

Northeast/Midwest Edition



Midwest Dive News



April 2008

We Know Diving Cold...

**ROCK OUT
IN OHIO**

**SINUS
UP FOR
DIVING**

**BAY ISLANDS
HONDURAS HOT SPOT**

**PONQUOGUE BRIDGE
ON LONG ISLAND**

Volume 4 Issue 4
\$1.95 US/\$2.25 Canada

10 World Explorers

Eco-Photo Explorers Mike Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver travel the globe on dive adventures and gather material for presentations and tremendous photos.

12 Ponquogue Bridge

Locals can tell when high tide nears at the old Ponquogue Bridge as divers queue up to see the rich marine life during the slack tide.

18 Buckeye dives

Spring-fed quarries and freshwater lakes lure divers on return trips to Ohio where divers rock out in quarries filled with fish and sunken treasures. In Lake Erie artificial reefs and shipwrecks keep charter boats filled with divers ready to explore.

28 Diving into photography

Honduras's Bay Islands sizzle with colorful wrecks and wonderful marine life. Bob Sterner slips away to this warm-water destination where sharks patrol and more marine life festoons wrecks each time you return.

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ECO-PHOTO EXPLORERS: 30 YEARS OF LOVING THE SEA

EVERY WINTER DIVERS ATTENDING SHOWS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST GET TO HEAR THE TALES AND SEE THE PHOTOS SHARED BY MIKE SALVAREZZA AND CHRISTOPHER WEAVER. THE ECO-PHOTO EXPLORERS TRAVEL THE WORLD TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR THEIR TALKS, WHICH FOCUS ON HISTORY, MARINE LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Mike and Chris started diving their native New York waters in 1978, inspired by the adventures of Jacques Cousteau and by a mutual love of the sea. Progressing from beach dives to boat dives to wreck dives to worldwide expeditions, they continued to advance their skills and accumulate experiences, all the while retaining a fascination for the sea and its inhabitants. Along the way, they began to document what they were seeing through the lenses of underwater cameras. This led them



to begin sharing their experiences through various speaking engagements and freelance writing projects. In 1994, they formed Eco-Photo Explorers to further leverage their work and contribute knowledge and experience to the community on various environmental issues.

Mike and Chris are true home-grown local divers who trained and got their certifications on Long Island. After hundreds of dives over 30 years, they continue to dive the local waters as enthusiastically as ever. They can regularly be found diving offshore wrecks as well as local beaches. In addition, Chris and Mike travel extensively, regularly embarking on expeditions to photograph the underwater world in some of the most exciting and remote locations available to divers. Their photographic journeys have taken them to Truk Lagoon, Palau, Australia, Cocos Island, Fiji, Belize, Mexico and much

of the Caribbean. Most notably, Chris and Mike have completed two scuba diving expeditions to Antarctica, with a third currently being planned.

Mike and Chris devote much of their energies towards providing education to the general public regarding scuba diving activities, expedition details, marine life and environmental issues. They lecture frequently at local libraries and at various organization meetings, including those of local historical societies, Audubon societies and youth groups.

In addition, Chris and Mike have authored numerous articles and published their photography in a wide variety of magazines, including "National Geographic Adventure," "Sport Diver," "Diver" (UK), "Sport Diving," "Advanced Diver," "Immersed," "Northeast Dive Journal," "Northeast Dive News" and "Northwest Dive News."

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Chris and Mike, through Eco-Photo Explorers, have worked with many organizations, providing a variety of services to assist in various activities. Some of the notable examples of this include work done with Robert Ballard's "Jason Project for Education," where Eco-Photo Explorers provided support photography from Belize. In addition, Eco-Photo Explorers has assisted in deploying quality monitoring devices in Hempstead Harbor for the Coalition to save Hempstead Harbor. It also has provided Atlantis Marine World Aquarium with photos

that illustrate the inhabitants of the various tanks in the exhibit hall.

Scuba diving remains a passion for Mike and Chris. By attending and speaking at various industry conferences, Chris and Mike have tried to give back to the diving community. Mike and Chris regularly speak at Beneath the Sea, the Boston Sea Rovers, Our World Underwater and occasionally at the Long Island Diving Association.

Contact Christopher Weaver and Michael Salvarezza at ecophoto@optonline.net or www.ecophotoexplorers.com.



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