US, teaming dive retailers together while divers test dive DUI products. Certified in 1979, she has over 2500 dives including 700 technical dives.

Lesley Rochat, 2010, South Africa
Shark Researcher, Author, Underwater Photographer



Founder of AfriOceans Conservation Alliance, Lesley established the SOS Shark Centre in South Africa, and is director of media productions at the Shark Research Institute. She is responsible for the M-Sea Programme, which involves the satellite tagging and releasing of sharks from the Two Oceans Aquarium. Equipped with a diverse range of skills, this award-winning

documentary producer is also the creative director of educational and awareness initiatives, including the development of campaigns such as the award winning Rethink the Shark campaign. She is also a well-published environmental journalist, underwater photographer, and authored educational and children's books about the oceans.

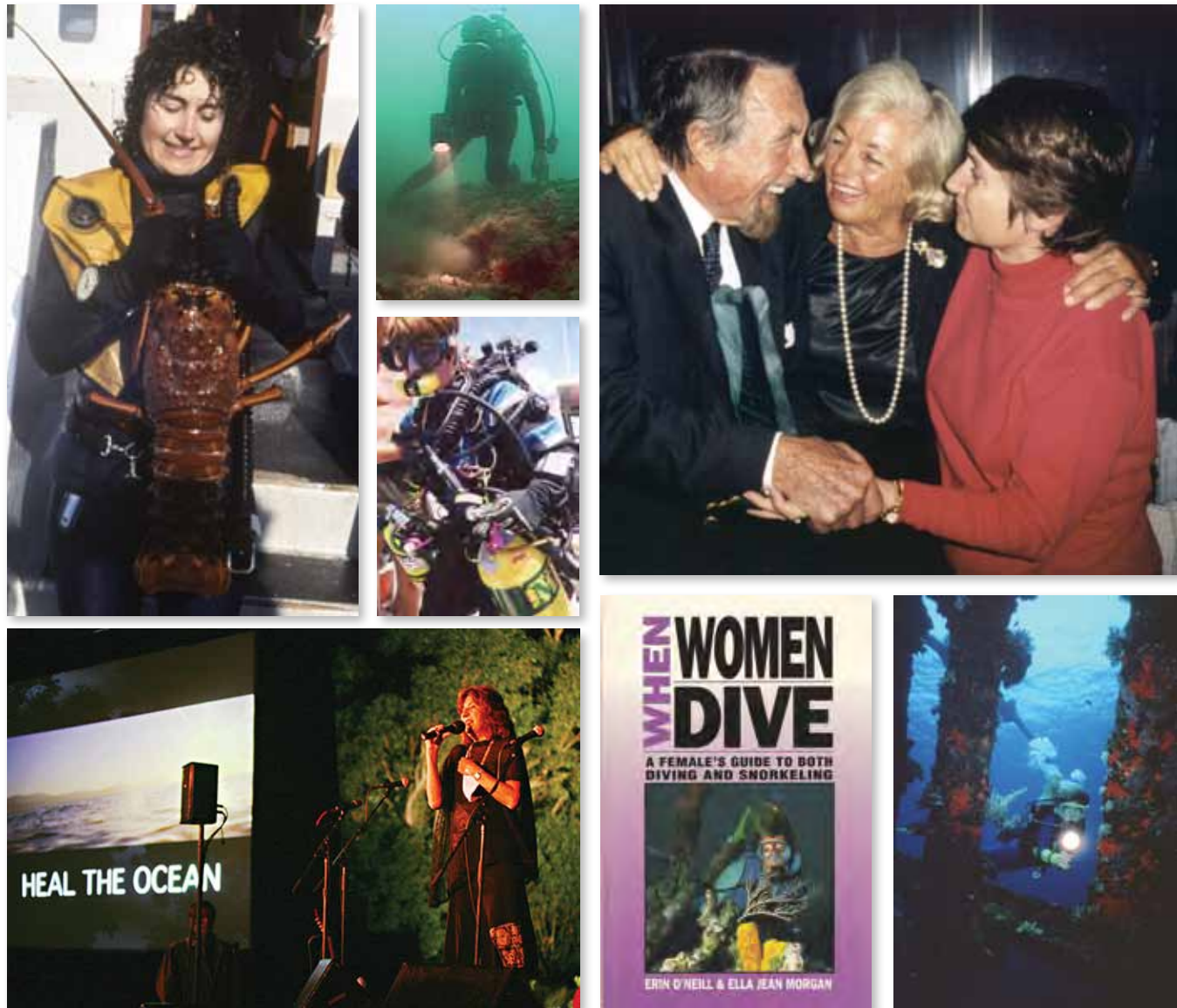
HOOYAH 2010 WDHOF NEW MEMBER
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ROSEANNE OLIVEROS!

We're so proud of you!
The WDHOF U.S. Navy Women



Authors, Journalists, Editors, and Publishers

Authors, photographers, journalists, and cinematographers not only bring the underwater world to landlubbers via the written word, film, and photos, they also provide a graphic look at how the oceans, reefs, and fisheries have changed over the years. They are some of our best ambassadors for marine conservation, because as we all know, a picture is worth 1000 words. The following women have made their marks as book and journal authors, journalists, travel writers, publishers, and editors. Along with underwater photographers and cinematographers, these women bring all the beauty of the underwater world to light.



Top, left to right: Bonnie Cardone, Hillary Hauser, Bonnie Cardone (with Hans & Lotte Hass); center: Patty Mortara; bottom, left to right: Hillary Hauser, Erin O'Neill & Ella-Jean Morgan, Cathryn Castle Whitman

Bonnie J. Cardone, 2000, California
 Author, Publisher, Freelance Photographer, Wreck Diver



Certified in 1973, Bonnie has logged thousands of dives in California and many other areas around the world, including Fiji, Bonaire, Palau, the Red Sea, the Galapagos, the Cayman Islands, the Socorro Islands, Baja California, Indonesia, Belize, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Roatan and the Philippines. She describes how she began her diving career, "I loved swimming. As a girl I also loved watching Jacques-Yves Cousteau specials on TV and dreamed of doing what he and his divers did. However, based on the beach diving I did during my certification course in Southern California, I wasn't sure the sport was something I would enjoy. A boat dive off a California Channel Island on a warm, sunny day with calm, clear water changed my mind. I could do that. That was exciting and fun."

Bonnie began her career at *Skin Diver Magazine*, writing more than 900 articles and publishing thousands of photos during her 22 years there. "I always need a goal. I started out collecting shells, then hunted abalone, scallops and lobster. In 1978, I took up underwater photography. That was something I absolutely loved. By then I was already working at *Skin Diver*." She has also written articles about women diving pioneers for the Historical Diving Society's magazine and authored two books, *Shipwrecks of Southern California* and *Fireside Diver*. Now a freelance photo/journalist, Bonnie's work appears in dive periodicals such as *California Diving News*, Canada's *Diver*, *Immersed*, *Sport Diver* and *Historical Diver*. She was named Woman Scuba Diver of the Year in 1999 by the Women's Scuba Association and received the California Scuba Service Award the same year. She became a member of the California Wreck Divers Hall of Fame in 2003. In 2009 Bonnie received the NOGI for the Arts from the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences.

Cathie Cush, 2000, Texas
 Author, Wreck Diver, Editor



Cathie has been scuba diving and a journalist who has been sharing her experiences with readers since 1981. She explains how she got interested in diving, "I was a journalist living and working at the New Jersey shore when a local dive shop was running a trip to the Texas Tower, the wreck of a radar tower 75 miles offshore. I interviewed a group of divers who went on the trip. They provided me with a lot of history on the wreck, which was fascinating, but it was their enthusiasm that piqued my interest. I decided I had to try it for myself. I got certified and was hooked immediately. I went diving in the Atlantic every chance I got—at least once a week—and eventually got to see the Texas Tower for myself. It was awesome!"

During her career, Cathie wrote about diving for *Sports Illustrated*, *Outside*, *Caribbean Travel and Life*, *New Jersey Monthly* and *New York Outdoors*. She was a regular contributor to *Underwater USA* and eventually became its executive editor. Later, she was editor of *Dive Report*, the industry trade magazine. Her articles also appeared in *Alert Diver*, *Skin Diver*, *Scuba Times*, *AquaCorps*, *Dive Training*, *Undercurrent* and *Rodale's Scuba Diving*. She is also the author of *Shipwrecks*. Her memorable experiences include diving wrecks like the Texas Tower and the *Andrea Doria*, World War II wrecks in Truk Lagoon and off the North Carolina coast; colonial-era shipwrecks in Lake George and New Jersey's Mullica River, and a World War I battle cruiser off Long Island. She also appreciates the marine life, "being within inches of huge manta rays in Yap, snorkeling with a pod of wild dolphins in between dives off the Outer Banks, having an octopus take refuge inside my BC on a night dive in Grand Cayman's Georgetown Harbor, watching a spotted moray devour a fish under a pier on Bonaire... Then there was the time I had about 25 minutes of decompression left after a dive to the *Andrea Doria*. A blue shark suddenly appeared out of the depths. It disappeared just as quickly—but it was a LONG 25 minutes..."



Cathie Cush



Cathie Cush

Renée Duncan, 2000, Florida
Editor, Journalist, Writer



Reared on the shoreline of North Florida, Renée began her love affair with water as a child. Her career in the dive industry began later, in the editorial department at *Underwater USA*, a monthly newspaper serving the dive industry, from 1989-1993. While there she learned to dive, receiving her open-water certification in 1990.

She joined DAN in 1993, where she served as the communications director and editor of *Alert Diver* magazine, the member publication of DAN until January 2008. While at DAN, she edited the book *Best of Alert Diver* (1997), a compendium of 15 years of the best articles from *Alert Diver*. This book represents some of the most important articles published in diving

fitness, diving health conditions, decompression illness, drugs and diving, air and nitrox diving, and rescue. From 2008-2009, Renée took a brief sabbatical but continued to free-lance for DAN.

Currently Renée works as managing editor of *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine*, the journal of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

Moving to the Florida Keys in 2009 Renee continues her waterborne activities, where she has added kayaking to her list of avocations. While topside, explores caves as a member of the National Speleological Society.

"Being a part of the WDHO is a tremendous honor. Being able to combine my love of nature – the water in particular – with my job has been the defining experience of my life."



Martha Watkins Gilkes & Stan Waterman

Martha Watkins Gilkes, 2002, Antigua, W.I.
Underwater Photographer, Wreck Diver, Marine Conservationist Author



Martha began diving at the age of 15 while on a family vacation in Jamaica and pursued this interest when serving with the Peace Corps on the Caribbean island of Grenada. Her interest grew, pursuing underwater photography and shipwreck exploration. She eventually obtained her PADI instructor rating and opened her own diving business, Fanta Sea Island Divers, first located in Barbados and now located in Antigua, West Indies.

While living in Barbados Martha became very active in a lobby to obtain a recompression chamber for use in the Eastern Caribbean islands as there was no chamber in the region. She helped obtain funding to establish a chamber on the island of Barbados, thus enhancing the safety of diving in this region. She also began documenting and researching shipwrecks on 14 Caribbean islands which led to the publishing of *Shipwrecks of the Eastern Caribbean*, her second book. Her first book, *Diving Guide to the Eastern Caribbean* gave exposure to these small islands, previously little known as diving destinations.

Martha is presently writing the story of her encounters with a variety of marine life over her 40 years of diving, which include wild dolphins, turtles, manta rays, sting rays and large friendly groupers who enjoyed "rapping" with divers. The book will be called *A Mermaid's Tale*.

She recounts her most memorable experiences, *"The wonderful encounters I have had with the 'diving legends' is also something that has enriched my underwater experiences and is certainly among the memorable things in my diving life. Top on the list is having worked for over 30 years with Stan Waterman as a photographic assistant and underwater model. Through Stan I worked with the late, great Peter Benchley, Teddy Tucker, Howard Hall and more recently with Wyland during the creation of a life size marine mural. My association with, and getting to know the beautiful gracious ZALE PARRY is a dream come true."*

Martha served as the President of the Women Divers Hall of Fame 2005 - 2009.



Martha Watkins Gilkes

Hillary Hauser, 2000, California
Editor, Writer, Journalist, Author, Environmentalist



Hillary is co-founder and executive director of Heal the Ocean, an internationally recognized citizens' action group in Santa Barbara, California. The formation of this 3,000-member group is the culmination of the 40-plus years Hillary has been working in, on, under, around and for the ocean, including being on-staff of *Skin Diver Magazine* in the late 1960s and working as a publicist for DEMA during DEMA's earliest days.

Hillary started diving in 1966, got certified in 1968 (NAUI card #54990), when she became *Skin Diver* magazine's assistant editor, working with Paul Tzimoulis, Jack McKenney, Connie Johnson and Art Smith to put out the magazine every month. In 1977 Hillary became publicist for the Diving Equipment Manufacturers (now Marketing) Association (DEMA), and came up with the bumper sticker program, "Discover Diving," a label that went on to become a major promotional jingle in the dive world, as well as a title to a magazine.

Hillary's has published six books about the sea, as well as numerous articles about underwater adventure for *National Geographic*, the *Los Angeles Times* Sunday Travel section, *Esquire*, *Redbook*, *Geo*, *Readers Digest*, *The Surfer's Journal*, among others. She was West Coast stringer for *Ocean Science News* (Washington, D.C.) and a reporter on ocean issues for the *Santa Barbara News-Press*.

In August 1998, in response to the terrible situation of local beaches being posted closed because of pollution, Hillary published an editorial in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, which resulted in a public demonstration that motivated her to form Heal the Ocean. The organization focuses on wastewater technology as it impacts the ocean, facilitating wastewater treatment plant upgrade and removal of septic tanks from creeks, marshes, bays and beaches. Heal the Ocean's trailblazing work, which has helped coastal communities not only in Santa Barbara, but all over the world, has been commended with recognition from the U.S. State Senate, as well as Resolutions from the Central Coast (California) Regional Water Quality Control Board (2006, 2008) and the California state assembly (2009).

Connie Johnson, 2002, California
Editor, Journalist

The first woman to hold the position of magazine editor in the Petersen Publishing library of action male-oriented magazines, Connie, as managing editor of *Skin Diver* magazine from 1956 to 1987, was an active participant in the evolution of diving. As a journalist she documented the events of diving for over thirty years and was involved in the development of the many facets of the sport. These transitions over time included the formation of organizations, the advancements in equipment and technology, and changing directions of divers' interests.

Patty Newell Mortara, 2000, Founder, New Jersey
Publisher, Wreck Diver, Cave Diver



Patty's quest is to inspire and promote the accomplishments of women divers. This is evident in her role as a journalist, and as co-owner of *WomenUnderwater.com*, a web resource dedicated to inspiring and promoting the accomplishments of women divers. She states, *"I wanted to communicate and learn from other woman divers about their diving endeavors, their tips and tricks they had discovered about equipment and diving techniques, with a focus on the technical diving arena. At the time there was not a communication device*

to accomplish this, so Jill Heinerth (WDHOF 2000) and I created the quarterly publication 'Women Underwater' (WUH₂O). WUH₂O published articles that were 'by, for and about' women divers. By promoting the accomplishments, the trial and tribulations of other women divers, the quest was to inspire women to go out and try something they may not have thought they could, and/or to provide a resource where they could come for guidance. My passion for promoting the concept of 'women specific' dive programs, equipment, and being a co-owner of WUH₂O produced an invitation to participate and serve on the executive committee for a special program at Beneath the Sea 2000... that program became and is now known as The Women Divers Hall of Fame."

Patty is certified to the level of MSTD instructor (PADI), cave diver (NSS-CDS) and mixed gas "closed-circuit" rebreather diver (IANTD). Her notable dives have included the wrecks of the *USS Monitor*, *USS Saratoga*, *USS Wilkes Barre*, *Andrea Doria* and the caves of Wakulla Springs and Stargate. *"Diving has always brought me peace and serenity. Yes there is adrenalin when you roll off the boat with 100+ pounds of gear and get swooped by the current as you hang onto the anchor line for dear life, or you get half way into a cave entrance and lose your hand hold and get spit back out, or decompressing while keeping an eye on a shark, a school of barracudas or an alligator. But then there are the moments where you are gliding along in an underwater cave, the water is gin-clear and you realize that you might be the first human to see this; or cruising along the top of a coral-crust warship admiring its beauty and wondering how a 'war machine' is transformed into an underwater museum and a haven to aquatic life. Diving has given me excitement and tranquility but also created an entire realm of dear friends worldwide."*



Patty Mortara

Erin O'Neill, 2000, California
Author, Photographer, Instructor, Trainer

Erin's early (1983) interest and research into what women were learning in diver training culminated in magazine articles and a 1992 book, co-authored with Ella Jean Morgan, (WDHOF 2000) *When Women Dive*. Only a few books have addressed the unique issues women divers face underwater.



Erin is a NAUI/Los Angeles County instructor-trainer and VP of L.A. County Underwater Instructor Association, and the co-producer of "Neptune's Children," a marine life instructional program.

She is also co-owned the multi-faceted, women-owned and operated Morgan/O'Neill Underwater Co., a NAUI/L.A. County Training Center, which was a force in Southern California's recreational and professional scuba for 20 years.

Erin describes how she came to be interested in diving, "As a water-baby growing up on the Texas Gulf Coast, I swam competitively, life-guarded, taught and managed a waterfront. 'Sea Hunt' led to experimentation with O₂ bottles and then diving with a regulator but without mask, fins, or gauges of any sort. When I was finally going through certification, with a prescription mask so I could see at last, peering down into the golden kelp forests of California, I realized the magnetic pull of this world. I loved it so much that I was driven to dive, experience, learn and accomplish as much as possible in every ocean of the world, regardless of temperature or condition. I would eventually abandon my broadcasting career to go into the diving business. From rockin' and rollin' underwater during an earthquake, playing mermaid as a stunt double in the film, "Splash," photographing schooling hammerheads in Baja, cave diving in Florida, and now diving with the female diving legends—who could imagine more! It was one of the most wonderful things I've done and provided the best possible life in so many ways."

Erin has experience diving in every ocean around the world, from East Africa to the South Pacific. She says, "I don't believe I would have accomplished as much, been as brave or had as much fun and excitement without Ella-Jean Morgan, my best friend, dive buddy and business partner. Together we produced seminars, marine-life instructional programs, wrote articles and books, worked in the film industry, traveled the world, and trained safe divers."



Ella-Jean Morgan & Erin O'Neill

Carolyn Pascal-Guarino, 2002, Florida
Publisher, Dive Industry Leader



Carolyn is current publisher of *Florida Travel + Life* magazine. She focuses on creating multimedia programs that contribute to the growth of the brand as it relates to upscale Florida travel and lifestyle. "I got certified while representing the Bahamas at their NY advertising agency and traveling there frequently. We were a client of *Skin Diver* magazine; they suggested it and as a young single New Yorker at the time it sounded like an excellent adventure. A friend and I got certified together and it became one of the most defining adventures of my life. It also defined my career path as I spent the next 2 decades in dive market publishing. Underwater photography was the most memorable, challenging and rewarding experience in diving for me. Some of the most memorable dives were photographing sharks, dolphins, turtles, my first baby octopus and countless tropical reefs teeming with marine life."

Over her 30-year career, Carolyn has traveled extensively working to increase dive and learn to dive tourism. She is an active member of SKAL, a professional organization of worldwide tourism leaders, and has led many dive travel seminars and roundtable discussions. Carolyn has also played an active role in the development of consumer and trade events, has been involved in photojournalism and many non-profit, dive travel-related activities aimed at the youth market. Her new adventure is creating a TV series with the Florida Travel + Life brand, and she will continue to use these platforms to encourage people of all ages to "try diving." She actively writes, photographs and supports Kids Sea Camp programs around the world. "I believe once you get hooked on diving and a career in diving, it's always an important part of who you are. The people I have met, worked with and befriended over the years are what has always defined the experience for me. After that, the amazing travel opportunities and the awareness of how diving unites the world and brings people together in such a unique and special way is what is so meaningful to me."

Cathryn Castle Whitman, 2001, Oregon
Journalist, Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician, Hyperbaric Chamber Operator



In 1997 Cathryn joined the staff of *Dive Training* magazine and became its Executive Editor. For ten years, she took *Dive Training* from a relatively new publication to what it is today: the premier consumer dive magazine that is recognized and valued throughout the dive industry. Her occupations in the scuba industry have included co-owner of Dive In dive center in the USVI, scuba instructor, boat captain, yacht crewmember, EMT, photojournalist, sales associate for Uwaterc USA, and underwater model. Cathryn holds instructor ratings from NAUI, PADI, SDI/TDI and DAN. Cathryn has a USCG 100-ton Master captain's license and is medically qualified as an EMT and hyperbaric chamber tender. Cathryn is currently the editor at Specialized Publications, Kansas City, Missouri.



**Congratulations to the wonderful women of WDHOF
as you celebrate your 10th Anniversary**

In remembrance of our favorite member
Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother,
adventurer and dive instructor extraordinaire

Cecelia A. Connelly, Class of 2001

Thanks for the legacy!

THE CONNELLY FAMILY

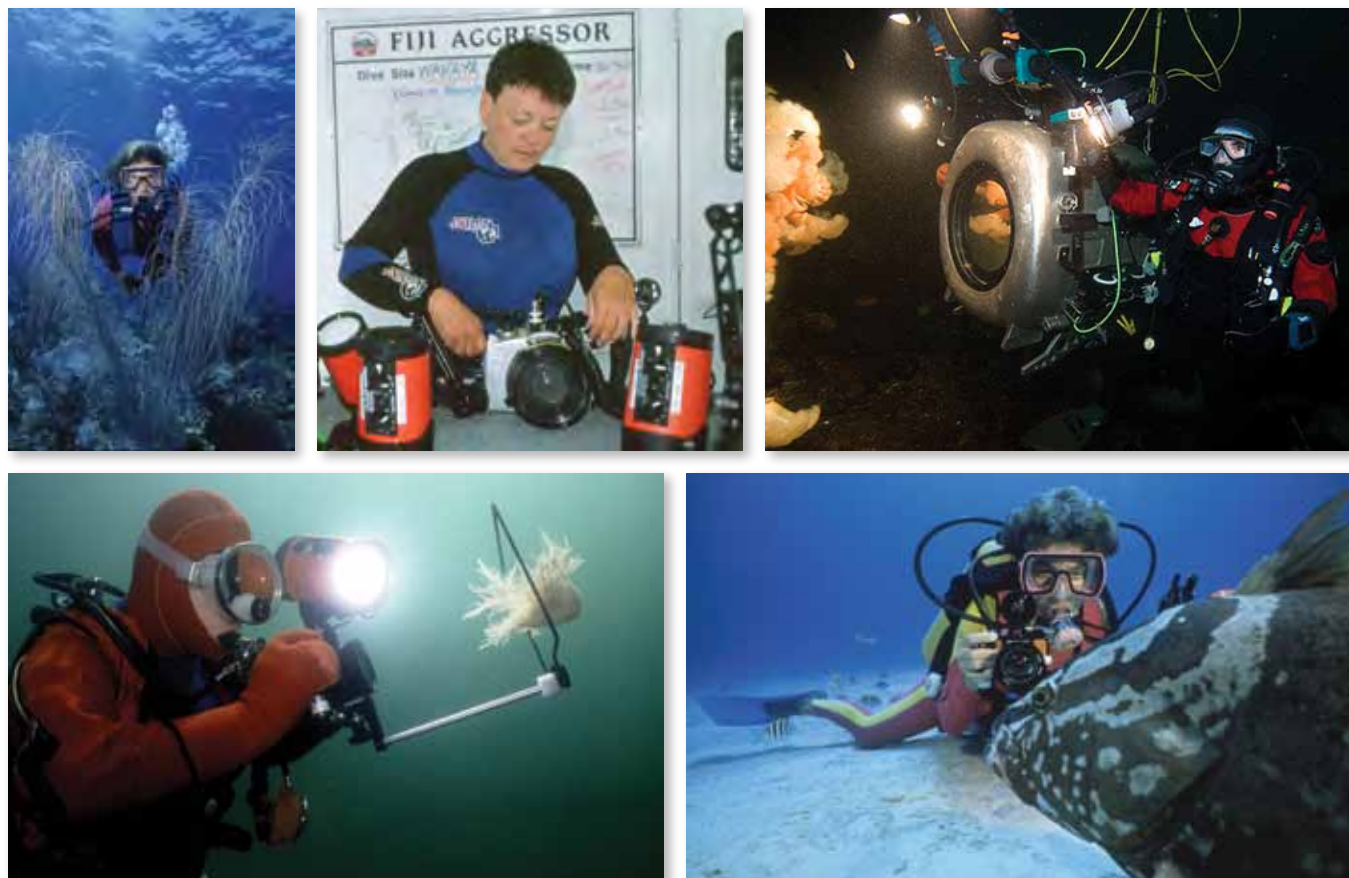
- Neil;** Cecelia, Brian, Monica, Brooke, Jerrod, Tanya, Rachel, Shawn, Dylan, Daniel;
- Kayte,** Marc, Marcus; **Mary,** Steve, Sherri, Don, Dorothy, Kaylee, Heather, Jeff, Sophia, Joseph;
- Patricia,** Briana, Hunter, Jessica, Ski, Art, jr., Heather, Blake;
- Susan,** Kevin, Jennifer, Aiden, Christine; **Jeanne,** Kevin, Alyssa, Timothy, Kara; **John,** Renee, Caleb, Keegan;
- Eileen,** Mark, Shelby, Ian, Wyatt; **Beth,** Shannon, Morgan; **Neil,** Beth, Owen, James





Underwater Filmmakers, Photographers, and Other Media Experts

Underwater imaging is considered an especially challenging area of photography, since it requires very specialized equipment and techniques to be successful. Despite these challenges, it offers the possibility of many exciting and rare photographic opportunities. Animals such as fish, corals and marine mammals are the most common subjects, but photographers also pursue shipwrecks, submerged cave systems, underwater "landscapes," and portraits of fellow divers. The primary obstacle faced by underwater photographers is the extreme loss of color and contrast when submerged to any significant depth. The longer wavelengths of sunlight (such as red or orange) are absorbed quickly by the surrounding water, so even to the naked eye everything appears blue-green in color. The loss of color not only increases vertically through the water column, but also horizontally, so subjects further away from the camera will also appear colorless and indistinct. This effect is true even in apparently clear water, such as that found around tropical coral reefs. The primary difficulty in underwater camera usage is, of course, sealing the camera from water at high pressure while maintaining the ability to operate it. The diving mask also inhibits the ability to view the camera image and to see the monitoring screen clearly through the camera housing. Nevertheless, our honorees have mastered the art of both still and video underwater photography, to our unmitigated delight!



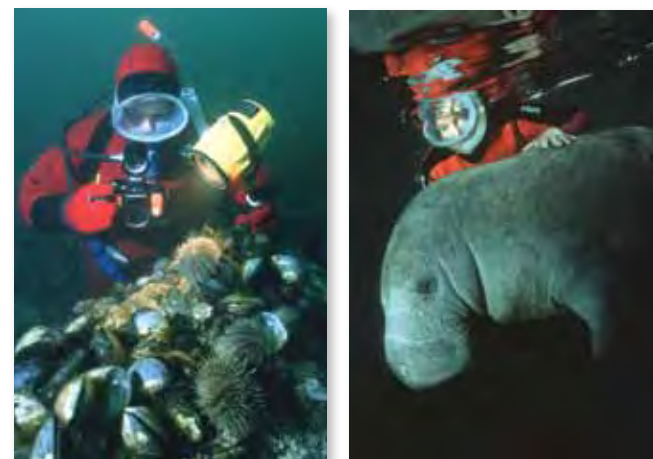
Top row, left to right: Maria Huits, Danielle Alary, Michele Hall; bottom row, left to right: Sue Drafahl, Cathy Church

Danielle Alary, 2001, Quebec, Canada
Underwater Photographer, Multimedia Producer,
Author, Speaker



Danielle was certified in 1982, and she produces large scale presentations related to diving and the underwater realm. "I try to make my presentations entertaining, informative and moving with an artistic touch. I started with a two projector dissolve unit and went all the way to 9-projector extravaganzas before moving to full digital presentations. My production career began after I started scuba diving. Scuba is what brought me into the multimedia business since my first productions were done as part of lectures my husband and I were preparing for dive shows." Having co-authored 900 articles about photography, travel, and the environment, she draws from all those experiences and the pure joy of diving to make a different kind of program, and has developed a signature in those productions. "I love taking pictures of sea life in all its forms. I never spend enough time underwater and always wish I could do more."

Danielle was the recipient of the Diver of the Year Award for the Arts at Beneath the Sea (1995) and has also won the coveted Silver Diver Award at the Antibes World Festival of Underwater Images (1997). In addition she chaired the photo jury at the 2000 edition of that prestigious event. Danielle also received, in 2007, the Our World Underwater Award, in recognition for her contribution to the diving community.



Danielle Alary

Georgienne Bradley, 2006, California
Photographer, Videographer, Writer,
Scientist, Environmentalist



Georgienne Bradley is a noted scientist, environmentalist, photographer, videographer, and writer who has lent her many talents to raising ocean awareness for over two decades. As the Executive Director of the Imaging Foundation-Sea Save, she couples social media with 'edu-taining' productions, introducing new eyes to the underwater world. The Costa Rica government used Georgienne's images in a postage stamp series, lottery tickets, and other materials, as part of

a national marine-awareness campaign. Georgienne also helped bring international attention to Cocos Island and contributed to the UNESCO proposal that brought the island World Heritage status.

Georgienne has produced ocean-themed television programming for PBS, Paramount and many other major media outlets. Her writing and photography, which focus on diving and marine environmental issues, have appeared in hundreds of academic and popular articles worldwide. Georgienne is the founder and chair of the American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP) -Underwater Professionals, and she owns and operates Bradley Ireland Productions, one of the world's largest underwater still photography and video stock houses.

"I know most girls at 16 were buying makeup and dresses, well not me... I got a drysuit!"

Melanie A. Clark, 2009



Alese Pechter

Jennifer Carter, 2000, California
 Filmmaker, Author, Wreck Diver, Explorer



Jennifer is the first woman to dive the *Titanic*, diving the wreck three times, in 1987, 1991, and 1992. She authored *Titanic Adventure*, an autobiographical book that provides the background for her selection as expedition leader. Her second expedition to the wreck was to produce the IMAX film *Titanica*.

In a 2009 radio interview with Boston's Magic 103.7, she explains she had an experience in 1983 or 1984 of surviving a sinking cruise ship. She says, "I was on this cruise ship in Alaska giving a lecture

on the great whales. The captain was going through divorce and had been drinking heavily. He missed an underwater rock on the charts and the ship ran over it. The ship began to list heavily, everyone was panicking and screaming, and even though there were only 100 people on board, I had visions of what it must have been like the night the *Titanic* sank. Everyone was afraid they were going to lose their lives, so I experienced first hand those fears and the thought that 'this might be it.' Luckily, all but two survived the ordeal."

Jennifer won an Emmy award for the National Geographic special, "The Great Whale." Other ocean-going adventures include diving with shark handlers in PBS' "The Sharks."

Jennifer has also achieved record-breaking height (skydiving from 12,500 feet) and depth (diving to 12,500 feet). Jennifer has done saturation hard-hat diving and has scuba-dived worldwide, including in the search for the legendary monster of Loch Ness.



Jennifer Carter

Cathy Church, 2000, Grand Cayman
 Underwater Photographer, Instructor, Author



As a child, Cathy loved nature and especially bird watching, but she knew that there were not many careers for a bird naturalist, and that nature underwater was a new frontier, so she studied marine biology at the University of Hawaii. "Instead of just using the common practice of netting and capturing things from the surface, I wanted to go below with scuba gear and see for myself what was going on. I used a camera to document that."

Cathy has been writing about and teaching underwater photography since 1966. Her favorite photo in the last few years was taken of a little yellow sponge on an otherwise quite uneventful dive. She loves finding things that make her laugh. Her most memorable dive was an unexpected encounter with a salt water crocodile... "I wanted my husband, Herb, to take a photo of me in a shallow pond looking up through the water and through the trees. I told him to follow me through a tiny underwater tunnel that opened into the pond in the jungle in the Solomon Islands. He shook his head 'no' but I insisted. As I entered and looked around, I saw a log to my left—looking again I saw the log had eyes! I could not get out until Herb came through and turned around, and I had no time to write him a long note: 'Darling—there is a crocodile here and I would like to leave.' Instead I jerked my head around with wide eyes and he knew instantly to get back out of the tunnel. I turned so quickly that my regulator caught on a rock and jerked my head into the rock and almost knocked me out. Now my fins had to be near the croc's mouth in order to turn and swim. Herb was in front of me and my fear level rose dramatically. I knew that crocodiles study their prey, and wait until the third or fourth meeting before grabbing and drowning it and stuffing it under a log to rot and get nice and soft. I did not know if I was the fourth diver into that cave! When we got out of the cave I told Herb that I wanted to dive further from shore along the reef but he said that it was a good library day for him and he got OUT of the water until we moved to new dive site."

Cathy's coffee table book *My Underwater Photo Journey* was published in 2004. A versatile photographer, she is well known for many styles of photography from documentaries and editorials to gallery art. She shot the award-winning Cayman Islands underwater poster "Wonderland," and has done extensive work for such clients as Kodak, Nikon, Dolphin Cruise Lines, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Cayman Islands. Her new "Imagination Collection" was released in 2009. She operates Cathy Church's Photo Centre and Gallery at Sunset House Hotel in Grand Cayman, and offers seminars throughout the U.S. Her goal is to help others take better photographs and have fun at the same time.

Valerie de la Valdene, 2007, Galapagos
 Filmmaker, Educator



Noted for filming *Hammerheads: Nomads of the Sea*, she has also been featured on television with Montel William, Jane Pauley, Geraldo, Jim McLaughlin and CNN talking about illegal shark finning. Valerie is currently working on a children's film for Discovery Channel. She has joined with Wild Classroom to podcast an educational program on the internet, which is expected to reach over 100 million children. Valerie was co-

cinematographer for the TV show *The Aquanauts* (1999-2002), but she is probably most famous for recording her own shark attack on film. She almost lost her life in 2004 when an aggressive Galapagos shark attacked her. Yet she says, "I don't actually believe sharks attack humans. We put ourselves into their environment and they don't even realize that we're there. We are just prey. They think that we're an animal, perhaps, like a sea lion or another animal that's on the surface. I think sharks are just living, feeding and going about their business, and now that there are more people in the oceans, surfers, divers, etc., we're crowding their space. It's not like zoos; we can't corral the ocean. You know, the ocean is the ocean, the sharks are sharks, the animals are there."

Valerie lives and volunteers at a local school in the Galapagos, giving children an alternative to fishing and finning.

"My most memorable dives were, of course, my very first, when everything was brand new and exciting beyond compare. Even the simplest creature was fascinating to watch. It hasn't changed. Every dive has something memorable to offer."

Janice Raber, 2001



Cathy Church

Anne Doubilet, 2007, Massachusetts
 Underwater Photographer, Writer, Explorer, Conservationist



Anne was the only woman in the 1968 scuba certification class in Beverly, Massachusetts. At age 61, she was featured in *Vogue* magazine's August 2009 issue, which, along with notables such as Christy Turlington, 40, and Ana Ivanovic, 21, celebrated women at every age. She was studying literature and photography when she met her former husband, David Doubilet, already an established underwater photographer, and everything

clicked. She got her diving certification and took her first open-water dive in the Bahamas at a barrier reef off Andros Island. "I had my first Alice in Wonderland moment. I stepped off the side of the boat into crystalline turquoise and entered an enchanted realm." She swam down to a submerged sandy shelf at 185 feet, bathed in blue, ethereal light, with 6,000 feet of abyss beneath it. "That was it. I was hooked."

Anne went on to accompany her husband on trips and become a professional photographer and writer in her own right; her first assignment was on her 1974 honeymoon in the Red Sea, where she discovered "the most exquisite paradise you could ever imagine, teeming with corals and anemones and sharks swimming around; polka-dotted stingrays and schools of glassy sweepers; beautiful pink, purple, orange, lavender, and yellow soft corals gently waving back and forth in the currents..." Since then she has participated in successful, worldwide diving expeditions that produced *National Geographic* magazine articles shot under most of the Earth's warm and temperate seas, including the Red Sea Caribbean, and the Pacific Ocean around Papua New Guinea, Australia, Hawaii, Palau, Japan, and Galapagos, and the Northeastern Atlantic coast. Return trips over the years to document the disturbing changes have turned Anne into an ardent conservationist, involved in several educational outreach programs. Anne is committed to showing the oceans to the next generation.



Anne Doubilet

Sue Drafahl, 2000, Oregon

Underwater Photographer, Lecturer, Multimedia Producer



Sue and her husband and partner Jack are experts in digital underwater photography. Together they founded the Oregon Coast Digital Center, which features personalized instruction in Photoshop. Their photos have appeared in a number of books, include the 20 volume series *The Ocean World of Jacques Cousteau*, published by Danbury Press, 1985. They have written several books on digital underwater photography, and their audiovisual presentations have been shown at underwater film festivals from coast to coast.

In their quest for new ways to improve underwater photography, they have two patented inventions. The Light Handle is a unique twin flash system designed to give even flash coverage to super wide and fisheye lenses. The Framer Enhancer is a reflective device designed to reduce the heavy shadows created by a single flash when shooting with the macro framer.

Sue has produced DEMA's Reaching Out Awards Program, is the recipient of the Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year (1996), and is a Platinum Pro 5000 Diver with over 25 years of diving experience.



Sue Drafahl



Sue Drafahl

Lynn Funkhouser, 2000, Illinois

Underwater Photographer, Environmentalist



Lynn's underwater images and lectures reflect her commitment to foster environmental activism through awareness and appreciation. She photographed fishermen using blast fishing and sodium cyanide to capture fish, which led to her becoming a founding member of the International Marinelife Alliance (IMA) in 1986. IMA works to give fishers alternative methods of fishing, including training blast fishers to fish with hook and lines, and to use a needle in the bladder to decompress the fish so the fish could be sold alive for more money, and training the cyanide fishers to use barrier and hand nets to catch fish for the aquarium trade. These methods have saved the reefs and provided a better living for the fishers. She continues to serve as IMA's Vice President as well as being an Advisory Director for Ocean Voice International. In 1994 she received the Sea-Space/PADI Environmental Awareness Award. She says, "Diving and photography have been my passions for over 30 years. I worked as a flight attendant for TWA 'to support my diving habit.' It gave me the travel benefits to dive the world, time off to do it, and could work just enough to take the next trip. I retired from flying when AA bought TWA so can finally devote full time to diving and my photography and get back to doing my part to save our oceans. As an environmentalist, I am committed to making a difference on this planet through my images and lectures." Her favorite place to dive is the Philippines, and she organizes dive trips there annually.

In their quest for new ways to improve underwater photography, they have two patented inventions. The Light Handle is a unique twin flash system designed to give even flash coverage to super wide and fisheye lenses. The Framer Enhancer is a reflective device designed to reduce the heavy shadows created by a single flash when shooting with the macro framer.



Lotte Hass

Michele Hall, 2000, California

Underwater Photographer, Filmmaker, Producer



"In 1975 I decided to take a sport diving class in order to join friends who were sport divers. I was hooked from my first open water dive. Most of the people I dived with when I was first certified were taking underwater photos. During my early months of diving I modeled for many of them. Before long I decided to give photography a try so that I could show my non-diving friends what intrigued me about the underwater world. In early 1991, when my husband's film production company (Howard Hall Productions) had grown to the point he could no longer manage it on his own, I left my 19-year nursing career and joined the family business. In addition to running the office, I was soon producing the films that he directed and filmed."

Michele has produced 8 award-winning television documentaries, including *Shadows in a Desert Sea*, *Secrets of the Ocean Realm* (PBS), *Jewels of the Caribbean* (National Geographic), and *Shark Mountain* (PBS). "One of my most memorable diving experiences was in August 1980 in the Sea of Cortez when I was able to free a Pacific Manta Ray that was entangled in fishing gear that surely would have eventually killed it. During the process of removing the line, I'd settled on the ray's back, and after I removed the line the ray took me on a personalized tour of the El Bajo Sea Mount. I was on location with a film crew that included Stan Waterman and Peter Benchley. My experience with the manta ray became the inspiration for Peter's book, *The Girl from the Sea of Cortez*."

Lotte Hass, 2000, Vienna, Austria

Underwater Photographer, Underwater Model, Filmmaker



Lotte's interest in the underwater world first materialized when she became secretary to Hans Hass in 1943. However, Hans was unwilling to take Lotte on his research and filming expeditions, so, unbeknownst to him, Lotte learned to dive and take underwater photographs herself. Borrowing Hans' camera while he was away, Lotte took images of fish in the Danube river which were published in an Austrian magazine, and she soon became an established and accomplished underwater photographer in her own right. In 1950, Lotte joined Hans' Red Sea expedition to shoot the Oscar winning feature film *Under the Red Sea*, and the two married on their return. One of the first underwater models, Lotte appeared in many of Hans' films and her appearances in only a swimsuit were said to be influential in the decisions as to when the films were screened and to their success. Hans and Lotte co-produced and co-wrote many films and books documenting their adventures aboard their research vessel *Xarifa*. In 1970 Lotte published *Girl on the Ocean Floor*, an account of her diving adventures with Hans.

Jill Heinerth, 2000, Florida

Filmmaker, Underwater Photographer, Technical Diver



Jill is an award-winning filmmaker, and her work has been seen on PBS, Nova, and National Geographic TV programs. Her writing and photography has been featured in numerous magazines including *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian* and several diving publications. Jill was honored as Canadian Technical Diver of the Year and a Fellow of the National Speleological Society. She has received international recognition for her work as a documentary filmmaker including two CINE Golden Eagles, a Gold Aurora and top honors from the Explorer's Club Film Festival and International HD Film Festival.

Jill still teaches cave and technical diving in her spare time and is a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Deep Caving Team. Her forays into extreme technical diving happened solely as a search for tools to allow her to access places that nobody had been before. She was an early pioneer in utilizing Closed Circuit Rebreathers (CCR) on extreme expeditions and an early developer of educational materials and systems for CCRs. Jill's newest production for National Geographic/Nova, *Extreme Cave Diving*, was aired on PBS in February and will be shown on National Geographic television in April 2010.

At Wakulla Springs in 1999, Jill was a part of a United States Deep Caving Team expedition that created the first three-dimensional map of a subterranean feature. They mapped over 42,000 feet of passage. "The first time I was able to see the 3-D data from the cave I had just visited, I was awestruck." In Antarctica, after completing the first cave dives inside icebergs, her team was trapped by extreme tidal flow. They were fortunate to escape with their lives; hours later, the very iceberg they had been exploring shattered like an ice cube dropped in a drink. Jill says, "I see the world as a puzzle and love the challenge of finding the tools and knowledge to unravel the wonders in the last finite frontiers of this Earth. Discovery has nothing to do with competition or ego gratification. Those that engage in exploration understand that my yearning for adventure and my thirst for knowledge represent a personal journey. I feel obliged to use the best tools available to reveal Earth's secrets and share them with the world. It is a privilege to share the excitement of discovery with others, and to be elated by the accomplishments of my colleagues. I hope that our community can remember the simple message to be excited, stimulated, and improved by the work of others, and can remember to share their pursuits and their failures, their accomplishments and their injuries, so that we may all learn and make future endeavors safer." Along with Patty Mortara (WDHOF 2000) she co-founded Women Underwater.com.

Nancy McGee, 2008 Texas
Underwater Photographer, Filmmaker, Dive Tour Guide, Author



Nancy is a public school educator whose passion includes scuba diving and the under water world. She has been a scuba diver and underwater photographer for thirty years. Twenty years ago Nancy created Island Time Scuba, a dive travel and training center in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. For the past decade, Nancy has been the business manager to Stan Waterman, handling PR, film preservation, exotic dive travel, filming and post production of documentaries.

She tirelessly promotes the dive industry, the ecology of the sea, and the sport of scuba diving. Nancy accomplishes this by filming and producing documentaries showing marine animal behavior, diving destinations, coral reef health and local culture. She uses these films to educate students, divers and the general public about the underwater world, and the cultures of many developing nations. Nancy conducts group tours and films in many of the world's most exotic dive locations, some so remote the local natives have never before seen western people. She has filmed for NBC and Discovery, and written for a variety of dive journals and publications. As a competitive swimmer, scuba diving for Nancy was a natural progression. "Thirty years ago I read about a Cousteau expedition to the Andaman Islands to document swimming elephants. I vowed then that some day I would be scuba diving with an elephant swimming overhead. In 2006 the Andaman Islands opened to tourism, so I chartered a boat and filmed Rajan, the swimming elephant, just as I had dreamed. I have also dived with and filmed humpback whales, tiger sharks, Humboldt Squid and a myriad of other marine creatures."

Never to stand on her laurels, in November, 2010, Nancy will lead an expedition to The Forgotten Islands of Indonesia. It is a region so remote that most of the inhabitants will have never seen white faces. There will be known quality diving along the way, plus exploratory diving around this extremely remote island chain, along with some amazing cultural encounters.



Nancy McGee

Geri Murphy, 2001, Nevada
Journalist, Instructor, Underwater Photographer



Geri began scuba diving in 1967 as a teenager in the freshwater quarries of Pennsylvania. In 1968, she became a certified diver and a member of two Pennsylvania dive clubs: C-Y Divers and the Main Line YMCA Divers. Geri began underwater photography in 1970 and has been actively teaching the skill since 1975. In 1974, she served as assistant dive coordinator and safety diver for the feature film production of a Cornell Wilde film, *Shark's Treasure*.

Geri moved to the island of Bonaire in 1975 to become the first woman scuba diving instructor for Captain Don's Aquaventure. She was also an underwater photography instructor, a dive guide and photo technician. In 1976, she became Hollywood's first underwater script supervisor when she spent five months working on Columbia Pictures' underwater film, *The Deep*. Her work on this film took her to the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, and Marion Reef in Australia's Coral Sea. She was also the script supervisor for an episode of *Man From Atlantis* (1977), and appeared in an episode of the TV series *Switch* as an underwater stunt woman, which included a buddy-breathing sequence with Robert Wagner. Additionally, she has served behind the scenes as *Skin Diver's* still photographer on two shark diving specials for CBS Sports. Her work has led her to become a recognized member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG). Today, she is a freelance professional underwater photographer and diving journalist based in Nevada. She is one of the few full-time underwater photographers in the world.



Cathryn Castle Whitman

Zale Parry, 2000, Oregon
Underwater Photographer, Producer/Director, Dive Equipment Tester, Hyperbaric Chamber Operator, Author, Stunt Diver



Zale Parry is known to millions as Lloyd Bridges' co-star of the 1950's television series, *Sea Hunt*, but this ageless beauty boasts a long list of other credentials, both in and out of the water. Most notably, Zale is a pioneer skin diver and was an underwater equipment tester in the 1950s. She was the only woman executive at Scientific Underwater Research Enterprises (SURE), founded by her husband, Parry Bivens, who designed and built hyperbaric chambers.

In 1954, Zale set a woman's deep diving record at 209 ft/64 meters in the open sea as part of an experiment to test the Hope-Page non-return valve mouthpiece, which has become a standard feature in all regulators. Zale was the third female instructor to graduate from the L.A. County Underwater Instructor Certification Course (UICC) program. In 1954, Zale made her screen debut in *Kingdom of the Sea*, a Jack Douglas Production, which was shown in 70 countries and ran for several years. Zale's knowledge of skin and scuba diving as well as her astounding beauty made the producers of *Sea Hunt* cast her immediately. From the 1950's through the 1990's, Zale remained in demand as an actress and underwater stuntwoman for all the Hollywood studios. Her credits-list includes appearances in the TV series *GE Theatre*, *Wagon Train*, *Peter Gunn*, *The Aquanauts*,



Man and the Challenge, and over two dozen "wet" and "dry" television commercials. Zale appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and inside issues of S.I. several times. As recently as 2005, Zale, still an outstanding beauty, was cast in the movie, *Tillamook Treasure*, which was shown at several film festivals. Stan Waterman wrote, "Had I the opportunity to toast you I would have pointed out that Helen of Troy only launched a thousand ships. You launched a million divers."

Besides her diving expertise, Zale's artistic talents are manifold. She is an accomplished underwater photographer, and in 1957, she co-founded the International Underwater Film Festival that ran for 17 years. In 1960, she became the first elected woman president of the U/W Photographic Society. In 2001, Zale published a book with Al Tillman entitled, *Scuba America Vol. I, the Human History of Sport Diving in America*, and she is currently busy working on Volume II. Zale is a recipient of the NOGI Award for Distinguished Service, DEMA's Reaching Out Award, the Women's Scuba Association Scuba Diver of the Year Award, and the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Education Award. In 2000, Zale became an inaugural Member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, and in 2001, she was made a "Lifetime Ambassador at Large," by the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences. In 2002, she was inducted into the Cayman Island International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame and that same year she received the Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year Award. Zale was named a "Living Legend" by Beneath the Sea in 2009, and is one of the foremost authorities on the development and history of sport diving.



Zale Parry



Alese O. Pechter, 2000 Florida
Underwater Photographer, Writer, Teacher, Lecturer, Author



Alese is a professional photographer, writer, and lecturer, who worked with her husband Morton until his death in 2008. They have photographed and written about sunken archeological treasures, the magnificent reefs, lost treasure and the deep ocean. Their work has appeared in most scuba magazines, on internet websites and in general interest publications. With her husband Morton, she co-wrote and photographed the award winning book *What's in the*

Deep? An Underwater Adventure for Children, the first children's book using actual photographs of the underwater environment rather than illustrations. Not only did it become a Reading Rainbow designated book in the PBS lineup, *What's in the Deep* has become a science text in libraries and classrooms across the country.

Together with her husband, Alese was the DEMA photographer for over 20 years. She is a member of the American Society of Media Photographers, the National Association of Press Photographers and the North American Travel Writers Association. Her contact and work with the industry, public and media has helped to change the "macho" image of scuba to that of a family recreational sport. She is a Platinum Pro 5000 Diver, an elected Fellow National in the Explorer's Club, has received the NOGI for Distinguished Service and the 2008 Beneath The Sea Diver of the Year.

Linda Pitkin, 2003, London, England
Underwater Photographer, Author, Lecturer



Linda has been an underwater photographer for 30 years, has published four books, and her photography has been featured in a wide range of other publications. She started underwater photography in 1980, a year after she started diving. She says, "It was almost by accident. I hadn't wanted to try it because I saw all the problems and disappointments [my husband] Brian and our friends were having with their cameras and flashes failing to work properly (underwater

cameras and accessories were more unreliable in those days). I just wanted to enjoy some relaxed diving, but on one dive Brian handed me his camera, set ready for me to take a picture of him, and when it arrived back from processing I was surprised to find the shot had come out quite well. Encouraged, I thought I would have a go, and Brian got me a second hand camera. I really took to it and never looked back." Since then she has won many awards in national and international competitions. She takes photographs for stock, but also for commissions, including photography for "Wild Wonders of Europe," an on-line site. She gives talks and lectures, and has had exhibitions of her work, including a long-running exhibition at the London Zoo. She is primarily a wildlife photographer, with a passion for nature and an eye for composition.

Kim Reed Sheckler, R.N., 2001, California
Underwater Photographer, Author



Kim has been diving, writing, and assisting in underwater photography since 1984. A specialist in California diving, she co-founded *California Diving News* and the Scuba Show, the largest consumer dive show in the western USA. With her husband Dale, she has co-authored several books including *Southern California's Best Beach Dives*, and co-founded the Saint Brendan Corporation, the primary goal of which is to "encourage and inspire others to seek the full underwater experience in a safe and enjoyable manner."

Kim cites her most difficult experience in diving: "About five years ago, we settled on a dive site off California in open ocean to report on a little known pinnacle. It was cold, dark and deep. The current was strong and we struggled down the anchor line. By the time we reached the top of the pinnacle at about 85 feet I was breathing heavily. My husband and I both saw two Mola Mola (Ocean Sunfish) swimming just to our left. We left the anchor line and began photographing the fairly unusual sight. After taking the photos I looked at my gauge. I had broken my golden rule—always know where I stand in regards to depth, air and time. I was at 90 feet and had 350 lbs of air. I had gotten complacent, I did not recognize my fatigue and my air consumption in this environment, AND the photo had become more important. I ended the dive fine, but had the potential of catastrophe. This experience scared me and changed me. I am a better diver knowing what could have been."

An award winning diver, Kim is also a registered nurse.



Kim Sheckler

Pat Stayer, 2005, Michigan
Underwater Videographer, Lecturer, Wreck Diver, Author



Pat and her husband Jim have been diving for over 33 years. Along with their good friend Tim Juhl, the Stayers formed Out of the Blue Productions. The trio has authored 2 books (*Shipwrecks of Sanilac* and *Sole Survivor*) and produced over 20 videos. Their work has appeared on all major commercial networks, including the Discovery, Learning and History Channels. They are frequent presenters at dive conventions. "For the last 20

years, my husband, Jim, and I have given hundreds of presentations and workshops across the nation educating audiences on animal behavior, exotic dive destinations, and maritime history. We have discovered over a dozen shipwrecks and documented numerous others. It has been my goal to get younger people into diving and I enjoy hosting interns and sharing my underwater videography and editing skills with them. After discovering our first shipwreck, I wanted to share our experience with the world. Although I had taken pictures of fish before, this was different. My husband and I bought a new video camera and underwater housing to document the shipwreck. Thus a new passion was born. Ultimately, this led to our travels around the world videoing exotic dive locations with his and hers HD video cameras and underwater housings."

Her most memorable dive? "I feel blessed to have had many memorable experiences, from diving at the base of an erupting volcano, swimming with whale sharks, and being one of the first divers on a seamount 17 miles off Yap, to being surrounded by hundreds of hammerheads at Coco Island. However, I think my most memorable experience is being the first diver ever on a historical 1800's shipwreck, which we discovered in lower Lake Huron. There is nothing like the feeling of descending down an anchor line and finding yourself passing a standing arch and landing near very rare engines, knowing that you were the first person in 140 years to set eyes on them."

She and her husband were recently inducted to the Boston Sea Rovers, the oldest dive organization in the United States.



Pat Stayer

Andrea D. Stockert, 2001, California
Film Editor, Author, Master Instructor



Andrea began her diving career in 1988 and is currently a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer. She has found her niche in the film business as a safety diver for wet sets. Andrea has worked as a divemaster on numerous videos, commercials and feature films, including *Simon Birch* and *The Perfect Storm*. She is one of the few women divemasters in Hollywood. Her love of storytelling has enabled her to field produce a television series about diving for Animal Planet and her articles appear in a variety of on-line and off-line

publications. Stockert is the Executive Producer and founder of Los Angeles-based production company One Giant Leap Media and is a veteran of the television industry, having produced projects for FOX, Showtime, TLC, Discovery Channel HD, Speed Channel and Animal Planet. She was honored with two highly sought-after Telly Awards in the 29th Annual 2008 International Telly Award Competition. Stockert was an editor for the freediving documentary "Sink Faze" that took home two Tellies; one in the High Definition category and one in the Low Budget category.



Alese Pechter



Pat Stayer

Valerie Taylor, 2000, Australia
Underwater Photographer, Videographer, Marine Conservationist



Valerie has had an exciting career since she began diving with her husband and partner Ron. She has doubled for actors in Hollywood films, played herself in *Blue Water White Death*, and in several international TV documentary series. She worked on the movie sets of *Jaws*, *Blue Lagoon*, and a dozen other Hollywood and Australian feature films. She writes and takes photos for *National Geographic* and many other top magazines, and has also been on the cover of *National Geographic*. She has conducted many experiments,

including the mesh and banded suit experiments, the shark pod experiments, and others. Her most memorable experiences in diving: *"Blue Water White Death, looking into the eye of a shark while it tries to chew your arm off. Surfacing above a submerged reef in the Banda Sea and seeing my dive boat slipping over the horizon. Then building a tiny island from dead coral plates and anchoring myself using my hair ribbons as a rope and weight belt as an anchor so I could stand and not get swept away in the current when left behind in the Banda Sea."* She is the recipient of the American Nature Photographer of Year (1997) and the Golden Palm Award at Antibes, France (1998).



Valerie Taylor

Bonnie Toth, 2007, California
Graphic Designer, Diving and Ocean Advocate



Prior to becoming WDHOF's Chairman of the Board, Bonnie ran for office on the Board of Trustees because she felt *"that WDHOF needed to take the next step in improving their image, through their graphics - brochures, website, etc., and felt with my graphic design/advertising background - and the fact that I had worked for a number of companies in the diving industry for years, I had much to offer."* Indeed she has, and WDHOF's web

site and other media are second to none! She got into diving because, *"I had been a skydiver for over 4 years (207 jumps) and thought it would be great to go in the 'other direction' ... I wanted to experience the beauty of the underwater world. I am basically a very 'visual' person — so, to experience the ocean realm in all of its natural beauty is a joy for my creative side. And, being creative, through my advertising and design, I am able to bring a greater awareness to the general population that such a place exists - and that we are in danger of doing it great harm and potentially losing it."* Visual communication, Bonnie's specialty, is an important key to raising awareness and projecting an image — and today more than ever, the marine environment, our oceans and the diving industry rely on Bonnie as a strategic partner in making this happen, with a creative talent that makes her work sing.

Bonnie has been able to dive at Bikini Atoll, and in shark cages at Guadalupe Island, but one of her most embarrassing moments was closer to her home, off the coast of southern California. She says, *"I got too close to the surf line while diving near one of the Channel Islands — my husband was shooting macro and I 'wandered off' to see what was over the top of the reef and got swept into a small surge area close to shore... and there was a BIG bull sea lion charging me and barking ... I lost my mask being pushed in and out by the surging waves. I lost a fin as well and I smashed my foot and hand into some rocks - ended up with bruised fingers, toes and my ego..."*

Finally, Bonnie says, *"I am truly, truly honored to be the Chairman of the Board for the Women Divers Hall of Fame. I had some really big shoes to fill after Hillary (Viders, WDHOF 2000) stepped down. I am trying my hardest to encourage members to become more involved or at least be more in tune with what we are doing, not only to create awareness for our esteemed membership, but through our scholarships and training grants - and what we are doing to give back to the ocean and the new generation of divers coming up behind us."*

"I took a course in marine biology in which we studied tide pools. Looking at the Pacific Ocean I thought, 'if there is this much life in a tide pool, what is out there?'"

Michelle Pugh, 2004

Birgitte Wilms, 2002, Denver
Underwater Photographer, Author, Dive Tour Guide

Birgitte was born in Denmark, and began her underwater photographic career in 1988 at the age of 22 in Egypt's Red Sea. Her work gained immediate acceptance with Danish publications. A number of magazines from her home country ran photo articles and interviews from her first underwater photography expedition. Her work has been featured in the German underwater photographic magazine *UWF*, including never-before photographed marine life species. Her photographs have appeared also in German/English marine life identification books. She has published in *National Geographic* books, and the magazines *National Wildlife*, *Natural History*, *BBC Wildlife*, *Delta Sky*, Australia's *Sport Diving* and *GEO*, Europe's premier geographic publication.

Birgitte is Vice President of Rainbowed Sea Tours, Inc., and with husband, Chris Newbert, conducts international dive and photographic tours to the world's finest diving locations. Her stock photo files include subjects from the Red Sea, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Hawaii, Galapagos Islands and Cocos Island. Birgitte co-authored *In a Sea of Dreams* (1994), winner of the World Grand Prize for underwater photography books. She is currently working on a children's book series, which will be featuring Birgitte's and Chris' images, and her text. She has been speaking and showing her slideshows for the Sunshine Kids, at the Rocky Mountain Children's Book Festival in Denver, and at diving conventions around the country.



Michele Hall



Technical/Deep Divers

Technical diving is a form of scuba diving that exceeds the scope of recreational diving due to the advanced training and extensive experience required. It requires the use of specialized equipment and special breathing gases like heliox or trimix, which help alleviate nitrogen narcosis and oxygen toxicity at depth. Technical dives may be defined as either dives to depths deeper than 130 feet/40 meters, or dives in an overhead environment with no direct access to the surface or natural light, such as fresh and saltwater caves and the interior of shipwrecks. Technical dives using mixed gases require different dive tables, and may include planned decompression carried out over a number of stages during a controlled ascent to the surface at the end of the dive, especially on air dives. These factors increase the level of risk and training far beyond that required for recreational diving.



Top, left to right: Jill Heinerth, Jill Heinerth; middle: Ann Kristovich; Bottom, left to right: Jill Heinerth, Janet Bieser, Erika-Leigh Haley

Carla Binelli, Ph.D., 2004, Italy
Technical Diver, Master Instructor



Carla was certified in 1972, and after retiring as a teacher in 1988 she submerged herself in diving. She is a PADI Master Instructor, DAN and IANTD Instructor Trainer, Educational Manager of Acquamarina Diving School and Vice-President of IANTD Italia-Adria. In 1993 Carla ventured into the technical realm and was instrumental in bringing nitrox, trimix and "tech" diving to Italy and nearby areas. She is certified on oxygen, semi-closed and closed circuit re-breathers. Carla has participated in diving expeditions in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Adriatic Sea including that of the battleship *Szent István*. She has certified more than 1,000 divers and instructors and has logged several thousand dives.

Melanie A. Clark, Pharm.D., 2009, Washington
Trainer, Technical Diver, Underwater Photographer



Melanie was scuba certified when she was 12 years old. "It is honestly amazing that I continued diving after my class. My first open water experience was in a wetsuit in Lake Minnawanka right after the ice melted. To use the word cold would not even come close to the experience. I overcame this obstacle and continued to dive in that wetsuit for the next four years until I could afford a drysuit at the age of 16. I know most girls at 16 were buying makeup and dresses, well not me... I got a drysuit!" Over the next twenty five years scuba became a focus in her life. She started technical and extreme diving in the late 1990s, followed by an obsession with re-breathers. Then her focus changed from diving to sharing her knowledge with others. "This was my way of showing others how wonderful scuba and re-breathers can be."

Getting to be a veteran diver with over 4,000 dives, author of five re-breather training manuals, and an accomplished underwater photographer was not all fun and games. She says her most difficult experiences in diving have all been mental. "Overcoming the huge obstacles that have been put up in front of me in a mainly male dominated sport would be my largest difficulty I have had to overcome. The technical diving community is now becoming more open to all participants. But, I must say, in the beginning being a lady I had to work much harder to prove myself and be accepted." She has definitely succeeded. Melanie is co-owner of Silent Scuba, LLC, a technical training facility in Seattle, WA.

Randi Eisen, 2009, New York
Technical Diver, Instructor, Scientist



As a Technical Diving Instructor and Deep Diving, Mixed Gas expert, Randi Eisen earned a spot on the team mapping Bikini Atoll. Educated in Science, Eisen works as an Experimental Scientist. She also serves as the Senior Director and Trustee for Beneath the Sea, and as Executive Vice President of the Long Island Dive Association (LIDA) in New York.

Patti Mount, 2000, Florida
Instructor, Author, Technical Diver



Patti began diving in 1975 and is certified as a re-breather, cave and trimix diver. She holds instructor status up to the level of Technical Nitrox. Patti is the author of *The Complete Guide to Underwater Modeling* and the *NAUI Student Workbook for Underwater Modeling*. She has co-authored numerous articles, and her photos have been published in magazines worldwide.

In 1992, Tom and Patti Mount were asked to take over the management of International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD), the first company to offer training programs in all aspects of technical diving (Advanced Nitrox, Deep Air, Technical Diver, Cave and Wreck Penetration, Normoxic Trimix, Trimix, Rebreathers, etc.) and now Free Diving too! Patti was appointed President of IANTD and is the CEO of IANTD World HQ, while Tom is the Chairman of the Board of Directors.



Janet Bieser

Valerie S. Moore, 2001, Massachusetts
Technical Diver, Wreck Diver, Instructor, Writer



A diving instructor, Valerie has combined writing, production and expedition logistics to pioneer new underwater horizons. Her life changed the day her mother-in-law said, "Valerie, if you don't learn to dive, you are forever going to be on that boat watching everyone else have a good time in the water." But Valerie didn't like being in the water. "This was a monumental step for someone terrified of water. With fear and trepidation, I began taking diving

lessons. I had to learn at my own pace, and when everyone realized that, I began having fun. After I earned my entry level certification, I decided to get my advanced rating." She traveled to La Paz, Mexico to earn her instructor's rating from ex-Navy SEAL trainers. She passed the test, earned the respect of her peers, and began taking groups on diving trips. Then she began writing articles about her experiences.

Valerie met salvage operator Herbo Humphreys on a trip to the Bahamas. Later, she became part of the team to salvage the *Titanic* site, but the undertaking was stopped by a lawsuit. What might have been a total loss to anyone else became a time of discovery and networking for Valerie. She met scientists, historians, explorers and photographer Ralph White. White already had been aboard the Russian Vessel *Keldysh*, the world's largest research ship. The vessel carried two deep-water submersibles called *Mirs* (Russian for "peace"). The 20-foot *Mirs* are designed for deep-water exploration with room for two pilots and one crew member. The *Keldysh* was scheduled to make a goodwill tour from Mexico to Halifax, Nova Scotia to publicize the vessel for future expeditions. A writer was needed to cover stories about the tour. White recommended Moore and she received a personal invitation to be part of the crew. It was during the 1993 African expedition that she was invited to participate in *Mirs'* dive. She became one of only seven women to make the dive. The dive was to depths of three miles (deeper than the *Titanic*). "It's cold at those depths. There is no heat and the temperature inside the sub is about 32 degrees. Due to the temperature change from the surface to those depths, there is a cold soak. The condensation builds up in the sub, and it begins to rain inside. By the time the sub reaches the surface again, several inches of water are on the floor."

In 1995, Valerie returned again to the site of the *Titanic*. This time she was technologies director, co-expedition leader and documentarian for film director Jim Cameron for his upcoming film "*Titanic*." Cameron was aware of the Russian ship and, when he was told about Valerie's previous experience with the crew, she was a natural choice. On board the *Keldysh*, the Hollywood film and Russian crews worked as a unit. The *Mirs* were readied to descend to the *Titanic* for filming. "We would take the film to the conference room and gather around to watch. Jim Cameron is a perfectionist, and sometimes what looked good to us would be imperfect and reshot. It was very exciting. You have to go to sea knowing there are no guarantees in what will happen. You realize how finite you are in the sea. Working with the Russians was a total contrast compared with Hollywood. Hollywood is the land of plenty, and the Russians who didn't know what 'plenty' meant. I feel very privileged to have lived and worked with the Russian people for weeks."

Claudia Serpieri, 2002, Egypt
Technical Diver, Wreck Diver, Instructor

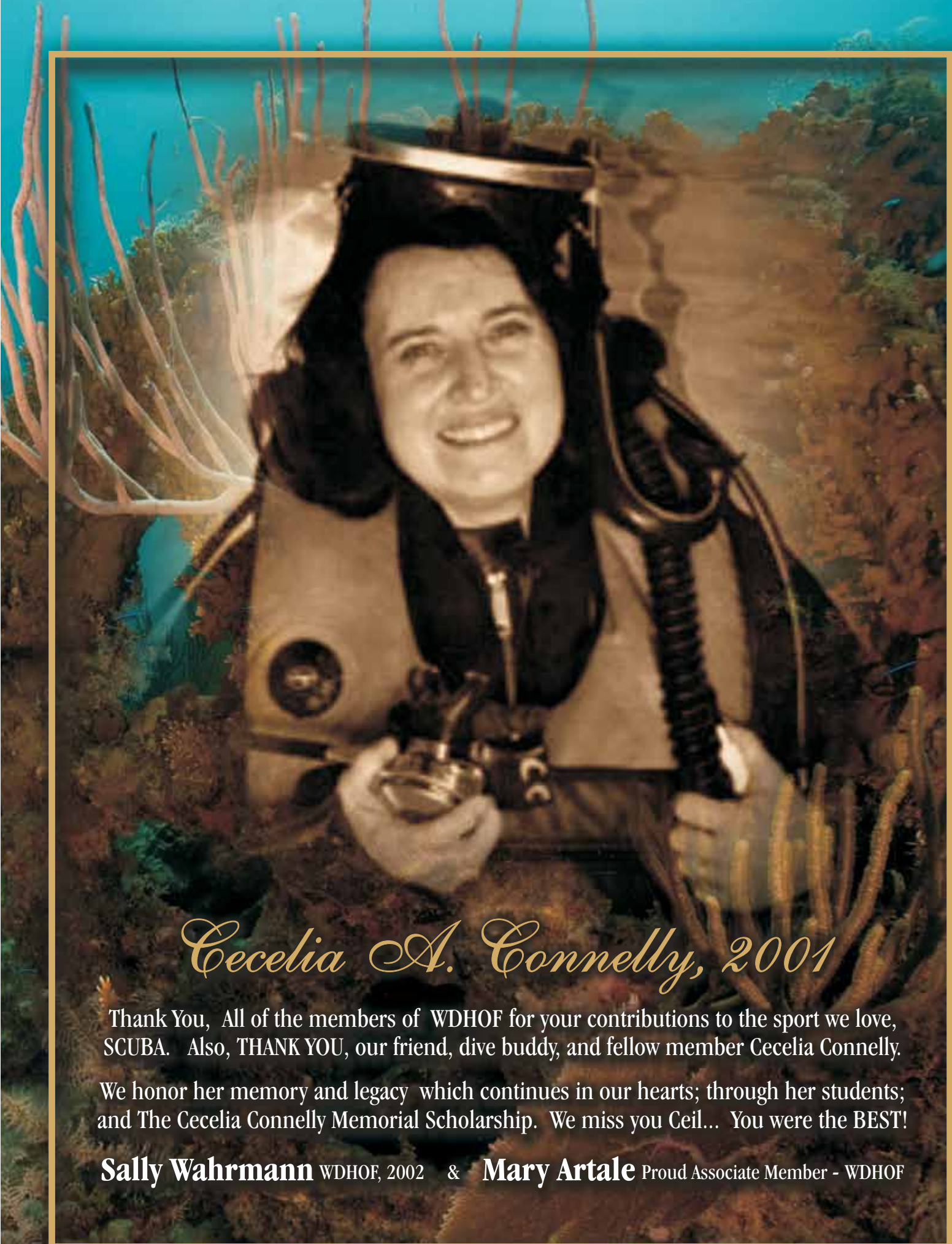
Claudia is a world record-holding Italian technical diver and instructor. She is co-director of team BioHazard, which has partnerships with space agencies, hyperbaric researchers, universities and the Italian Navy. She is a PADI Staff Instructor, PTA Instructor Trainer, IANTD Instructor, and lives and works in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Claudia began diving over 20 years ago when a close friend offered to take her on a dive in a lake not far from Rome. "It was during winter and the water was ice-cold. He gave me a dry suit. I didn't feel any cold then. I was overwhelmed with emotion, because it was my introduction to a different world, a different system of coordinates. At that moment, I couldn't even describe how much I loved it." She became an instructor, and then one of the first to believe in the advantages and safety of diving on gas mixes. She proved women could physically do these deep technical dives by diving to a depth of 211 meters (686 feet) followed by a dive to 180 meters (585 feet). She holds a number of world records including women's deepest dive on open circuit trimix (687 feet), women's deepest altitude dive in cold water (586 feet), women's deepest wreck dive (455 feet). She also holds the Italian women's record for deepest dive in a sinkhole (341 feet) and in a cave (283 feet), and led the exploration team at the sinkhole Merro in Italy (651 feet).

In 2002, an Italian diver team, led by Claudia, found the wreck of *HMS Quail* and filmed it. The ship was damaged by a mine south of Calabria, Italy on 15 November 1943, and lies at a depth of 90 meters. It foundered while in tow from Bari to Taranto, Italy.



Valerie Moore (with Ralph White)



Cecelia A. Connelly, 2001

Thank You, All of the members of WDHOFF for your contributions to the sport we love, SCUBA. Also, THANK YOU, our friend, dive buddy, and fellow member Cecelia Connelly.

We honor her memory and legacy which continues in our hearts; through her students; and The Cecelia Connelly Memorial Scholarship. We miss you Ceil... You were the BEST!

Sally Wahrman WDHOFF, 2002 & **Mary Artale** Proud Associate Member - WDHOFF



Wreck Divers

Wreck diving is a type of recreational diving where shipwrecks are explored. Wrecks pose a variety of unique hazards to divers. Wrecks are often snagged by fishing lines or nets. Antennas, masts, radio towers, and other superstructure items may be destroyed and tangled, and the structure may be fragile and break without notice. Wrecks also may have jagged areas from explosions, implosions, or holes from collisions. Penetration diving, where the diver enters a shipwreck, is an advanced skill requiring special training and equipment. Many attractive or well-preserved wrecks are in deeper water requiring deep diving precautions. Additionally, hazards are usually encountered when entering a wreck—especially one that sank due to an accident—as ship's equipment, interior furniture and storage cabinets, supplies, etc., can become encrusted and ragged. Safety concerns abound, and penetration of a wreck is not recommended without the availability of an emergency cutting device, a spare high-powered light source, guidelines, and reserve breathing gas. In addition, because of the potential fragility of the wreck, and the likelihood of disturbing sediments or disturbing the many marine animals that take advantage of the artificial habitat offered by the wreck, extra care is required when moving and swimming in order to maintain what little visibility there may be. In many countries, wrecks are legally protected from unauthorized salvage or desecration. Wrecks that are protected are denoted as such on nautical charts (such as admiralty charts).



Top: Sally Wahrmann (photo: Eve Dudasz); Bottom: Joyce Hayward; right: Kathy Weydig

Some of the more popular wrecks visited by our members include the following ships and sites.

The *SS Andrea Doria*, was an Italian Cruise ship sunk after a collision with the *MS Stockholm* in July 1956, off the coast of New York City. Diving the *Andrea Doria* takes a considerable investment in training and gear. Mixed gas certification (trimix or heliox) is required because much of the wreck is below 200 feet. The water is cold, ranging from 38 to 48 degrees F, necessitating the use of dry suits. Diving conditions at the wreck site are considered very treacherous due to the cold, the depth, strong currents, and heavy sediment that can reduce visibility to zero. The wreck is badly deteriorated, with the hull fractured and collapsed, the upper decks on the seabed below, and a large debris field outward from the hull of the liner. The six-week summer dive season, typically running from mid-June to late July, is the only time seas are calm enough for charter boats to make the 10-hour run to the site.

The *Empress of Ireland* was a Royal Mail Ship (RMS) and was sunk in Canada's worst ever maritime disaster, at 1:53 a.m. on 29 May 1914, when the Norwegian collier *Storstad* struck her. The ship sank in 14 minutes and the cold water (34 degrees F) claimed 1,012 lives. Shortly after the disaster, salvage operations recovered valuables and some bodies, though many remain buried in the silt and muck. The *Empress* was all but forgotten – overshadowed by World War I – until 1964 and the 50th anniversary of her sinking. That summer the wreck was relocated by French Canadian divers. Soon the first wreck diver “trophy” surfaced. In 1998, Canadian Authorities passed restrictions and laws protecting the wreck and other shipwrecks in Canadian waters from destructive penetration and unauthorized artifact removal. The *Empress of Ireland*, resting in 140 feet of water, can be accessed by scuba divers. Numerous recreational divers have died on the wreck, mostly through accidents related to entering (penetrating) the wreck.

USS Monitor was a Civil War ironclad, whose low freeboard and heavy turret made her highly unseaworthy in rough waters. This feature led to her sinking when she foundered during a heavy storm while under tow. She sank on December 31, 1862 in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Sixteen of 62 crewmen were lost in the storm. In 1973, the wreck of the *Monitor* was relocated about 16 nautical miles southeast of Cape Hatteras. The wreck site was designated as the United States' first marine sanctuary. Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is the only one of the thirteen national marine sanctuaries created to protect a cultural resource, rather than a natural resource. The site is under the supervision of NOAA, and the ship lies upside down at 240 feet. Access to the *Monitor* sanctuary is generally limited to scientific research conducted under a permit issued by NOAA. Special-use permits are issued for non-research activities.

“Walking on the decks of the Civil War ship was like walking the fields of Gettysburg. I could picture those Navy men doing the same sorts of things that we still do in the Navy today and really got a feel for my heritage as a Naval Officer.”

Barbara “Bobbie” Scholley, Captain, USN (ret), 2000

The *SS Republic* set sail from New York enroute New Orleans. Its cargo: a shipment of gold coins that today would be a treasure. Unfortunately the ship sailed into the heart of one of the worst hurricanes to ever hit the East coast, and she sank on October 25th, 1865. In August 2003, the wreck was located by Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., a commercial archaeology company in Tampa, Florida. She was found about 100 miles southeast of Savannah in about 1,700 feet of water. A salvage effort recovered about one-third of the rare 19th century gold and silver coins carried aboard, worth an estimated \$75 million. Most of the hull of the ship is now gone, but the rudder, parts of the paddle wheel and the steam engine are still present. The search and recovery effort was depicted in a National Geographic Society TV documentary *Civil War Gold*. There is also a book about the search and recovery, *Lost Gold of the Republic*.

USS San Diego, a World War I armored cruiser sank 12 miles south of Long Island in 1918, as a result of either a torpedo by a German submarine, or a mine. It is a popular but difficult shipwreck to dive, lying upside down in 110 feet of cold, dark Atlantic water. The wreck, now an artificial reef, supports teeming amounts of aquatic life, not to mention many charter boat operations.

The *Texas Towers* were a set of offshore radar facilities located 80 miles off the New Jersey coast. Used by the U.S. Air Force during the Cold War for radar surveillance of the U.S. eastern seaboard from 1958-1963. Tower #4 suffered severe structural damage during Hurricane Donna in 1960, and before repairs could be completed, was destroyed by a winter storm early in 1961. The remaining towers were demolished in 1963. It lies in 180 fsw.

Chuuk (Truk) Lagoon: Chuuk is an island in the South Pacific and is part of the Federated States of Micronesia. During World War II, its lagoon served as the forward anchorage for the Japanese Imperial Fleet. During Operation Hailstone in February 1944, the United States launched an attack on the island. The bombardment wiped out everything of value, and sent 60 ships and 275 aircraft to the bottom of the lagoon. The ships now serve as artificial reefs with wrecks sitting in depths from 50 to over 200 feet. The ships are littered with military detritus as well as human remains, which can still be seen amongst the corals.

Janet Bieser, Captain, 2000, New York
Wreck Diver, Boat Captain, Divemaster



Janet began shore diving in 1975 and a year later she gravitated to wreck diving where she met Captain Steve Bielinda, skipper of the dive boat *Wahoo*. She worked for him as a deckhand, then a mate, and in 1982 got her 100-ton Master Captain's License and gradually began running the boat more than Steve. Besides running dives, the boat also was a fishing party boat.

"I took some flak from the other cod-fishing skippers as soon as I assumed command, but not more than any other new kid on the block would have. I never anchor on another wreck when I see it's occupied by another party boat. However, several times I have had skippers set their hook even though I was already on the wreck. Of course, it's anyone's wreck, and I have no exclusivity to it, nor does anyone else. It's a matter of what you think is right or wrong..."

Janet is a SSI Platinum Pro 5000 diver and is certified as a PADI divemaster with over 1000 logged dives, an IANTD nitrox diver and an NSS-CDS Apprentice Cave Diver. In 1981 Janet was the first woman to dive the *Republic* and the youngest woman, at age 17, to dive the *Andrea Doria*. Janet was featured, along with fellow WDHOF member Sally Wahrmann (2000) in Kevin F. McMurray's 2001 book *Deep Descent*, about diving on the *Andrea Doria*.

Janet is an experienced trimix diver, avid spearfisherman, and heavy salvage diver. Until the boat was sold 3 years ago, she was the only woman captain to operate expeditions to the *Andrea Doria* as Master of the *R/V Wahoo*.

Evelyn Bartram Dudas, 2000, Pennsylvania
Wreck Diver, Cave Diver, Dive Shop Owner



Evelyn Bartram Dudas was newly certified in 1966 when she was invited to speak at local Lions Club luncheon about the novel sport of scuba diving. During her talk she vowed to become the first woman to dive the *Andrea Doria*. The following summer, she made good on the promise at the young age of 22. Besides being the first woman to dive the *Andrea Doria*, Evelyn was also one of the first women to use mixed gasses in diving. She also launched her own custom wet suit company when none could be found commercially. After the untimely death of her husband in 1982,

she continued to expand Dudas' Diving Duds into a full-service dive facility and raise 4 children on her own. All four of her children dive, and one set another *Andrea Doria* record. Suzy Dudas, 33, was the first woman to reach the ship with a re-breather, and Evelyn and she are the first mother-daughter *Doria* divers. An interesting story of her first person account of diving the wreck is at <http://www.Scubadiving.com/travel/2007/03/the-andrea-doria-2>.

M. Veronica (Ronni) Gilligan, 2004, New York
Wreck Diver



Ronni earned certification by PADI in 1964 and began wreck diving soon after. In 1968 she became not only the first woman to dive the *Empress of Ireland*, in a Parkways neoprene wetsuit, black of course, but the one of the first divers of any gender. But, more important to Ronni was that she was also part of a Canadian-American dive team, the first sport dive team, to penetrate the wreck. Over the course of three years they made

over a hundred dives, many of them deep into the bowels of the ship. Ronni and her fellow divers from the Syracuse Scuba Society blazed a bold trail in deep cold water diving and in the process set an example that still awes the wreck diving community to this day. On her last dive of her first expedition she says, *"Visibility had not been good that summer, but on our last dive Pete and I unshackled the buoy we had on the stern. We rode it up and it took us up and over the whole Empress with incredible visibility. It was like flying a helicopter right over the entire ship. All the little spots we had been diving were now integrated - it was an ocean liner!! Awesome - Never had that visibility again in other years, but the image has never left. It truly was an Empress."*

Ronni returned to the *Empress* in 2003 at age 63, at the insistence of Kevin F. McMurray who was researching the wreck in preparation for his book *Dark Descent* (2004). During this expedition, Ronni got in trouble; she was *"hanging upside down, clinging to the Empress being unable to get righted as the dry suit had air in the feet and legs (I have very big feet!). After both of us had exhausted ourselves trying to turn me head-up, Will Allen finally cut the feet and we surfaced. Then, having survived that, I thought I might die from hypothermia as my suit had flooded and I was freezing and shaking for the long ride back."* She calls her dive a success even though she spent most of it upside down.

Ronni is an avid traveler with dives logged in exotic locations world wide including Thailand, Australia, Truk, Palau and Kenya.



Sally Wahrmann (photo: Evie Dudas)

Barb Lander, 2000, Alaska
Wreck Diver, Writer, Instructor



After only 3 years of diving, Barb was a veteran of the *Andrea Doria*, *Wilkes Barre* and the infamous mudhole wrecks of New Jersey. The following year she joined the *Monitor* team, was leading expeditions by 1993 and was key in opening that wreck to sport divers. Barb participated in the explorations of the U-869, *Norness*, *Billy Mitchell*, and *Lusitania* (1995). Barb, a registered nurse, was on board the *Seeker* in 1992 during the fatal dives on a WWI era German submarine off the New Jersey

coast, documented in the book *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson (2004). Her training helped to comfort and aid one of the divers, Chrissy Rouse, prior to his medical evacuation. Unfortunately he subsequently died.

Barb is a PADI and IANTD instructor and certified as an NSS-CDS full cave diver and has published over 100 articles and photographs.

"You have to go to sea knowing there are no guarantees in what will happen. You realize how finite you are in the sea."

Valerie S. Moore, 2001



Barb Lander

Vreni Roduner, 2000, New York
Wreck Diver, Technical Diver, Divemaster



Vreni learned to dive in 1974 and became the first female divemaster of The Scuba Sports Club (NY) in 1980. In 1986 she participated in Repex, a NOAA-sponsored saturation excursion program for the purpose of predicting the longterm effects of oxygen exposure. She is the recipient of BTS Medal of Excellence and their 20 Year Award for loyalty and dedicated service, as well as the TSSC Diver of the Year Award. Vreni was also a participant in the Aqua Women expeditions from 1981 to 1993.

"Having grown up far from the sea, I had become an avid hobby photographer; I wanted to expand to underwater photography. Hampered by many factors, I became a wreck diver and then became a divemaster for our club, successfully running a variety of fun day and weekend trips from May through October for many years. I also coordinated many educational and training programs to keep our club divers safety minded. As a beginner wreck diver on the USS San Diego, having 100 foot visibility on a 504 foot wreck in the northeast was very impressive. In later years, I dove the U-853 off Rhode Island, and at the end of the dive my tank valve got caught on an old nylon ascent line while trying to free my buddy's wreck reel line. After cutting myself loose I tried to push off the wreck, but I found myself tied once more on my fins with a thinner old ascent line. Finally cut loose, I free ascended slowly, but found myself leveling off at 75 feet. I tried to kick, but couldn't. I again found my fins tied together with an ascent line. Reaching for the knife to cut them apart, I felt myself moving through the water with the current while I was doubled over and likely holding my breath. That shook me up, since I was concentrating on cutting the line and was not paying attention to my depth. I was lucky, as I had sunk 20 feet and I had enough air for a slow controlled ascent. Coming through a huge school of jacks was beautiful, despite all. Surfacing not too far from the boat, however I lost it and called for help. The Captain first scolded me, but when he saw the lines and cans hanging from both fins and heard my frustration about the danger of the many nylon ascent lines coming from his favorite wreck, he understood the seriousness of my ordeal."

"Learning to dive was the best decision I ever made, despite my having to overcome enormous obstacles, while more than once being told to find another hobby. It was a tough beginning, but it gave me decades of pleasure, diving with passion, learning about the ocean and its inhabitants."

*To my friend Joan Forsberg:
 Congratulations Joan and a big welcome
 to the Women Divers Hall of Fame!*

Vreni Roduner

Sally A. Wahrmann, 2002, New Jersey
Wreck Diver, Divemaster



An avid wreck diver, Sally is best known for her dives on the *Andrea Doria*, logging 60 dives on the famed wreck, all on air. She served as Divemaster and crew member on the *R/V Wahoo* for over 25 years diving shipwrecks in the northeast. Sally says, "Although known for my deep shipwreck diving, my joy in diving always came from taking a new diver on their first shipwreck."

Her love of diving has taken Sally to dozens of globally challenging dive sites from the East River of NYC to Scapa Flow to Truk Lagoon and the Great Barrier Reef. But she loves diving the wrecks of the Northeast. "I was raised in rural Pennsylvania and our family always vacationed at Cape May on the Jersey shore. So as a young child I was drawn to the lore of the sea. My goal in life was to be a mate on a fishing vessel. After trying a resort intro course to scuba in the Caribbean and doing very poorly, I challenged myself by taking a scuba course in New York. After passing the certification course, I did my first open water dive on a shipwreck. The wreck was a Prohibition rum runner that had been shot down by the Coast Guard in 1922. I came up from the dive and felt like I had conquered the world. Instantly I was hooked on shipwreck diving. Each ship has its own unique story. Challenges in diving Northeast wrecks make the sport even more appealing to me."

Sally currently serves as Treasurer of WDHOF.



Sally Wahrmann (photo: Evie Dudas)

Kathy A. Weydig, Captain, 2000, Founder,
Arizona
Explorer, Wreck Diver, Instructor, Technical Diver,
Boat Captain



"A wise WDHOF member told me once that women have 9 careers in a lifetime. I believe I am having my 9 careers just in the realm of scuba diving, each as intriguing and fascinating as the next. Explorer, mariner, tech/wreck diver, educator, hyperbaric tech, public service diver and trainer, motion picture dive operations, and two to go... Any suggestions? I think what I do now is as interesting as what got me here."

Kathy has been a scuba instructor since 1989, and holds Instructor Trainer and Course Director ratings with NAUI and SDI/TDI. She holds a 100 ton USCG Inland Master Captain's License, and has sailed the Atlantic, Caribbean and the Pacific, was a crew member of the *R/V Wahoo* and a member of the U.S. Deep Wreck Diving Team. With more than 2,750 dives completed, she has explored some of our more notable shipwrecks including the *Andrea Doria*, *USS Wilkes Barre*, as an Expedition Leader on the 2004 and 2006 *USS Monitor* projects, and is a member of the prestigious Explorers Club.

An experienced professional photographer by training, Kathy refuses to bring a camera to the *Andrea Doria*. "I've never taken a camera deep diving because there's just so much you have to do that I'm not mentally prepared to put one more burden on myself. Shallow diving, it's not a problem. But deep, it's such a mindset to me, to procedurally keep it as simple as possible." She is content to explore the outside of the wreck without going inside, a practice she has maintained with all of the shipwrecks she has visited. "I tell my students that I don't go into my basement with the lights off, so I'm not going into a wreck. Artifacts can be found off a wreck, things like dishes, gun shells and whatever was on the deck when it went down."

Kathy's diving has also taken her to Belize, Honduras, Hawaii, St. Lucia, Cozumel, the British and United States Virgin Islands, Bonaire and the Cayman Islands. "After training my first handicapped diver, (thank you, Rusty Murray, WDHOF 2003) and taking Hugh Fletcher, (with multiple sclerosis) diving the first time in Bonaire, (Hugh Fletcher Memorial Scholarship) I realized that we have so much to offer, opportunities that can change lives and it is totally not about you. This has two meanings: one that you as the diver have to be totally self-sufficient, competent and complete; and secondly, you realize how committed you become in the process."

"...their first fish, their first breath in the ocean, watching their excited faces... just knowing that I have the opportunity to do that for so many children is my greatest joy."

Margo Peyton, 2009

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Cave Divers

Cave diving is a type of technical diving in which specialized scuba equipment is used to enable the exploration of natural or artificial caves which are at least partially filled with water. Cave diving is one of the most challenging and potentially dangerous kinds of diving. It presents many diving hazards, because in an emergency a diver cannot ascend directly to the surface due to the cave's ceilings, and instead may have to swim horizontally. Navigation through the cave system may be difficult, and exit routes may be at considerable distance, requiring the diver to have sufficient breathing gas to make the journey. Visibility can be low or non-existent. While a less-intensive kind of diving called cavern diving does not take divers beyond the outermost part of the cave reached by natural light, true cave diving can involve penetrations of many thousands of feet, well beyond the reach of sunlight, necessitating an artificial form of light. Caves often contain sand, mud, clay, silt, or other sediment that can further reduce underwater visibility when stirred up.

Caves can carry strong water currents. Some caves are complex and can have some tunnels with out-flowing currents, and other tunnels with inflowing currents. If currents are not properly managed, they can cause serious problems for the diver. Cave diving is dangerous for all the reasons stated, but most cave diving fatalities have been as a result of a diver with inadequate or no specialized training, inadequate or unacceptable equipment for the environment, failure to follow accepted protocols, or not recognizing the danger until too late. Despite these risks, water-filled caves attract divers and underwater explorers due to their technical diving challenges and their often unexplored nature. Caves often have a wide range of unique physical features, such as stalactites and stalagmites, and can contain unique flora and fauna not found elsewhere.



Left: Ann Kristovich; center top: Scarlett Watts; center bottom: Mary Ellen Eckhoff; right: Mary Ellen Eckhoff

Mary Ellen Eckhoff, 2000, Florida Cave Diver, Explorer



Mary Ellen is a trailblazer in the world of cave diving. She has held all the cave diving depth and penetration records for women, as well as sharing the world record for the 5,847 foot penetration of the Big Dismal Cave System, near Tallahassee, FL in the summer of 1981. She has completed more than 1,000 cave dives, and her diving career has focused on education and cave exploration. She taught NSS-CDS cavern and cave diving courses, she has been heavily involved in cave exploration throughout Florida, and

joined cave exploration teams in Mexico, Lanzarote, Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, and other states. She is a Fellow of the National Speleological Society, and a founding member of the Cave Diving Museum and Library, Ft. White, Florida.

Ann H. Kristovich, D.D.S., 2000, Texas Cave Diver, Instructor, Author



Ann is the co-leader of The Proyecto De Buceo Espeleologico Mexico Y America Central and has been involved in cave exploration since 1988 in Mexico, Belize and Central America. In 1993, she set a women's cave diving depth record of 554 feet. Ann is an instructor for IANTD, NSS-CDS, NACD, NAUI, and TDI and teaches technical, deep, cave and mixed gas diving. Ann's articles and photos have been published internationally. In

addition, she is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon.



Ann Kristovich

Kay Walten, 2000, Mexico Cave Diver, Explorer, Author



Kay has been the CEO, co-founder and owner of LocoGringo.com, a vacation reservation service for the Riviera Maya since 1996. Kay has lived in Mexico with her husband Gary since 1992. In addition to being an explorer for many new caves, she was inducted into the Explorers Club. Kay has been published in the *NACD Journal*, and has been included in articles on cave exploration and explorers in *Smithsonian* and other magazines, and has acted as IMAX stunt double in *Journey to Amazing Caves*.

"I have had so many memorable experiences it is hard to pick just one. Of all I would have to say discovering 'The Pit' in the Ejido Jacinto Pat was probably the most incredible. Diving with Dan Lins, in very tight restrictions, zero vis, the small tunnel led us into a vast sinkhole, known as The Pit. We dove that day to 244 feet, an enormous well open to the sky. Since then subsequent dives have been made, some including fellow WDHOF member Jill Heinerth (2000). But that first dive in this seemingly bottomless pit, the feeling swimming over vastness will always be etched in my mind."

"Although retired from cave diving, it is an experience that has changed my life profoundly. It led me to a life in Mexico, a world of wonderful friends, a sense of self reliance, the importance of redundancy, and memories that will last a life time. I have had enough fun and incredible discoveries for two people!"

Scarlett D. Watts, 2001, Florida Cave Diver, Tech Diver



Scarlett has been diving for 26 years. She received her open water certification at the age of 12 and became a diving instructor by the age of 18. Scarlett is a world record holding, expert, veteran, and specialty diver. In March 1999, she set the world record for women's deep air diving, to the depth of 425 feet in Cozumel, Mexico. Scarlett holds expert training credentials from Scuba Schools International and the Professional Scuba Association Deep Air Institute; these include nitrox and cave

diving. At present she is the manager of Mr. Scuba in Orlando, with her husband Hal.

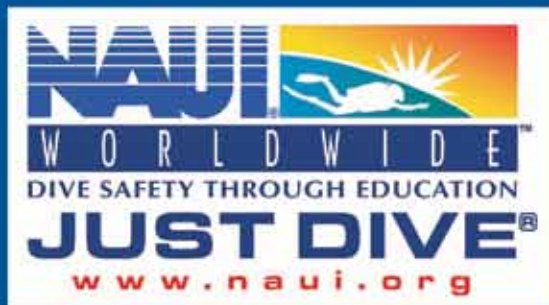
"The spotter that was supposedly watching out for me left the area because I 'was down there so long' and he had 'something else to do.' I never worked for that company again."

Denise J. Morrissette, 2000

NAUI Congratulates the Women Divers Hall of Fame on Your 10th Anniversary!



We look forward to
continuing to support
your future efforts...



CAVE DIVERS

Jill Yager, Ph.D., 2000, Ohio
Cave Diver, Researcher



Jill is a professor of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Antioch College. She has been cave diving since the mid-1970s, and is certified with NACD and NSS-CDS. She conducts research in submerged caves where she studies water chemistry and the animals that live there. She has been a certified cave diver for over 25 years and has explored

submerged caves in the Bahamas, Mexico, the Turks and Caicos, Cuba, Bermuda, and Florida. While cave diving in the Bahamas in 1979, Jill discovered a new species and class of crustacean, which she named the Remipedia. Jill continues her study of submerged cave environments and her search for new species of remipedes. Her research has been featured in several television documentaries, including *Smithsonian World*, *3-2-1 Contact*, the *New Explorers*, and National Geographic's *Sea Stories*. Jill was named Cave Scientist of the Year in 2000 by the Karst Waters Institute.



Jill Yager

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WDHOF 10th Anniversary Dive Trip, Bonaire, Jan. 2010
left to right: Erin, Ella Jean, Susan & Lorraine

"We congratulate this sterling organization and all of its exceptional, diverse, determined, dedicated members."

Susan Bangasser, Jennifer King, Ella Jean Morgan, Erin O'Neill, Lorraine Sadler
Southern California inaugural WDHOF members and L.A. County/NAUI instructors



Jennifer (many years ago!)



Free Divers and Spearfishers

Free diving is comprised of any of various aquatic activities that share the practice of breath-hold underwater diving. Examples include breath-hold spear fishing, free dive photography, apnea competitions, and snorkeling. Skin diving is another term for free diving, snorkeling, breath-holding while diving, or diving without the use of underwater breathing equipment. Diving to the ocean floor on a single breath is an ancient skill among pearl and sponge fishers, requiring superhuman levels of stamina and fitness; only in the last 20 years has it become an internationally recognized competitive sport. Competitive free diving is currently governed by two world associations: Association for Development of Apnea International (AIDA) and the Confederation Mondiales des Activites Subaquatiques (CMAS), the international umbrella organization for competitive and recreational underwater sports.

Free diving is generally recognized as a breath holding dive, but it also describes a specific group of underwater activities, both competitive and not. Competitive free diving is an individual sport based on the best individual achievement. There are currently nine disciplines used by official governing bodies and a dozen disciplines that are only practiced locally. The disciplines of AIDA can be done both in competition and as a record attempt, with the exception of Variable Weight and No Limits, which are both done solely as record attempts.

Pool disciplines

- **Static Apnea** - timed breath holding.
- **Dynamic Apnea With Fins** - underwater swimming in a pool for distance. Use of bi-fins or monofin is acceptable (AIDA, CMAS).
- **Dynamic Apnea Without Fins** - underwater swimming in a pool for distance without any swimming aids (AIDA).

Depth disciplines

For all AIDA disciplines, the depth the athlete will attempt is announced before the dive. This is accepted practice for both competitions and record attempts.

- **Constant Ballast Apnea** - following a guide line, the diver has to dive to depth without touching the line. The "Constant Ballast" refers to inability to drop any diving weights during the dive. Both bi-fins and monofin can be used during this discipline (AIDA).
- **Constant Ballast Apnea Without Fins** - as above except no swimming aids such as fins are allowed (AIDA).
- **Free Immersion Apnea** - the diver uses a vertical guiderope to pull him or herself down to depth and back to the surface. The diver is still not allowed to release weights (AIDA).
- **Variable Ballast Apnea** - a record discipline in which the diver uses a weighted sled for descent which is dropped while the diver returns to the surface by pulling themselves up by a line or swimming to the surface using fins (AIDA).
- **No-Limits Apnea** - a record discipline that allows the diver to use any means of breath-holding to depth and return to the surface as long as a guideline is used to measure the distance. Most use a weighted sled to dive down and use an inflatable bag to ascend (AIDA).
- **The Jump Blue (also called "The Cube")** - a discipline in which the diver has to descend and swim as far as possible in a cubic form of 15 x 15 meters (CMAS).

Spearfishing is an ancient method of fishing that has been used throughout the world for millennia. Spearfishing today employs modern and more effective elastic or pneumatic powered spearguns and slings to strike the hunted fish. Spearfishing may be done using free-diving, snorkeling, or scuba diving techniques. The best free-diving spearfishers can hold their breath for 2 to 4 minutes, and dive to depths of 130-200 feet (40-60 meters). However, dives of about one minute and 50-70 feet (15-20 meters) are more typical for the average spearfisher.

Jana Bradley, 2000, Kansas Free Diver, Administrator



Jana was certified in 1978 and became a member of the Underwater Society of America and the Midwest Diving Council (MDC) that same year. She is a past President of MDC and has held offices for a total of 52 different terms on the local, regional and national level. Jana chaired the Freediving/Scuba Nationals in 1990 and published the 40-year history of the MDC in 1999. Jana serves as an administrator for diving competitions. She says, "In order for diving competitions to run smoothly and fair there was a need to not only make rules, but document them. I felt like it was a way for me to give back to a sport that I enjoyed being part of. (And once everyone knew that you were willing to serve in that capacity, everyone offered positions.)" Her honors include the MDC Diver of the Year and President's Award.

Mandy-Rae Cruickshank, 2009, British Columbia, Canada Free Diver, Instructor, Actress, Conservationist



Mandy-Rae started her diving career in scuba as a PADI Course Director. In 2000 she was introduced to the sport of free diving, "It combined my love of being in the water with a strong competitive side of myself. A perfect match" and has since gone on to hold 7 World Records (in 7 of 9 disciplines: static, dynamic, dynamic without fins, constant weight, constant weight without fins, free immersion and no limits) and 14 National records in the sport.

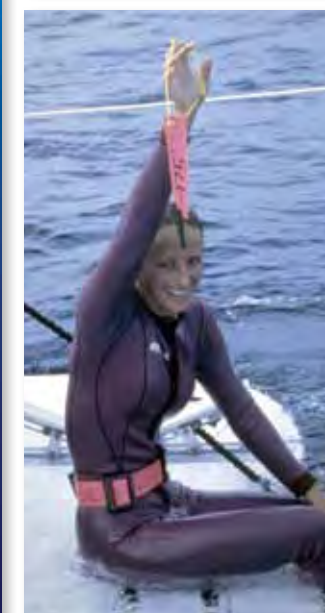
"One thing I am most proud of is my more recent involvement with the movie *The Cove* which highlights problems with our oceans and its effect on everything in it. It also sheds light on the dolphin slaughter taking place in Japan." The film, which Mandy-Rae starred in, won "Audience Best Documentary" at the Sundance Film Festival 2009 (among 45 additional awards) as well as Best Documentary Feature category at the 2010 82nd Academy Awards.

Mandy-Rae runs Performance Freediving International with her husband and coach, Kirk Krack, where they travel the world teaching people to enjoy the water while free diving. Her most memorable experience? Setting her first world record, "It was this thrill and satisfaction of knowing that I just did something that no one else has ever done. After you do that you realize that everything is within reach if you really want to and work for it." Well put, and well done!

Linda Gray, 2000, California Free Diver, Spearfisher, Commercial Diver

Linda was 15 years old when a friend introduced her to snorkeling. The water was clear and she was "hooked." Her most memorable experience was in Mokuleia, Hawaii in 1996 at the U.S. Spearfishing Championships where she was the Individual Women's Champion.. "A huge swell pounded the beach the day of the meet. All of the women and most of the men competitors capsized their kayaks. I speared one fish and made it through the 20 foot waves. I ended up winning."

Linda started her competitive career in the U.S. Annual National Free Diving Spearfishing Championships and won the women's national title in 1973. She has won 6 more championships since then, in 1976, 1977, 1980, 1992, 1996 and 1997. Linda was ranked #11 diver in the 1980 Nationals, which put her above about half the men. Currently she lives in Southern California where she is a commercial sea urchin diver, supporting 2 children. She says, "My diving career was a great part of my life journey. It was exciting and there were many moments that were fantastic and memorable."



Left: Meghan Heaney-Grier, top right: Mandy-Rae Cruickshank; bottom right: Tanya Streeter

Mary Edith "Mel" Lillis, 2000, Missouri
Spearfisher, Free Diver



Mel Lillis is a pioneer in spear fishing and skin diving. She was a world champion spearfisher and also helped found several diving clubs and organizations such as The Underwater Society of America. In 1960, Mel went to a special meeting of the Society in New Orleans on Free Diving Rules and requested that Competitive Skin Diving-Scuba Division be added to the Underwater Society. She also requested that they create a position of Vice President in charge of Scuba Competitions. In 1961, the team of Lillis and June Poplar won the first International Scuba Triathlon

competition in New Orleans. In 1963, in Philadelphia, Mel became the first woman recipient of the NOGI, and until 1983 she was the only woman to be honored in the Sports and Education category. In 1994 she received a second NOGI (one of two women) for distinguished service. Since 1960, of the 166 award presentations, only nine women have been so honored. Soon after becoming a NOGI Fellow, Lillis was elected Executive Secretary and she served in that office for the past forty years. In 2005, the title of "Executive Secretary" was changed to "NOGI Awards Director," and as such, Mel continues to oversee the NOGI Elections.

"In the 1950s, I was an avid fan of Sea Hunt and Lloyd Bridges. One day, I attended a big sports show in my local area (Kansas City) where I saw divers in a large glass hot water heater. The divers were leaning against the glass and playing Tic Tac Toe with the spectators and it was so neat. It inspired me to attend meetings at the YMCA where scuba was being introduced. Scuba diving opened a whole new world for me and literally expanded my horizons. The first time I flew out of the state was for a scuba trip. I loved diving the oil rigs in Louisiana in the early 60's. I also had a great time participating in international spear fishing competitions in Lake Ponchartrain where there were enormous fish. Over the years, I've had many wonderful diving experiences and I was thrilled that although I was just a recreational diver, that I was able to meet scientists, explorers, etc. - the people who brought diving to the world."



Left: Mel Lillis; right: Tanya Streeter

Dottie Frazier, 2000, California
Free Diver, Spearfisher, Instructor, Commercial Diver, Actress



Dottie Frazier was born in July 1922 in Long Beach, California, and should have been a male according to her dad, who then decided that he was going to teach her all the things he would have taught a son. Swimming by age 3, rowing her own skiff at 5, Dottie knew the ins and outs of fishing and lived aboard boats more than on land. By 10, she was using one of the masks her dad made out of pieces of fire hose, glass, tape, glue and straps from an old inner tube. She became especially proficient at spearing fish. By the time she was a teenager, getting lobsters was her specialty, and she's taken many bugs over 25 lbs.

Growing up on the sea made it easy for Dottie to find work on commercial fishing boats as deck hand/cook, and on all-day fishing boats as galley girl for over 10 years. It was during this time that she entered every skin diving contest she could and usually was the only female competitor, taking her share of prizes but never a first. In the 1930s she became well known for her body surfing ability, took up snow and water skiing and board surfing. She bought her first Harley Davidson motorcycle, joined a local bike club and rode all over the state for several years. In 1940, Dottie started teaching skin diving classes. She then started manufacturing rubber suits for Navy UDT divers in Hawaii and on the west coast. Dottie had a dive shop called Penguin from where she ran dive classes and sold her wetsuits. She was an actress in several films that featured diving, including *Beyond the Reef* with a young Ron Howard.

In 1953 she remarried, became a charter member of the Long Beach Neptunes, and became the first female scuba instructor in the world. Later she became one of the first women hardhat divers but only worked at it for 2 years. Amid all this, Dottie raised four sons who all became divers. She relates this engaging story: *"Soon after my third son was born, I started a club called the 'Aqua Familias,' (diving couples with children). We met every weekend at a place voted on at our monthly meeting. As I was the only nursing mother, when my baby let everyone on shore know it was time for chow they would raise a flag on a long pole. I'd be watching for it, since I could tell that it was just about that time, and head for shore. Upon completing my motherly duties I would round up my other kids (who were out diving) give them their lunch and head back out in the water again. Even the husbands took turns with us watching the children and diving. Our catches made for some wonderful seafood potluck dinners after every dive."*

Dottie is the only female diver honored by inclusion in the Skin Diving History Museum website (www.skindivinghistory.com). At 78, she was still diving, now at 87, Dottie plans to give up motorcycle riding...we'll see.

Mehgan Heaney-Grier, 2000, Florida/Colorado
Free Diver, Media Personality



Mehgan established the first ever U.S. freedive depth record in 1996, at the age of 18. On one breath of air she plunged to 155 feet, establishing the first-ever Constant Weight freediving record for both men and women in the USA. Then in 1997, she broke her own record with a dive to 165 feet. Her love affair with the sea began when her family moved to the Florida Keys when she was 10 years old. *"I spent every waking hour (that my mom allowed) out, in, on, or under the blue waters surrounding my new home. This pattern persisted throughout grade school and into my teens. When I graduated from high school, I started hanging out with some of my friends that were spear fishers. This exposed me to a totally different world - full of excitement, beauty, and sharks! I took quite a liking to the open ocean, and it has been an integral part of my life ever since."* Utilizing her aquatic expertise, Mehgan spent several years encountering sharks, alligators and other marine creatures, documenting and observing their behavior. This led to her adventures being featured in many documentaries including her own series on Animal Planet titled *Extreme Contact*. *"My most memorable experiences diving are consistently the same - me, one breath of air, deep blue water, the far away circle of the sun and sharks!"*

Mehgan currently splits her time between the ocean that surrounds her home in the Florida Keys, and the mountains in Colorado where she is working on her Biology and Anthropology degrees at the University of Colorado in Boulder, which she plans to finish in 2011.



Top, bottom left: Mehgan Heaney-Grier; right: Tanya Streeter

Audrey Mestre, 2002, Deceased
Free Diver



Audrey was a French world record-setting free diver who died in an attempt to set a world record of 171 metres (564 feet). Born in 1974 in Saint-Denis, France to a family of snorkeling and scuba diving enthusiasts, at age 2 she was already swimming and by age thirteen was a seasoned scuba diver. In 1996 her interest in underwater sports led to her meeting the renowned free-diver Francisco "Pipin" Ferreras. They immediately developed a relationship and Audrey soon

moved to Miami, Florida. There, she took up serious free diving, and with Ferreras as her instructor was soon reaching record depths. In 1999 the two married and the following year, off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Audrey Mestre broke the female world record by free diving to a depth of 125 meters (410 ft) on a single breath of air. A year later she broke her own record, by descending to 130 meters (427 ft). On October 4, 2002, under her husband's supervision, she made a practice dive off Bayahibe Beach in the Dominican Republic to the depth of 166 meters (545 ft). Eight days later she attempted a dive to 171 meters but a problem developed with the lift balloon as she started her ascent. A dive that should have been no more than three minutes resulted in her remaining underwater for more than eight and a half minutes. By the time her unconscious body was brought to the surface it was too late and she was pronounced dead. She was 28 years old. Her death was not without controversy, however, and in August 2004 a book that tells her story was written by her husband and published under the title *The Dive: A Story of Love and Obsession*. A movie, *The Dive*, has also been planned with a tentative release in 2010 by director James Cameron.

Tanya Streeter, 2000, Texas
Free Diver, Environmentalist



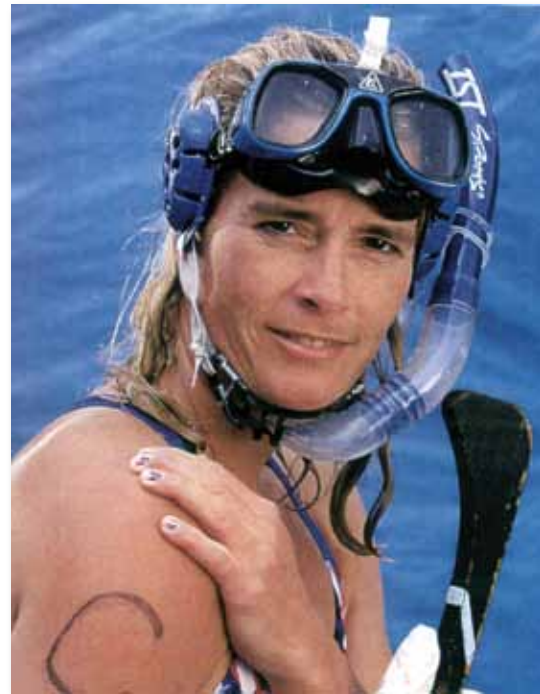
Most people can hold their breath for forty seconds, Tanya can hold her breath for over six minutes. Tanya broke the world record in No Limits Apnea in 2002 when she freedove to 526 feet, a record which she still holds. Tanya also holds the world record of 397 feet for Variable Weight, set in 2003. Having grown up in Grand Cayman, Tanya was perhaps destined for an aquatic career, but nobody could have guessed she would become the only woman in history to break

a man's world record in any sport. Her achievements, totaling 10 world records, have raised the profile of freediving worldwide, and her personality has changed its death-defying image. She's a committed spokesperson for marine environmental groups and is an award-winning television presenter/host for the BBC and *Animal Planet*. Streeter was featured in an *Animal Planet* documentary, *Freediver*, which aired March 2006, and *Dive Galapagos* which aired March 2007. She has also appeared on a set of five commemorative postage stamps distributed by the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2003. After giving birth in August 2008 Tanya officially retired.



Underwater Hockey

Underwater hockey started in the U.S. in the late 1960s. Underwater hockey is a non-contact sport in which two teams compete to maneuver a puck across the bottom of a swimming pool into goals. Players wear a diving mask, swim fins and a snorkel for play. Two teams of up to ten players compete, with six players on each team in play at once. The remaining four players are continually rotated into play from a substitution area, which may be on deck or in the water outside the playing area, depending on tournament rules. Before the start of play the puck is placed in the middle of the pool, and the players wait in the water, touching the wall above the goals they are defending. At the start-of-play signal (usually a buzzer or a gong), in-play members of both teams are free to swim anywhere in the play area and try to score by maneuvering the puck into the opponents' goal. Play continues until a goal is scored and players return to their wall to start a new point, or a break in play is signaled by a referee (whether due to a foul, a time-out, or the end of the period of play). Games consist of two halves, typically ten to fifteen minutes in length (depending on tournament rules; 15 minutes at world championship tournaments) and a short half time interval. At half time the two teams switch ends. Underwater hockey is not very spectator friendly, since all the action is below the surface. Nationals have been held annually since 1976.



Top left to right: Mary Jo Ferris-Fischer, Brigit Grimm; bottom left to right: Brigit Grimm, Mary Jo Ferris-Fischer

Mary Jo Ferris-Fischer, 2000, California Underwater Hockey Player



Mary Jo was first introduced to the sport after she finished a college swimming career, while working out with a Masters Swim Program in Chicago, Illinois. Mary Jo has played in all of the Underwater Hockey World Championships since 1986 and has been the team captain for five of those tournaments. After 11 years of being President of a Chicago team, she relocated to the Bay Area of California where she continues to play with the Club Puck team in San Jose. "I have been playing Underwater Hockey for 25 years and have been a member of 11 USA World Tournament teams. I have been on two teams where we have won the World Underwater Hockey Championships in 2004 and 2006 for the Women's Master's division."

Mary Jo's most memorable experience was the "2004 World Championship in New Zealand. It was our most memorable win when we beat an unbeaten Australian Women's Masters team. Great fun!" The challenge to her sport? "Just learning about how to play a team sport when you are holding your breath and trying to time your dives according to your team mates is challenging." We can all only imagine!

Brigit K. Grimm, 2000, California Underwater Hockey Player



Brigit has been playing underwater hockey since 1984. She's been a member and captain of all USA Women's Teams participating in World Championships around the world from 1986 until present (except 1994, when she was pregnant with her second son).

Brigit is a leader in developing women's hockey in the USA by organizing and conducting skills clinics and tournaments. She was Athlete of the Year in underwater swimming from the U.S. Olympic Committee (1989), and Athlete of the Year from USOA (1990).



Mary Jo Ferris-Fischer

Carol Taylor Rose, 2000, Founder, California Underwater Hockey Referee, Author, Editor



By profession, Carol is a dental hygienist who married a terrestrial marine mammal, a diver. In 1971, she and husband Ron joined a new local dive club, the Amphibians, as charter members where Carol was treasurer before even learning to dive. She developed a work sheet for repetitive dives to facilitate club boat dives. She was certified in 1973 and has held every elective office in the Club since. In 1976, the local dive Council, Central California Council of Dive Clubs (CenCal) needed volunteers and she became secretary, vice president, then president. "Diving needed organization, and I tried my best even though 'organized diver' is a bit of an oxymoron and rather like herding cats."

In 1979 she became the Southwest Pacific regional vice president for the Underwater Society of America (USOA), then treasurer, then president. She started and edited both CenCal and USOA newsletters. She is still USOA president and editor as well as representative to the world dive organization, CMAS.

In 1976 underwater hockey made its first big splash (pun intended) in California. In 1981 CenCal hosted the U.S. national championships, and Carol was hooked. In 1984 USOA hosted the first combined mens/womens world championships, and Carol was chief timer and scorekeeper. In 1990 she was elected secretary for the world UW hockey commission and held the post until 2007.

In 1996 Carol became a qualified world referee and has worked the ref table at the biennial worlds since - South Africa, France, U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand, and a continental event in Italy as well as supporting USOA world UW rugby teams to two world championships - Germany and Norway. She now teaches the introductory referee course in the U.S. and Canada while attending 4-5 national UW hockey events annually and usually one international event as well.

Over the years, she has written and/or edited several manuals: *How to Form a Dive Club*, *How to Start Underwater Hockey, Level One* *UW Hockey Referee Manual* and *USOA UW Hockey Program*.

"I will never forget the wonder of it all. I was 13 years old. I had my head wedged into every nook and cranny with [my dad] hovering over me. The colors were so beautiful. I can replay every second of that dive in my mind even now, 37 years later."

Caroline Fife, M.D., 2000



Scuba Industry, Travel and Recreation Leaders

Since Jacques Cousteau and other pioneers brought scuba to the public consciousness in the 1940s and 1950s, thousands of people have learned to dive and enjoy the delights of the ocean's riches. As the demand became greater, a new industry began to manufacture equipment, the necessary basics such as masks, fins, snorkels, and regulators, as well as wet and dry suits and buoyancy compensators (BCs). Several of our members are pioneers in this field, developing and testing equipment, while others run their own manufacturing companies such as DUI (Diving Unlimited International) and Kirby-Morgan dive systems, which are both highly recognized in the commercial and military diving industries. As the recreational diving industry has grown, the equipment has become technologically improved and easier to use.

These improvements, in turn, sparked the interest to dive in exotic locations with warm, clear water, and the dive travel industry was born. Many of our members own dive shops that are stateside as well as in such exotic locations as Antigua, the Bahamas, Grand Cayman, and Mexico. Some lead diving operations, taking travelers to dive sites both in the United States and abroad. Still others are leaders in the development of diving standards and training manuals. All are interested in the continued development of scuba and recreational diving while ensuring training, safety and diving standards are met.



Top left to right: Kim Sheckler; Laurie Wilson; Lorraine Sadler, Stan Waterman & Jennifer King; bottom left to right: Susan Long, Lorraine Sadler, Betsy Royal

Renee Steven "Apple" Applegate, 2003, Mexico
Dive Shop Owner, Master Instructor

Owner and manager of operations at Dive Paradise in Cozumel, Mexico, Apple is a PADI master scuba instructor with over 30 years of diving and training experience. Apple began her diving in the challenging waters off the coast of California. A former head nurse, she spent many years teaching scuba in the Red Sea while serving in a Saudi Arabian hospital.

Joan M. "Joanie" Follmer, 2002, Florida
Dive Charter Operator, Boat Captain, Instructor

Joanie holds a 500-ton USCG captain's license and scuba instructor certifications. She became a diver in 1972, an instructor in 1976, a captain in 1978 and began her own charter operation in New Jersey in 1980. In 1981 she sailed her boat, the *Lady Cyana*, south to Florida, landed in the Florida Keys and forgot to go home. There she founded and until 1991 operated Lady Cyana Divers in Islamorada. She then returned to diving and charter projects in New Jersey, Florida and the Caribbean.

Regina Franklin, 2000
Diving Industry Leader



Regina was the first female executive director of DEMA (Diving Equipment and Marketing Association). Her management expertise and approach to implementing change successfully brought the scuba diving industry together in a united effort to increase awareness. Regina has a B.S. from Oral Roberts University and a M.A. from the University of West Florida. She has been involved in the industry since 1993 and has held positions at *Scuba Times* magazine and *Scubapro*.

"Being a part of the WDHOF is a tremendous honor. Being able to combine my love of nature – the water in particular – with my job has been the defining experience of my life."

Renée Duncan, 2000

Jennifer King, 2000, Founder, Florida
Instructor, Writer

Jennifer became certified in 1980 in Micronesia, and has lived and dived in the Bahamas where she had some of her most memorable diving experiences, "interacting with a wild pod of dolphins while diving the Bahamas on New Years Day, 1987. Giant hammerhead sharks (also in the Bahamas) in 1986. Lion fish in Guadalcanal, off a Japanese troop transport sunk in WWII." After a year at the Underwater Explorer's Society (UNEXSO) Bahamas, she served as the first and only woman president of the L.A. County Underwater Instructor's Association, and is also a NAUI and PADI instructor.



In 1993 Jennifer formed the Women's Scuba Association, the first association especially for women divers, and Women's Equipment Test Team (WETT), the first organization dedicated to testing "women specific" equipment on actual women divers. She has authored numerous articles on equipment, travel, and family issues. Her most difficult experience in diving was freeing trapped rays in illegal nets off San Clemente Island, California. "The nylon nets took a lot of sawing to breach, resulting in a free ascent of 100' (which, luckily, we had trained for in L.A. County)."

Susan Long, 2007, California
Dive Industry Leader, Dive Equipment Manufacturer



Susan was not always an enthusiastic advocate of scuba. During her open water dive certification at age 18 she says, "The experience was so disheartening, the water was cold, the wetsuit didn't fit, the surge almost made me throw up, I didn't dive again for 10 years... Thankfully someone took my hand and showed the wonderful underwater world to me, and now I feel compelled to do that for others."

As President, she is proud of her association with Diving Unlimited International (DUI), which is one of the few companies that still manufactures in the United States. She says, "When I came to DUI in 1995, I quickly saw the incredible effect DUI equipment made on its customers. It enabled divers to do more of what they love best—diving. You would not believe the pride that a DUI owner would exude when they told about how much they loved their drysuit. When you combine that with the length of time our employees have been with DUI it was easy to see that DUI was special and I wanted to be a part of it to help it live long into the future." Susan was also DEMA Director from 2005-2008.

Lisa A. Mitchell, 2001, Florida
Master Instructor, Dolphin Trainer



Lisa became a certified diver in 1970 at age 12 and has made her love of the sea a life long pursuit. Since 1976 she has worked in and on the sea as a dolphin trainer, scuba instructor, boat captain, and resort operation manager/owner (in the Caribbean and the U.S.) Lisa is an inaugural recipient of SSI's Platinum Pro 5000 award (1993) and a PADI Master Instructor. Recent career and educational pursuits include working for *Sport Diver* magazine and an MBA from the University of Central Florida.

Connie Lyn Morgan, 2000, California
Dive Equipment Manufacturer, Diving Industry Leader



Connie grew up in the diving and surfing industry. Her father, BevMorgan, opened one of the first dive shops in Southern California, Dive 'N' Surf, and was instrumental in the creation of diving certification programs. She is named after Conrad "Connie" Limbaugh, first diving officer at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She received her L.A. County underwater certification in 1971 and since then has worked various dive jobs from tour guide to her present position as President of Kirby-Morgan Dive Systems, Inc.



Lisa Mitchell

Denise J. Morrisette, 2000, Florida
Scuba Equipment Developer, Instructor, Underwater Photographer



"As a child, I loved to watch Sea Hunt! That is probably where I got the diving bug. When I was college age, I worked on a fishing vessel. One particular day the captain and mate put on some scuba gear and dived under the boat to remedy a problem. That did it! I was certified the beginning of the next year. By the way, my Open Water Course was 6 months long!!!"

Underwater Dynamics, Inc. (UDI) is a company Denise and Jan Neal (WDHOF 2000) formed in 1995. For years they taught all levels of scuba diver training, authored several training manuals and developed diving products and tools including the OCEANx. Her underwater photography has been published in several magazines. She specializes in landscapes, seascapes, and underwater scenes reminiscent of nature's beauty she has experienced in the United States, Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the islands of the Bahamas, Cayman, and Micronesia while teaching technical scuba diving. *"Encounters with sea critters are always the icing on the cake for me. The unexpected, lengthy dive with a whale shark was the best! Jan Neal actually got to ride the big guy for quite a long time! All the wonderful hours I've spent with both captive and wild dolphins are right up there too."*

Denise's most terrifying experience diving was when she was helping to salvage a house boat. *"I had to place a large 'pillow' under a submerged deck so that once inflated, the boat would rise off the river bottom allowing room to put riser straps. I was doing a breath hold dive because the below deck entrance was in a flooded closet and there wasn't enough room to wear scuba. The visibility was about 10 feet. Once I had the pillow in place, I attempted to exit. Water movement had shifted debris so that my exit became blocked and visibility was reduced to zero. As soon as I ripped off my mask, I recognizing that I was in a full state of panic. I tried to calm myself but then the diaphragmatic contractions began. Not ever having had them before and not knowing what they were added more terror to the experience. Finally, I saw a very dim light and swam toward it. I didn't know if it was the good Lord or the surface but whatever it was, I was going for it. The spotter that was supposedly watching out for me left the area because I 'was down there so long' and he had 'something else to do.' I never worked for that company again."*

She is the author of the *Instructors of Play Diving University (IPDU™) Armchair Diver Manual*, which is a spoof on scuba diving. *"All my years of diving experiences has given me a treasure trove of funny material. Besides a diver, I'm also an artist and created the cartoons for the book! Information about this very funny manual (and other artwork) is on my website, www.deniseart.info."*

Margo Peyton, 2009, South Carolina
Diving Industry Leader, Educator, Divemaster



Margo has been in the dive travel industry since 1991. With a degree in Tourism, Margo owned and ran Caribbean Adventures and World Dive Adventures. As a mother of two she realized a need for family dive travel and founded Kids Sea Camp in 2000. Margo's camps certify 600 divers annually and she has created the world's largest family dive program, with 1,600 participants each year. Kids Sea Camp is a fun family vacation geared around educational ocean oriented activities for kids

aged 4-15 and their family members. They travel to 8 countries over 13 weeks during the summer and over Thanksgiving break when the kids are out of school. They support local marine environments and support local youth programs that teach kids about the ocean. Margo is passionate about teaching kids to respect our earth, and especially the oceans. Margo is co-founder of Ocean Wishes Foundation. Besides her own initiatives, Margo contributes to Oceans for Youth, Ocean Pals, and many others. She is a divemaster with numerous specialties, who is committed to educating children about the ocean and ways to protect it. Through this program she has been able to create a "make a wish" for kids who are underprivileged and provide the opportunity for them to become divers by paying for their open water certifications at local dive shops.

Her most memorable experiences reflect her passion: *"In addition to the first time I dove with my own two children, every year is memorable for me...watching all the children make their first open water dive at Kids Sea Camp, their first fish, their first breath in the ocean, watching their excited faces...just knowing that I have the opportunity to do that for so many children is my greatest joy."*



Cathie Cush

Michelle Pugh, 2004, St. Croix, USVI
Dive Shop Owner, Instructor

Michelle's love for the ocean, passion for exploration and environmental activism has guided her diving career since 1970. *"While in high school in Los Angeles, I took a course in marine biology in which we studied tide pools. Looking at the Pacific Ocean I thought, 'if there is this much life in a tide pool, what is out there?' I soon took swimming lessons and took my first dive class at the North Hollywood YMCA and fell in love with it. At the age of 16 I was diving every chance I could. At age 22 I took a break from school to come to St. Croix to help teach dive classes, and have been here ever since, starting my own dive business in 1983."*

Michelle is the founder of Dive Experience, St. Croix's oldest originally owned dive center. She has been teaching diving since 1977 and was the first woman to teach PADI classes in Moscow, Russia. She spearheaded "Project Anchor Away" which established dive moorings throughout St. Croix and serves as a testament to her vision for protecting the marine environment. Michelle's involvement on the Fisheries Advisory Committee and her work to create the East End Marine Park is part of her continued concern for the U.S. Virgin Island marine life. She says, *"My most difficult experience is watching our ocean die. From over fishing to land source pollution I have watched the coral reefs and fish life vanish. Four years ago we finally got gill net fishing banned in the USVI, but fishers still do it, since the fines and enforcement are almost non-existent. My fight to stop this on St. Croix will continue."*

Kathy Rothschild, 2001, New York
Dive Travel Operator, Environmentalist



Kathy learned to dive in 1987. *"I was on vacation in the Yucatan and rented snorkeling gear. Upon returning the gear and mentioning how thrilling it was, they said 'oh you should try diving.' I said okay and five days later I had my open water certification. There was no looking back. I was already in the travel business and with my passion for diving, a shift to dive travel was a natural."* She created Rothschild Dive Safaris and developed dive travel programs to exotic destinations worldwide. Kathy

has dived all over the world and has logged more than 1,000 dives. She was instrumental in opening up the Philippines, South Africa, Malawi, and Jordan as dive destinations for the U.S. market.

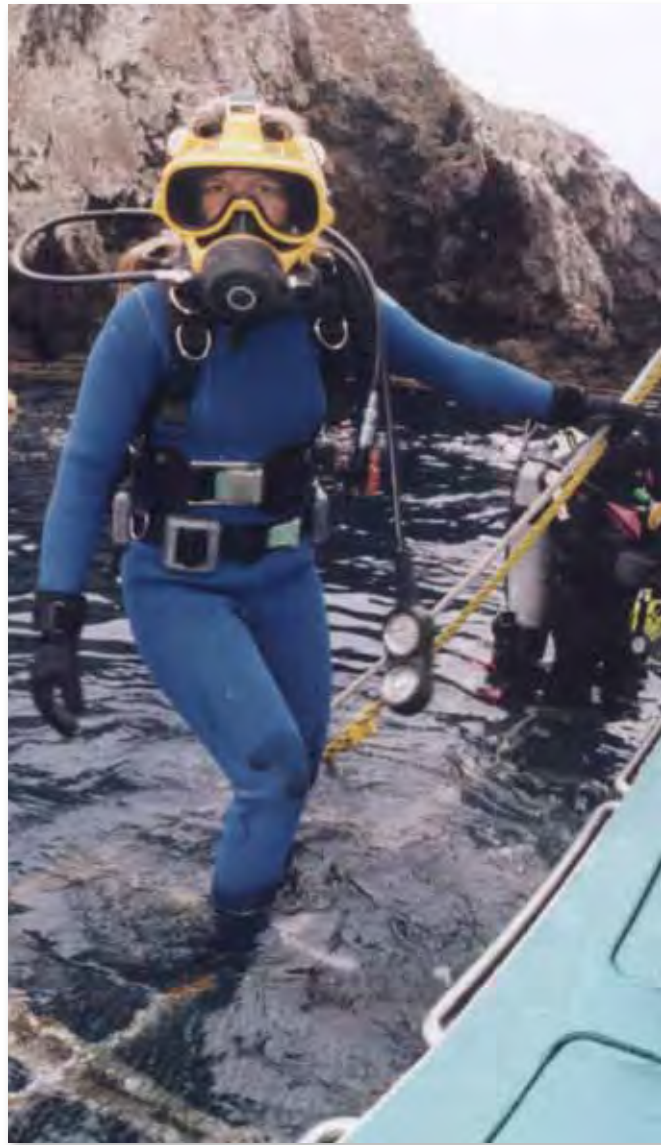
Kathy is strongly committed to the environment and volunteers for the Shark Research Institute as CFO, Center for Marine Conservation, and several other organizations. *"I have retired from the travel industry and have been making a living with my knowledge of Accounting as a QuickBooks Pro Advisor while studying Animal Behavior. I have just received my certification as a dog trainer. I hope to be able to apply my knowledge of clicker training to work with marine life in the future."*

Betsy Royal, 2000, Connecticut
Diving and Ocean Advocate



Betsy began diving while in college in the waters of the Northeast. Following graduation she obtained a position in New York marketing the resort Captain Don's Habitat (Bonaire). Continuing to dive locally and abroad, she became the Northeast Advertising Manager of Skin Diver and in 1982 moved on to a management position with Henderson Aquatics. In 1996 Betsy was named Vice President of Diving for Mares-America,

Corp division of Head Sports. She has served two successive terms on the Board of Directors of DEMA. Betsy is self employed in sales and marketing for watersports products and luxury products.



Connie Lyn Morgan

Lorraine Bemis Sadler, 2000, California
Instructor, Lecturer, Educator



Involved in diving since the late 1960's, Lorraine started teaching marine biology and ecology to scuba divers and to elementary school children in the early 1970's while going to school and working in a dive store. As a marine educator for the University of Southern California Education Outreach Department she instructs all ages on snorkeling, environmental and ecological marine science subjects as well as teaching labs on marine science. Participants of the USC

Family Science programs that are sponsored and conducted at the Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island often comment on her enthusiasm and energy for teaching these courses. One comment often heard is, "When we were snorkeling and we saw our first Garibaldi, Lorraine was so enthusiastic, it was like she was seeing her first Garibaldi, too. But you know that she has seen literally hundreds. It was so neat to see someone who knows so much about our local environment still so enthusiastic during every snorkel." Her passion in teaching about the underwater world has led her to photography which she shows those who come to the island. She "takes her shows on the road," presenting at the inaugural Long Beach Scuba Show, and continuing every year for almost 20 years. She also speaks to dive clubs and civic groups to spread curiosity and interest in the uniqueness of the underwater world.

Lorraine has worked in numerous capacities in the entertainment industry, functioning as location manager on Catalina Island for such television series as *Riptide*, *Fall Guy*, *Acapulco Heat* and *General Hospital*. She also worked as a stunt diver, stand in, Dive Safety Director, equipment/prop/repair manager; as safety diver for underwater cameramen, actors and actresses, and has performed in public service announcements, movies, and pilot series.

She is a founding member of Women's Scuba Association with Jennifer King (WDHOF 2000), and held the position of Equipment Director for WETT, working with new divers incorporating techniques to help women be successful, including gear fitting, and in-water techniques. She modified horse collar vests (BC's) and masks, made wetsuits to fit small women, and worked with the dive store Cal Aquatics to promote more women in diving.

Lorraine volunteers for the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber and is a certified hyperbaric technologist for the chamber. She was the first female pilot of the mini sub *Sea Urchin*. She is a multi qualified scuba instructor with PADI, NAUI, L.A. County and SSI as well as an Instructor Evaluator for SSI, a DAN O₂ Instructor, and Emergency First Responder Instructor for CPR and First Aid. In January 2009 she was nominated for the DAN/Rolox Diver of the Year Award.

Laurie J. Wilson, 2001, Ontario, Canada
Dive Travel Operator



At the age of 4, Laurie Wilson got her first glimpse of diving when she began watching the *Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*. She was so awestruck by what she saw on that T.V. program, that at her next kindergarten show and tell, she outlined to fellow classmates the plight of the blue whale. This interest blossomed into a series of show and tells over several years, covering seashells, seahorses, sea stars, sand dollars, coral and more, causing her 4th grade teacher to

suggest that something land-based would be a really nice change next time. Motivated and undeterred, at 16 Laurie finally encouraged her parents to allow her to take scuba lessons. "When I was old enough to take scuba diving lessons, back in 1977, scuba diving was not an easily accessible sport in central Canada, and certainly not for females. It was considered dangerous and only for macho males who wanted to take risks and tell their buddies about it. My parents tried to throw me off course, by suggesting I take high board diving lessons instead. I reluctantly agreed but at my first high diving class I quickly realized that I really hated heights. But of more critical importance - with this kind of diving you couldn't stay in the water for an enjoyable length of time. This just wouldn't work. Through my persistence, my parents finally relented and allowed me to take scuba diving lessons at the RCMP Scuba club. I was surrounded by RCMP officers who were taking the open water course as part of their job - it was the first step in learning to do underwater Search and Recovery."

Laurie went to Ryerson University in Toronto Canada and received her degree from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management followed by 7 years of hospitality management experience. She continued to get her diving 'fix' with annual dive vacations and by working part-time in a local dive store. Laurie's exposure to dive customers passionate about traveling the world on dive vacations finally persuaded her to take a hiatus from her now full-time career as a hospitality and tourism consultant for a "once-in-a-lifetime" dive safari to some of the top diving destinations in the South and Western Pacific and South East Asia. Laurie has over 20 years of hotel and tourism experience, which she uses to market diving and diving vacations to the travel industry. She is co-founder of the Dive Travel Resource Group, an educational organization that has to-date taught more than 12,000 people how to sell dive travel since 1993. She developed numerous seminars, and presents her business expertise to travel professionals and resort operators worldwide. Laurie is an accredited travel industry trainer who from 1997- 2007 produced the Dive Travel Conference at DEMA. Her work has directly contributed to the increase in dive travel professionalism and expanded its ability to attract "fresh fins" through the mainstream travel industry. Since 2000, she has been an editor of *Caribbean Travel and Life* magazine, where she writes and edits the *Caribbean Travel Specialist* - a Trade Publication designed to bring the latest Caribbean news and specials to the Travel Trade. She also is President of Wilson and Company, which helps destinations, hotels and dive travel-related companies to thrive in the worldwide dive travel industry. "My career highlights include living on Grand Cayman and working at a Dive Resort - giving me the chance to dive almost any day of the year."

Congratulations to the Women Divers Hall of Fame on their 10th Anniversary!

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Commercial Divers

Commercial divers are in demand everywhere in the world, especially in the Gulf of Mexico on oil rigs. Companies are desperate for well-trained, hard working divers. The work is demanding and in some of the harshest environments on earth. Yet, there is a reward that comes from meeting challenges head on. Commercial divers work on a variety of projects, such as repairing hurricane destroyed levees in New Orleans and to fishing vessels in Alaska and other place; inspecting bridges, dams, and oil rigs; salvaging fishing vessels and aircraft; retrieving 'lost' items, and even searching for treasure on long-lost ship wrecks. Commercial diving is a high risk industry, and as in other specialized fields, it requires knowledgeable, safe divers who know and understand commercial diving procedures and practices. Women are still a rarity in the industry, and WDHOF is proud of the few women who comprise membership in this elite field.



Norma & Al Hanson

Tamara "Tammy" Brown, 2000, New Jersey
Commercial Diver, Dive School Administrator, Educator



Tammy started commercial diving at 18 years of age under the direction of her father Captain William Brown, who said "Just do it. Time is money and we have no time to waste." Tammy also worked closely with her mother who was an educator and taught her the business of vocational education and business management. She was promoted to Director of Divers Academy International in 1990. In 2006 Tammy purchased 100% stock of Divers Academy International, one of the largest commercial diving school in the U.S., from her family and relocated the school to a state of the art training facility in a 60' deep, 40 acre dive quarry with a large administration building in southern New Jersey, just outside Atlantic City. Tammy is now the President of the company.

"Commercial diving has been a rewarding and challenging career as a woman in a very demanding industry. Respect was earned not given but well worth the challenge. Every commercial dive is exciting and being able to work with some high tech equipment to inspect bridges, install fiber-optic cables, and working on oil rigs is really awesome. Some of the biggest challenges as a woman has been gaining acceptance and respect from a tough crew of men. But if you keep doing the right thing it all comes together and that is by far easier compared to diving in the Delaware River." Besides being President of her own company, Tammy is also President of the Association of Commercial Diving Educators (1998-2000, 2006-2010) and Chairman for the ACDE/ANSI committee that writes and published the ANSI/ACDE Commercial diving certification standard.



All clippings, photos: Dolores Fisher

Dolores E. Fisher, 2000, deceased
Commercial Diver, Treasure Hunter, Dive Shop Owner



In 1953, Dolores fell in love with both her husband Mel and the ocean. From Montana, she was a stranger to the ocean, but she quickly became a mermaid called "Deo." On their honeymoon, the handsome young couple went diving on shipwrecks in Florida and the Florida Keys. They planned to open a store devoted exclusively to diving. To raise the money they dove commercially for spiny lobster in the frigid California waters. This was grueling but lucrative work, and they built their own business one wall at a time. Finally they opened Mel's Aqua Shop in Redondo Beach, California. This was the first "dive shop" in the world.

Mel and Deo were hugely successful in this pioneering business, training more than 65,000 novices in the science of scuba diving. Dolores set a world underwater endurance record that continues to stand at 55 hours and 37 minutes, [55:37:9.6]. Mel and Deo were the unofficial "king and queen" of the underwater world. In 1963, Deo and Mel embarked on the biggest adventure of their lives. They brought their four children across the country to Florida to begin treasure hunting on the 1715 Fleet. After a couple of successful seasons on the Treasure Coast, Deo and Mel moved to the Keys where they would begin a hunt that would last the rest of their lives, and would define their place in history as the world's greatest treasure hunters. Throughout the search for the *Atocha*, Deo was the person who kept Mel focused. She was a mother not only to her children, but to a family of young treasure hunters with visions of gold and silver in their heads. If they were hungry she would feed them, if they were cold she would clothe them, and if they just needed someone to talk to she was there. Deo supported Mel when everyone else called him a dreamer. She believed in him when no one else would. She encouraged him and her children to follow their dreams. She did everything she could to help her family succeed, even when it got in the way of her own wants or needs. Deo will always be remembered as the backbone of the family business.



MARY GOING TO SURFING
Mrs. Fisher goes with her family just to see something that is not seen in any other place. They go to just a part of the island, but the view is so good, it's worth it.

Norma Hanson, 2001, deceased
Commercial Diver, Author



Norma began hard hat diving in 1949, working in both the commercial abalone and underwater construction industries. By 1957 she'd made over 4,000 dives in heavy gear and was the second woman to join California's Piledrivers, Bridge and Dockworkers Union (Local 2375). Norma held the women's world depth record for diving to 220 feet on air in the 1950s and also performed for the glass bottom boat shows at Catalina Island. One of the most intriguing stories Norma told was about the great white shark that made an unrehearsed appearance during one of the glass-bottom boat shows. As the divers got into position, her husband Al saw the shark and called out a warning to the line tender on the boat. He in turn relayed the message down the line to Norma.

"I look down and here's this great white shark coming up with its mouth wide open, row after row after row of teeth," she recalled. "I was just in position where I could kick it in the nose. I gave it a hard kick and it veered off. Of course, my line tender pulled me right up. I was so frightened I couldn't stand up... I had super-deluxe rubber legs."

Al surfaced to make sure she was OK, and about half an hour later, they were back in the water to do another show. She realized later that her first hint of trouble should have been the absence of the hundreds of little fish that showed up daily to be fed. *"The funny part was, some of the people on the glass-bottom boat saw the whole thing and they thought we had a trained shark," she said. "We heard they wanted to take the trip again so they could take pictures of it."*

In her 50 years as a commercial diver she served as foreman and tender on pile-wrapping and harbor maintenance jobs, did harbor inspections and traveled the world training other commercial divers. With Al she wrote *More Than Nine Lives*, their story as commercial divers on the west coast. Both of them also worked as divers and consultants for Walt Disney Studios, starting with *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. They retired from the industry as chief divers for the Port of Los Angeles in 1988.



The Women's SCUBA Association congratulates the Women Divers Hall of Fame on its Tenth Anniversary!

Jennifer King, President, WSA; WDHOF Founder and Lorraine Sadler, Co-founder, WETT (Women's Equipment Test Team)



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Military Divers

Navy divers “Dive the World Over” and the women in this field are no exception. From performing ship husbandry operations, such as hull cleaning and repair or in-water propeller changes, to salvaging aircraft and other objects at sea, military women divers do it all. Although there are women divers in the U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and many other state and federal agencies, at this time WDHOF primarily includes U.S. Navy divers.

The Navy has had divers since the end of the 19th century, but women only began to penetrate the “hairy-chested deep sea diver” community since the mid-1970s. Women are now divers in a number of Navy and Coast Guard diving communities, both officer and enlisted. The officer communities include Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), Engineering Duty Officer (EDO), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Diving and Salvage (including Mixed Gas HeO2 Officer), Diving Medical Officer (DMO) and Undersea Medical Officer (UMO). Women cannot become Navy SEALs (at this time) because they are considered combat troops. Several Navy women divers have also gone on to become astronauts, a few of whom are among our honorees.

There are fewer women divers in the enlisted ranks. They too are in various communities, including EOD, Diving Medical Technician, Underwater Construction Technicians (Seabees), as well as the indispensable Fleet diver. Enlisted divers fall into three categories. Second Class divers are primarily air divers, qualified in scuba and surface-supplied hardhat diving rigs. First Class divers must have been Second Class divers for a number of years before acquiring the additional training to become mixed gas- as well as dive supervisor-qualified. The third level is Master Diver, which requires years of experience, additional training, and a rigorous qualification process. Master Divers are highly qualified in all aspects of diving and dive supervision. There has been only one female Navy Master Diver, and she is a member of WDHOF.

The military also has saturation divers, both officers and enlisted, a specialty requiring significant additional training. Saturation divers can dive deep and remain at depth for longer periods of time by living in a decompression chamber ‘at depth’ for extended periods.

All military divers must undergo a demanding training program under the auspices of the headquarters for military diving, the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City, Florida. NDSTC trains all military divers with the exception of Navy Special Warfare (SEAL) and Special Forces. The training includes Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and all Marine Corps Combat Divers, and courses range from five weeks for scuba school to six months for many of the other courses, including UMO school. The center has 22 different courses of instruction and a throughput of approximately 1300 students per year, with an average of 300 students in training at any given time. The school conducts approximately ten thousand dives each year.

Astronauts/Aquanauts

Laurel Clark, Commander, MC, USN, M.D.,
Honoree 2003, deceased
Navy Diver, Astronaut, Undersea Medical Officer



Laurel was an astronaut aboard the ill-fated space shuttle Columbia. Although not a member of WDHOF, Commander Clark was honored by WDHOF in 2003 due to her sacrifice as well as “being an explorer of outer space, and inner space, and serving as a Naval Diving Medical and Submarine Officer.” She was recognized for her lifetime underwater accomplishments as well as her diving expertise, leadership, courage, and spirit of exploration. Two plaques were presented in her honor to Navy representatives Captain Marie Knafelc (WDHOF 2000) and Captain Tori Cassano (WDHOF 2004). One plaque is housed at the Naval Medical Undersea Institute in Groton, CT, and the other at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL.

“In the early 1980s I was asked to write a diving woman’s page for the major UK sport diving journal and discovered that there was a great deal of misinformation regarding issues such as the menstrual cycle, and pregnancy and diving. This fact prompted the start of 16 years of data collection.”

Marguerite St. Leger Dowse, 2000

Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, Captain,
USN, 2007, Washington, D.C.
Navy Diver, Astronaut, Engineering Duty Officer



Heidemarie was the first woman U.S. Navy Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) to qualify as a salvage diver. She received her commission through Navy ROTC at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she received her Bachelor and Master degrees in Mechanical Engineering. Her significant Navy diving and salvage projects include the development of the salvage plans for the Peruvian submarine *Pacocha* and the de-stranding of the tanker *Exxon Houston* off of Barbers Point, Hawaii,

in addition to numerous underwater husbandry operations while assigned to the Navy Supervisor of Salvage and Diving. “My first 5-1/2 years of Navy diving were in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I became accustomed to the clear warm water and great visibility, even when diving beneath an aircraft carrier. Then I transferred to the East Coast. I distinctly remember my first ship repair dive in Norfolk, VA. After I descended past the turn of the bilge, it was pitch black, except for my dive light. At one point during the dive, I had a free moment. I turned my light off. It didn’t matter whether my eyes were open or closed – it was the same blackness. My next dive was in Little Creek Harbor in January. The water temperature was 39 degrees. I realized that I had been spoiled for 5-1/2 years.”

In 1996, Heidemarie became a NASA Mission Specialist. A member of the STS-115 shuttle mission team, her extensive experience and training in NASA’s Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory paid off in September, 2006, when she conducted two successful space walks to install solar panels on the International Space Station. “During my first space walk, my partner asked me how I felt. I answered that ‘it was very similar to training in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, just no bubbles and no diver.’” In 2007, she led a 12 day NASA undersea mission in the *Aquarius* habitat, off Key Largo, FL. In 2008, Heidemarie was the lead space walker on the STS-126 shuttle mission to repair the damaged starboard solar array alpha rotary joint on the International Space Station. She has logged almost 28 days in space, and 33 hours and 42 minutes in 5 space walks (ranked #27 for most spacewalk time, as of Jan 2010). Heidemarie retired from NASA in 2009 to return to the U.S. Navy and is now serving at the Naval Sea Systems Command.



Left and right: Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper



Kathryn Sullivan, Captain, USNR (ret), Ph.D., 2008, Ohio
Astronaut, Oceanographer



Kathy received her doctorate in geology from Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia) in 1978. She has been awarded honorary degrees by Kent State University (2002); Ohio Dominican University (1998); Stevens Institute of Technology (1992); State University of New York, Utica (1991); Dalhousie University (1985). Her doctoral studies included participation in a variety of oceanographic expeditions, under the auspices of the U.S. Geological Survey, Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute and the Bedford Institute. Her research included the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Newfoundland Basin and fault zones off the Southern California Coast.

Kathy is the first American woman to walk in space and she is a veteran of three shuttle missions. She is a 2004 inductee to the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Leaving NASA to accept a Presidential appointment to the post of Chief Scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), she oversaw a wide array of research and technology programs ranging from climate and global change to satellites and marine biodiversity. Kathy has served on the Pew Oceans Commission, whose nationwide study and subsequent report, "America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change," called for immediate reform of U.S. ocean laws and policies to avert the decline of ocean wildlife and collapse of ocean ecosystems (2000-2003). An oceanography officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1998-2006, she served on the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel from 1988-1996. She is also a member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Explorers Club, the Society of Woman Geographers and Association of Space Explorers. She served as President and CEO of COSI (Center of Science & Industry) in Columbus, Ohio, and is currently Director of the Battelle Center in the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University. Most recently, Kathy was inducted into the Women in Aviation International Hall of Fame, along with Navy Commander Trish Beckman, who helped repeal the combat exclusion laws for women in aviation, and Retired Coast Guard Vice Admiral Vivian Crea, who was the first woman vice commandant (i.e., second in command of the Coast Guard). As one of our own WDHO members, she stands in GREAT company!

"Never stop learning and improving. At the start of every dive ask yourself 'what can go wrong, and if that does go wrong, do I have a hands-on practiced contingency plan?'"

Andrea Zaferes, 2000

Civil Engineers

Diann Karin Lynn, Captain, CEC, USN (ret), 2000, Virginia
Navy Diver, Civil Engineer Corps Officer, Ocean Engineer



Karin joined the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) in 1977. In 1983 she graduated from the Navy's deep-sea diving school with fellow WDHO member Bobbie Scholley (WDHO 2000) and went on to specialize in diving and underwater systems as the first women diver in the CEC. "Initially trained as a PADI sport diver in 1979, I was able to parlay my familiarity into an assignment to Navy diver training and a masters in Ocean Engineering at the University of Hawaii, both requirements for the Navy's Ocean Facilities Program (OFP).

My Navy diving included a ride in a SEAL Delivery Vehicle as part of my management of a design project for the new Advanced SEAL Delivery Vehicle; in-water observation of a developmental unmanned undersea vehicle; and work on projects varying from stabilizing sea/floor communication cables, in-water repair of warship sonar domes and propellers, and identifying/salvaging downed aircraft parts on the ocean bottom."

Karin relates a memorable experience while a fresh-caught Navy ensign at her first duty station in California. "I fell in with the local Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) guys, who made their living by tying together their 'render safe' and diving areas of expertise. Diving seemed like a pretty fun pastime, so I took lessons with a fellow employee and was soon sport diving off the coast of Newport Beach. Since the "straight stick" CEC jobs in the U.S. Navy turned out to be heading toward fixing toilets and putting down admirals' carpets, I cast about for some other path to serve my country and soon found out there was a small cadre of Navy divers within the CEC, whose mission was to marry naval civil and ocean engineering talents for a wide variety of important underwater applications. The Navy's OFP turned out to be the ultimate panacea for adventurous officers, with a spectrum of jobs ranging from research and development to training and program management (with a bunch of hands-on diving sprinkled in). I was privileged to have my last diving job in the Navy be the Director of this program, with about 60 officers and 30 billets doing great things throughout the Fleet."

"I've had several close calls, but the one that had me most concerned was during a night sport dive off Ocean Beach, California. I'm a pretty strict buddy diver, a fact which saved me from an uncertain fate when I became enmeshed by a current in a gill net at about 30 FSW. My buddy was able to cut me out, leaving a pretty vivid story for the fisherman the next day."

Karin retired from the Navy as a captain with 30 years' service in July 2007, and keeps her marine science credentials active as vice president for publications in the Marine Technology Society, among other endeavors. Karin is also an energetic member of the Women's Aquatic Network and other related professional associations. She is currently enjoying the life of a retired Navy Captain.

Erica Sahler, Captain, CEC, USN, 2002, Virginia
Navy Diver, Civil Engineering Corps Officer, Ocean Engineer



Erica is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a member of the Naval Ocean Facilities Program and serves in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. In 1996 she received her Basic Diving Officer qualifications from the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center, Panama City, FL. Erica holds a master's degree in civil engineering (ocean engineering emphasis) and has served as an engineering project officer for ocean construction projects across the globe. She was the Commanding Officer of Underwater Construction Team TWO from 2001-2003 and is currently serving as the Navy Ocean Facilities Program Director.

Diving and Salvage

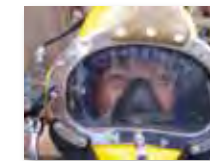
Debra Bodenstedt, Captain, USN, 2002, South Dakota
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer, Commanding Officer



Deb has been a diving and salvage officer since 1983. She is qualified in scuba, surface supplied air, and mixed gas diving. She's been the Commanding Officer of the only unit in the Navy where qualified welders make critical repairs to submarines and other ships. "While serving as Commanding Officer, my team successfully replaced two 30-ton propellers, underwater, on each of two aircraft carriers. This herculean task was completed without incident." Deb was a working diver during the salvage of the space shuttle Challenger, numerous aircraft recovery operations, and on the USS Monitor turret salvage operations. "Serving as a salvage diver during the salvage of the space shuttle Challenger was most gratifying. The hand-over-hand search of hundreds of square miles of the floor of the Atlantic Ocean was tedious, yet so important."

Serving as a ship's husbandry diver, the routine task of plugging a small discharge on the bottom of an aircraft carrier became a little less routine when the tide began to go out, and the distance between the bottom of the carrier and muddy bottom began to shrink. "With no visibility except for my flashlight, I didn't even realize it was happening. My tenders pulled me out safely, but knowing that a 97,000 ton ship had been slowly settling on me was quite unnerving." Deb is qualified as a submarine rescue chamber operator and was at one time the director of the Atlantic Fleet Diving School. "When I joined the Navy, there weren't many opportunities for women to serve on ships. Becoming a diving officer opened the door for me to go to sea, and without that I wouldn't have had the success I've enjoyed over the past 26 years. It has been a blast! I wouldn't change a thing." Deb will retire from the Navy on August 1, 2010.

Bette Bolivar, Captain, USN, 2005, Virginia
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer, Commanding Officer



"Growing up, I watched every episode of the TV Series 'Flipper.' I've always wanted to swim, train, and dive with the dolphins. Born in Hawaii, I've always been a 'water kid' so diving and swimming just came naturally for me." A Navy Diving Officer since 1989

Bette has excelled as a leader in Navy diving. "I've served on five Navy Rescue and Salvage (ARS) ships (USS Reclaimer, USS Grasp, USS Grapple, USS Recovery, and USS Salvor). I was also blessed and fortunate to command Mobile, Diving, and Salvage Unit ONE in 2003. During each assignment, I was part of teams involved in several successful and rewarding aircraft recovery operations, as well as many diving/salvage operations." She was also part of the team, under Captain Bobbie Scholley (WDHO 2000), who dove to recover the turret of the USS Monitor.

While in command of Salvor, she led her crew through a 6-month Western Pacific deployment during which the ship salvaged two crashed Navy fighter aircraft off the coast of Korea in very cold water. "We were engaged in diving operations to recover an Air Force F-16. The water was so cold we were using dry suits. Unfortunately, due to my petite size, the smallest suit available for me to use was still a bit big for me. Air pockets in the elbow and knee joint areas made mobility difficult. Although my buddy and I managed to complete our task, the dive for me was quite challenging and difficult under the circumstances. I was just happy to surface topside when it was all said and done."

Recently returning from Afghanistan, Bette was the first and only woman to date to be nominated, and was a runner up for the Stockdale Leadership award. She currently serves as the Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown.

Mary J. Bonnin, EMCM (SW/MDV), USN (ret), 2001, Florida
Navy Master Diver, Instructor, Diving Safety Advocate



Mary enlisted in the United States Navy in 1972, and trained as an electrician's mate (EM). She graduated top of her class, and later became the first female diver certified in both air and gas diving. During her military career she trained over 1,000 divers, and worked in ship husbandry, salvage, and rescue. She also served as the leading diver safety authority, and went on to become the first and only woman to qualify as a Master Diver. Mary retired from the Navy in 1996 as a Master Chief Petty Officer, her diving career spanning 24 years. The Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport, Washington has dedicated their meeting room as the Mary Bonnin room. She is also featured in the Museum's exhibit on women Navy divers.

Gina Harden, Captain, USNR, 2003, Florida
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer,
Hyperbaric Chamber Operator



"I was a Navy brat and my father was a recruiter. As a National level competitive swimmer growing up, I loved the water and wanted a job where I could be outside and near the sea. I was all about a challenge and taxing myself physically. Navy diving was one of the most, if not the most, challenging career path which had recently opened to women in the military at the time." Gina joined the Navy and went to the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center in 1982. After four years on active duty,

Gina joined the Navy Reserves where she has been mobilized for a total of six years and serving for the last 28 years. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, while serving at Harbor Security/Force Protection for Navy Forces Central Command in Bahrain, Gina was responsible for the deployment of the MK V Marine Mammal System (six dolphins and two sea lions) in support of the war. Gina served as Commanding Officer of a Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) reserve detachment in Jacksonville, Florida where her unit cleared a fishing channel in Cedar Key, Florida. *"We used hydraulic chainsaws and jackhammers in no visibility of water to cut and remove 40 wooden bridge pilings. I gained a healthy respect for umbilical management during that job!"* Gina's other leadership roles include Commanding Officer of a Law Enforcement and Physical Security Unit, and Deputy Commander of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One in San Diego, California. Her most memorable experiences were the ones she experienced the two summers she spent diving on the USS Monitor recovery operations. *"The impact [I felt] as a Navy officer diving on the Navy's first Ironclad Battleship with the first revolving gun turret was monumental. I felt a part of history, a sense of kinship and Naval ancestry with the ship and her crew during the recovery. They were my deepest dives and we were using experimental dive tables. The dive side was filled with purpose and excitement of what we would discover. It was the pinnacle of 30 years of diving in the United States Navy, from a young Ensign to a seasoned mature Captain. Being a female diver in the United States military has become such a large part of who I am. The expectations that people have of me and the opportunities I have been provided to take care of my fellow Sailors."*

Gina recently returned from Afghanistan where for the last year she has served as the Officer in Charge of United States Naval Forces Central Command Forward Headquarters Afghanistan. *"It has been my honor to take care of sailors serving so far from away from home and in what is an unconventional wartime environment for the U.S. Navy. I have been able to do this job and have this great opportunity to serve because of the training and demands of my experiences as a United States Navy Deep Sea Diver!"*

Since her return from Afghanistan, she has been assigned as an Ordnance Inspector for the Navy Ordnance Safety and Security Activity. She is also a licensed Physical Therapist and works for BAE Systems as a Risk Management Consultant.

Martha Herb, Captain, USNR, Ed.D., 2007, Maryland
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer, Commanding Officer



Martha was one of the first three women officers to graduate as a Deep Sea Diving Officer from the Navy School of Diving and Salvage in Washington, D.C. in May 1980. Her diving career boasts such feats as oversight of the Underwater Hull Cleaning program, and Officer in Charge of the Second Class Diving School for the Naval Surface Forces in the Atlantic Fleet, Little Creek, VA.

Martha's service as a Navy Diving Officer culminated in her selection as Commanding Officer (CO) of a Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) reserve detachment, and later as CO of a Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity. *"I took CO of Reserve MDSU DET 608 in Jacksonville from 1994 - 1996. I suspect that since I am such a 'dinosaur' that I was the first woman to do so. Similar to the Active Component, there are only a handful of diving billets in the Reserve Component. So, most of us redefined ourselves and our careers in order to remain relevant. Probably a couple of the most interesting diving jobs we did were in conjunction with National Parks and the BBC on the Arizona and the Utah, which resulted in a tidbit in a diving documentary on the Discovery Channel; diving on a Civil War wreck at the pier in Yorktown; diving on a German U-Boat in the Potomac; and diving and surveying wrecks off Fort Jefferson, FL. The piece I can't measure is the magnitude that being a lady diver had with my work in the international community with our NATO allies. If anything, people were fascinated with the unique qualification."*

Martha is still working in the Navy reserve, and also as a licensed clinical professional counselor in Annapolis, MD. Her husband Mike, also a Navy diver, is retired. Martha expects to be mobilized this May to work with NATO ISAF staff in Afghanistan.



Karin Lynn

Darlene M. Iskra, Commander, USN (ret), Ph.D., 2008, Maryland
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer, Commanding Officer



Darlene graduated from San Francisco State University in 1974, but did not enter the Navy via Officer Candidate School until March 1979 where she was a classmate of Martha Herb (WDHOF 2007). In anticipation of attending the Naval School of Diving and Salvage in Washington, DC starting in November 1979, she and Martha were certified that summer by navy diver and PADI instructor Rudy Watts, who gave them a little bit of a

preview of the harassment they would receive at the school. With Martha, she became one of the first female Diving and Salvage Officers and mixed-gas divers, just behind WDHOF member Sue Trukken (2002). During her first tour on the USS Hector (AR-7), 1980 to 1982, on the only navy diving locker in the San Francisco Bay Area, she served as Diving Officer. During that tour she was responsible for the diving operations on Navy and Coast Guard surface ships stationed throughout the area and beyond, supervising all of the underwater ship husbandry operations and minor salvage operations. While on deployment in Yokosuka, Japan, in 1982, her team conducted the first underwater propeller change overseas; conducted underwater ship repairs and security swims for the USS Kennedy Carrier Battle Group in Mombasa harbor, Kenya; and successfully ensured the certification of the dive boat's portable surface supplied air system.

During her 21 years in the Navy, she served on four different salvage ships, the USS Grasp, the USS Preserver, the USS Hoist, and the USS Opportune where she served as Commanding Officer 1990-1993. Darlene was the first woman in the Navy to command a commissioned vessel, taking over the ship in Naples harbor, December 1990. While in command, her crew participated in the clean-up in Miami and Miami harbor in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Throughout her shipboard tours, Darlene was on hand during all diving evolutions, from training to operational dives. She retired from the Navy in April 2000. *"The most difficult time in the diving community was, as many of the other women Navy divers have already mentioned, the attitude of the men and having to prove oneself over and over again. The diving itself was fun and exhilarating, even though most of the dives were in the muddy, silty waters of harbors. My most memorable dives were during my tour in Guam, 1996-1998, where I was able to dive on an almost weekly basis in the wonderfully clear waters off the islands of Guam, Saipan, Palau, Chuuk, Yap, and Pohnpei, the waters teeming with life. I was also fortunate to swim with the big-mouthed manta rays off Yap Island. What a thrill!"*

Darlene is currently working at the University of Maryland as an instructor and administrator of a Masters degree program for naval officers. She was inducted into her alma mater's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

Karen Kohanowich, Commander, USN (ret), 2001, Virginia
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer, Oceanographer,
NOAA Diver, Instructor, Submersible Pilot



"In high school, I was interested in oceanography and obstacle courses. A scholarship from the Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Corps promised access to obstacle courses, but at the time, women were only allowed to run a scaled-down course, and had less strenuous physical training requirements. Navy divers still used the 200 lb Mk V hard hat diving suit, so all trainees were required to participate in the same training and meet the same standards. I shifted to Navy and never looked back!" As a

Navy midshipman, Karen supported 1,000 FSW saturation dives at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit. After completing Navy Salvage and Diving School in 1983, qualifying in scuba, surface supplied and mixed gas (HeO₂) diving, she served onboard USN and Canadian diving ships in the western Pacific, Caribbean, and North Atlantic. She became a NAUI instructor in 1989, and qualified as a pilot of the Pisces IV submersible in 1993. As a Navy Oceanographer, she was the Navy's liaison to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and coordinated international and environmental ocean policy.

Karen retired from the Navy in July 2005. She is an aquanaut on NOAA's Aquarius undersea laboratory, currently oversees the Aquarius operation, and is a member of NOAA's Dive Control and Safety Board. While still a Navy diver, she related her most difficult diving experience as being a MK 12 air dive to 160 FSW off Chism Do, Korea. *"A strong bottom current tipped the stage at a severe enough angle that the hook holding the state to the winch fell free. The stage fell on top of me, and knocked the other diver free. He was pulled to the surface and put into the chamber for emergency decompression. The dive supervisor sent an emergency diver down my umbilical with the recovered winch hook, but he passed out from CO₂ buildup in the boxy Mk 12 helmet. He was safely recovered, and the other good news was that the tugging on my umbilical freed me from under the stage cross-bar. I made myself 'heavy' and let go of the stage, floating quietly into an extended in-water decompression, emerging a few hours later cold, (tired of Jimmy Buffet), hungry, and mercifully unscathed."*

"As a NOAA diver, I've become more familiar with the different dive regulations and procedures that apply to non-military diving. Despite these differences, the basic tenets for safe diving remain: Plan, Practice, Pay Attention."

"Becoming a diving officer opened the door for me to go to sea, and without that I wouldn't have had the success I've enjoyed over the past 26 years. It has been a blast! I wouldn't change a thing."

Debra Bodenstedt, Captain, USN, 2002

Barbara "Bobbie" Scholley, Captain, USN (ret), 2000, Maryland Navy Diving and Salvage Officer, Commanding Officer



Bobbie retired from the U.S. Navy in 2005 after 25 years of service, 22 of those as a navy diver. "I was fortunate enough to be starting my diving career just as the Navy was opening opportunities for women. Over the course of my career, I was involved with numerous underwater repair operations, salvage operations, including the salvage of TWA Flight 800 in 1996 (where I first met Hillary Vidars, WDHOFF 2000), the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000, and the USS Monitor expeditions in 2001 and 2002. Walking on the

decks of the Civil War ship was like walking the fields of Gettysburg. I could picture those Navy men doing the same sorts of things that we still do in the Navy today, and really got a feel for my heritage as a Naval Officer. In addition to being a beautiful underwater world full of sea life, I was also transported into the 'boots' of my predecessors in 1862. It still gives me goosebumps."

Bobbie has had key leadership roles in many Navy diving operations. She served in three Commanding Officer positions, USS Bolster, a diving and salvage ship; Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit TWO, where she supervised the salvage of the USS Monitor and the USS Cole salvage. She was also CO of Naval Weapons Station, Earle, NJ, and the U.S. Navy's Supervisor of Diving from 1997-1999. "Although I grew up in Illinois, I always considered myself a bit of a 'water rat'. I grew up swimming and water skiing on the Illinois River and loved the water. My father had been in the Navy before he got married and I was intrigued by his stories. So I ended up joining the Navy straight out of college in 1981, thinking I'd do my four years, see the world and then settle down back home in Illinois. Well, that didn't quite happen. I attended dive school in 1983 (with Karin Lynn, WDHOFF 2000) and never looked back. The Navy diving community is very small and close knit and initially it was hard to fit into the male dominated world. But the good news is that once you've proven yourself and been accepted, then the word gets out quickly throughout the whole community, and then you're accepted for life."

I had some really hard times, but more often were the wonderful, amazing times. I was given opportunities to do things that most people never experience and also given positions of leadership and authority that I had never even dreamed would happen. As much as I loved the diving aspects of my career, the most important part was the many friendships that I developed within that community. Now that I'm retired, I'm so lucky to be able to form those same types of strong friendships with members of WDHOFF that I'm now meeting."

"My most difficult dive was during the recovery efforts for TWA Flight 800 that crashed off the coast of Long Island in July 1996. The Navy spent over 4 months searching for and recovering the victims and parts of the aircraft in 120 FSW. The hardest part was not the diving, but handling the emotional aspect of why we were there. Knowing that so many people lost their lives on that flight and that there were so many grieving families and friends was a double edged sword. It was incredibly sad for all the divers involved, but also inspired us to work even harder to try to bring back as much as we could. Most of my responsibility was topside during those long months, but when I did get in the water to make a dive, my biggest fear was that I would find evidence of one of the many children that was lost in the crash. It just broke my heart to think about them. Each day was hard, but the Navy dive family is very strong and we were there to help each other through it. We also had a tremendous amount of support from the residents and local law enforcement on Long Island, which was a huge help. But the biggest thing for all of us was to do what we could to help the families of the victims."

"I had a wonderful diving career in the Navy, one that I never even knew existed as I was growing up. So I'd like to give those young men and women that are thinking about what to do in their future a little advice: set your dreams and goals, work hard toward them and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. But also stay flexible enough to change those goals when something even better presents itself to you. And always enjoy what you're doing."

Bobbie has an MS in National Resource Strategies from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and an honorary Doctorate of Science from Illinois State University (ISU). She is a member of ISU's College of Science and Arts Hall of Fame and currently does consulting work as well as taking care of her seven year old twin daughters. Bobbie is the current WDHOFF President.



Bobbie Scholley



Donna M. Tobias, 2001, Connecticut Navy Enlisted Diver, Hyperbaric Chamber Operator, Instructor



Donna was the first woman to become a U.S. Navy deep sea (hard hat) diver in 1975. As a Hull Technician (HT) she worked on search and salvage operations, underwater repairs of surface ships and submarines, and on the conversion of two YFN craft (barges) into diving and salvage lift-craft. Donna also served as a submarine escape instructor, hyperbaric chamber operator, and a scuba instructor. In the late 1970s she participated in leading-edge hyperbaric treatments for medical purposes and the evaluation of one-person portable recompression chambers.

During the more than 25 years since she became the first female deep-sea diver in the United States Navy, Donna Tobias did not talk much about her pioneering achievements. In fact, she would usually discuss it only when asked. "People didn't get it," Donna said of the difficult challenges she faced as a woman in an exclusively man's world. "It was hard to describe. It is immensely important to me. It's always beating loudly in my chest." After being inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame, Donna still felt that her experiences were hard for others outside the diving community to grasp. She found herself talking about what it was like to put on a heavy diving suit in which her feet filled half of a boot and her struggle to climb up a ladder out of the water. She talked about how women were not permitted to serve in jobs classified as sea duty, such as diving, how a special Pentagon waiver was required for her simply to be stationed for training in Norfolk, VA, and how other Navy divers would stare as she, 5-foot 5-inch, 135 pounds, tried to stand up with diving equipment that weighed about 70 pounds more than she did.

Donna is now a teacher working in a program for students with special needs at New London High School. She is one of three Connecticut women in the Women Divers Hall of Fame.



Donna Tobias



Sue J. Trukken, Commander, USN (ret), 2002, California Navy Diving and Salvage Officer



Sue entered the Navy in 1978 via Officer Candidate School, and attended dive school at the Naval School of Diving and Salvage in Washington, D.C. 1979-1980. "I was interested in diving before I joined the Navy but had neither time nor funds to pursue it. I joined the Navy when the Women at Sea program was just getting started. I had assumed that everybody went to sea when I joined and was rudely awakened to the bad news that very few women went to sea. The Diving Program guaranteed an 'at sea tour'. I decided that I could meet their requirements, passed their test and went to dive school. It was a win/win for me. I was able to do something for the Navy and also do something that I really loved to do."

"Of all my tours the most rewarding was my tour at the Experimental Diving Unit. I felt that I was really contributing to the Navy diving program in equipment and also in diving physiology. Actual in-water experiences...there was the time with the giant catfish that scared the living daylights out of me, the time during a rudder/screw inspection when my diving buddy and I were chased out of the water in Diego Garcia due to protective sharks; the magnificent diving in the Diego Garcia atoll, the time that I thought I was going to die due to loss of air during the mud monster project at Dive School...All are fun stories but long and they deserve a comfortable seat, warm spot by the fire and a good drink."

Sue was the first woman to become a Special Operations officer, the official title of those who are Deep Sea Diving officers. While at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit she became the first female qualified in saturation diving. For most of her career she was the only woman diver assigned to her command. She relates her most difficult experience in diving as the in-water propeller change of the USS Sierra. "The plans did not accurately show how the screw cap was fixed to the shaft and it took us days until we realized that it actually screwed off instead of pulled off. Out of the water on the same ship, my chief told me he would NOT work for a woman and I had to arrange to trade him for a 1st class petty officer who was more than happy to do a chief's job. Overall, my Navy diving experience was excellent, challenging, and a real pleasure to work with like-minded people who were there to help each other out and get the job done. I can't think of a better group of problem solvers and go getters than Navy divers."

"At this stage of life, what I want most of all is to safeguard the ocean so that my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren are able to see and experience its grandeur."

Marie Levine, 2001

Marie Levine, 2001

Marie Levine, 2001

Lori Yost, Captain, USNR, 2003, Pennsylvania
Navy Diving and Salvage Officer



Lori is a Diving officer for the U.S. Naval Reserve. "While attending Slippery Rock University I took a scuba class as one of my electives with my best friend, fell in love immediately, and secured a job with the scuba instructor taking care of all the diving equipment. I joined the Navy Reserve in hopes to further my knowledge and experience in the underwater world. Highlights of my tour with Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit

TWO included the Titan Space Rocket Recovery, the USS Monitor Expedition 2001 (engine recovery), the Ehime Maru Japanese Fishing Vessel Humanitarian Operation, and the USS Monitor Expedition 2002 (turret recovery)." Her most memorable experience was "Touching a piece of Civil War history and helping bring it to the surface for others to see. Each time I touched the turret of the Monitor I got goosebumps, a real life changing experience."

Diving Medical Officers/ Research Scientists

Victoria "Torie" Anne Cassano, Captain,
MC, USN (ret), M.D., Maryland, 2004
Undersea Medical Officer, Instructor, Author



Torie began diving in 1977 and advanced to instructor certification by 1980. She was commissioned in the Navy to attend medical school, and while there she became a certified Navy diver and dived with the British saturation diving team while conducting submarine escape research. She subsequently trained as an Undersea Medical Officer and became certified in surface supplied and mixed gas diving. She is one of the first women to have qualified for

submarine "dolphins," interesting since women have not been able to serve on submarines to this point.

Torie has spent her career in operational undersea medicine and occupational medicine. Prior to her retirement she was an Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, running a graduate training program in undersea and aviation medicine. She retired in 2004 and is currently the Director, Radiation and Physical Exposures Services at Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC. She is a member of the American Medical Society, The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society. She has authored several papers and book chapters.

René S. Hernández, Commander, MSC,
USN, Ph.D., 2004, Maryland
Research Physiologist, NOAA Diver



René started diving in 1971 when she was in 11th grade, in Cleveland OH. After high school she moved to Seattle, WA, trained in Oceanography, and took Bill High's diving program at Highland Community College to become a Diving Technician. After graduation in 1975, she became an Oceanography Tech aboard the NOAA Ship Oceanographer (OSS-01), and the following year became a NOAA Diver. "I have been told that I was the first female Wage Marine NOAA Diver; there were a couple female

NOAA Officers who were NOAA Divers before me, but none were Wage Marine, which is NOAA's version of the 'enlisted' corps." She returned to college, earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 1988, and then joined the Navy as a Research Physiologist. Since that time, she has conducted research on the effects of ionizing radiation in the brain, physical fitness standards for all Navy and Marine Corps personnel, and Hyperbaric Oxygen Toxicity in special forces military divers.

René cites her most difficult experience in diving was being told that she could not assist in planning an open ocean dive aboard the NOAA Ship Oceanographer. "I clearly had more diving training and experience than all the NOAA Officers/NOAA Divers combined after completing Bill High's diving program at Highland Community College, but because I was 'wage marine' (not an officer) and a woman, they wouldn't allow me to even sit in on their planning meetings. A long story short: NOAA divers at that time (1976) were primarily trained as sport divers, so they did not know how to organize a BIG dive—especially an open ocean dive. One group jumped into the water near the stern, another group jumped in off the starboard side and a third went in via the zodiac boat. I saw that the divers off the stern were drifting too close to the props, so I called the bridge and told them to turn off the screws while I retrieved the two officers off the stern. We then had to get the z-boat back aboard the ship, then the ship had to steam out to retrieve the first group that had drifted away, while the ship was without power. Before the dive, I had suggested to one officer that he wear a wet suit; he told me I was insane, since the water was so warm. He ended up getting severely stung by jelly fish tentacles that got caught in his swim suit. He was in quarters for nearly two weeks after that. After Bill High (head of NOAA Diving at the time) heard how I took over management of that dive, he directed the head diver on that ship to ensure that I received the required tests to become a certified NOAA diver at the very next port of call."

René currently works as Navy Company Commander and a research scientist at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (the nation's only military medical school) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Linda C. Hubbell, Lieutenant
Commander, USNR (ret), 2005, Florida
Navy Diver, Conservationist, Researcher



Linda completed PADI Open Water Certification in 1972 while studying Marine Biology. Commissioned in the Navy in 1974, she worked in hydro-acoustics. She was the first female officer to be certified as a Navy scuba diver (April 1976) before the Diving and Salvage community opened to women in 1978. "This gave me the opportunity to work in Marine Conservation and with Marine Mammals for the Navy. While working at the Navy Lab, I discovered a new family, genus and species of Shark

[Megachasm Pelagios], assisted the staff veterinarian with his marine mammal research to improve the immune systems of dolphins, and performed environmental research in harbors and bays, specifically the environmental effects on vitality of coral reef ecosystems in the Hawaiian Islands. After leaving active duty and transitioning to the Reserves, I was assigned as the SEAL Special Warfare Plans officer at Third Fleet (San Diego) and worked with the Amphibious Warfare officer to develop new training sites for the SEALs. I kept up my diving qualifications by diving with Harbor Clearance Unit. I was the first female officer to dive the MK 12 dive system (thank you Master Chief Master Diver Anderson), and I trained for 3 weeks in Oceaneering's JIM One Atmosphere system in August 1979."

Linda was compelled to start diving because she was "a natural." "I love the oceans and everything about them. I have been boating since 9 months of age and swimming since age 6. I wanted to take scuba at age 13 but my parents wouldn't permit it. I took scuba in college and specialized in Marine studies and Oceanography. I was hopelessly hooked. Becoming a Navy diver was the Navy's idea. I was offered a job in Hawaii as the Assistant Bio-Technical Official for Marine Sciences, then I was told I had to go through Navy Diving School to qualify. I told them I was already a certified scuba diver (maybe you can get me out of that Navy School) - what a laugh. And then I was informed I would also be the first female officer to do so."

Linda's most memorable diving experience was in the kelp beds off Catalina Island, CA. "It is like being in an underwater forest with orange garibaldi and sea lions. Wow. The coral reefs that make up Buck Island Marine Preserve, St. Croix, USVI (in the 1970s), swimming with dolphins and hearing the songs of the humpback whales in Hawaii. I just love the oceans."

Today Linda continues to conduct research supporting the Department of Defense.

Marie Knafelc, Captain, MC, USN (ret),
M.D., Ph.D., 2000, Florida
Navy Diver, Undersea Medical Officer, Author



Marie graduated from Gannon in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in biology and entered the Navy in 1980. She earned a doctor of medicine degree from the Temple University School of Medicine and a doctorate in health and human performance from the University of Florida. Marie was an Undersea Medical Officer with the Navy Experimental Diving Unit and qualified in scuba, mixed gas and saturation diving. She has been responsible for

the diagnosis and treatment of diving related illnesses, evaluating diving and life support systems, planning compression and decompression schedules for saturation divers, and demonstrating a working knowledge of submarines and their related medical and psychological aspects.

Marie retired from the Navy in 2004. She worked as a physician with Anteon Corporation in Fairfax, Va., a provider of information technology solutions and engineering services to government clients, and she is contracted to the Navy to support its specialized diving programs. She also volunteers her time as a director of Zoo World in Panama City Beach, FL. She is a member of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society and has authored or co-authored nearly 30 publications.



Marie Knafelc



Educators, Instructors, and Safety Specialists

Educators, inspectors and safety specialists are the backbone of the recreational and commercial diving industries. Without their knowledge and ability to impart their knowledge to others, train divers, and ensure it is accomplished in accordance with recognized safety standards, the industry would be non-existent.

Scuba instructors can be certified by a number of agencies; although the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and National Association of Underwater Instructor (NAUI) are the most well known, but Scuba Schools International (SSI) and the YMCA also provide scuba instruction. There are many levels of instructors, from basic to advanced and in between, air and mixed-gas, as well as instructor-trainers. Students include all ages and abilities, from teens to people with disabilities. Many of our educators are also authors, lecturers, and dive safety specialists.



Top row, left to right: Cecelia Connelly, June Kieser, Andrea Zaferes; middle: Cathryn Castle Whitman; bottom, left to right: Deb Greenhalgh, Fran Gaar, Ella-Jean Morgan & Erin O'Niell

Cecelia A. Connelly, 2001, Deceased Instructor, Wreck Diver



Cecelia was certified in 1972, became a YMCA scuba instructor in 1976 and, up until the time of her illness in March 2002, was the YMCA's oldest active female instructor. Her daughter Mary says, "My mom was always a water baby and loved the ocean. But I think I was actually the impetus that got her started because I wanted to learn to scuba dive. That gave her the excuse, with 10 kids, to be able to sign up to take the course with me. She used to say that she had the 3 F's going against her to be successful in diving. She was 'fat, female and forty.' She had trouble

passing the open water course and had to take it twice, because of the physical skills. (She always blew everyone out of the water with her academic skills.) Three years later, I was in college and she was headed to instructor school. But because she had had trouble, and loved scuba so much, she always took extra special time with any of her students who needed it - especially any women entering the sport. I think it made her a better instructor."

Cecelia, an avid Northeast Wreck Diver and the oldest woman to dive the *Andrea Doria*, was asked to testify in the court case *Gentile v. NOAA* where Gary Gentile, noted author and wreck diver and Peter Hess, a prominent attorney and sport diver, brought suit against NOAA for banning recreational divers from the site of the *USS Monitor*. NOAA was claiming that only individuals such as trained Navy divers had the skill to survive the treacherous waters surrounding the *Monitor*, which was located in 240 feet of water, has strong currents and is dark and cold. Cecelia, less than 5 feet tall, in her late 50's and mother to 10 children was certainly no physical match for a Navy diver. However, she told the judge about her experiences on the *Andrea Doria*. After hearing all of the testimony, the judge ruled in favor of Peter Hess and the recreational sport divers and cited Cecelia, by name, as the reason for his decision.

Cecelia always had a very active interest in Underwater Archaeology. She was a member of the Caesaria Excavation team (Red Sea) in 1983 and 1984, helped to raise some historic canal barges in Northampton, PA and searched for Revolutionary War vessels in Absecon Bay at Cross Creek, NJ. However, her real love was teaching. She was still teaching and actively diving in her 70's. At the time of her death she held the record for being the oldest active YMCA scuba instructor and was a Gold PADI instructor. In her over 30 years with the Allentown YMCA she held every officer position (most more than once) and was a keystone of the organization. At last count she had taught over 500 students and logged over 1,000 hours underwater on 2,000+ dives.

Cecelia died on Feb. 14, 2003.

Cindi Courter, 2000, Virginia Instructor Trainer, Master Instructor, Underwater Photographer



A diver since 1981, Cindi was the second woman SSI Instructor Trainer worldwide and one of the first 100 Instructor Evaluator/ Master Instructors. She's taught hundreds of young people to dive and educated thousands on diving and the underwater environment. "I had always enjoyed snorkeling and exploring what lived under the water's surface. On a trip to the Keys, I snorkeled with my then five-year old, now a doctor. Two years later, while living in Philadelphia, I took my NAUI underwater

class at the Society Hill Club. Certification dives took place in Willow Springs Quarry, complete with thermoclines, in July. It was not easy for me, and the experience later gave me the appreciation, empathy and necessary skills to work with future students, who really wanted to learn to dive, but were experiencing a cadre of problems. After finishing my Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Baltimore, I moved to Virginia Beach and took my Advanced Open Water course in 1984. That was it! From there, I went all the way through the courses becoming an Instructor in 1985, working full-time for Lynnhaven Dive Center (LDC), and obtaining my certifications for Instructor Evaluator and Master Instructor."

From 1991 to 2001, Cindi held the positions of Director of Sponsorship and Chief Development Officer for DAN. Her worst dive experience was "To be on the dive boat when a friend had a heart attack while diving. He was brought to the surface and onto the boat. Another instructor and I worked for an hour on our friend until the Coast Guard helicopter arrived. It shows how fragile and fleeting life can be. We scattered his ashes underwater and placed a memorial marker. The surface was covered with rose petals. This chapter, as well as the numerous incidences heard at DAN, further strengthens the fact that we must make every minute of our lives count both above and below the water's surface.

Cindi is an accomplished underwater photographer with a BFA in photography from Maryland Institute College of Art and holds a Masters degree from Duke University. Since 2006, Cindi has had her own non-profit consulting business working with universities, schools and environmental, research and educational NGOs, as well as editing, writing, and showing her art photography. She served as a Trustee for WDHOF from 2005 - 2007.



Marianne Preker

Susie Fletcher, 2001, deceased
Instructor Trainer



Susie dove actively from 1961 to 1975. Her most important work was done behind the scenes in the area of instructor training. Susie completed applications, schedules, test results and reports from NAUI instructor training courses in the U.S.A. and Europe. She helped her husband direct 37 instructor trainer courses and 13 with other directors. Susie was always there to listen and offer encouragement and advice to both the staff and the candidates. Later in her career she received two Special Service Awards. Susie played a pivotal role in the development of diving instruction.

Frances Gaar, 2001, deceased
Master Instructor, Performer



Frances was a stage and cinema actress and water ballet star who had a long and varied career. She was supervisor and soloist of the famed "Sea Hunt" show at the NY World's Fair in 1964. She was a champion swimmer in college, and declined an offer to be a stand-in for Esther Williams in order to study acting in New York City. The only performer to combine scuba with water ballet, she also gave exhibitions on cruise ships, pioneering and popularizing underwater tours in the Caribbean. She was founder of the Aqua Lung School of NY, where she trained thousands of instructors and students, and was PADI's first woman master instructor. As PADI's first Mid-Atlantic regional director, she conducted its first Instructors' Institute along with PADI's president (and co-founder) Ralph Erickson. After her retirement she worked at the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) where in addition to her duties as secretary-treasurer she was a valuable liaison between it and the other major entertainment unions.

Frances died in 2008, and would have celebrated a very seasoned birthday. She was AGVA's heart and soul and as such carried many of her talents with her to the grave. Her spirit and dedication to AGVA will be celebrated for many seasons to come.



Fran Gaar

Maria Hults, 2000, New York
Instructor, Educator, Author, Underwater Photographer



"I began diving in 1956. 11,000 dives later I still begin every dive with all the enthusiasm of a treasure hunt. To paraphrase an old sailing expression, God send the creatures, what you discover about them makes you a diver. I love it! I have been fortunate enough to have trained New York Fire Companies Rescue One and Two, Green Berets being deployed to Vietnam, and members of the FBI in underwater photography of crime scene investigations. Dramatic, but none was more important to me than the beginning open-water students that come to class unsure, timid, even frightened. When they persevered, they joined the cadre of divers exploring an underwater world just coming into the light. It was the late 60s, early 70s, still they return today, again and again, now bringing their families with them – and I have taught their children, and their grandchildren, and it touches me."

As a photojournalist, Maria has contributed her photographs to leading travel and dive magazines. Her book *Great Dive Destinations of the World* is a result of images captured on her photo-adventure tours. Sadly, she states, "As I travel to familiar dive spots around the world, the oceans I dive in today are sparse when compared to oceans that teemed with abundant life when I began diving, 54 years ago. If that sounds too pessimistic for you, I do not mean that observation in any hopeless way. It is only by seeing these changes and knowing the difference that we begin to unravel the science and the mystery of the forces that are creating current events in our oceans. Only by unraveling that Gordian Knot can we hope to discover the intelligence to preserve and protect this hidden parallelism of forces that are the future ... I do not believe it mere coincidence that we women have been called to scuba diving, and through our scuba diving, to the exploration of the ocean and its life-giving forces. The giving of life is and always has been our destiny."

Paula M. Jerman, 2001, New York
Educator, Conservationist, Instructor



Paula is the former president of the Long Island Divers Association, and co-produced their annual film festivals. She has been a PADI specialty instructor for over 10 years. Paula is dedicated to promoting all aspects of scuba diving; she lectures at dive clubs and seminars, coordinates charters (including AquaWoman dives), and has helped to preserve important local dive sites. She has been actively involved with the Moriches Reef Project and serves on their board. Paula has been featured in various

articles related to dive education, safety, conservation and general promotion of the sport.

Sharon Lee Kegeles, 2006, Florida
Educator, Special Needs Instructor



Sharon is the developer and facilitator of the only academic Bachelor of Science degree in the world dedicated to the global diving industry: Barry University's Sport Management-Diving Industry Program in Miami Shores, Florida. Since 1994, she has made it her mission to prepare emerging professionals for our diverse industry needs as aquatic ambassadors, capable of working with people of all ability levels.

Sharon's true passion is making the underwater world accessible to all who are interested in connecting with this powerful natural resource. Sharon's specialty is training people who do not fit the mold as a "typical" sport diver. Once successful, they become advocates for a lifetime in a variety of environmental causes supported by our industry.

Over the span of her diving career, Sharon has been involved with multiple training organizations (PADI/NAUI/DAN) and is currently Course Director Emeritus with NAUI and a Pro-Trainer with International Association of Handicapped Divers (IHAD). Sharon has also been recognized as a Tourism Ambassador for the island country of Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles.

Sharon has trained professionals for the Nature Foundation of St. Maarten, the Great White Shark Foundation in Cape Town, Africa, McGill University's Marine Science Outpost in Barbados, and other organizations in support of science and diving operations in Palau, Truk Lagoon, Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands, El Salvador, Hawaii, and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. She also advises groups in the training and options for handicapped divers, including the Unlimited Abilities Foundation and the London's Access to Marine Conservation for All program.



June Kieser

June M. Kieser, 2001, New York
Instructor



June was the first woman nationally certified as an instructor in 1959 and the first woman member of the YMCA National Scuba Committee. June started diving in 1952 with her husband and became a volunteer scuba instructor at the YMCA in 1954. She continued to teach through the 1970s. She served on the Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics Scuba Committee and founding member of the Underwater Society of America and the American Littoral Society. She pioneered setting standards for diver and instructor certification. June instructed sport divers, police, fire departments, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy cadets, and lectured extensively on the importance of diver training.

June's most memorable experience occurred in 1959 when she was "working as a tour guide in New York on board the *Calypso*, and got to sit and socialize with Captain Cousteau and the crew after hours." She laments, "When I see the equipment of today and the opportunities for today's divers, both sport and professional, it never ceases to amaze me how far scuba diving has progressed, and I can't help but feel a little envious! ...but there is some satisfaction in knowing that you were there in the beginning—when women divers were few and far between, and even considered strange!"

Lise Kinahan, 2000, Ontario, Canada
Educator, Diving Safety Advocate, Conservationist



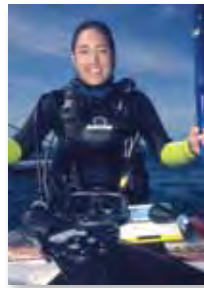
Lise is dedicated to safety, education and conservation as both a diver and an instructor. Her determination inspired hyperbaric chamber and diver safety programs, club diving safety standards, and first aid and CPR for divers courses and an annual harbor clean up. Lise has held positions with the Ontario Underwater Council, NAUI Canada, UHMS (Great Lakes), and the Our World Underwater

Scholarship Society. For 23 years she has been an executive member and program director for Underwater Canada.



Paula Jerman

Holly Martel-Bourbon, 2007, Massachusetts
Diving Safety Advocate, Researcher, Conservationist



Holly is currently the Diving Safety Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. "My areas of diving expertise that got me into WDHO started with my career at the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA. At the time I was hired as a diver, there was not a Diving Safety Officer position (DSO). I was an aquarist but also took on the role of diving safety as there was a need. Through the years I worked on furthering my dive education and

became a dive instructor. I participated in scientific and specimen collection diving as well as recreational diving. I served as a mentor to many students and volunteers while I was at the aquarium. Many of these people are now in the marine field. I also participated in outside nonprofit clubs to further scuba diving as well as help out disabled children. I was awarded several grants by the Aquarium to also pursue my love of marine animals and their conservation. I worked at the Aquarium for almost 20 years and accomplished many pursuits that added to the greater understanding, exploration, safety, conservation, and enjoyment of our underwater world."

Holly has a long history of public service, developing innovative marine conservation and education programs utilizing her underwater expertise. Her deep commitment to the environment is evident through her work with various conservation groups such as PADI's Project Aware, Reef, the New England Aquarium and as an active, working member of the Bahama Conservation Group.

Holly's most memorable experience: "In August of 1999, I participated in a saturation diving mission with NOAA's **Aquarius** habitat in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. During our 10 day mission, we were able to do a night dive. I remember standing in the sand away from the 40' long habitat with my dive buddy. The night was calm and it was as if we were standing on the moon. The entire habitat was outlined with bioluminescence. I remember thinking to myself, this was the coolest thing I had ever done. There was a peacefulness about this moment as well as an amazing feeling that I was participating in a once in a lifetime project."

"...back in 1977, scuba diving was not an easily accessible sport in central Canada, and certainly not for females. It was considered dangerous and only for macho males who wanted to take risks and tell their buddies about it."

Laurie J. Wilson, 2001

Ella-Jean Morgan, 2000, California
Teacher, Trainer, Author, Underwater Photographer



Ella-Jean is an educator, lecturer and author who co-wrote *When Women Dive: A Female's Guide to Both Diving and Snorkeling* (1993) with Erin O'Neill (WDHO 2000). She is a NAUI/Los Angeles County instructor who has taught all levels of diving and specialty certifications. Ella-Jean co-owned the Morgan/O'Neill Underwater Company in Southern California that specialized in training women and co-produced "Neptunes Children," a marine life instructional program. She is also a certified cavern/cave diver. As an underwater researcher she has conducted fish behavior studies, underwater surveys and helped to establish trails for underwater parks. Her most memorable diving experiences include "Interactions with marine life; perfect, unbroken coral reefs in Indonesia; kelp forests on the West Coast; leading all-women dive trips; graduating competent, safe divers." Her most difficult experiences include "Extreme surf entries and exits during her instructor course, and a successful body search." A former instructor, department chair and administrator at the College of Oceanography, a commercial diving school in Wilmington, California, she is now retired and looks forward to investigating the area of "senior" diving.

Devonna Sue Morra, Ph.D., 2000, Pennsylvania
Instructor, Course Director



Sue was a lifeguard at an Indiana state park from 1967 to 1971 when another guard brought scuba equipment to the pool in 1968. She bought all of his equipment and took a certification class at the Jewish Community Center pool in Indianapolis. She has been actively diving ever since. She continued her training and ultimately became one of the first woman PADI course directors in 1976.

Sue has scuba-dived and trained divers throughout the world. Many of her memorable dives occurred while she was living in the Philippines from 1974-1975. "The reefs were beautiful back then. We paid 25 cents to rent a tank and \$7 for the banca boat."

Her most difficult experience occurred when diving the 130 foot, pitch black water of the river channel bottom of Greer's Ferry Lake. They were looking for a ditched setup, at a time before power inflators on BCDs. "I was very negative and sinking into the mud bottom. I grabbed a tree branch and pulled myself up onto it. I threw my regulator out to inflate my BCD and then couldn't find my regulator. I could see the morning headlines in my head. Luckily, I found the regulator, got control of myself, and controlled my rate of ascent once I reached light at about 80 feet."

Sue still enjoys teaching students to dive safely and she utilizes her diving to study coral reef ecology with students in her marine biology programs at Saint Francis University, where she is the Director of Marine Biology.

Rusty Murray Michael, 2003, New Hampshire and South Carolina
Special Needs Instructor

Rusty's interest in teaching person with disabilities started with the Easter Seals swimming program. She co-founded Moray Wheels Adaptive Scuba Association in 1982. Moray Wheels is a scuba club made up of able-bodied and physically disabled divers. The co-founders – Rusty, instructor, Gwen Garrett, occupational therapist, and Kim Walker, instructor – all share an interest teaching people with disabilities to dive. Although Rusty is no longer affiliated with the organization, it continues to support the goal that everyone be able to enjoy the wonders of the aquatic world.

Jan Neal, 2000, Florida
Instructor, Instructional Designer, Author



Jan's diving career has spanned more than 30 years and has focused on education both as an instructor, instructional designer, and author. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Florida and Master of Science in Aeronautics (MSA), with dual specializations in Education and Safety, from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She has a host of certifications as a scuba instructor, course director, and workshop director with NAUI, PADI, SDI, IANTD, DAN, and others, and has trained thousands of divers.

Jan has authored 13 diving texts, developed numerous diving courses, and has written for various diving magazines and scientific journals, including *Dive Training* magazine and the *International Journal of Aviation Testing and Research*. She has written training manuals on everything from open water, nitrox, extended range, mixed gas, breath-hold diving, oxygen blending and service technician, an encyclopedic dictionary on sport and technical diving, and a Master's thesis on flying after diving. She also co-created several diving aids, including the original "Enriched Air Nitrox and Partial Pressure of Oxygen Table" and NAUI's "Oxygen Calculator for Enriched Air Nitrox" (OceanX™).

Jan is also a certified hyperbaric chamber operator and is an SSI Platinum Pro 5000 Diver. "Although I have dived throughout the inland U.S., and the Atlantic, Pacific, and Caribbean, conducted mixed-gas dives over 300 ft-deep, my most memorable dives were a lucky encounter with a large alligator in the shallows of a local spring, a long slow dance with a young whale shark passing offshore from my home, and cavorting with dear 'dol-friends,' a family of dolphins at Marineland, Florida."



Betty Orr

Betty Orr, 2000, North Carolina
Lecturer, Educator



Betty was certified in 1975 while attending graduate school at Wright State University. "I have always been attracted to water, not for sport but because of the concept of a true continuous column of life. The first book I remember reading was a Golden Book version of *Water Water Everywhere*. When I decided to go to graduate school, getting my degree in Aquatic Biology seemed a natural progression of my interests. My goal at that time was to teach Biology, which I was able to do at the community college and university level for 13 years. While in graduate school I signed up for

scuba lessons from the college's instructor, Dan Orr. As they say, the rest is history."

Currently, and for the past 19 years, she has been a full time employee of Divers Alert Network, directing the growth and direction of its dive insurance programs as a Vice President and Director of Insurance Services. She has developed and introduced training programs, edited and co-authored periodicals, training manuals and textbooks, lectured at the most prestigious diving conventions on topics regarding diving fitness and specific to women in diving, and conducted workshops on dive accident statistics, dive safety, oxygen first aid and the diving environment. Her most memorable dive was 25 years ago off shore in Grand Cayman. "[It] put me into one of those truly magical diving experiences. Healthy coral, scads of mollusks with their original inhabitants, mating flamingo tongues, then a huge ball of small silversides came floating down a break in the coral. There must have been hundreds of thousands of them, swimming tightly together rotating rapidly in a tight circle. I swam into the middle and with them darting around and around so close I could feel them brushing me; it was like being in the center of living tornado. So dense were they I could not see up, down or even across to my buddy... it was truly breath taking. When I finally swam out I moved off to the side toward a coral mound to observe them better and get reoriented, except the coral swam away, it was a Goliath Grouper the size of a VW Beetle. There have been more important dives I have been involved in, but never one as beautiful as that one."

Marianne Preker, 2001, Illinois
PADI Master Instructor, Special Needs Instructor



Marianne left her counseling career in 1987 to open Underwater Safaris Scuba Center in Chicago. A PADI master instructor and Handicapped Scuba Association course director, she dreamed of teaching people with disabilities to dive. In 1991, Marianne created Project TIDE (Teenagers in Deep Environments) which has trained hundreds of teens with disabilities to dive in Chicago and the Caribbean. Currently a foundation of Underwater Safaris supports TIDE, scuba programs for inner city teens, and educational programs in Roatan and Papua New Guinea.

of Underwater Safaris supports TIDE, scuba programs for inner city teens, and educational programs in Roatan and Papua New Guinea.

Janice Raber, 2001, New York
 Educator, Writer, Instructor



Janice is a Trustee of the Long Island Divers Association and has served as an officer in various capacities as well as co-producer of their annual film festival. She's been diving since 1986, is an instructor, active member of two dive clubs and has served on the Suffolk County Leisure Services Advisory Board. Janice's efforts opened 15 county and state park dive sites, fostered the purchase of a historic shipwreck site, and helped designate two local marine parks. She arranges beach cleanups, fund-raisers, seminars and exhibits at dive expos, museums and public functions.

A member of the New York State Outdoor Writers Association, Janice has published over one hundred dive articles and is a regular contributor to Long Island Boating World. She is presently active with the Historical Diving Society and the Vintage Equipment Group and is a trustee for WDHOF. *"Besides being a Sea Hunt aficionado, my interest in scuba diving developed in 'mid-life' when my children were no longer babies and my husband was Commander of the Suffolk County Police Marine Bureau with the responsibility for setting up their scuba diving team, although he was not, and is not, a diver. Through contact with divers, I decided to take lessons and absolutely fell in love with the adventure of discovering the undersea world. There was no turning back. I eventually advanced to become an instructor. My most memorable dives were, of course, my very first, when everything was brand new and exciting beyond compare. Even the simplest creature was fascinating to watch. It hasn't changed. Every dive has something memorable to offer. I was thrilled to explore shipwrecks in the Atlantic Ocean, the Great Lakes, rivers in upstate New York, and in Micronesia's Truk Lagoon. I have admired exotic fish on reefs and walls all over the world, and gasped with awe diving next to whale sharks in the Galapagos. I have been shark cage diving, hard hat diving in the Mark V, skin diving and scuba diving and loving it all. Diving has provided some of the most fulfilling, exciting, and memorable experiences of my life. While spending countless hours on a volunteer basis doing what I could to promote diving and sharing my love for it, I have met a tremendous number of wonderful, energetic and interesting people, many of whom have become lifetime friends. A particularly unique privilege was having the opportunity to be on the Navy barge in Hatteras during the salvage and recovery of the Monitor turret. I was thrilled at being able to share in this historic experience, write stories about it, and meet fantastic people, among them Captain Bobbie Scholley (WDHOF 2000), our current President."*

"Diving has given me excitement and tranquility but also created an entire realm of dear friends worldwide."

Patty Newell-Mortara, 2000, Founder

Norine Rouse, 2000, deceased
 Instructor, Educator, Conservationist



Although she didn't start diving until her 40s, Norine, known as the turtle lady, became one of Florida's underwater pioneers and a sought-after expert on sea life. She was one of a handful of people licensed by the state to swim with sea turtles and would steadfastly record and photograph their behavior for scientists' use. From the 1970s to the 1990s, she tracked the annual return of two loggerhead turtles, which she named Raja and Robert, to the same local reefs.

Norine was the first woman hired by UNEXCO (1967), not only to show that women could dive, but that they could instruct as well. She trained more than 1000 students. Norine also taught marine patrol, worked for conservation and preservation of habitats, introduced tourist diving to the Palm Beach, Florida, area, and helped establish its artificial reef committee. Norine was a champion and protector of sea creatures for more than four decades. When she met divers who worried about their safety with marine animals, she reminded them that *"People are in the sea by virtue of technology, not biology; thus, we are neither the natural enemy nor the natural food of any creature in the sea."* Norine's buddies saw regular evidence of this, watching large loggerhead sea turtles remain entirely undisturbed as Norine gently scraped barnacles from their shells and skin. *"If there's not an ocean in heaven, I'm not going,"* she said in a 1997 interview.

During a 1981 excursion in the Sea of Cortez, she rode a manta ray for the 18 most thrilling minutes of her life, she said. Later that year, she was paralyzed from the waist down from the bends. Doctors told her to give up diving, but she continued diving for rehabilitation. She was walking on her own after several months. She recorded every dive, stopping at 7,650 in 1995, when the lingering effects of the bends forced her to stay ashore. Norine passed away in December of 2005. She is missed by those who knew her, both above and below the surface.



Norine Rouse

Jeanne Bear Sleeper, 2000, California
 Editor, Author, Underwater Photographer,
 Instructional Designer



Jeanne became a NAUI Instructor in 1971, *"when a young woman's opinion and skills were not only not valued, but also were denigrated as a threat to the macho world order."* She has served as NAUI's Mid-America Branch Manager, NAUI Headquarters Special Projects Director and Editor of NAUI News. Jeanne has edited numerous diving publications and articles and co-authored the book *Women Underwater* with Susan Bangasser (WDHOF

2000). She is the recipient of NAUI's Service Award for directing five IQ Conferences and redesigning their instructor training courses. Jeanne was the first woman Instructor Course Director. She was a Contributing Editor to *Skin Diver*, authoring the Advanced Diving column for seven years.

Diving and the marine environment, for Jeanne, *"have become my life long passion. It is my adventure. It is my reason to travel. It is my tool to share the beauty and joy of God's creatures. It is the force that binds me to the greatest friends through my life. It has paid the rent some months. It is key to my mental health. It has allowed me to inspire and empower women to achieve their dreams. It has opened doors to institutions that have given me vehicles to educate about clean water, the environment and the power of one. It has given me a way to make a difference and have legacy, in lieu of having children. It has given me paths of service to my community. It has kept alive childlike wonder in my soul. It is my retreat from 21st century stressful life. It is a day without makeup, curled hair, business suits, stiff shoes or Blackberry rings."*

Jeanne continues to dive, write and photograph around the world. She began volunteer diving at the Aquarium of the Pacific (AOP) in Long Beach, CA before there were fish in the exhibits, and continues her service as a Dive Team Leader and as an AOP Trustee. Jeanne also serves on the Advisory Board of Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA.



Janice Raber



Janice Raber

Eveline Verdier, 2001, France
 Instructor Trainer



Eveline is a very experienced French and Swiss instructor trainer. For over 15 years she has been actively involved with training dive instructors in Europe for various agencies (PADI, TDI, CMAS and DAN), amongst other qualifications, Eveline is one of the few female trimix instructor trainers worldwide. In 2000, she became the deepest female closed circuit rebreather diver in Europe while diving on the *Protee*, a French WWII submarine wreck that lies in 130 meters (423 feet) of water. Eveline is also the regional manager for DAN Europe in France.

Frankie Wingert, 2000, Florida
 Instructor



Frankie started her career with the YMCA National Scuba Program in 1976 as a part-time employee. She soon worked her way up through the ranks of Office Manager and Assistant National Director. By 1986 Frankie attained the position of National Director, which she held until her retirement in 1994. She was certified as a diver in 1978 and holds the status of an Assistant Instructor. Frankie is a member of the YMCA National Scuba Committee and is the recipient of several awards.



Janice Raber & Paula Jerman

Andrea Zaferes, 2000, New York
 Teacher, Diving Safety Advocate



Andrea teaches over 1000 police, fire, EMS and sport divers worldwide annually in everything from underwater vehicle extrication, sport diving rescue, and field neurological evaluations, to homicidal drowning investigations, which is her passion. She began her diving career at age 16 when she took a sport diver rescue class

with Walt "Butch" Hendrick, her mentor. She has learned numerous lessons from her dive experiences, most important of which is the "three strikes and you're out" rule, meaning if there are 3 incidents at the start of the dive, such as flooded masks, faulty regulators, inattention to surrounding dangers, then it is not your day to dive.

She explains, "The first dive of my divemaster class was a night boat dive off NYC. There were several great white sightings off NJ beaches. We were all nervous for a variety of reasons. From more than 10 feet away with his back to me, Butch caught me inhaling rather than exhaling first when checking my regulator while watching me in the reflection of Hillary's (Viders WDHO 2000) glasses. Shortly after entering the water I got my regulator first stage entangled in the current line. While repeating 'I'm fine, I'm fine' I disentangled myself and started swimming to the anchor line. Being wary of further entanglement I didn't hold on to the geriatric line and thus began drifting away in the current. Butch commanded 'hold onto the line, are you okay?' I gave the okay signal. 'No, I want to hear it' he said. At that point my big black rubber Triview mask flooded and I snorted in water. My internal voice kept saying 'I'm fine, I'm fine...' as I attempted to splutter out some aloud. In less than 30 seconds Butch went from street clothes into his dive gear and was next to me saying 'you're out, 3 strikes you're out.' I begged him to stay. He explained the 3-strike-not-your-day-to-dive rule. I begged. He relented saying that I was about to learn the reason behind the rule. It never dawned on me that my buddy was observant of any of my three problems till Butch pointed it out. 'Inattentive divemasters breed inattentive divers.' So that was strike 4. At depth one of my two lights went dead. 'I'm fine, I'm fine...' I started noticing that I was becoming more buoyant while I started observing that my buddy was nowhere to be seen. The sand I got in my second stage from a previous dive was probably jamming up my drysuit inflator valve. By the time I realized where the air was coming from I was upside down, legs inflated, holding onto a rock while fumbling to disconnect the inflator hose, with my light waving around loose on its lanyard. The drysuit course I took didn't stress that skill, which suddenly became very, very important. I never forgot that rule and use it whenever I teach and dive."

Andrea also says, "Never stop learning and improving. At the start of every dive ask yourself 'what can go wrong, and if that does go wrong, do I have a hands-on practiced contingency plan?'" And "Question everything you are taught. Never take anything at face value."

JoAnn Zigahn, 2001, New York
 Educator, Diving and Ocean Advocate



JoAnn began diving in 1981 in the Northeast and many destinations abroad. "I first went diving, in the Red Sea, with the man who would become my husband, Armand Zigahn (Zig), himself an avid diver, and a man I would follow anywhere. That is still true today. The diving was exceptional, a dazzling display of soft corals illuminated in bright sunlight and highlighted by an incredible array of fish. I was captivated, dazzled,

couldn't wait for my next dive. Just one problem, I wasn't certified. Maybe I wasn't certified then, but by the time we left for home I was certified with more than twenty-five dives in my log and a smile on my face that lit up the night sky over New York as our plane landed home."

For the past 20 years JoAnn has played a major role in the Beneath the Sea underwater exposition and is currently their vice president of administration. She has worked endlessly to promote the sport of scuba diving and ocean awareness and conservation to the general public, young and old alike. She is a director of BTS' national Ocean Pals Project, which for 15 years has encouraged young people to become aware of and share their concerns for the marine environment. "Many years ago, I joined my husband, Zig, in his work at Beneath the Sea bringing diving and dive education to the general public. Across the twenty-five years we have worked together, as my mentors told me, I should stay strong, and get the job done. Today, Beneath the Sea is the largest underwater exposition in the Americas. What began all those years ago, today may be seen in Beneath the Sea, Ocean Pals, Marine Careers, The Sea of Tomorrow Society, our charity and our educational strength."



JoAnn Zigahn

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Diving Medicine and Physiology Experts

All divers, in their basic training, learn a little bit about the effects of diving on the human body. There are a number of hazards, including drowning, oxygen toxicity, nitrogen narcosis, and decompression sickness (i.e., “the bends”). Most divers learn how to avoid these hazards, but many succumb nonetheless. Those who study diving medicine are physicians who have focused on diving as an adjunct to their profession. Diving Medical Officers (DMOs) may be internists, ob/gyn, surgeons, dentists, or in any other medical specialty. Their diving expertise allows them to treat divers who have succumbed to diving illnesses.

Diving Medical Technicians (DMTs) are also highly knowledgeable about diving illnesses, but are not physicians. DMTs serve at the critical first steps in the diving medicine chain, caring for injured divers on the scene and acting as tenders (staying with the patient and giving appropriate treatment at the instruction of a DMO) in the hyperbaric chamber. DMTs provide an alternative to the presence of qualified hyperbaric physicians at every dive site. They can respond to emergency medical situations and communicate effectively with a physician located remotely, as well as provide emergency care and basic life support in the field while stabilizing injured divers. They report accidents and treatment to medical authorities and perform tasks and give aid as directed by proper authorities. DMTs also encourage fitness in the diving community and keep accurate, informative records, such as neurological assessments and histories of divers in their care, where appropriate, such as in military and commercial diving.

Hyperbaric chamber operators are trained in the use of the recompression chamber, ensuring air quality and that the depths required by the hyperbaric treatment table are maintained while the chamber is in operation. Maintaining air quality can be tricky as the chamber can get very warm while in use, and the breathing mixture can become stale, so the air must be purged while keeping it at the correct depth. This requires a steady hand and patience. A chamber operator does not need to be a DMT to operate the chamber.

WDHOF also has in its ranks many women who do research on the physiological aspects of diving, particularly on women. Others study the effects of cold water on the diver, as well as depth, breathing gas mixtures, and the like. Some of our members have written books, both for the medical professional, and for the diving lay person, to understand the various physiological aspects of the sport.



Maida Taylor



Caroline Fife



Jan Neal

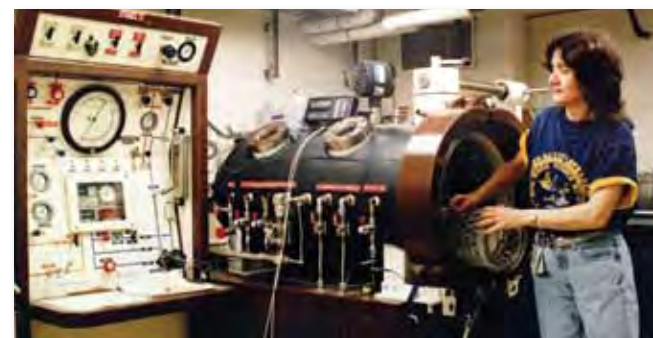
Susan Bangasser, Ph.D, 2000, California
Physiologist, Instructor



Susan was attracted to diving by the sense of exploration combined with the beauty of the environment. As a Ph.D. in biochemistry, the science of diving fascinated her. When investigating the physiological effects of diving on women she found that speculation was the predominant source of information. Some actual research was conducted which she incorporated into articles to share with the diving public. Susan investigated and wrote articles on the physiological aspects

of women divers during the late 1970s and 1980s. She co-authored *Women Underwater*, with fellow Hall of Famer Jeanne Bear Sleeper (WDHOF 2000) in 1979, the first book about women and diving. Her interest in safe diving for women resulted in surveys of divers and promotion of investigation of controversial issues such as diving during pregnancy and susceptibility to decompression sickness. Susan also established a support hotline to help resolve issues and concerns for women divers.

“With 39 years of diving experience, I have a flood of memorable experiences. I certified or assisted in certifying thousands of divers over the years and diving with students certainly provides ample opportunities for memorable experiences. However, the fondest memories I have are of diving experiences with my late husband and our two daughters. The highlights of one experience are the following: While diving in rough waters and strong currents at Darwin’s Arch in the Galapagos, my daughter and I separated from our group (a long story) swam through a school of at least 200 hammerhead sharks as we moved away from the island; encountered a down draft and ended up in deeper water. On our ascent in an area void of life had to dodge a whale shark swimming into us. Since I began diving in 1970, some of my earlier dives were primitive compared to today’s standards. Also, I began diving in the cold lakes and quarries of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. My early dive equipment did not include a buoyancy device, so getting off the bottom while wearing a full wet suit with a weight belt was a challenge. Also, there were no pressure gauges, so the old “J valve” provided 300 psi when you ran out of air, providing the valve was in the correct position. The visibility in the lakes and quarries was typically minimal making it extremely difficult to keep with your buddy. In addition, we made ice dives before dry suits were readily available. Although the cold water was a problem, memories of my wet suit and booties freezing into a semi-solid crunch after exiting the water still linger. I look back on those early dives with fond memories but certainly do not want to repeat them.”



Susan Kayar

Jolie Bookspan, Ph.D., 2000
Physiologist, Researcher, Author



Jolie earned Master’s and Doctoral degrees in exercise physiology and underwater physiology, a fellowship in cold immersion, and post docs in saturation decompression and altitude. Five years of her work involved unraveling the results of extension of oxygen tolerance research in humans. Far from the ivory tower, her father taught her to dive in the Hudson River in the late 1960s. After serving in the Army she went on to become research scientist for the Navy, demonstrating

that even skilled scientists can make the same mistake twice. She taught anatomy at a college in México in the mountains where the entrance exam was getting up there without a nosebleed, and has conducted intensive work in cold chambers and other areas that funding organizations often ignore. She says, “My interest in cold was sparked as a small child as I sat in the snow watching my grandfather, the oldest member of the Brooklyn Icebergs, walk barefoot across the ice on Coney Island beach to go swimming as he did every day. Later I became a long distance competition swimmer racing in cold lakes and rivers. Still later I did two Army tours overseas stationed in mountains so cold you could frostbite your thighs just trying to go to the bathroom. Today, as a researcher in thermoregulation and immersion, I have the luxury of studying cold water immersion 23 hours a day and still have time to call out for pizza.”

Jolie is also the author of many books and papers; of particular interest to the non-professional diver is her 2000 book *Diving Physiology in Plain English*. A woman of many talents, she is also an instructor of martial arts, swimming, life guarding, health and physical training, first aid, CPR, scuba, and yoga. She is a Martial Arts Hall of Fame Black Belt, and former undefeated full-contact ring boxer. She and her husband Sensei Paul Plevakas were named the International Martial Arts Association Black Belt Man and Woman of the Year, 2004-2005, and both are International Black Belt Hall of Fame honorees.

Helen T. Davis, 2000, Texas
Diving Medical Educator



Helen established Medical Seminars, Inc. over 22 years ago to meet the need for physicians to be educated in diving medicine. Because of her efforts, there are now more than 5,000 physicians trained to provide medical advice and treatment of diving accidents. Helen has received a NOGI Award for Education and an Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society Award in Education. She continues to enjoy scuba

diving in addition to providing seminars for physicians of all specialties.

Caroline Fife, M.D., 2000, Texas
Hyperbaric Physiologist, Diving Medical Physician, Author



Carolyn began her interest in hyperbaric medicine in the mid to late 1970s, when she worked with her father on hydrogen-oxygen (heliox) mixtures for deep diving at the Texas A and M Hyperbaric Laboratory, which also did important early work on the effects of diving and pregnancy. *"I followed my father into the sea. He was a hyperbaric physiologist. My first night dive was on the Hydrolab in the Bahamas and I will never forget the wonder of it all. I was 13 years old. I had my head wedged into every nook and cranny with him hovering over me. The colors were so beautiful. I can replay every second of that dive in my mind even now, 37 years later. I have many wonderful memories of diving with my father. He always made me feel that I could do anything I wanted to do with my life."* She was also a physician for the Institute of Nautical Archeology while completing a Fellowship in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine at Duke University's E.G. Hall Laboratory. Her most exciting dive was with the Institute of Nautical Archeology on the *Kas* wreck, the world's oldest shipwreck which lies off the southwestern coast of Turkey. *"I was helping Robin Piercy raise the last row of Bronze Age copper ingots and as we lifted one from the final layer (hundreds had tipped over in layers like dominoes) leaves began floating up towards our masks which had been trapped in a pocket for 3000 years from the dunnage used to pad them on their voyage. Underneath the leaves were the last fragments of the keel of the world's oldest ship."* As a practicing dive medicine physician and lecturer, she conducts hypobaric decompression research for NASA and was the first woman president of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society. She is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Intellisure, Inc.

Erika-Leigh Haley, 2000, British Columbia, Canada
Hyperbaric Chamber Operator, Instructor



By the age of 24 Erika had become one of the first female trimix instructors in the world and held the position of National Director of Training at IANTD Canada. She was awarded for her Outstanding Achievement in Diving by a Canadian by *Diver* magazine; she was co-founder and team leader of Zero Gravity and the Transpac 95 Expedition, and was featured on *The Learning Channel* series *SEATEK for Transpac 95*. Erika is certified as an EMT/DMT with approximately 150 hyperbaric chamber runs at the non-profit Cornerstone Hyperbaric and Medical facility in Honduras. She was the dive operations manager at Sunset House, Grand Cayman (the first woman to hold that position) and was co-designer of an online education system for dive training. Currently, Erica is selling real estate in Campbell River BC, and of course, has been a top producer there for the past three years!

Susan R. Kayar, Ph.D., 2001, New Mexico
Diving Research Scientist, Biologist



Hooked on diving since the age of 16, Susan became interested in diving and marine biology through Jacques Cousteau's films and books. Susan's most widely publicized diving research was in biochemical decompression. *"This is a revolutionary approach to lowering decompression sickness risk by ingesting microbes and using them to create a chemical scrubber unit in the intestines. The microbes metabolize a small but critical fraction of the inert portion of a diver's breathing mixture, thus lowering the risk of DCS throughout the dive. This approach has been successfully demonstrated in animal models on simulated ultradeep dives (500-2000 fsw) with hydrogen as the inert gas component. It has been patented and is awaiting a developmental transition to nitrogen diving and human use."*

Susan spent 10 years in the Environmental Physiology Department of the U.S. Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland where she performed research on the physiology of ultra-deep diving, and was eventually the head of the decompression sickness research program. Susan has also managed biomedical research programs for the National Institutes of Health, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

"My most memorable experiences in diving are the times when I have the feeling that the life on a coral reef has accepted that I am part of the community; schools of fish open and swim with and around me, turtles glance at me but maintain their course swimming by, shrimp try to groom my fingers. There is no comparable experience in the natural world on land."



Left to right: Susan Kayar, Edith Hoffman, Erika-Leigh Haley, Cathy Church

Marguerite St. Leger Dowse, 2000, England
BioMedical Researcher



Marguerite started diving in the early 1980s because she wanted to do underwater photography and subsequently has dived worldwide. *"In the early 1980s I was asked to write a diving woman's page for the major UK sport diving journal and discovered that there was a great deal of misinformation regarding issues such as the menstrual cycle, and pregnancy and diving. This fact prompted the start of 16 years of data collection."* Marguerite joined the Diving Diseases Research Centre (DDRC) Plymouth, UK, in 1989, initiating the women and diving projects, for 16 years focusing on the effects of diving on women. Other topics have included diving and asthma, diving with diabetes, reverse dive profiles and flying after treatment for DCS. She was awarded the British Sub Aqua Club's Duke of Edinburgh Prize for research in 1994 and again in 2006, being the only person to be awarded the accolade twice. Also in 2006 she received the European Underwater and Baromedical Society's Zetterstrom Award. Current research projects include studies into the general health of divers and a separate study investigating the reasons for delay in seeking help and treatment for decompression illness. She co-edited a book with Dr. Caroline Fife (WDHOF 2000) *Women and Pressure: Altitude and Diving* (2010) which addresses all aspects of women in the hypo/hyperbaric environments. Marguerite's research specializes in field data real world information from divers.

Maida Beth Taylor, M.D., 2000, California
Diving Medical Physician, Educator



A graduate of Stanford University School of Medicine, Maida has been diving since 1975. Her contribution to the industry has been primarily through research. She authored a chapter in Bove's and Davis' text *Diving Medicine* and has also authored a chapter on female health and medical aspects of diving in a new book *Women and Pressure: Altitude and Diving*, edited by Caroline Fife and Marguerite St. Leger Dowse (WDHOF 2000). She is also an active contributor to DAN's flagship magazine *Alert Diver*. Maida studies the interactions and influences of hormones, menstruation, menopause and pregnancy on fitness, and in particular the effect of hormonal changes in diving performance. Her current area of concern is the effects of low estrogen states on the incidence and severity of decompression illness. She has been a lecturer on women and diving for NOAA and Undersea Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) sponsored courses, and consistently teaches that gender does not affect diving risks - that well conditioned and well trained women are great divers. *"I see WDHOF as a stage for recognizing and honoring the contributions that women have made to the world of diving and hyperbarics. And even though I expect women to excel, I continue to be awed by the success and achievements of our members. I am privileged to stand with each and every one."*

Bridget K. Thomas, R.N., M.S.N., 2001, North Carolina
Diving Medicine Educator



Bridget was certified in 1982. In 1990, she left her career in nursing education to pursue the development of the International Society of Aquatic Medicine (ISAM). ISAM offers diving related medical seminars whereby physicians and staff can be brought up-to-date on the latest technology and sciences of undersea exploration while also exploring the conditions found in the Caribbean, South Pacific, and Middle East. Under Bridget's direction, the membership has more than tripled and the number of medical conferences increased from one to five per year.

Donna Marie Uguccioni, 2006, North Carolina
Diving Physiologist



Donna is the Research Coordinator for the Divers Alert Network. Her research interests focus on dive safety and education in recreational scuba diving and she has been an important member of the DAN research and medical staff for 12 years. Donna collects and coordinates data on a number of major studies such as diabetes research, recreational dive professionals and technical diving. Donna is also a prolific writer, and in an active contributor to DAN's *Alert Diver* magazine. She is also an EMT, CHT, and DMT, and a research technician who assists at the Duke University Hyperbaric Chamber and participates in chamber studies as a Doppler or TEE technician.

Karen Van Hoesen, M.D., 2000, California
Instructor, Lecturer, Diving Medical Physician

Karen has been a diver since 1980 and a NAUI instructor since 1983. She attended Duke University where she conducted research with DAN and their hyperbaric center. Karen is the recipient of the 1988 Our World Underwater Scholarship, and has been secretary of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society and president of its Pacific Chapter. She publishes and lectures internationally on diving medicine. Karen is director of UCSD Diving Medicine Center in San Diego, California, where she specializes in scuba physicals and diving related issues.

"Don't ever try to do something that doesn't interest you. If you do what you love, you'll succeed."

Ruth Dixon Turner, Ph.D., 2001



Marine Scientists and Conservationists

Marine science is a very broad field—incorporating oceanography, marine biology, marine chemistry, marine geology, marine physics, and underwater environmental conservation—and can be either research-based or applied technologies.

Oceanography is an earth science that studies the ocean. It covers a wide range of topics, including marine organisms and ecosystem dynamics; ocean currents, waves, and geophysical fluid dynamics; plate tectonics and the geology of the sea floor; and fluxes of various chemical substances and physical properties within the ocean and across its boundaries. These diverse topics reflect multiple disciplines that oceanographers blend to further knowledge of the world ocean and understanding of processes within it: biology, chemistry, geology, meteorology, and physics.

Marine biology is the study of the plants, animals and microbes of the oceans and their ecological interaction with the ocean; marine chemistry is the study of the chemistry of the ocean and its chemical interaction with the atmosphere; marine geology, is the study of the geology of the ocean floor including plate tectonics; marine physics studies the ocean's physical attributes including temperature-salinity structure, mixing, waves, internal waves, surface tides, internal tides, and currents. Of particular interest is the behavior of sound (acoustical oceanography), light (optical oceanography) and radio waves in the ocean. Data derived from the work of oceanographers are used in marine engineering, in the design and building of oil platforms, ships, harbors, and other structures that allow us to use the ocean safely.

Marine conservation has become more visible in recent years as more of us earth-dwelling creatures realize the importance of the ocean to the earth's health. The loss of underwater habitats such as reefs and coastal wetlands, and concerns about hazardous dumping, overfishing, and the health of marine mammals are all a part of the conservation efforts of our members. Marine conservation is also both a research-based and applied science, thus the close relationship with the other underwater sciences discussed above.



Hillary Vidars



Jennifer Wheaton

Carole Baldwin, Ph.D., 2003, Florida
Scientist, Author, Educator, Public Speaker



"I grew up in coastal South Carolina and developed an early love for the ocean. Although I had many career interests when I started college, my childhood experiences along the coast played a large role in my deciding to study marine biology. I learned to dive as part of my work – initially off Charleston, SC. That wasn't a lot of fun since the visibility was so poor, but I eventually got to dive in some beautiful spots, including Tonga, Galapagos, Belize, and many other Caribbean localities."

Carole is a Curator of Fishes at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. She is a well-respected authority on marine biology. Her research is focused on diversity and evolution of tropical-marine and deep-sea fishes. Current projects include investigations of speciation in tropical Atlantic shore fishes. She has published over four dozen scientific articles and has given numerous professional and public addresses throughout the world. Her work includes the discovery of new species of fishes in Belize, Tobago, Cook Islands, Australia, El Salvador and the Galápagos Islands, where she has had many memorable dives.

"Once when I was collecting fishes at 30 ft. on a vertical wall, I felt something tugging at my fins. I was starting to get annoyed because I thought one of my dive buddies was just being careless and bumping into me. When I finally turned around and looked, I saw that the culprits were three adorable young sea lions. They seemed to be saying 'come play with us' – so I did some flips and twists and 'played' with them for a while. Also memorable in the Galapagos were times when I was enveloped in schools of salemas, jacks, or barracuda – all so close that I could reach out and touch them. I felt like a fish." She has devoted much time to sharing her experiences as a marine biologist with school students and the general public and is a positive role model for young girls considering careers in science. Carole is senior author of *One Fish, Two Fish, Crawfish, Bluefish – The Smithsonian Sustainable Seafood Cookbook*. Most recently, she served as a lead scientist of the Smithsonian's new Sant Ocean Hall, which opened September 2008.



Sherry Reed

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2007, Philippines
Conservationist



President Macapagal-Arroyo is the 14th and current President of the Philippines, and the second woman to be that country's President. A professor of economics, she entered government in 1987, serving in the Department of Trade and Industry under President Corazon Aquino. Her environmental policies focus on an economic model where there is no conflict between a clean, healthy environment and a robust economy. She endorses

business initiatives that support both goals. She enacted a national conservation policy for the Philippines to protect the archipelagic country's unique and rich nature, with initial focus on the heart of Southeast Asia's Coral Triangle. Her visionary step in committing her government to protect the nation's natural wealth will benefit the Filipino people, now and in the future. She recognizes that a healthy environment is the foundation for a stable, productive society that can develop in a sustainable manner. In 2005, President Arroyo also signed a Proclamation declaring the second week of January of each year as "Best Dives Philippines Week," promoting scuba diving with an emphasis on protection and conservation of the Philippines' underwater marine resources.

Rena M. Bonem, Ph.D., 2001, Texas
Coral Reef Conservationist, Geologist



Rena is a professor of geology and biology at Baylor University. Her research centers on the development, human impact, and recovery of living coral reefs. Rena's diving activities began with certification in 1971, and in 1975 she became an instructor for YMCA and PADI. Her most memorable diving experience was learning to cave dive in Akumal, Mexico. *"As a geologist, it was a chance to swim through the aquifer and see some of the clearest water I have ever seen. It was exciting, challenging and*

exhilarating. The reefs of the Red Sea, farthest from human impact, made a tremendous impression on me. However, the most memorable experiences may be sharing the excitement and enjoyment of new divers as they venture into the open water. Some of my students have now gone on to obtain Ph.D.s and work on coral reefs and teach their own new divers."

Rena chaired the YMCA Coral Reef Specialty in 1977 and has been a member of their National Advisory Committee since 1989. Rena is a fellow of the Geological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a life member of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. Rena continues to teach and do research full time as a Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in Geology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Lucy Bunkley-Williams, Ph.D., 2005, Puerto Rico
Researcher, Professor



Lucy began diving in 1969, and received her Ph.D. in fish pathology in 1984 from Auburn University. She has studied aquatic animal health around the world, particularly host-parasite relationships, ecology and taxonomy of freshwater and marine fish parasites, including the relationship between water quality and fish parasites, determining the cause of unusual fish diseases, and describing neoplastic diseases. She is also

interested in introductions of exotic diseases and their prevention in island freshwater fishes, as well as in the study of parasites of marine mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. She has documented and explained the most important threats to our coral reefs and marine environment (Coral reef bleaching, sea turtle fibropapillomas, diseases and mass mortalities) in 215 scientific publications and 4 books. She has also named 27 new species of large, external crustacean parasites of fishes seen by divers. Lucy was honored as Outstanding Woman Graduate of Auburn University (1992) and by the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean who permanently renamed their best student paper award the "Bert and Lucy Williams Award" and also presented her with a Distinguished Service Award 2003 and Honorary Lifetime Membership 2002. Lucy's underwater photographs have received awards, appeared in numerous books and articles, and were displayed in the Smithsonian Institution. Her research has been featured in television and radio programs, magazines, and newspaper articles. She is currently a Professor in the Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico.



Anita George-Ares ©2002 John A. Ares

Eugenie Clark, Ph.D., 2000, Florida
Ichthyologist, Shark Researcher, Marine Conservationist,



Eugenie began her diving career as a result of her underwater interests and studies, and is a world-renowned ichthyologist and authority on sharks. Popularly known as "the shark lady," she has dove on some of the most beautiful reefs in the world, including the Red Sea, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Mexico, and many islands in the Caribbean. At 87 years old, she still dives, and her diving career has been "A very happy one for me. I love the camaraderie of my

teams of research divers. I'm particularly pleased that my student and one of my favorite colleagues, Anita George-Ares, was elected as a member of WDHOF in 2008." Eugenie received her Ph.D. in Zoology from New York University in 1950. During her graduate



Eugenie Clark

studies she worked at both Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Woods Hole Biological Station. She has three Honorary Doctors of Science degrees from University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth (1992), University of Guelph, Ontario (1995), and from Long Island University, New York (1995). She has received numerous awards, grants, honors, and other recognition, including having a fish named after her, and being profiled and cited in books, magazines, and newspapers. She has authored books and papers, and been featured in films and documentaries. Her many accomplishments are too numerous to cite in this small space. Although she is now retired from teaching in the Department of Biology at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she joined the faculty in 1968, she still holds the title of Senior Research Scientist and Professor Emerita. She currently works in the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory, which she founded, as Senior Research Scientist and Founding Director.



Eugenie Clark

Kalli De Meyer, 2003, Bonaire
Coral Reef Conservationist

Kalli is the Executive Director for The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), an umbrella organization established in 2008 by the protected area management organizations and the nature park organizations of all the Antillean islands and Aruba. For many years she worked for the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), a non-profit agency that aims to assist existing coral parks, help to create new parks, and find ways to engage the dive industry and divers in coral reef conservation. Kalli set up and managed the Bonaire Marine Park from 1991 until its declaration as a national park in 2000. She has been an avid diver since she first donned scuba gear in 1983, and has had a wide range of diving experiences. She has worked in the dive industry in Europe, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. She received her master's degree in oceanography from Southampton University, UK. She lives on Bonaire with her husband and two sons.

Kathleen Dudzinski, Ph.D., 2003, Connecticut
Researcher, Educator

A certified diver since 1987, divemaster since 1989, Kathleen performs scientific research into dolphin communication. Her work has been featured in a large-format film for IMAX theaters by MacGillivray Freeman Films and also in several magazines. Studying dolphins from the underwater perspective, she built a one-of-a-kind camera system that permits recording of video and stereo audio of dolphins within social groups. She also offers a variety of education programs, which allows her to disseminate research results to students of all ages.

Kathleen's most vivid diving memory was a night dive in Key Largo in the late 1980s. "I remember the visibility as almost crystal clear and the current as non-existent. My buddy and I were slowly ascending at the end of our dive and just decided to lie back and float up. At about 25 ft down, the night sky began to shift into focus. The stars were brilliant and numerous ... a perfect night at sea from below and above the surface. My other experiences relate to my studies of dolphins from below the sea surface and are numerous. I feel as though I am a split personality when collecting data. I am the professional scientist documenting everything I possibly can while also feeling like a kid because I get to see these amazing mammals close up. I feel quite lucky to have my vocation also be my avocation. I am honored to be able to share my passion, my work with students of all ages via papers, books and presentations."

She has written several books on her research for adults and children. Her most recent book, *Dolphin Mysteries*, was published in October 2008 by Yale University Press.



PHOTO: JOHN ANDERSON/TERRAMAR PRODUCTIONS.COM

Kathleen Dudzinski

Sylvia Earle, Ph.D., 2000, California
Marine Biologist, Explorer, Author, Lecturer



Sylvia Earle is an icon to the diving community and is known by name by anyone who is a diving enthusiast due to her research and exploits over the years. Called "Her Deepness" by the *New Yorker* and the *New York Times*, and a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress, she was honored at the 2009 BTS as the Diver of the Year.

In 1966 Sylvia received her Ph.D. from Duke. Her dissertation "Phaeophyta of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico" created a sensation in the

oceanographic community. Never before had a marine scientist made such a long and detailed first-hand study of aquatic plant life. Since then she has made a lifelong project of cataloguing every species of plant that can be found in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1979, Sylvia walked untethered on the sea floor at a lower depth than any living human being before or since. In the JIM, a pressurized one-atmosphere suit, she was carried by a submersible down to the depth of 1,250 feet off the island of Oahu. At the bottom, she detached from the vessel and explored the depths for two and a half hours with only a communication line connecting her to the submersible, and nothing

at all connecting her to the world above. She described this adventure in her 1980 book *Exploring the Deep Frontier*.

She has authored more than 150 scientific, technical, and popular publications, lectured in more than 60 countries, and appeared in hundreds of television productions. She is the author of many books on the ocean, most recently, *Ocean: An Illustrated Atlas*, with Linda K. Glover. To date, she has led more than 70 expeditions and logged more than 6,500 hours underwater, including leading the first team of women aquanauts during the Tektite Project in 1970 and setting a record for solo diving to a depth of 1,000 meters (3,300 feet). In the early 1990s, she took a leave of absence from her companies to serve as Chief Scientist of NOAA. There, among other duties, she was responsible for monitoring the health of the nation's waters. In this capacity she also reported on the environmental damage wrought by Iraq's burning of the Kuwaiti oil fields.

Today, Sylvia is Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society. More recently, she led the Google Ocean Advisory Council, a team of 30 marine scientists providing content and scientific oversight for the "Ocean in Google Earth." Among the more than 100 national and international honors she has received is the 2009 TED Prize for her proposal to establish a global network of marine protected areas. She calls these marine preserves "hope spots... to save and restore... the blue heart of the planet."



Sylvia Earle

Pauline Fiene, 2009, Hawaii
Marine Biologist, Author



Pauline has studied Hawaiian marine life for over twenty years, discovering over 60 new species of opisthobranchs, two of which have been named for her. Through detailed annual monitoring she discovered the spawning pattern of Hawaii's most abundant species of coral – the first time spawning had been determined for this species worldwide – and now offers trips for divers to see this rare daylight spawning event. She is coauthor of several books including *Molokini*

- *Hawaii's Island Marine Sanctuary* and *Diving Hawaii and Midway*. With Cory Pittman she has just launched the comprehensive Hawaiian nudibranch website, www.seaslugsofhawaii.com

Anita George-Ares, 2009, New York
Marine Biologist, Shark Researcher, Instructor



Anita has masters and doctoral degrees in Marine Biology. Her research at the Smithsonian Museum identified five new fish species. Anita studied fish systematics and behavior with Dr. Eugenie Clark (WDHOF 2000) in Japan, Mexico, and the Red Sea. She was a research diver for the Sleeping Shark Expeditions featured in *National Geographic's* April 1975 issue. Anita was a scuba instructor for 26 years. She is a published marine scientist and underwater photographer

and consults for industry on marine environmental issues. She is an industry representative for the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre's Proteus Partnership for improving marine biodiversity data. She first started diving with her father Ralph who was a YMCA scuba instructor in the early 1960's. "As a child I watched *Sea Hunt* with him and also the Jacques Cousteau movie *Silent World* that my father would show at the YMCA. I was also impressed with the movie about the Tarpon Springs, Florida sponge divers *Beyond the 12 Mile Reef*. As far as I can remember I always wanted to be underwater instead of swimming on the surface. I did my first ocean skin dive at age 10 off the Florida Keys. Despite getting seasick on the boat and inhaling seawater in my snorkel, I was instantly addicted for life! I still remember to this day what I saw underwater on my first ocean skin dive."

Her many memorable diving experiences include participating as a research diver on three National Geographic Sleeping Shark Expeditions and fending off a shark with only a clipboard; diving in Papua New Guinea, seeing a dog-tooth tuna seize a jack in its jaws and then outswim two black-tipped reef sharks that were trying to steal the jack; swimming through the surgical operating room of the *Shinkoku Maru* wreck in Truk Lagoon; experiencing the incredible biodiversity of North Sulawesi, Indonesia; diving with the sea lion colony of Los Islotes, Baja California; night dives in the Red Sea to observe the bioluminescent fish *Photoblepharon*; and night dives in Belize and Hawaii to watch tarpon and manta rays feed on the marine life attracted by the dive lights.

Vallorie J. Hodges, 2004, Oregon
Scientific Diver, Master Instructor, Diving Safety Advocate



Vallorie has been involved in the diving industry since 1983; she is a Master Instructor, scientific diver and has more than 7,100 dives. She is the Dive Safety Officer for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, where she recruits, trains and manages 150 volunteer and staff divers. One of Vallorie's most memorable diving experiences was "a nearly spiritual interaction I had with a blue shark off the Catalina coast. We had just finished an eventful shark diving venture and all the

clients were back on the boat. I was loitering at the stern of the vessel just a couple of feet under the surface goofing around – in a prone position face up, just hanging neutrally buoyant watching my bubbles when one of the blue sharks that had been cruising around the cage earlier came back and slid right over the top of me, touching his belly to mine. I was shocked into stillness and he came around again, so I slid out of my gloves and held my hands out, and he slid his belly over my fingertips. His rough skin felt amazing. This went on for nearly ten minutes, while I wiggled my fingers and touched him on every pass. He slowed down each time, until he was pausing for a second or two, and once parked himself on my stomach for an incredible few seconds, with his mouth right above my face. Everyone on the boat was in a right state, taking photos and squealing. Then with a flick of his caudal fin he was gone!"

Vallorie has served on the boards of the American Academy of Underwater Science and the Association of Dive Program Administrators. "My expertise in diving started with law enforcement/public safety diving where I specialized in crime scene investigations and was actively involved in local dive rescue work, including the recovery of two homicide victims and evidence leading to conviction. My experiences broadened when I became an instructor and worked in both the commercial diving industry and later full time in the recreational diving industry, certifying over 1000 students and leading tours in the South Pacific and Australia. I then became involved in the scientific diving community, which led to what has now been an 11 year career as a Dive Safety Officer in the public aquarium industry and a Scientific Diving Instructor. In my current position I have trained and supervise 165 volunteer and staff divers for aquarium diving and open water collections and research projects. These opportunities to study a variety of marine organisms have led to published papers on diving with captive sharks and contributions to publications on octopuses."

"As an environmentalist, I am committed to making a difference on this planet through my images and lectures."

Lynn Funkhouser, 2000

Edith D. Hoffman, 2000, New Jersey
Conservationist, Author



Edith was certified in 1978. Her work in Marine Conservation entailed working for 5 years with the Long Island Sound Study Committee. Diving at the foot of the Statue of Liberty, she joined Captains Bill Redding and Howard Klein in an effort to attract more attention to the conditions of the waters in New York Harbor. One of her memorable experiences was on this dive, "I will say that it wasn't salt water in my mask when I surfaced in NY Harbor and looked up into the face of Miss Liberty." Edith also originated the first Aquawomen Dive in the North East, which will be celebrating its 30th year in 2010, in order to bring more women into open ocean diving. She has also written a children's book about her diving experiences in order to encourage the next generation. "I am proud to be a member of WDHO. I am most proud of the people who work diligently to see that scholarships are awarded to deserving women to pursue marine science studies." She is a recipient of the BTS Diver of the Year Award (1986).

Lauren Hutton, 2007, California
Conservationist, Scuba Advocate



Lauren Hutton is an icon. The world's first supermodel, she appeared on 25 *Vogue* covers, became a highly successful actress, hosted a nightly national interview show, produced and narrated documentary films, and in 2002, launched her signature line of cosmetics: Lauren Hutton's Good Stuff. Lauren has been diving worldwide since the 1960s, using her celebrity status to promote marine conservation and the sport of diving in countless interviews, articles, and celebrity appearances at dive shows. An avid shark conservationist, Lauren is a strong supporter of the Shark Research Institute, "A world without sharks is too godless for me...and from what I've seen diving since 1965 all over the world, we're headed there at the speed of light."



Marie Levine

Marie Levine, 2001, New Jersey
Shark Researcher, Conservationist, Author



Marie was certified in 1969. For the past 30 years she has promoted marine conservation through photographs, magazine articles and books. "I began a career in nautical archaeology but never lost a fascination for sharks. In 1991, I formed the Shark Research Institute (SRI) as a multidisciplinary scientific/conservation organization. Over the years, SRI expanded and is now an international organization with field stations and researchers studying many species of sharks throughout the world, and fighting for their protection."

SRI focus is on creating value for sharks as living resources for the dive tourism industry. Under her stewardship the organization expanded its membership to more than 8,000, and has research / conservation projects in Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Mexico, Mozambique, the Philippines, Seychelles, South Africa, Taiwan, Tanzania, the UK and the USA. In October 1999, as a direct result of SRI's work in Honduras, that government declared the whale shark a protected species in their territorial waters. In addition to papers for scientific journals and chapters in books, she has authored two childrens' books on sharks: *Sharks: Q and A*, and *Great White Sharks*. "I am grateful to have seen so many of the ocean's wonders. While I've dived in many areas of the world as an air-dependent biped with intense curiosity, there are many more places I want to dive. At this stage of life, what I want most of all is to safeguard the ocean so that my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren are able to see and experience its grandeur (otherwise they may think I've lost my marbles and spinning fantasy when I tell them what I've seen). It is the reason I will fight to my last breath to protect the sea and its creatures."



Marie Levine

Shirley Pomponi, Ph.D., 2003, Florida
Marine Biologist, Researcher, Author



Shirley grew up in Southern New Jersey, received her Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Miami, and joined Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in 1984, where she is President and CEO. "I always wanted to be a nurse, but my mom encouraged me to go to college and if I still wanted to be a nurse when I finished college, she'd support my decision. During the summer following my sophomore year at the College of St. Elizabeth, the nuns decided to take a group of 10 students (all female) to the Virgin Islands for a 3-week marine ecology field class. This was a very big deal at the time (1969); the college had never sponsored a field trip too far away from New Jersey!!! Mom and Dad agreed to let me go and I got certified to dive during the semester before the field trip. It was glorious! Beautiful reefs just offshore from the beach house where we stayed—beach entry dives that were WAY better than the beach entry certification dive I made off Asbury Park (brrrrrr...no dry suit, not even a wet suit). From that point on, my career aspirations changed, and I decided that I wanted to be a marine biologist. As a result of being in the right place at the right time with the right expertise, I got to do both: marine biology and biomedical research! I just celebrated my 25th year in biomedical marine research at Harbor Branch!"

Shirley has authored or co-authored more than 90 scientific publications. She has led numerous research expeditions to the tropical western Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, the Galapagos Islands, numerous South Pacific islands, Lake Baikal, Russia, and many other places. "My most memorable diving experiences have been the dives I've made in the Johnson-Sea-Link manned submersibles. These 4-person subs dive to 3000 ft, and I've made about 300 dives. Many of my dives have been with my husband, Don Liberatore, who is the chief submersible pilot for the JSLs. There are so many memorable dives, but perhaps the MOST memorable was the one that Don and I made off San Salvador, in the Bahamas. The conditions were just perfect—no current, 100+ ft visibility, and a remarkable environment: lots of outcrops, boulders, and ridges, all covered with sponges and gorgonians. Don "flew" the sub in and out of the outcrops from about 400 ft to about 2400 ft, and it was just magical."

Shirley chairs or is a member of numerous organizations that support the ocean environment and is currently Vice-Chair of the Women Divers Hall of Fame. "Diving has really enriched my life. I've been lucky enough to see and study the incredible biodiversity that exists in the ocean, and even more importantly, I've developed strong friendships with people whom I met as a result of diving. And that includes WDHO members with whom I've had the pleasure to work for the past 6 years!"

Ellen J. Prager, Ph.D., 2000, Florida
Scientist, Author

As a marine scientist, Ellen has participated in diving expeditions throughout the Pacific and Caribbean, and has lived and worked in an undersea laboratory in the Florida Keys. In 1995 she was the resident director of the National Undersea Research Center in the Bahamas. Ellen has been interviewed on NBC's *Today* show, written dispatches for MSNBC and worked with the National Geographic Society. In 2002 she testified to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, advocating for federal monies to invest in the education of future ocean scientists, and for an office of outreach and education for NOAA, much like there is for NASA. She argues that our oceans, critical to sustaining earth's life, deserves as much funding and protection as space. McGraw-Hill published her book *The Oceans* with Dr. Sylvia Earle (WDHO 2000) in the spring of 2000. She has also published several books about the earth, the sea, volcanos, and the world around us. She is the Assistant Dean, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami.



Edith Hoffman

Sherry A. Reed, 2002, Florida
Marine Biologist, Instructor, Diving Safety Officer



Sherry received her Open Water dive certification at Wheaton College in Massachusetts. After graduation she accepted a position with the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce, Florida in 1983. After completion of PADI Dive Instructor, instructor level courses in CPR, DAN Oxygen Administration, first aid, and other safety training programs, as well as obtaining her U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License, she became the Diving Safety Officer for the Marine Station in 1989. In 1990, she was elected to the Smithsonian Institution Scientific Diving Control Board and also served as Secretary. Sherry also served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences as Scholarship Chair for several years.

"I have been very fortunate to have participated in many research diving projects. This has allowed me to dive throughout the Caribbean, Honduras, Cape Verde, Canary Islands, Papua New Guinea, Belize, Bahamas, Bermuda, and throughout Florida. Although each research project differs from another, my favorite projects would have to be the collection and taxonomy of algae and seagrasses. To me, the execution and completion of a successful research project is, in itself, a most rewarding and gratifying experience; however, having recently witnessed coral spawn on the reefs of Belize, this truly was an amazing phenomenon."

"As a seasoned Diving Safety Officer, I am trained to recognize and respond to stressful situations. Locally known as 'The Body Magnet', I have rendered aid to countless individuals in need. Although not necessarily difficult experiences, they are indeed, stressful. Having stepped up to render aid, whether first aid or not, has had its own rewards."

*"Diving is just a small portion of the many requirements of my position. I am an expert on the marine flora and fauna of the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding areas, with emphasis on marine plants and invertebrates. I've worked with the BBC on several documentaries on the giant land crab, **Cardisoma guanhumi**. In 2005 I was named Environmental Researcher of the Year by the Conservation Alliance. Suffice it to say, there are hundreds of hours spent in, on, and under the water. Coring, dredging, bottom sampling, caging, are just a handful of my duties. It is a job that requires a great deal of fieldwork, stamina, and tough booties."*

"I am most proud of the people who work diligently to see that scholarships are awarded to deserving women to pursue marine science studies."

Edith D. Hoffman, 2000

Susan Sammon, 2002, New York
Marine Conservationist, Underwater Photographer

Susan has mobilized more than 100 diving expeditions for CEDAM (Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-research) International in support of marine conservation and science. With other volunteer divers, she has participated in 40 expeditions, mapping reefs, collecting fish and studying marine ecosystems. Susan also works with husband, Rick Sammon, capturing underwater images for books and magazines. During an assignment to Siberia, she became one of the first women to dive Russia's legendary Lake Baikal. Currently, she is special projects director for CEDAM International and the Academy of U/W Arts and Sciences.

Dee Scarr, 2000, Bonaire/Colorado
Undersea Naturalist, Environmentalist, Educator, Instructor, Author



Dee has helped people understand marine animals in a very personal way since 1982, diving with people off the island of Bonaire, showing them the wonders of the reef through her "Touch the Sea with Dee Scarr" business; through her published writing and photos; and via her slide shows that have been presented around the world. Scarr's Action in Behalf of Coral (ABC) Project was created in 2005 to help divers understand coral. The ABC Project has so far resulted in the creation of a sticker entitled Living with a Razor Sharp Skeleton, which has been widely distributed and is available free of charge to any dive educator or operator, to help educate divers about why coral is fragile. The ABC Project has published more than 100 photos of coral with educational captions, called Coral Glimpses; work is ongoing to increase publications in which Glimpses appear. *"I can't remember a time I wasn't fascinated by marine creatures; I loved reading about them and looking for them in the ocean off South Florida, where I was lucky enough to grow up. My most memorable diving experience was when my friend Olivia, an octopus, rejected an octopus suitor in favor of my hand. Holding this fascinating pentapod on the end of my arm, Olivia brought me back to her den, much to the disappointment of her suitor."* Dee has written books about the wonders of the ocean for both adults and children, *Touch The Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef*.



Dee Scarr

Nancy Sefton, 2001, Washington
Conservationist, Underwater Photographer, Author



Nancy was certified with double hose regulator and duck feet in 1961. *"Zale Parry (WDHOF 2000) will be happy to know that it was Col. John Craig's early TV series 'Kingdom of the Sea' that launched my diving career."* As a 22 year resident of the Cayman Islands, she started in underwater photography in 1972 and then began publishing articles about the beauty of the reefs and the need for conserving them. Her favorite diving spots include "Off Cocos

Island: gazing down on the backs of a thousand hammerheads as I floated above a huge school. Also, diving a pinnacle in the Banda Sea of Indonesia in a swift current: I never saw so much life in so many colors." She was the first woman to publish an article and undersea photos in *Skin Diver* magazine. In all she authored over 300 illustrated articles about marine life and conservation. *"[Diving] fostered my love for undersea life and its fragility, to the point that today I produce educational videos about our seas, and donate them to schools and libraries in an effort to turn today's children into tomorrow's stewards of our oceans."* She started the Cayman Islands Conservation Association which later became the C.I. National Trust and she is a winner of the 1985 NOGI Award for Arts.



Nancy Sefton



Dee Scarr

Debbie Smith, 2007, South Africa
Shark Researcher, Marine Conservationist, Educator



Debbie has been intricately involved in shark research in South Africa since 1986, focusing on the Raggedtooth shark, Tiger shark, Zambezi shark and Great White shark. She has set up two upmarket dive centers, one in South Africa and one in Seychelles, both having won international awards and the Seychelles having won "Conde Naste travellers choice "Best of the Best" in the world in 2006. Both centers were set up from scratch, mapping and naming

of reefs, marketing, to full operational status and implementing shark research, whale shark research, shark stocks surveys and coral reef monitoring projects into these centers. A third upmarket dive center has recently been set up in South Africa, with a major focus on shark awareness training. Her passion for shark research has grown since she first qualified as an open water diver in 1986. Debbie is extremely passionate about shark research and ocean education and has taken ocean awareness presentations to over 1000 school children thus far, teaching them about the plight of sharks around the world, the need to preserve by education, seafood sustainability, bycatch and the finning industry. Although she is an active Marine Science and Technology Division (MSTD) instructor, specialist dive guide and sardine run underwater guide, the passion to educate on the survival of our oceans and their inhabitants is a major focus. Debbie is the founding member and CEO of an eco-tourism company called "Diving with Sharks" - www.divingwithsharks.co.za. She says, *"I have had the privilege of working with some of the greatest shark researchers in this field."*

Helen K. Talge, Ph.D., 2004, deceased
Coral Reef Conservationist, Researcher

Helen began diving in the late 1950's in Key West, Florida, where she learned from and then later assisted Navy SEAL instructors. She investigated the effects of diving activities on coral reefs and earned her masters degree in Marine Science from the University of South Florida in 1991. The following year NOAA recognized her for her excellence and leadership in coastal and marine research. Helen received her Ph.D. for the examination of the cellular processes associated with bleaching in reef organisms in 2002. Her life was committed to coral reef conservation.

"Diving and the marine environment have given me paths of service to my community. It has kept alive childlike wonder in my soul. It is my retreat from 21st century stressful life. It is a day without makeup, curled hair, business suits, stiff shoes or Blackberry rings."

Jeanne Bear Sleeper, 2000

Mia Jean Tegner, Ph.D., 2002, deceased
Marine Biologist, Researcher, Conservationist



On 7 January 2001 Mia Jean Tegner died in a scuba accident in San Diego, California. She died at the height of her career, doing what she loved best. Mia had a genuine, abiding passion for marine ecology, so it may come as a surprise that she received her Ph.D. in molecular biology. She traded a postdoc in molecular biology for another one to study sea urchin ecology with Paul Dayton. Her scientific excellence was apparent early in her career when she published in such prestigious

journals as *Nature* and *Science*. Mia's research focused on abalone, sea urchins, and the kelp forest communities off southern California. She examined the role of environmental variability on fisheries and kelp forest productivity. Through her creativity and scientific rigor, she was able to detect the impacts of interdecadal shifts in ocean climate. She helped to convince us all of the importance of episodic El Niño events on the structure of kelp communities. Mia did not distinguish between basic and applied research. She studied what she thought was important and made sure it met the most rigorous scientific standards. During her 30 years at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Mia developed a strong research program, publishing more than 70 papers, symposia contributions, and book chapters. Her work helped us change our perspective on the marine environment; what we once thought of as a vast, boundless ocean has now become recognized as a fragile ecosystem in need of conservation. Mia's work gave us a framework for restoring populations and ecosystems. It is an exceptionally difficult task to determine just how many lobsters the kelp forest once harbored.

Mia, in collaboration with Paul, produced seminal work in historical ecology, quantifying how baseline abundances have changed over time. She then took the first steps toward abalone restoration when she co-authored the federal status review of white abalone. As a result of these efforts, white abalone became the first marine invertebrate to be listed as an endangered species. Her work earned her fellowships in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the prestigious Pew Marine Conservation Program. She was in the middle of her Pew research examining the impacts of ocean conditions on abalone productivity when she died. Mia worked closely with natural resource managers and policymakers to sustain California's marine resources and was often quoted by the press. She had a grittiness to her core, and a fierce determination that served her well when dealing with controversial issues such as San Diego wastewater treatment, abalone conservation, and marine reserves. With over 4,000 hours of bottom time she was an exceptional diver. Perhaps as a consequence of her extensive first-hand experience underwater, her abilities as a scientist, and her love of people, she could converse with anyone interested in the ocean, whether scientist, politician, or fisher. Mia's passion for her work was contagious, and often whatever Mia thought was important became the central topic of the panel discussions she participated in. Her work gained her worldwide attention, and her love of travel meant that she and her husband Eric were frequently invited to wonderful and exotic places. Such a blend of passion, courage, scientific excellence, honesty, and integrity is extremely rare and will be sorely missed.

Ruth Dixon Turner, Ph.D., 2001, deceased
Marine Biologist, Researcher



Ruth was a pioneering marine biologist. A professor of biology, emeritus, in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, curator in malacology at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), she had been at Harvard since 1944. Ruth began her scientific and teaching career in a one room schoolhouse in Vermont and went on to become the world's expert on bivalved mollusks called shipworms. These marine borers cause widespread destruction by eating wood in the ocean environment, destroying piers, docks and wooden boats. She became known affectionately as "Lady Wormwood" for her work in this field. It was she who explained why there was little wood left on the sunken liner *Titanic* when it was discovered by fellow scientist Robert Ballard.

Her passion for her work led her where few had gone before. In 1976, she became one of Harvard's first tenured women professors. In 1992, Ruth—who continued to dive until well into her 70s—received the Diver of the Year Award from the Boston Sea Rovers, an organization whose members include underwater filmmakers Stan Waterman and Al Giddings, as well as Jacques Cousteau and Robert Ballard. She was named Woman Pioneer in Oceanography by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, an award given only once before—to Turner's long-time hero, Mary Sears, also of Harvard.

Ruth was one of the most academically published female marine researchers. She was the first female scientist to use *Alvin*, the deep submersible research sub for ocean research. Being the first woman on the *Alvin* was not Turner's main objective when she took her first dive on it in 1971, but it was certainly a big deal to other scientists involved. "I can remember staring out of the sub's window and casually asking Al Vine, (the *Alvin* submarine's namesake and designer) 'What day is today?' He turned to me and answered, 'It's Friday the 13th and here we are taking down the first woman!'"

Ruth's last major project was as a member of the scientific team that investigated the wreck of the *Central America*, a sunken steamer that contained millions in lost gold. It has been called the most scientifically studied shipwreck ever by a Federal judge. "I always say to my students, 'Don't ever try to do something that doesn't interest you. If you do what you love, you'll succeed.' I've loved every minute I've spent with the biologists. I've enjoyed the privilege of these informal experiences. I've gotten paid to do the things I've most wanted to do. What more can you ask?" Ruth died in April 2000.

Hillary Vidars, Ph.D., 2000, Founder, New Jersey
Conservationist, Instructor, Author



Hillary has qualifications and leadership experience in many sectors of the diving industry. In 1999, she founded NAUI's first Environmental Awareness program and was on the BOD of several high-level government environmental organizations and NGOs. She was also one of the few instructors teaching the NAUI/NASAR Dive

Accident Management course to professional dive teams. She is also a contributing editor or writer for most of the dive publications. To date, she has published over 1,000 articles, academic papers, books and book chapters (including the *NOAA Manual*), and video scripts in over 50 publications and media venues internationally, focusing on undersea and hyperbaric physiology and medicine, marine science and conservation, dive training and safety, and historic shipwreck exploration.

Hillary started diving on her honeymoon in Hawaii in 1977. "My husband Richard decided to take a diving intro class and I insisted on accompanying him. Richard said, 'Honey, women don't scuba dive,' whereupon I shot back, 'Well, this one is going to!' That day, I fell in love with the undersea world and the sport of scuba diving. Even before we returned home from our honeymoon, I called New Jersey information and located a dive store where I enrolled us in an Open Water Course. The rest, as they say, is history."

Hillary has received many dive industry awards, which include a 2001 NOGI Award for Distinguished Service, the 2002 Sea-Space/Project AWARE Environmental Award, two National Association of Instructors Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Diving, the Beneath the Sea Medal of Excellence, the Underwater Society of America's Diver of the Year Award in 1997, the DAN/Rolex Diver of the Year Award in 1999. She was also honored by President Clinton and the U.S. Department of the Interior with the prestigious "Take Pride In America Award" (1993). In 2002, she was cited in *Skin Diver* magazine "Milestones Column" as one of the most influential women in diving. She says, "It's been the most significant experience in my life. Although my initial academic training was in a totally different field, I simply can't imagine a life without diving!"



Hillary Vidars



Jennifer Wheaton, 2007, Florida
Coral Reef Ecologist



Jennifer is a nationally recognized expert on octocorals and underwater survey and monitoring. She has conducted underwater surveys for Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) and Key Largo NMS, the precursors to the Florida Keys NMS. Her surveys were instrumental in the legal settlement for a major ship grounding at Dry Tortugas. Jennifer conducted the first surveys of submerged state lands for potential leases for live-rock aquaculture. She served on

advisory panels for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (FMC) and the South Atlantic FMC that produced the first Coral Fishery Management plans for both regions. Jennifer managed and participated in underwater monitoring for the FKNMS Coral Reef Monitoring project, now in its 10th year. She was an organizational member of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences representing her organization until her promotion to leadership of the Ecosystem Assessment and Restoration Section at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in 2002.

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Edie Widder, Ph.D., 2005, Florida
Marine Biologist, Submersible Pilot, Author



Edie received her Ph.D. in neurobiology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1982. Her passion is bioluminescence and she is a world authority in the field, which developed out of her experience piloting the single-person submersibles Wasp and Deep Rover. In 1984, working from Deep Rover, she made the first video recordings of bioluminescence in the ocean and has been striving to accurately quantify the phenomenon ever since. This enterprise involved the development of a number of instrument systems, including the HIDEX-BP on which she co-holds the patent, and which is now the standard in the U.S. Navy for measuring bioluminescence in the world's oceans. She is also the developer of Eye-in-the-Sea, a deep-sea observatory designed to record bioluminescence behaviors in the ocean. She has developed an array of innovative tools for deep-sea exploration, including the world's first deep-sea web cam. She started diving because "I got hooked on the animals in the ocean that make light. My favorite place on the planet is 3000 feet deep in the ocean - ready to enjoy the greatest light show on the planet while surfacing from a dive in a deep diving submersible with the lights out."

Edie has participated in over 60 research expeditions, 39 as chief scientist. Besides authoring over 70 peer-reviewed scientific publications, she has written two children's books including *The Bioluminescence Coloring Book*, and an award winning educational video, *Bioluminescence: Secret Lights in the Sea*. She is President of the Ocean Research and Conservation Association and holds adjunct appointments at Johns Hopkins University, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Florida Atlantic University and Florida Institute of Technology.



Edie Widder

Julianne Ziefle, 2002, Texas
Marine Conservationist, Photographer, Speaker



"I got into diving because of my husband Bill who had been certified in 1971. Bill had become inactive, but one day in 1985, he came home wearing a Tag Heuer watch, and announced, 'We are going to learn to dive.' I was thrilled! I became known internationally for helping thousands of children learn about the marine environment. Many of these youngsters are now adults who are working in marine science in different areas around the world."

Julianne enjoys spending her time working in media and education. She is a professional photographer specializing in marine life habitats in addition to competitive platform and springboard diving. Many of Julianne's clients both present and past have been commissioned by *National Geographic*, *Discovery*, *The History Channel* and magazines including *BBC Wildlife*, *International Wildlife Federation*, *Dive International*, *Skin Diver*, *Sport Diver*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Departures*, and many more. Through her web link to Julianne's Ocean Adventures she has established an online classroom for children which provides photographs and basic information about marine habitats and related environmental issues. In conjunction with her travels around the world, Julianne has been

responsible for providing books and other educational materials to community schools in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. She conducts an annual lecture tour for the children in her local school district and a regional show, SeaSpace, since 1992. In 1999, she was recognized by DAN with the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

Her favorite dive experiences were in Papua New Guinea where she made 5 different trips. "It was life changing to spend time with the local people and to learn about their culture." Her most dangerous: "During a trip to the Solomon Islands in 1995, I was in the water with a group of divers that I had met on the dive boat. I was hovering at 100 feet watching the bubbles of other divers who were way below me. A few moments later, one of them shot up from 180 feet without a mouth piece. I immediately swam over and gave him my octopus regulator. He looked me in the eye and he knew he was safe. That experience changed me. It made me more cautious of every person on every dive boat with whom I would dive." Overall, though, she says, "The twenty five years that I have been diving have been the most fabulous years of my life!"

"Although my initial academic training was in a totally different field, I simply can't imagine a life without diving!"

Hillary Vidars, Ph.D., 2000

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Underwater Archaeologists

Underwater/maritime archaeology is the study of past human life, behaviors and cultures using the physical remains found in salt or fresh water or buried beneath water-logged sediment. Due to the difficulties of accessing underwater sites, the application of archaeology to underwater sites emerged from the skills and tools developed by salvagers, and underwater archaeology initially struggled to establish itself as proper archaeological research.

Underwater archaeological sites consist of wrecks (shipwrecks or aircraft); the remains of structures created in water (such as crannogs, bridges, or harbors); refuse or debris sites where people disposed of their waste, garbage and other items by dumping into the water; or places where people once lived, that have been subsequently covered by water due to rising sea levels or other phenomena. As in commercial, military, and wreck diving, underwater sites are inevitably difficult to access, and more hazardous to explore, compared with working on dry land.

Underwater archaeology is complementary to archaeological research on dry sites, even though materials are preserved differently under water than on land. Artifacts recovered from underwater sites need special care, and due to the nature of the site, underwater hazards abound. The artifacts recovered, as in dry sites, can provide new information and insights into ancient crafts, cultures and lifestyles.



Top & bottom: Joyce Hayward; right: Toni Carrell

Monique J. Bellefeuille, 2002, Ottawa, Canada
Underwater Archaeologist, Wreck Diver, Writer



Monique started diving in 1982 (PADI). She is co-founder of the Ottawa chapter of Save Ontario Shipwrecks and is an active speaker at many U.S. and Canadian scuba shows. "I did a lot of shipwreck historical research and archaeological dive to various Canadian shipwrecks. In participation with other organizations such as POW (Preserve Our Wrecks) and SOS (Save Our Wrecks), we mapped newly discovered shipwrecks. I got my works published in Canadian, European and U.S. scuba diving magazines (French and English), thanks to my life long partner Michael, who supplied all the photographic works." Monique has donated thousand of hours to marine archeology research and studies. She has published in *Skin Diver, Diver, Underwater USA, Divers Free Press, La Plongee*, and *L'Escale Nautique*. She is founder of several non-profit photo contests. She states "I want to take commercialism out of contests; it is art, ecology, preservation and sharing with others the love of the sea and its inhabitants." Monique is the recipient of Ambassador Award 1994 from *La Plongee* magazine, and was recognized and honored in *Diver Express* (Winter 1995). Unfortunately her diving days have come to an end; she states, "I am sad it has come to an end because of my asthma, I never know when it's going to act up, plus I have ostio-arthritis in the back, so I have problems carrying things. I MISS IT SO MUCH, so for those who can still do it, keep on keeping on..."

Toni Carrell, 2001, Texas
Underwater Archaeologist

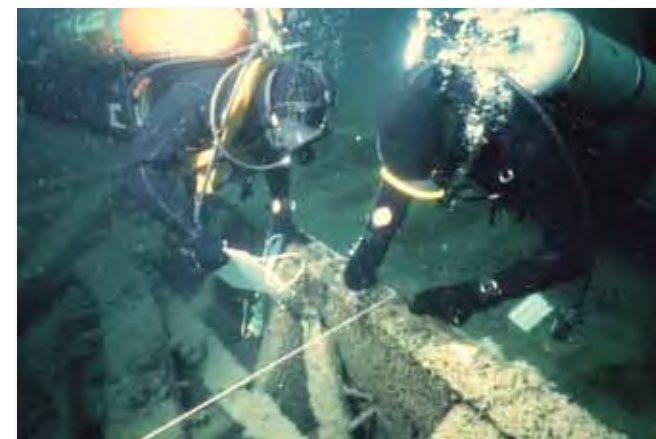


Although fascinated by the show *Sea Hunt* as a child, Toni never expected her life's work would be underwater archaeology. In 1995 she assumed the highest elected position in her field, Chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (currently emeritas member). Along the way Toni worked on sites from the Great Lakes to the Western Pacific, from World War II to early man. Her most difficult dive experience was when "I was wet and cold for weeks on end while diving in a badly leaking drysuit in Lake Superior's 35-degree waters while mapping and photographing shipwreck sites in Isle Royale National Park."

Toni served as the first woman Regional Dive Officer for the National Park Service and worked with U.S. Navy MDSU divers directing the first archaeological documentation of shipwreck sites in Palau. In 1996 she directed the complete excavation of a ship lost in Texas in 1685 by the explorer La Salle, featured in both *Smithsonian* and *National Geographic* magazines. She represented the Society for Historical Archaeology during the UNESCO meeting of experts on the development of the International Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2001. For three seasons, beginning in 2004, Toni co-directed the acclaimed Search for the Slave Ship *Trouvadore* project, which received grants from NOAA's prestigious Ocean Exploration Program and is slated to be featured in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Sant Ocean Hall beginning in 2010. It will be the first underwater archaeology project so honored.

"It is a privilege to share the excitement of discovery with others, and to be elated by the accomplishments of my colleagues. I hope that our community can remember the simple message to be excited, stimulated, and improved by the work of others, and can remember to share their pursuits and their failures, their accomplishments and their injuries, so that we may all learn and make future endeavors safer."

Jill Heinerth, 2000



Toni Carrell



Toni Carrell

Anne Giesecke, Ph.D., 2000, Nebraska
Underwater Archaeologist, Environmentalist



Anne is active in engaging sport divers in government discussions about the management of shipwrecks, beach access and other issues. Anne drafted the Abandoned Shipwreck Act and has advised on the International Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. She began her study of archaeology in the 1960s and began diving in 1979. Anne is a member of the Underwater Society of America and was elected to the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology. Her efforts to give sport divers a voice separate from treasure salvors or fisherman in local, state and federal debates has benefited divers in many local areas. An advocate of clean water, and a former employee of the National Park Service and the U.S. EPA, she provides a broad range of perspectives in protecting water resources for all of our uses.

"My favorite monument in underwater archaeology may seem mundane. Diving on a 17th century shipwreck off Bermuda I found a blackish chunk. The ship was a merchant vessel returning to France from the New World where she had taken on a load of furs, lumber, and other raw materials from the North American region. The chunk had clearly been in a box when the ship sank. Lines of the wooden slats could be seen impressed on the mass. As I was placing the chunk on a plastic sheet to lift it to the surface a colourful blue plumb rose through the water. The block was indigo. To really see the color that I had read so much about studying colonial history and crossing the past to share a common experience with early settlers was very thrilling. Diving allows me to do archaeology underwater and, just as important, diving has opened a world of nature and the ability to experience floating and flying through the water. Remote vehicles and small subs will be used to excavate shipwrecks with increasing frequency but dolphins, turtles and reefs need to be seen in the natural wild ocean."



Anne Giesecke

Joyce S. Hayward, 2001, deceased
Educator, Underwater Archaeologist



Joyce, the "Lady of the Lakes," served as an officer in national, regional and Canadian organizations and was appointed by the governor of Ohio to advise shipwreck management in that state. Her passion was underwater photography, creating and presenting multi-projector programs at major conventions where she was frequently the only woman shipwreck speaker. Joyce also organized courses in underwater archaeology. She was featured on a PBS special, "The Great Lakes In Depth," for her work in shipwreck and marine biology education. She instilled in her elementary school students, and their teachers, a respect for the underwater diversity of the Great Lake, and the importance of protecting, promoting and preserving the shipwrecks to leave them untouched for future generations to see and enjoy.

Our Lady of the Lakes

Like the Statue of Liberty, she welcomed people to the harbors of the Great Lakes. She enticed others to come explore these waters with awe inspiring photography and incredible tales of the life and times of sailors that once sailed the "Sweetwater Seas".

She stood strong fighting to protect, promote, and preserve our shipwrecks. Leaving them untouched for future generations to see and enjoy.

As a dedicated teacher, she too held the book of knowledge. Educating not only her elementary students, but also teachers throughout the country. In addition, her remarkable slide shows thrilled divers and maritime enthusiasts across North America.



She carried the torch for our lakes. Igniting the spark in others to take pride in our precious waters and to step forward and get involved.

We love "Our Lady of the Lakes." The flames she has kindled in our hearts will continue to burn forever in our souls.

— Pat Stayer



Joyce Hayward

Adina S. Ochert, 2006, United Kingdom
Historical Shipwreck Researcher, Photographer, Writer

Adina's interest is researching wrecks of historical importance, many in adverse and extreme conditions. Adina has made hundreds of technical dives in the UK and around the world, including the noted expedition to the battle of Jutland in water temperatures of 6 degrees celsius while operating for many days 70 miles offshore. She co-led the *HMS Vandal* project which involved working at a depth of 100 meters on a wreck covered in net and line in near zero visibility for several days. As expedition co-organizer, she successfully identified how the *HMS Vandal* sank. Adina's record dive to 473 feet on the *HMS Victoria* in 2005 established her as the world's deepest female diver. Adina has also earned outstanding recognition for her photography, journalism and feature articles and for presenting expedition findings to diverse groups including English Heritage and the Ministry of Defense.

Lesley A. Runnalls, Ph.D., 2006, England
Underwater Archaeologist, Researcher



Lesley is a noted researcher in geology and maritime archeology. Since 1978, she has been part of the dive team working on a number of significant shipwrecks, including the *Mary Rose*. The *Mary Rose* was a warship of King Henry VIII which sank in 1545 in the straits north of the Isle of Wight. The wreck was discovered in 1971 and salvaged in 1982. The excavation and salvage of the wreck was a milestone in the field of maritime archaeology. The finds include weapons, sailing equipment, naval supplies and a wide array of objects used by the crew. Many of the artefacts are unique to the *Mary Rose* and have provided insights into topics ranging from naval warfare to the history of musical instruments. She was one of the divers featured in the TV movie (2008) *The Ghosts of the Mary Rose*. Lesley has also been involved in shipwreck projects in Bermuda and Mauritius. Lesley has done significant scientific research in pollution effects on corals in the West Indies and has been involved in diving related research projects on Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Mexico, Indonesia, Maldives and Mauritius. She is a CMAS Scientific Diver and a British Sub Aqua Club Instructor in scuba diving and a member of the Nautical Archaeology Society and the Historical Diving Society. Lesley also holds a private pilots license and is a committee member of the British Women's Pilots Association, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005.

"...I do not believe it mere coincidence that we women have been called to scuba diving, and through our scuba diving, to the exploration of the ocean and its life-giving forces. The giving of life is and always has been our destiny."

Maria Huits, 2000

Valerie Van Heest, 2006, Michigan
Shipwreck Explorer, Lecturer



Valerie began diving in 1978, while in high school. With limited travel opportunities, she focused on Great Lake shipwrecks, which became her life-long passion. She has dedicated her diving career to the discovery, documentation and interpretation of Great Lakes Shipwrecks using all manor of creative media including photos, filmmaking, exhibit design and writing to share the stories of these vessels with both the diving and non-diving public. She received a Michigan

State History Award for her work preserving and promoting Michigan's maritime history. She co-founded Chicago's Underwater Archaeological Society, was instrumental in establishing Southwest Michigan's Underwater Preserve and co-founded Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates (MSRA). With each non-profit, she uses her professional architectural, management, and marketing talents to lead the fundraising, research and documentation efforts on over 40 shipwrecks, producing drawings, articles, films, and lectures. She spearheaded MSRA's shipwreck search program, discovering four new wrecks, and is working with Clive Cussler's NUMA team in search of Northwest Flight 2501 which crashed into Lake Michigan on June 24, 1950. *"My most memorable diving experience was when I dove on the Hennepin at 230 feet deep, my first tri-mix dive. I was among the first to dive the site after our discovery of the wreck. No one had seen it since it sank in 1927. The dive on this very intact vessel propelled me to do additional research and I was able to prove its origin as the world's first self-unloading vessel, and the model for all those to follow. I nominated it to the National Register of Historic Places and it provided the inspiration for a book I co authored with William Lafferty, Buckets and Belts: Evolution of the Great Lakes Self-Unloader."* Preserving shipwrecks and contributing to the wealth of Great Lakes Maritime knowledge is her hallmark.



Toni Carrell

Diving Pioneers

| NAME | YEAR | EVENT |
|--|----------------|--|
| Bangasser, Susan and Jeanne Bear Sleeper | 1979 | Co-authored the first book about women and diving, <i>Women Underwater</i> |
| Bieser, Janet | 1981 | First woman to dive the <i>Republic</i> ; youngest woman to dive the <i>Andrea Doria</i> at age 17. |
| Bonnin, Mary | 1993 | First, and only, woman to qualify as a U.S. Navy Master Diver |
| Carter, Jennifer | 1987 | First woman to lead an expedition to, and dive the <i>Titanic</i> ; Records for combined altitude (skydiving 12,500 ft) and depth (diving 12,500 ft) |
| Clark, Eugenie | 1955-present | World-renowned ichthyologist and authority on sharks who is popularly known as the SHARK LADY |
| Connelly, Cecelia | 1986 | Oldest woman to dive the <i>Andrea Doria</i> (age 56) |
| Cruickshank, Mandy-Rae | 2000-2007 | 7 World Records and 14 National records in the sport of freediving. |
| Dudas, Evelyn | 1967 | First woman to dive the <i>Andrea Doria</i> |
| Earle, Sylvia | 1979 | Deepest solo dive without a tether (1,250 ft) Depth record for solo diving (3,300 ft) |
| Eckhoff, Mary Ellen | 1981 | Has held all the cave diving depth and penetration records for women, Shares the world record for the 5,847 foot penetration of the Big Dismal Cave System, Fl. with Sheck Exley and Clark Pitcaim. |
| Fisher, Dolores | 1959 | World Underwater Endurance Record (submerged for over 54 hours, 37 minutes) |
| Frazier, Dottie | 1930s 1950s | First woman competitive Spearfisher in U.S. First woman scuba instructor in U.S. (YMCA) |

| NAME | YEAR | EVENT |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Garr, Fran | | First woman PADI Master Instructor |
| Gilligan, Ronnie | 1968 | First woman to dive the <i>Empress of Ireland</i> |
| Gray, Linda | 1973 | National Free Diving Spearfishing Champion and women's national title holder. Has 6 additional championships since, in 1976, 1977, 1980, 1992, 1996 and 1997. |
| Hass, Lotte | 1939 and beyond | "The First Lady of Diving" underwater model, photographer and actress |
| Hanson, Norma | 1950s | Women's depth record on air (220 ft) |
| Heiney-Grier, Megahn | 1996 1997 | Free Diving Constant Weight Record (155 ft); first ever for either man or woman. Free Diving Constant Weight Record (165 ft) |
| Hubbell, Linda | 1976 | First woman U.S. naval officer certified as a U.S. Navy scuba diver. |
| Iskra, Darlene | 1990 | First woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy, the diving and salvage ship <i>USS Opportune (ARS-41)</i> . |
| Johnson, Connie | 1956 | First woman to hold the position of editor of <i>Skin Diver</i> magazine. |
| Kieser, June | 1959 | First woman member of the National YMCA Scuba Committee. |
| Kristovich, Ann | 1993 | Women's cave diving depth record (554 ft) |
| Lillis, Mel | 1961 1963 1994 | Won the first International Scuba Triathlon competition in New Orleans with partner June Poplar. First woman to receive NOGI Award for Sports and Education Second NOGI for Distinguished Service. |
| Lynn, Karin | 1983 | First woman Civil Engineer Corps diver |
| Mestre, Audrey | 1997 1998 2000 2001 | Free diving Record - 80 meters (264 ft) 115 meters (380 ft) 125 meters (410 ft) 130 meters (427 ft) |
| Moore, Valerie | 1993 | First western journalist to dive in the Russian R/V <i>Keldysh</i> submersible. |
| Murphy, Geri | 1976 | Hollywood's first underwater script supervisor, for <i>The Deep</i> . |
| Ochert, Adina | 2005 | Deepest scuba dive record (473 ft) |
| Parry, Zale | 1954 1955 1958, 1959 | Women's Depth Record (209 ft) using Aqualung <i>Sports Illustrated</i> Cover Girl actress and stunt double in the popular TV show <i>Sea Hunt</i> |
| Pechter, Alese O. | 1991 | Co-wrote <i>What's in the Deep? An Underwater Adventure for Children</i> , the first children's book using actual underwater photographs rather than illustrations. |
| Rodener, Vreni | 1980 | First woman divemaster of The Scuba Sports Club (NY). |
| Scholley, Bobbie | 1996 2000 | First woman U.S. Navy Supervisor of Diving First woman to command a Navy Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) |
| Serpieri, Claudia | 1994 | Depth record for trimix in open ocean (687 ft), cold water/altitude (586 ft), and ocean wreck diving (455 ft). Also Italy's record holder for women's deepest sinkhole dive (341 ft) and cave dive (283 ft). |
| Stefanyshyn-Piper, Heidemarie | 1985 | First woman Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) to qualify as a navy salvage diver. |
| Streeter, Tanya | 2002 | World freediving record in Variable Weight (122 meters/397 ft) and No Limit (160 meters/525 ft). Holds 10 world freediving records, some of which surpass men's records. |
| Taylor, Valerie | 1992 | First person to dive with and photograph Great White Sharks in the wild without a shark cage, with husband Ron. |
| Tobias, Donna | 1975 | First woman U.S. Navy Deep Sea (hard hat) diver. |
| Trukken, Sue | 1980 | First woman U.S. Navy Diving Officer (Diving and Salvage) and first woman mixed gas diver. |
| Turner, Ruth | 1971 | First women to dive <i>Alvin</i> , the deep-sea submersible of Wood's Hole. |
| Verdier, Eveline | 2000 | Record for deepest woman Closed Circuit Rebreather (130 meters/423 ft) diver in Europe. |
| Viders, Hillary | 1993 1999 | Only individual diver to be awarded the Presidential "Take Pride in America" award; First woman to receive the DAN Rolex Diver of the Year award. |
| Watts, Scarlett | 1999 | Record for deepest air dive (425 ft) |

Celebrating
the Soul
of That
Which We
All Love.
Rejoicing
In Our 10th
Anniversary.

by Jeanne Bear Sleeper
WDHOF 2000
at Wakatobi, Indonesia

List of Members by Year Group

2000

Susan Bangasser, Ph.D.
 Captain Janet Bieser
 Jolie Bookspan, Ph.D.
 Jana Bradley
 Tamara "Tammy" Brown
 Bonnie J. Cardone
 Jennifer Carter
 Cathy Church
 Eugenie Clark, Ph.D.
 Cindi Courter
 Cathie Cush
 Helen T. Davis
 Sue Drafahl
 Evelyn Bartram Dudas
 Renée Duncan
 Sylvia Earle, Ph.D.
 Mary Ellen Eckhoff
 Mary Jo Ferris-Fischer
 Caroline Fife, M.D.
 Dolores E. Fisher
 Regina Franklin
 Dottie Frazier
 Lynn Funkhouser
 Anne Giesecke, Ph.D.

Linda Gray
 Brigit K. Grimm
 Erika-Leigh Haley
 Michele Hall
 Lotte Hass
 Hillary Hauser
 Meghan Heaney-Grier
 Jill Heinerth
 Edith D. Hoffman
 Maria Hults
 Lise Kinahan
 Jennifer King
 Captain Marie Knafelc, MC,
 USN (ret), M.D., Ph.D.
 Ann H Kristovich, D.D.S.
 Barb Lander
 Mary Edith "Mel" Lillis
 Captain Diann Karin Lynn,
 CEC, USN (ret)
 Connie Lyn Morgan
 Ella-Jean Morgan
 Sue Morra, Ph.D.
 Denise J. Morrissette
 Patti Mount
 Patty Newell Mortara
 Jan Neal

Erin O'Neill
 Betty Orr
 Zale Parry
 Alese O. Pechter
 Ellen J. Prager, Ph.D.
 Vreni Roduner
 Carol Taylor Rose
 Norine Rouse
 Betsy Royal
 Lorraine Bemis Sadler
 Dee Scarr
 Captain Barbara "Bobbie"
 Scholley, USN (ret)
 Jeanne Bear Sleeper
 Marguerite St. Leger Dowse
 Tanya Streeter
 Maida Beth Taylor, M.D.
 Valerie Taylor
 Karen Van Hoesen, M.D.
 Hillary Vidars, Ph.D.
 Kay Walten
 Captain Kathy A. Weydig
 Frankie Wingert
 Jill Yager, Ph.D.
 Andrea Zaferes

2001

Danielle Alary
 Rena M. Bonem, Ph.D.
 EMCM (SW/MDV) Mary J.
 Bonnini, USN (ret)
 Toni Carrell
 Cathryn Castle Whitman
 Cecelia A. Connelly
 Susie Fletcher
 Frances Gaar
 Norma Hanson
 Joyce S. Hayward
 Paula M. Jerman
 Susan R. Kayar, Ph.D.
 June M. Kieser
 Commander Karen
 Kohanowich, USN (ret)
 Marie Levine
 Lisa A. Mitchell
 Valerie S. Moore
 Geri Murphy
 Marianne Preker
 Janice Raber
 Kathy Rothschild
 Nancy Sefton

Kim Reed Sheckler, R.N.
 Andrea D. Stockert
 Bridget K. Thomas, R.N., M.S.N.
 Donna M. Tobias
 Ruth Turner, Ph.D.
 Eveline Verdier
 Scarlett D. Watts
 Laurie J. Wilson
 JoAnn Zigahn

2002

Monique J Bellefeuille
 Captain Debra Bodenstedt, USN
 Joan M. "Joanie" Follmer
 Martha Watkins Gilkes
 Carolyn Pascal-Guarino
 Audrey Mestre
 Connie Johnson
 Sherry A. Reed
 Captain Erica Sahler, CEC, USN
 Susan Sammon
 Claudia Serpieri
 Mia Jean Tegner, Ph.D.
 Commander Sue J. Trukken,
 USN (ret)
 Sally A. Wahrmann
 Birgitte Wilms
 Julianne Ziefle

2003

Renée Steven Applegate
 Carole Baldwin, Ph.D.
 Laurel B. Clark, CAPT, USN,
 M.D., *Honoree*
 Kalli de Meyer
 Kathleen Dudzinski, Ph.D.
 Commander Gina Harden, USN
 Rusty Murray Michael
 Linda Pitkin
 Shirley Pomponi, Ph.D.
 Captain Lori Yost, USNR

2004

Carla Binelli, Ph.D.
 Captain Victoria Anne "Torie"
 Cassano, MC, USN (ret),
 M.D.
 M. Veronica "Ronni" Gilligan
 Commander René S.
 Hernández, MSC, USN,
 Ph.D.
 Vallorie J. Hodges
 Michelle Pugh
 Helen K. Talge, Ph.D.

2005

Captain Bette Bolivar, USN

Lucy Bunkley-Williams, Ph.D.
 Lieutenant Commander Linda
 C. Hubbell, USNR (ret)
 Edie Widder, Ph.D.
 Pat Stayer

2006

Georgienne Bradley
 Sharon Lee Kegeles
 Adina S. Ochert
 Lesley A. Runnalls, Ph.D.
 Donna Marie Ugucioni
 Valerie Van Heest

2007

Valerie de la Valdene
 Anne Doubilet
 Captain Martha Herb, USNR,
 Ed.D.
 Lauren Hutton
 Susan Long
 Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
 Holly Martel-Bourbon
 Captain Heidemarie
 Stefanyshyn-Piper, USN
 Debbie Smith
 Bonnie Toth
 Jennifer Wheaton

2008

Commander Darlene M. Iskra,
 USN (ret), Ph.D.
 Nancy McGee
 Captain Kathryn Sullivan,
 USNR (ret), Ph.D.

2009

Melanie A. Clark, Pharm.D.
 Mandy-Rae Cruickshank
 Randi Eisen
 Pauline Fiene
 Anita George-Ares
 Margo Peyton

2010

Jane Bowman
 Annie Crawley
 Sheri Daye
 Joan Forsberg
 Deb Greenhalgh
 Anne Davis Hasson
 Diane Scullion Littler, Ph.D.
 EAC (SCW/DV) Roseanne
 Oliveros, USN
 Faith Ortins
 Lesley Rochat

Shark Research Institute congratulates The Women Divers Hall of Fame on their 10th Anniversary!

And the outstanding women of SRI who have been inducted into WDHOFF:
 Dr. Sylvia Earle, Marie Levine, Lauren Hutton,
 Georgienne Bradley, Lesley Rochat, Debbie Smith,
 Dr. Maida Beth Taylor, Kathy Rothschild, Nancy McGee,
 Dee Scarr, Bonnie Toth, Martha Watkins Gilkes & Hillary Vidars

www.sharks.org

Shark Research Institute President Stan Waterman and a whale shark



*Dive Training magazine
 congratulates the
 Women Divers Hall of Fame
 on your 10th anniversary.*

*Our thanks to the women, both in
 and outside of the hall of fame honor,
 who have helped change the
 face and appeal of diving.*

Dive Training™
 THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR NEW DIVERS & THEIR INSTRUCTORS®

Alphabetical List of WDHOFF Members and Index

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| A | F | |
| Alary, Danielle, 2001 21 | Ferris-Fischer, Mary Jo, 2000 51 | Kieser, June M., 2001 75 |
| Applegate, Renée Steven, 2003 53 | Fiene, Pauline, 2009 91 | Kinahan, Lise, 2000 75 |
| B | Fife, Caroline, M.D., 2000 84 | King, Jennifer, 2000 53 |
| Baldwin, Carole, Ph.D., 2003 87 | Fisher, Dolores E., 2000 59 | Knafelc, Marie, CAPT, MC, USN (ret), M.D., Ph.D., 2000 71 |
| Bangasser, Susan, Ph.D., 2000 83 | Fletcher, Susie, 2001 74 | Kohanowich, Karen CDR, USN (ret), 2001 67 |
| Bellefeuille, Monique J., 2002 101 | Follmer, Joan M. "Joanie", 2002 53 | Kristovich, Ann H., D.D.S., 2000 43 |
| Bieser, Janet, Captain, 2000 38 | Forsberg, Joan, 2010 12 | L |
| Binelli, Carla, Ph.D., 2004 33 | Franklin, Regina, 2000 53 | Lander, Barb, 2000 39 |
| Bodenstedt, Debra, CAPT, USN, 2002 ... 65 | Frazier, Dottie, 2000 48 | Levine, Marie, 2001 92 |
| Bolivar, Bette, CAPT, USN, 2005 65 | Funkhouser, Lynn 2000 24 | Lillis, Mary Edith "Mel", 2000 48 |
| Bonem, Rena M., Ph.D., 2001 87 | G | Littler, Diane Scullion, Ph.D., 2010 13 |
| Bonnin, Mary J., EMCM (SW/MDV), USN (ret), 2001 65 | Gaar, Frances, 2001 74 | Long, Susan, 2007 53 |
| Bookspan, Jolie, Ph.D., 2000 83 | George-Ares, Anita, 2009 91 | Lynn, Diann Karin, CAPT, CEC, USN (ret), 2000 64 |
| Bowman, Jane, 2010 12 | Giesecke, Ann, Ph.D., 2000 102 | M |
| Bradley, Georgienne, 2006 21 | Gilligan, M. Veronica "Ronni", 2004 38 | Macapagal-Arroyo, Gloria, 2007 87 |
| Bradley, Jana, 2000 47 | Gilkes, Martha Watkins, 2002 16 | Martel-Bourbon, Holly, 2007 76 |
| Brown, Tamara "Tammy", 2000 59 | Gray, Linda, 2000 47 | McGee, Nancy, 2008 26 |
| Bunkley-Williams, Lucy, Ph.D., 2005 88 | Greenhalgh, Deb, 2010 12 | Mestre, Audrey, 2002 49 |
| C | Grimm, Brigit K., 2000 51 | Michael, Rusty Murray, 2003 77 |
| Cardone, Bonnie J., 2000 15 | H | Mitchell, Lisa A., 2001 54 |
| Carrell, Toni, 2001 101 | Haley, Erika-Leigh, 2000 84 | Moore, Valerie S., 2001 34 |
| Carter, Jennifer, 2000 22 | Hall, Michele, 2000 25 | Morgan, Connie Lyn, 2000 54 |
| Cassano, Victoria "Torie" Anne, CAPT, MC, USN (ret), Ph.D., 2004 70 | Hanson, Norma, 2001 60 | Morgan, Ella-Jean, 2000 76 |
| Castle Whitman, Cathryn, 2001 28 | Harden, Gina, CDR, USN, 2003 66 | Morra, Sue Ph.D., 2000 76 |
| Church, Cathy, 2000 22 | Hass, Lotte, 2000 25 | Morrisette, Denise J., 2000 54 |
| Clark, Eugenie, Ph.D., 2000 88 | Hasson, Anne Davis, 2010 12 | Mount, Patti, 2000 33 |
| Clark, Laurel B., CAPT, USN, M.D., Honoree, 2003 63 | Hauser, Hillary, 2000 17 | Mortara, Patty Newell, 2000 17 |
| Clark, Melanie A., Pharm.D, 2009 33 | Hayward, Joyce S., 2001 102 | Murphy, Geri, 2001 26 |
| Connelly, Cecelia A., 2001 73 | Heaney-Grier, Mehgan, 2000 49 | N |
| Courter, Cindi, 2000 73 | Heinerth, Jill, 2000 25 | Neal, Jan, 2000 77 |
| Crawley, Annie, 2010 12 | Herb, Martha, CAPT, USNR, Ed.D., 2007 66 | O |
| Cruickshank, Mandy-Rae, 2009 47 | Hernández, René S., CDR, USN, Ph.D., 2004 70 | Ochert, Adina S., 2006 103 |
| Cush, Cathie, 2000 15 | Hodges, Vallorie J., 2004 91 | Oliveros, Roseanne, EAC (SCW/DV), USN, 2010 13 |
| D | Hoffman, Edith D., 2000 92 | O'Neill, Erin, 2000 18 |
| Davis, Helen T., 2000 83 | Hubbell, Linda C., LCDR, USNR (ret), 2005 71 | Orr, Betty, 2000 77 |
| Daye, Sheri, 2010 12 | Hults, Maria, 2000 74 | Ortins, Faith, 2010 13 |
| de la Valdene, Valerie, 2007 23 | Hutton, Lauren, 2007 92 | P |
| de Meyer, Kalli, 2003 89 | I | Parry, Zale, 2000 27 |
| Doubilet, Anne, 2007 23 | Iskra, Darlene M., CDR, USN (ret), Ph.D., 2008 67 | Pascal-Guarino, Carolyn, 2002 18 |
| Drafahl, Sue, 2000 24 | J | Pechter, Alese O., 2000 28 |
| Dudas, Evelyn Bartram, 2000 38 | Jerman, Paula M., 2001 74 | Payton, Margo, 2009 55 |
| Dudzinki, Kathleen, Ph.D., 2003 89 | Johnson, Connie, 2002 17 | Pitkin, Linda, 2003 28 |
| Duncan, Renée, 2000 16 | K | Pomponi, Shirley, Ph.D., 2003 93 |
| E | Kayar, Susan R., Ph.D., 2001 84 | Prager, Ellen J., Ph.D., 2000 93 |
| Earle, Sylvia, Ph.D., 2000 90 | Kegeles, Sharon Lee, 2006 75 | Preker, Marianne, 2001 77 |
| Eckhoff, Mary Ellen, 2000 43 | | Pugh, Michelle, 2004 55 |
| Eisen, Randi, 2009 33 | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| R | Stefanyshyn-Piper, Heidemarie, CAPT, USN, 2007 63 | Van Hoesen, Karen, M.D., 2000 85 |
| Raber, Janice, 2001 78 | Stockert, Andrea D., 2001 29 | Verdier, Eveline, 2001 79 |
| Reed, Sherry A., 2002 94 | Streeter, Tanya, 2000 49 | Viders, Hillary, Ph.D., 2000 97 |
| Rochat, Lesley, 2010 13 | Sullivan, Kathryn, CAPT, USNR (ret), Ph.D., 2008 64 | W |
| Roduner, Vreni, 2000 39 | T | Wahrmann, Sally A., 2002 40 |
| Rose, Carol Taylor, 2000 51 | Talge, Helen K., Ph.D., 2004 95 | Walten, Kay, 2000 43 |
| Rothschild, Kathy, 2001 55 | Taylor, Maida Beth, M.D., 2000 85 | Watts, Scarlett D. 2001 43 |
| Rouse, Norine, 2000 78 | Taylor, Valerie, 2000 30 | Weydig, Kathy A., Captain, 2000 40 |
| Royal, Betsy, 2000 56 | Tegner, Mia Jean, Ph.D., 2002 96 | Wheaton, Jennifer, 2007 97 |
| Runnalls, Lesley A., Ph.D., 2006 103 | Thomas, Bridget K., R.N., M.S.N., 2001 85 | Widder, Edie, Ph.D., 2005 98 |
| S | Tobias, Donna M., 2001 69 | Wilms, Birgitte, 2002 31 |
| Sadler, Lorraine Bemis, 2000 56 | Toth, Bonnie, 2007 31 | Wilson, Laurie J., 2001 57 |
| Sahler, Erica, CAPT, CEC, USN, 2002 65 | Trukken, Sue J., CDR, USN (ret), 2002 ... 69 | Wingert, Frankie, 2000 79 |
| Sammon, Susan, 2002 94 | Turner, Ruth Dixon, Ph.D., 2001 96 | Y |
| Scarr, Dee, 2000 94 | U | Yager, Jill, Ph.D., 2000 44 |
| Scholley, Barbara "Bobbie," CAPT, USN (ret), 2000 68 | Uguccioni, Donna Marie, 2006 85 | Yost, Lori, CAPT, USNR, 2003 70 |
| Sefton, Nancy, 2001 95 | V | Z |
| Serpieri, Claudia, 2002 34 | Van Heest, Valerie, 2006 103 | Zaferes, Andrea, 2000 80 |
| Sheckler, Kim Reed, R.N., 2001 28 | | Ziefle, Julianne, 2002 99 |
| Sleeper, Jeanne Bear, Ph.D., 2000 79 | | Zigahn, JoAnn, 2001 80 |
| Smith, Debbie, 2007 95 | | |
| St. Leger Dowse, Marguerite, 2000 85 | | |
| Stayer, Pat, 2005 29 | | |

**Captain Kathy Weydig, Co-Founder
Women Divers Hall of Fame salutes
all the courageous women who have
been honored in the hall during its
first historical ten years.**

**Kathy Weydig, President
Lake Havasu Divers Association
Scuba Training and Technology Inc.
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | | | |
|-------|---|---------|---|
| ACDE | Association of Commercial Diving Educators | NACD | National Association of Cave Divers |
| ACUA | Advisory Council on Underwater Archeology | NASA | National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| AIDA | Association for Development of Apnea | NASAR | National Association for Search and Rescue |
| ANDI | AND International: a diver training agency | NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| AOP | Aquarium of the Pacific | NAUI | National Association of Underwater Instructor |
| ARS | Auxiliary Rescue and Salvage | NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| ASMP | American Association of Media Photographers | NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| AUAS | Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences | NSS-CDS | National Speleological Society Cave Diving Section |
| BC | Buoyancy Compensator | NUMA | National Underwater and Marine Agency |
| BCD | Buoyancy Control Device | PADI | Professional Association of Diving Instructors |
| BOD | Board of Directors | PBS | Public Broadcasting System |
| BTS | Beneath the Sea | RMS | Royal Mail Ship |
| CCR | Closed Circuit Rebreather | R/V | Research Vessel |
| CDA | Cave Divers Association of Australia | SCUBA | Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer | SDI/TDI | Scuba Divers International/Technical Divers International |
| CFO | Chief Financial Officer | SEAL | Navy Sea-Air-Land teams |
| CMAS | Chicagoland Marine Aquarium Society | SKAL | (Swedish for) International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals |
| CNCA | Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics | SRI | Shark Research Institute |
| CO | Commanding Officer | SS | Steam Ship |
| CPR | Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation | SSI | Scuba Schools International |
| DAN | Divers Alert Network | SURE | Scientific Underwater Research Enterprises |
| DCS | Decompression Sickness | TDI | Technical Diving International |
| DDRC | Diving Disease Research Center | TSSC | The Scuba Sports Club |
| DEMA | Diving Equipment and Marketing Association | UDT | Underwater Demolition Team |
| DMT | Diving Medical Technician | UHMS | Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society |
| DUI | Diving Unlimited International | UICC | (L.A. County) Underwater Instruction Certification Course |
| EMT | Emergency Medical Technician | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency | UNEXSO | Underwater Explorers Society |
| FSW | Feet sea water | USCG | United States Coast Guard |
| HMS | His/Her Majesty's Ship (Canadian, Australian, or British naval vessels) | USDCT | United States Deep Caving Team |
| IANTD | International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers | USN | United States Navy |
| IMA | International Marine Alliance | USOA | Underwater Society of America |
| IPDU | Instructors of Play Diving University | USS | United States Ship |
| ISAM | International Society of Aquatic Medicine | USVI | United States Virgin Islands |
| IT | Instructor Trainer | WETT | Women's Equipment Test Team |
| LIDA | Long Island Dive Association | WHOI | Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute |
| MDC | Midwest Diving Council | WSA | Women's Scuba Association |
| MDSU | Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit | XO | Executive Officer |
| MDV | Master Diver | YMCA | Young Men's Christian Association |
| MSRA | Michigan Shipwreck Research Association | | |
| MSTD | Marine Science and Technology Division | | |
| M/V | Motor Vessel | | |






Glossary

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| CINE Golden Eagle | Award for excellence in film, television, video and news media. |
| EANx | Enriched air oxygen means a nitrox mix which has more oxygen than air, between 22-99% of oxygen. The "x" is the percentage of oxygen, ie. EAN40 (40% oxygen in the mix). |
| HeO ₂ | Helium-oxygen breathing mixture (heliox), used for deep diving. Helium, an inert gas, replaces the nitrogen in the breathing mixture to eliminate nitrogen narcosis, but the helium in the breathing mixture draws the heat from the body at a greater rate than nitrogen, so the diver can become hypothermic. |
| Nitrox | Nitrogen-oxygen breathing mix with between 22 and 40% oxygen in the mix, compared to the usual 21%. Also called enriched air. |
| NOGI | Acronym for "New Orleans Grand Isle." Modified from an award formerly bestowed at the New Orleans Grand Isle Fishing Tournament, which had an underwater division. |
| Telly Awards | The Telly Awards honor the very best local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions, and work created for the Web. Since 1978, the mission has been to strengthen the visual arts community by inspiring, promoting, and supporting creativity. |
| Trimix | Trimix is a breathing mix of three components, oxygen, nitrogen and helium. Trimix is used in very deep dives instead of air to reduce the partial pressure of oxygen (to avoid oxygen toxicity) and nitrogen (to avoid nitrogen narcosis). |



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The Women Divers Hall of Fame™ (WDHOF) is an international non-profit professional honor society whose members are the pioneers, leaders, innovators and world record holders throughout the international diving community. Member contributions span a wide variety of fields including: The Arts, Science, Medicine, Sports, Exploration, Marine Archaeology, Media, Service, Dive Training and Education, Safety, Business, Marine Environment and Conservation, Free Diving, Commercial Diving, and Military Diving.

WDHOF's two-part mission is to:

- Recognize women divers who have made outstanding contributions to the exploration, understanding, safety and enjoyment of our underwater world and
- Support the underwater world and its associated careers by promoting opportunities for women and men in diving through scholarships, training grants, internships and mentorship opportunities and a worldwide network of industry contacts.

Each year, WDHOF awards scholarships and training grants that provide financial and educational support to individuals of all ages, particularly those who are preparing for professional careers that involve scuba diving. To find out more about these opportunities, please visit our website at:

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Congratulations to the *Women Divers Hall of Fame*

for the important work you do
in honoring and supporting extraordinary and accomplished
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*"In awe and appreciation of the
majesty of the Great White Shark
and all creatures of the ocean."*

Wendy Benchley

Peter & Wendy Benchley
40th Wedding Anniversary trip
San Diego Shark Diving Expeditions,
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Photographs by Douglas David Seifert

Congratulations to the *Women Divers Hall of Fame* in celebrating your 10th anniversary.

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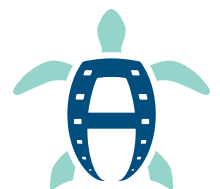


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