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# ScubaH2O

ADVENTURES MAGAZINE



*Dive Pirates in Port*

STRENGTHENING ADAPTIVE SCUBA

*Alaska*

GATEWAY TO INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE

*Orchard Beach*

DIVING WITH A PURPOSE

*Hawaii*

LIVING IN THE LAVA ZONE

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We encourage readers to participate in determining the content of this publication by giving us their opinions on the types of articles they would like to see. We invite letters to the editor, manuscripts and photographs related to diving or dive-related business. Send us your stories and photos!



## Bronx Beach Cleanup Nets Results

*Article and Photos by Michael Salvatore & Christopher P. Weaver*

Well, all dives have SOME kind of purpose: Photography, exploration, artifact recovery...the list goes on.

On May 20, 2018, a group of intrepid New York area divers assembled at Orchard Beach in the Bronx, New York, to participate in the 9th annual beach cleanup sponsored by Captain Mike's Diving Services located in nearby City Island, New York.

This event has become a popular gathering for local divers who wish to give back by helping to remove trash from the beach and the surrounding underwater environment. This is a great way to dive with a purpose.

Several dozen divers representing the Long Island Divers Association (LIDA), the Dive Club of Long Island, the Scuba Sports Club of Westchester as well as other SCUBA enthusiasts looking for a way to "get wet" and "give back" showed up on a cloudy

Sunday morning (following a stormy Saturday) to participate. They were joined by volunteers who checked all the divers in, weighed all the trash collected, and assisted in transporting heavy SCUBA gear from the Orchard Beach parking lot to the waterfront.

Members of the Coast Guard also joined the event by sponsoring a booth to advertise the Coast Guard as well as by keeping track of the safety of the divers throughout the day by noting who was in the water at all times.

Once assembled and checked in, divers were free to roam the beach with trash bags to collect waste from the shore, or to suit up and take the plunge into the waters of the western Long Island Sound to remove as much garbage and other material from the bottom as they could manage.

Before long, divers were striding

down the beach headed for the murky waters of Orchard Beach. With a silty, muddy bottom and very little visibility, Orchard Beach is an unlikely dive destination. We spotted a few hearty Horseshoe Crabs, a small school of tiny fish fry and an occasional hermit crab during our dive but the purpose of this experience was not to find marine life...it was to recover trash! Initially, in the 6 inches of visibility we had, we could find no trash. But, as we closed on a small rocky outcropping some 50 yards offshore, we began to fill our mesh bags with "stuff".

Rubber gloves, plastic cups, plastic bags, soda cans, beer cans and, to our surprise, a beach umbrella pole interestingly planted vertically deep into the mud were among our initial finds. Later, we pulled a full-size flag of some sort out of the mud, with billowing clouds of black muddy silt

reducing our already limited visibility to zero.

Surfacing after the dive, we found that the sun had cleared the clouds from the sky, a neat little metaphor for the progress we were making in cleaning up the local environment.

All told, the divers and beach combers collected well over 100 pounds of trash. It was time to celebrate and a full-on barbeque and clam bake ensued. After all, it is easy to work up an appetite dragging mesh bags filled with trash out of the water!

Beach cleanup dives are making a difference. For example, Project Aware's Dive Against Debris, in which divers remove and report marine litter, has recently reached

a milestone of removing a million items from underwater weighing 680,000 lbs. This self-reporting effort involved 49,000 divers in over 114 countries over a seven-year period.

The #BINBAGCHALLENGE is an ocean cleanup project that was initiated by the diving website [rateyourdive.com](http://rateyourdive.com) in conjunction with Ban's Diving Resort in Koh Tao, Thailand. Using social media and modeled after the famous #Icebucketchallenge, the organizers hope to inspire divers to collect litter and trash wherever they dive and to use popular sites like Facebook and Instagram to create a viral movement.

Beach cleanups are a wonderful way for divers to help contribute to the preservation of our marine

environment. If you see one being organized in your area, participate! If you don't see one, consider organizing one. Whether you connect your efforts to a worldwide movement or a local effort, it's a rewarding experience and a great way to dive with a purpose!

Underwater Beach Cleanup Information

[What you need to know to organize a Beach Cleanup](#)

[Ongoing Beach Cleanups Around The Globe](#)

<https://www.projectaware.org/diveagainstdebris>



**Cleaning up the beach at Orchard Beach**



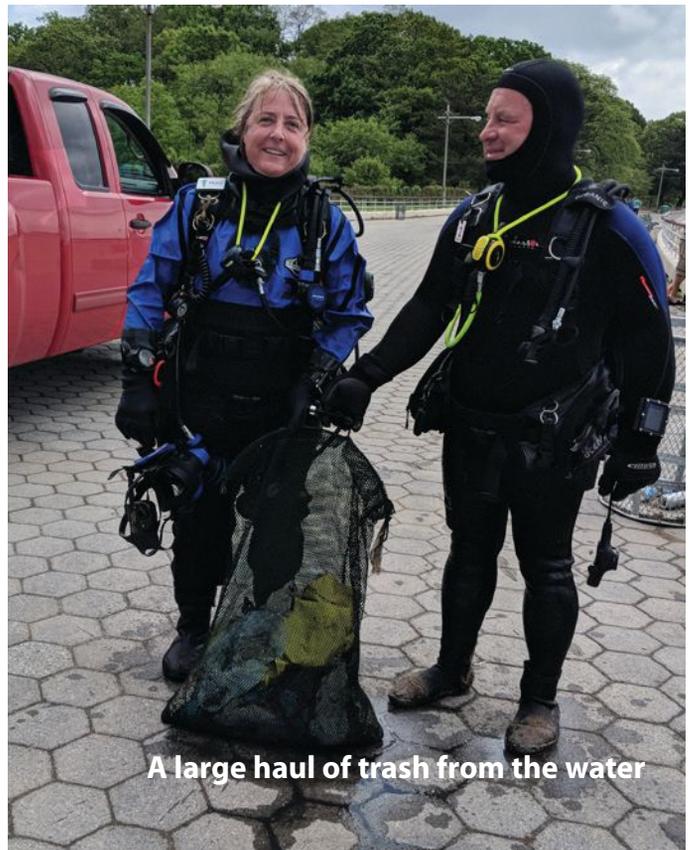
**Beach cleanups work both above and below the water**



Divers beginning their dive at Orchard Beach



Author Chris Weaver, LIDA President Barry Lipsky and Capt. Mike Carew, owner of Captain Mike's Dive Shop



A large haul of trash from the water

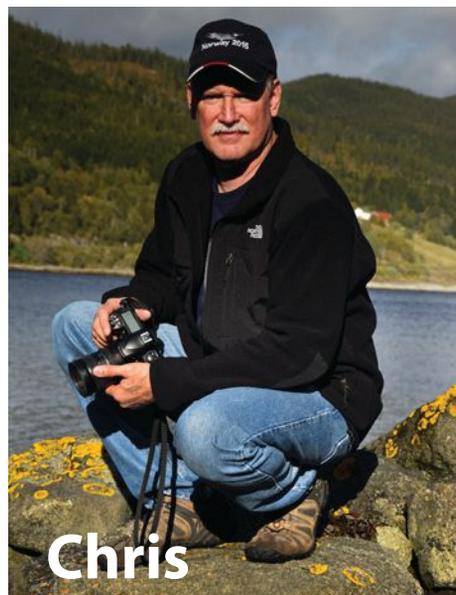


## About Eco-Photo Explorers: Michael Salvarezza & Christopher P. Weaver

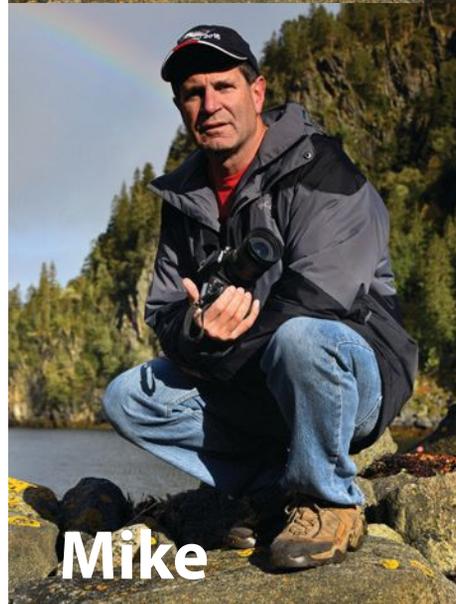
Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver have been diving the waters the world since 1978. In that time, they have spent thousands of hours underwater and have accumulated a large and varied library of photographic images. They have presented their work in many multi-media slide presentations, and have appeared previously at Beneath the Sea, the Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic, Ohio ScubaFest and Our World Underwater. Mike and Chris have been published more than 125 articles in numerous magazines, including National Geographic Adventure, and have authored numerous articles for the majority of the dive publications the world over. Their work has also been used to support a number of research and educational programs, including the Jason Project for Education, the Atlantis Marine World Aquarium in New York, The New York Harbor School Billion Oyster Project, The Northeast Ocean Planning Recreation Survey and the Cambridge University and the University of Groningen Arctic Centre work on monitoring the transformation of historic features in Antarctica and Svalbard. Mike and Chris are the Executive Producers of the annual Long Island Divers Association (LIDA) Film Festival.

Eco-Photo Explorers (EPE) is a New York based organization and was formed in 1994 to help promote interest in protecting the environment through knowledge and awareness through the use of underwater photography. Photography, multimedia slide presentations, lectures and freelance writing are all used to accomplish this goal. Christopher Weaver and Michael Salvarezza make up Eco-Photo Explorers. Both live in New York on Long Island and have been scuba diving together since 1978, but didn't seriously start photographing the ocean realm until 1989. Since then, they have spent thousands of hours underwater accumulating and putting together a large and varied library of high-resolution stock photography from around the world. They specialize in all aspects of underwater still photography (wide angle and macro), nature photography, magazine and technical writing and have produced many multimedia slide programs that are designed to educate as well as enlighten the public about the marine environment and the various threats that exist to destroy it.

[www.ecophotoexplorers.com](http://www.ecophotoexplorers.com)



Chris



Mike