



LONG ISLAND NETWORK DIVERS
SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, May 2008, Edition 26

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DOUBLE ISSUE: MARCH & APRIL 2008

I. Club News

SCUBA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

MAY 7, 2008

Our meeting was a presentation sponsored by the **Long Island Divers Association**. The topic of the presentation, the *Life of Long Island's Marine Waters*, was given by **Marianne McNamara, Bill Chamberlain, Tara Duffy and Steve Abrams**, each of whom is affiliated with the State University of New York at Stony Brook's Marine Science Research Center in conjunction with Flax Pond Marine Biological Field Station. The presentation was held at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, New York.

Marianne was the primary speaker of the presentation's first segment. She (along with her colleagues) began by describing Long Island's geological history.

Long Island formed as a result of glaciations during the past 20,000 years. As glaciers advanced southward, they collected and transported sediments from the land beneath them, carrying glacial till that was later deposited as terminal and medial moraines, which form modern day Long Island. On the north shore of Long Island, larger, rocky till and glacial erratics were deposited, whereas smaller, sandy sediment was carried further south, forming the sandy outwash plains now seen on Long Island's southern areas.

The rocky north shore and the sandy south shore provide differing habitats. Consequently, there are differences in the shores of Long Island's marine fauna and flora. The sandy bottoms of the south shore, for example, are home to soft-sediment organisms such as rays and flounders. It also provides a growth site for sea grasses, which form large beds. The sea grass beds stabilize submarine sediments while serving as a source of food for herbivores (plant-eating animals) and omnivores (animals that feed on both plant and animal matter.) Sea grass beds are an important nursery for the larvae of many organisms. By contrast to Long Island's south shore, the north shore is rocky and thus provides a home for large kelp beds and animals adapted to hiding in crevices or securing themselves to rocks.

Although these are the primary environments of Long Island's shores, other important environments can be found on Long Island. These include salt marshes and estuaries each of which contributes to Long Island's unique ecosystem. Salt marshes serve as buffers to storms and allow for the growth of the grass *Spartina*, which covers large expanses of coastal areas. Estuaries are the home of organisms suited to living in brackish water conditions.

The water column can be divided into two primary zones, the benthic and pelagic zones. The benthic zone refers to the bottom or substrate whereas the pelagic zone is that portion of the water column above the substrate. There are also two types of organisms with regard to their mobility with respect to the currents. Plankton drift with the current

whereas nektonic organisms move independently of the currents. With respect to plankton, there are two forms: phytoplankton, which is comprised of planktonic organisms within the plant kingdom and zooplankton, which refers to those planktonic organisms that are animals. Plankton are major players in the food chain, providing nutrients to organisms that are higher in the food chain.

After discussing basic marine sciences and terminology, Marianne focused on several invertebrate (animals lacking a backbone) phyla within the animal kingdom that divers are most likely to encounter when diving off Long Island.

The first phyla she described were the sponges, exemplified by the red beard sponge, *Microciona* and the boring sponge, *Cliona*. Coelenterates were also mentioned and are represented by individual and colonial forms. Some individuals reside on a substrate such as the anemone *Metridium* and various hydroids whereas other coelenterates are active swimmers such as the moon jelly, *Aurelia* and the sea nettle, *Chrysaora*. Colonial coelenterates that drift with the currents include the Portuguese man-o-war, *Physalia*. Ctenophores, or comb-jellies, can be found in Long Island's waters. Although they resemble coelenterates, they are, in fact, members of another phylum, the Ctenophora, so named because they snare prey (rather than sting them) and move the prey up combs and into the gut. Mollusks native to Long Island's waters include bivalves (e.g. clams, oysters and scallops), gastropods (snails such as whelks and moon snails) and cephalopods such as squid and octopi. Animals such as lobsters, crabs and horseshoe crabs, *Limulus*, represent the phylum arthropoda¹. Echinoderms such as the sea star, sea urchin and sand dollar are found in Long Island's waters. The last invertebrates Marianne covered were salps, which are chordates, the phylum to which vertebrates belong.

After completing her survey of marine invertebrates, Marianne switched gears and focused her talk on marine vertebrates. Her survey of vertebrates began with a focus on fishes, which are divided into two classes, the chondrichthyes, or cartilaginous fishes exemplified by skates, rays and sharks and the osteichthyes, or bony fishes.

Bony fishes likely to be encountered by divers include the cunner, blackfish, porgy (or scup), basses, bluefish, weakfish, kingfish, flounders, sea robins, sculpin, scorpionfish, puffers and sea horses.

Marine mammals that are likely to be seen include whales (e.g. pilot, right, fin and humpback) as well as seals (e.g. harbor, grey, harp, hooded and ringed.) Sea turtles are the only marine reptiles likely to be seen in Long Island's marine waters and sightings usually are those of green sea turtles, the Kemp's Ridley turtle, loggerhead turtles and hawksbill turtles. Marianne completed her discussion of marine vertebrates by mentioning some tropical species such as lookdowns, triggers, groupers, barracudas and tarpons each of which can usually be seen in the summer months.

Subsequent to Marianne's segment, Tara Duffy held the second segment of the presentation, which centered on the health of Long Island's marine fauna and flora. Long Island's marine environment faces several problems including habitat loss, loss of

¹ Horseshoe crabs are not true crabs but are chelicerates, a sub-phylum to which spiders and scorpions belong.

keystone species, excessive nutrients and the introduction of wastewater such as sewage and runoff. If the food web is altered, detrimental consequences can occur. For example, Great South Bay was a major habitat for the Quahog, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, a species of clam, during the 1970's. Over fishing has led to a tremendous decline and, as a result, Great South Bay lost its status as a major habitat for this species. Pollution from wastewater and both urban and agricultural runoff has also led to a decline in the number of many other marine species. Industrial discharge and thermal pollution has also exacerbated the decline in Long Island's marine water quality. A key indicator of such pollution has been eutrophication (excessive algal blooms) and the loss of habitats including salt marshes and sea grass beds.

Tara completed her presentation by listing methods that could curtail the damage done to Long Island's waters. These include: avoiding boating and fishing in sea grass beds, eliminating chemical fertilizers, properly disposing of household wastes and chemicals, encouraging local legislatures to promote pro-environmental actions, leaving nothing unnatural at natural sites when visiting and organizing beach and dive site clean-ups.

The meeting was adjourned immediately after the presentation.

For any questions, comments or corrections, please contact Demetrius "Dimi" Lutz at paleolutz@worldnet.att.net or at (917) 392-8333.

CLUB DUES:

Please check with Martha as to whether or not you have paid your 2008 club dues. The fee is \$25 per individual and 35\$ per family.

The next meeting will be our anniversary meeting and will be held at a restaurant which Martha will announce via e-mail.

II. The Story Behind The Photo

Martha Weisberg, diving in Bonaire on a Scuba Network trip this past April, contributed this month's photo, titled *Flying Turtle*



Here is Martha's *Story Behind The Photo*:

I was on a leisurely dive in Bonaire, when all of a sudden lumbering lazily through the sky...oops, the ocean, the turtle gracefully glided toward me with no fears and without a care in the world. Looking at him swim reminded me of birds gliding on the wind.

Camera used was a Canon A710 I.S. with underwater housing (natch!) and no strobe. Computer program used for 'developing' was Adobe Photoshop elements 2.

III. SPECIAL FEATURE:

DIVE CLUB TRAVELS TO BONAIRE!



Our April trip to Bonaire was great! The diving was spectacular, but the best part of the trip was that our large group of 40 wonderful people mingled so well.

One night we all got together at the Divi for a night of fun, and to take our group photo. But in order to fit everyone into the photo we had to squeeze tightly together. We kept squeezing until some of us fell down. In the end we were able to laugh and enjoy the group picture.

We are all ready to go back next February 2009!

IV. GETAWAYS

Scuba Network Adventures

Next trips: 2008- 2009

FLORIDA – June 20-23 \$499.00 – Boynton Beach Florida

GRAND CAYMAN- JUNE 21-24 \$679.00

BERMUDA - OCT. 19-24 \$998.00

MALDIVES – MAR. 22-29, 2009: \$2,650 (LIVE-ABOARD)

Prices subject to change at time of booking.

Contact Scuba Network for specific details about each trip.

Check our web site WWW.SCUBALONGISLAND.COM

Or WWW.SCUBANETWORK.COM

Call 516-997-4864 or email scubaclub@aol.com

2008 DIVE CLUB SCHEDULE

MAY 04	BOAT DIVE 6 AM – IBERIA – Jeanne II
MAY 07	DIVE CLUB MEETING-LIDA-NASSAU UNIV- 8 PM
MAY 17	BOATING SAFETY COURSE –COAST GUARD- 10am
JUNE 01	BOAT DIVE 6 AM – LEISURE SUNDAY- JEANNE II
JUNE 04	Dive club anniversary party TBA
JUNE 29	BOAT DIVE 6 AM – EUREKA-JEANNE II.
JULY 02	Dive club meeting – 7:30 PM
July 13	Boat Dive 6 am – San Diego – Sea Hawk
July 20	BOAT DIVE 6 AM –PINTA – JEANNE II
AUG. 06	Dive club meeting – 7:30 PM
Aug. 17	DIVE CLUB PICNIC- DUTCH SPRINGS
Aug. 31	Boat dive 6 am – Stolt – Jeanne II
Sep. 03	Dive Club Meeting – 7:30 PM
Sep. 07	Boat Dive 6 am – Captain's choice –Sea Hawk
Sep. 21	Boat Dive 6 am – Algol – Jeanne II

V. Scuba Network Training: Good Divers Keep Learning!

CERTIFICATION DIVE SCHEDULE May-October 2008

Location: NY = Glen Cove, LI or Far Rockaway, NY; PA = Dutch Springs, PA

Certification Options: Open Water (OW); Advanced Diver (AD); Master Diver (MD); Rescue Diver (RD)

<u>Sat/Sun</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Certification Options</u>
1. June 7-8 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
2. June 21-22 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
3. July 12-13	PA	OW; AD; MD; RD
4. July 19-20 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
5. August 2-3 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
6. August 9-10	PA	OW; AD; MD; RD
7. August 16-17 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
8. September 6-7	PA	OW; AD; MD; RD
9. September 13-14 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
10. September 27-28 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &
11. October 4-5	PA	OW; AD; MD; RD
12. October 18-19 Recovery/Lift Bag)	NY	OW; AD (Navig; Mapping; Search &

Required dives:

- ***Open Water = 5 dives***
- ***Advanced Diver = 6 dives***
- ***Master Diver = 8 dives***
- ***Rescue Diver = Several surface and underwater skills***

*****SPECIAL PRICE FOR MEMBERS*****

SIGN FOR ANY BEGINEER OPEN-WATER COURSE AND GET 15% OFF FOR DIVE MEMBERS OR IF THE MEMBER IS PURCHASING THE CLASSES.

Certification Courses:

Express Friday/Sat/Sun. \$189
May 23-24-25
June 20-21-22
July 18-19-20
Aug. 8-9-10

Weeknight classes: \$169 6PM TO 10PM.

May 15,16,22
June 12,13,19
July 17,18,24
Aug. 4,5,6

Nitrox Course: Jun14th, 9 AM; Space is very limited \$150.00.

Includes Books. Sign up as soon as possible or give this as a gift to a friend.

CPR June 28 9 AM CPR includes: CPR, Defibrillator, First Aid certification and Marine injuries all for \$120 including books. Space limited.

***Advanced course: June 11 AT 7:30 PM
Price \$29.50 plus books.***

RESCUE COURSE June 29 AT 9 AM \$29.50 PLUS BOOKS AND DIVES.

***MASTER DIVER COURSE: June 30
Price \$99 plus books, includes 6 lectures and 1 pool session.
First class will determine schedule for other classes as per students request.***

***DRY SUIT COURSE: MAY 14: \$149.00
Two classes, one pool session. Pool for Dry suit Jul 26-Thursday.***

**Scuba Network Continuing Education
Call (516) 997-4864 to register for classes**

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SPECIAL EVENTS

NEXT DIVE CLUB MEETING: JUNE 04 WEDNESDAY 7:30PM
ANNIVERSARY PARTY CALL FOR DETAILS

Scuba Network Featured Specials For Dive Club Members

Regulators – 10% off (instead of 5%)

B/C's – 12% off (instead of 5%)

Gauges, computers 14% off (instead of 5%)

Dacor Back-up Mask: Have an extra mask in your gear bag, only \$9.95.

WHEELED BAGS 20% OFF

WETSUITS (STOCK ITEMS)

ONE PIECE PARWAY 7 MM SUITS –50% OFF

7MM NEOPRENE TWO PIECE --20% OFF

**A COMPLETE REGULATOR PACKAGE – B/C REG, OCTO, GAUGES, AND
GET A FREE REGULATOR BAG (\$24.50 VALUE)**

All accessories 10% OFF WHEN YOU BUY PACKAGES

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***Don't forget:** Club members receive special discounts on selected items, trips, etc. Check with Martha for details on special discounts.*

***Reminder:** You must use your club membership card to receive your club member discount.*

VI. Classifieds:

Vacation Rentals: *Beachfront Condo in Cozumel.*

For details click on www.cozumelisparadise.com or www.vrbo.com/54454 or email to: pjmila@hotmail.com

General Business: Technology problems? Call in the experts: **Dark Arts Consulting** will help unravel all your technology issues. Call Lee at 646-228-2006.

See you at the next club meeting: Wednesday, June 4th, 7:30pm.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS TO:
pjmila@hotmail.com