

Scuba & H2O

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ADVENTURES MAGAZINE

12 SHARK CON

JAWESOME WEEKEND

20 THE 3RS

EXPLORING SOCAL'S NEAR-SHORE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

DIVING THE FIRST SUBMARINE BASE

IN THE UNITED STATES

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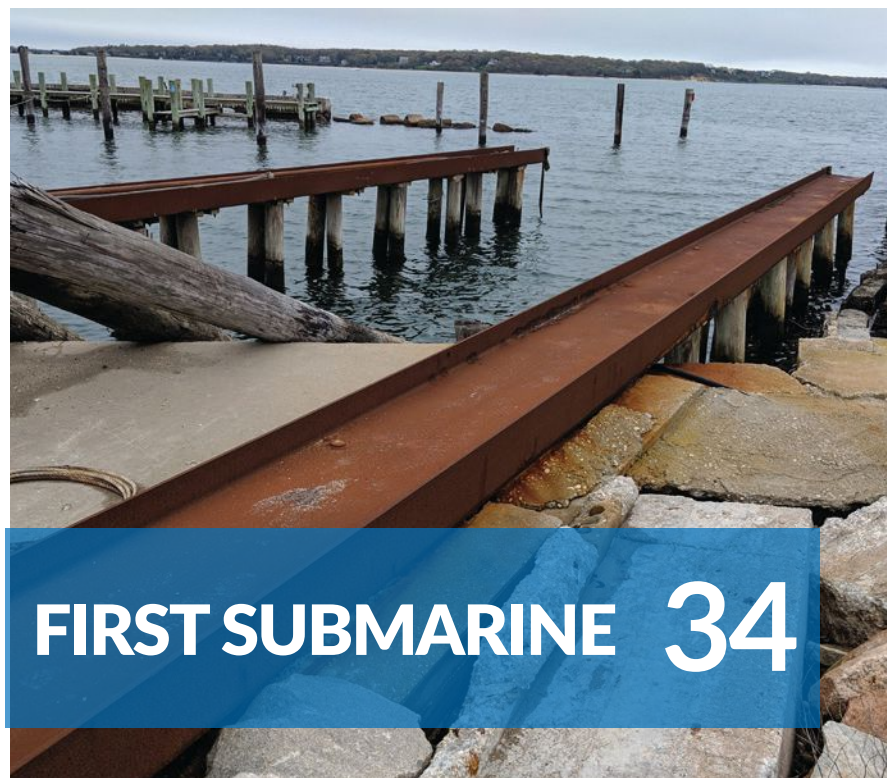
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From the Editor

Here's to Our Writers!

Welcome to our July edition of Scuba H2O Adventures Magazine! It's hard to believe 2019 has already surpassed the half-way mark. We've been hard at work producing stories and connecting scuba diving groups, programs, and events with one another: by bridging these communities and ideas, we continue our mission of promoting scuba diving and its many benefits to people, the environment, and business.

July, depending on the locality, marks the peak of summer for many of our readers. It's a time to enjoy the great outdoors, soak in some rays, and explore submerged worlds. Through our magazine, we have opened these worlds to new readers, and the stories of those who have traveled them, to you, our readers. As the publication continues to expand with a wider variety of topics, so too has our column spread, and the support we have received from our regular contributors and guest writers has inspired us to greater heights – and we hope in you, too.

July 2019's Publisher's Note is dedicated to our writers who have shared their expertise, discoveries, and anecdotes with us and our global audience. Our writers have captured scenes of triumph and defeat; levity and struggle; hope and understanding. They travel to places far beyond our corner of the United States, and return with these storied gifts in tow.

Personally, as an editor, I have enjoyed working with them, and look forward to reading each story as soon as it hits my inbox. Their professionalism and dedication to portraying their adventures (and in some cases exploits) in text and still imagery is a testament to the myriad applications of scuba diving and its long-standing history with humanity.

So, thank you Gary Lehman for your on-the-dot northeast reporting.
Thank you, Alec Peirce for your tech and dive history lessons.
Thank you, Elizabeth Babcock for your comprehensive pieces on diver health and fitness.
Thank you, James Lapenta, for showing newer divers the ropes and helping older divers return.
Thank you, Bonnie McKenna for your conservation work and sharing your efforts with our readers.
Thank you, John C. Fine for taking us back to diving's younger years and unveiling Florida's world of diving.
Thank you, Eco-Photo Explorers Christopher Weaver and Michael Salvatore, for sharing your world adventures through captivating copy and imagery.
Thank you, Gene Peterson for your extensive coverage of shipwrecks, particularly in the northeast.
And thank you, Mark Norder, our newest columnist who explores commercial diving as a lifestyle: worms and all.

Here's to our writers!

About the Cover:

Tanya Houppermans is an internationally-recognized, multiple-award winning photographer specializing in images of the natural world, especially below the water's surface, while advocating for the protection of the world's marine ecosystems through education and conservation. www.BlueElementsImaging.com

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SOUND
BITES

SCUBAH2OMAG

Shout-outs!

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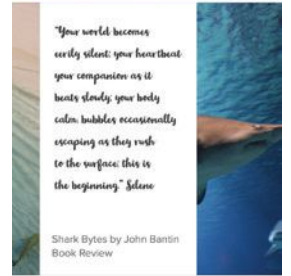


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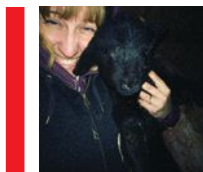
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Book Review on John Bartram's impressive impression on sharks: Shark Bytes is a great read - a must read for any ocean aficionado. John Bartram
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Shark Bytes by John Bartram
Book Review

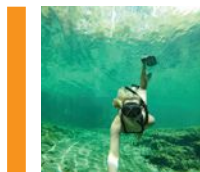
Regular Contributors



SELENE
MULDOWNEY



JOHN TAPLEY



CAITLYN
RUSKELL

Caitlyn is Content Writer and Editor for Divers Alert Network in Durham, NC. She is an active PADI and NAUI Instructor, RAID Rebreather Instructor and graduate of the University of Georgia.

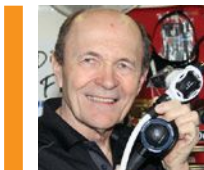


A BEACH IS NOT ONLY A SWEEP OF SAND, BUT SHELLS OF SEA CREATURES, THE SEA GLASS, THE SEAWEED, THE INCONGRUOUS OBJECTS WASHED UP BY THE OCEAN. **HENRY GRUNWALD**



GARY
LEHMAN

Gary came to diving later than most, and loves to get away when he can – which is not enough! Some of the most memorable experiences ever for Gary have been underwater with his club buddies, turtles and sharks! When not diving or thinking about it, he writes about it!



ALEC PEIRCE

Alec Peirce is recognized as one of the finest scuba diving presenters of his generation. He holds instructor certifications with seven different scuba training agencies plus many honorary awards from the scuba industry including the prestigious "Platinum Pro 5000 Diver".



ELIZABETH
BABCOCK

Elizabeth Babcock, LCSW has been a certified diver since 2000. She is a psychotherapist and community educator who has written extensively on topics of interest to anyone seeking to maximize their health and overall enjoyment of life, though her primary specialty is the treatment of overeating. She recently published "[Why We Overeat and How to Stop.](#)" (available at Amazon.com).



JAMES
LAPENTA

I am a recreational and technical SCUBA Instructor whose primary goal is to create divers that are safe, skilled, and competent. I'd rather lose business than certify an unqualified diver. It is my moral and ethical duty to call out unsafe practices, standards, and those who defend or use them.



BONNIE
MCKENNA

Destined to a life with adventure, Bonnie McKenna took her open water dive in 1955 with no wetsuit or BCD, a J-valve tank, double hose regulator, and fins that weighed a ton. She explored the world, with camera in hand, as an international flight attendant. Now retired, she spends her time working as a photojournalist and conservationist.



JOHN C
FINE

The author Dr. John Christopher Fine is a marine biologist, Master Scuba Instructor and Instructor Trainer. He is an expert in maritime affairs and has authored 26 published books. His large format coffee table book: *TREASURES OF THE SPANISH MAIN* contains information and photographs of Spanish colonial shipwrecks.



GENE
PETERSON

An accomplished wreck explorer, historian, speaker, instructor, and business owner, Gene is a man who wears many hats, and who has made significant strides in surfacing the deep history of New Jersey shipwrecks. Gene has over 40 years of experience in these fields, and we look forward to sharing his stories and expertise in future editions.



MICHAEL
SALVAREZZA

Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver have been diving the waters of 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.

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.



CHRISTOPHER
WEAVER



MARK
NORDER

Mark has worked as a diver and dive supervisor for more than 30 years. He works in locations as diverse as Alaska's Bering Sea, the Missouri River and Gulf of Mexico. Mark currently resides in Southern California.

New Suffolk is a sleepy little hamlet tucked into a corner of the North Fork of New York’s Long Island and situated on the shores of the Peconic Bay. Historic homes, a few restaurants, some small businesses and a boatyard define this quiet and unassuming community. But a little over a hundred years ago, this town became the epicenter of the development of a new class of military vessel: the submarine.

The history of military submarines in the United States dates all the way back to 1776, when a hand-powered egg-shaped device named the Turtle became the first submarine capable of independent underwater operation and movement, and the first to use screws for propulsion. But it would not be until 1900 that the United States Navy would commission their first submarine, the USS Holland (SS-1).

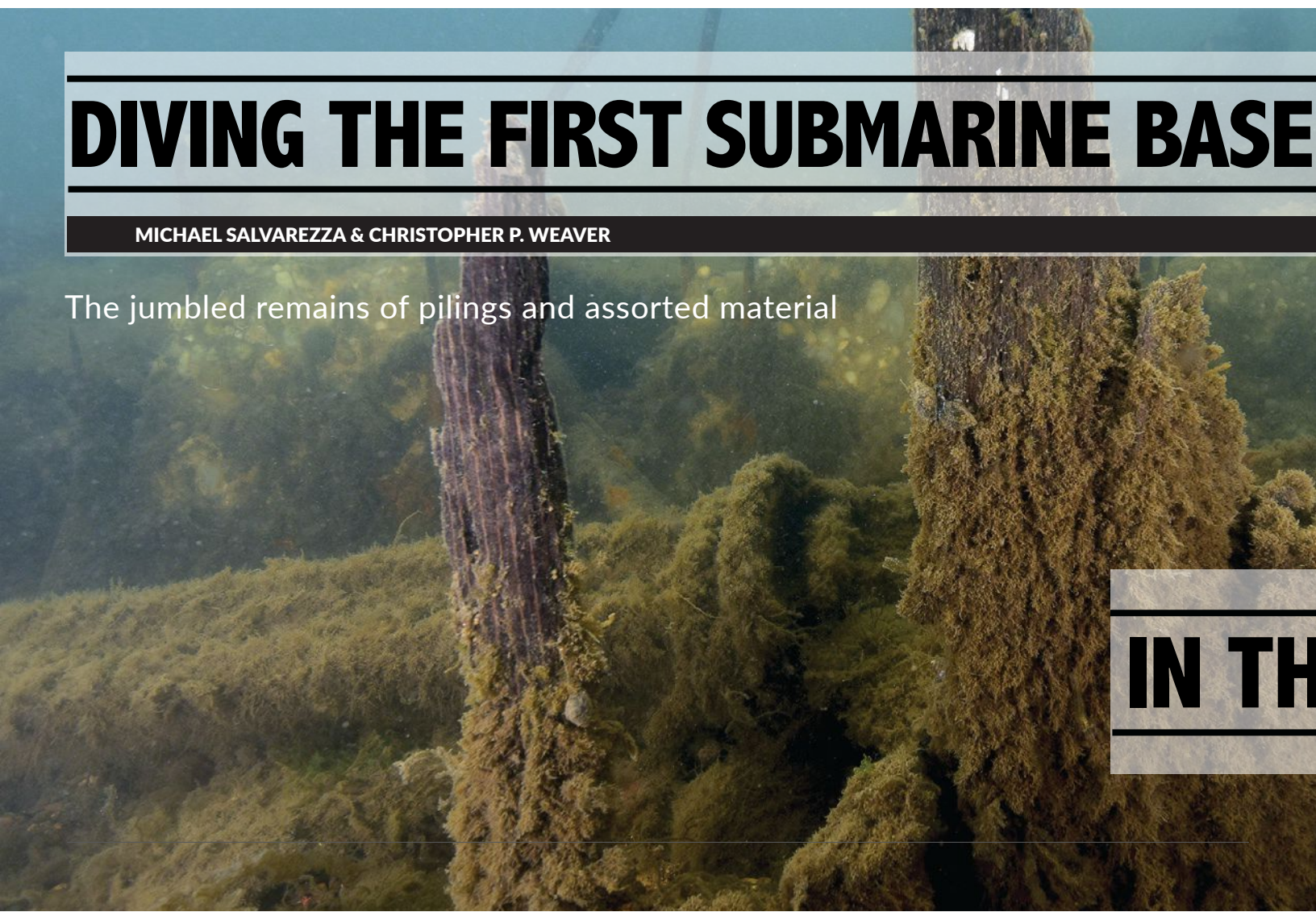
The submarine was named after John P. Holland, an early pioneer in the construction of submarines. Born in 1840 in Ireland, Holland had a vision for the construction of underwater vehicles and by the late 1800s he was actively testing different models with varying success.

Finally, after a number of design changes, Holland’s most successfully designed submarine, Holland, was built at former Navy Lieutenant Lewis Nixon’s Crescent Shipyard of Elizabeth,

DIVING THE FIRST SUBMARINE BASE

MICHAEL SALVAREZZA & CHRISTOPHER P. WEAVER

The jumbled remains of pilings and assorted material



IN TH

New Jersey for John Holland's Holland Torpedo Boat Company, which was renamed the Electric Boat company in 1899.

The Holland made use of internal combustion engine power on the surface and electric battery power for submerged operations. Also included were many innovative features such as a conning tower from which the direction of the boat could be visually assisted and the submarine's weapons aimed. She could take a crew of six men and could dive to a depth of 75 feet.

Testing of this unit began in the waters around New York City, but the need for secrecy combined with the busy boat traffic in this area created problems for Holland. So, in 1899, he began to look for a secluded location to test out his breakthrough design. He settled on New Suffolk because of its access to protected waters as well as its relative isolation. Here, he leased the Goldsmith and Tuthill Shipyards and the sea trials of his new machines began in earnest.

Tests and demonstrations at New Suffolk eventually convinced the U.S Government to purchase the Holland for the sum of \$150,000 on 11 April 1900. She became the first submarine commissioned by the United States on October 12, 1900.

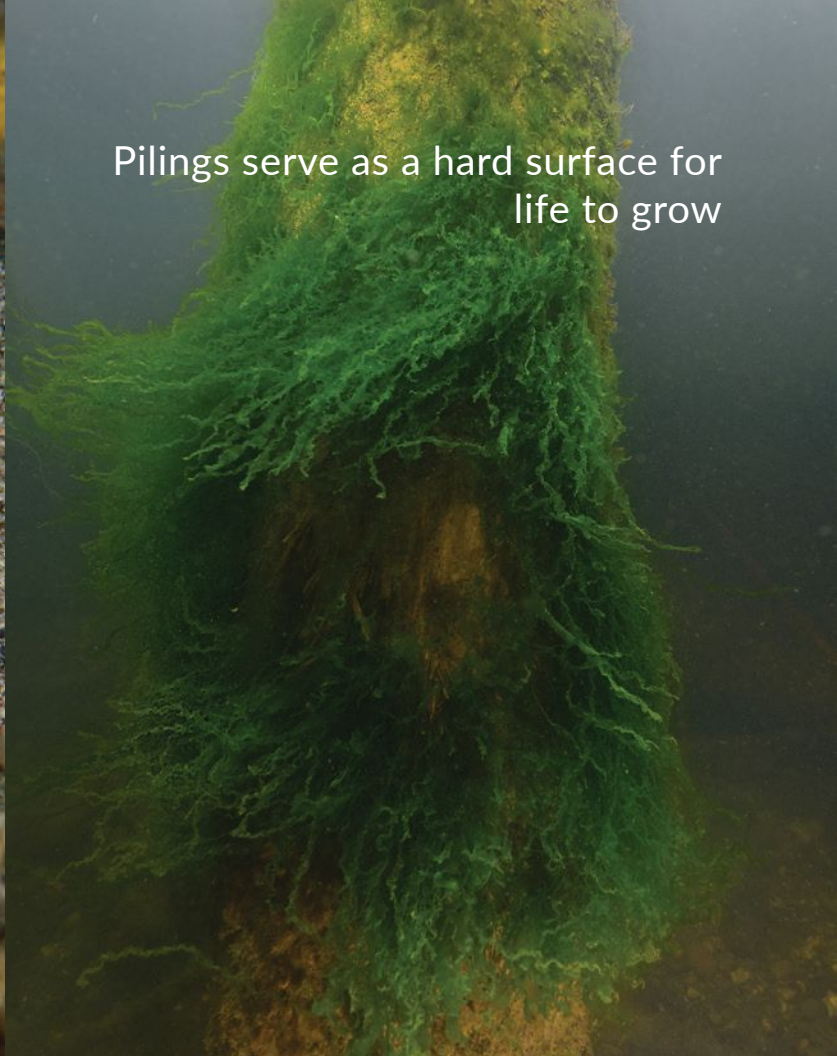


THE UNITED STATES





Look close in the pebbles to find small fish



Pilings serve as a hard surface for life to grow

With the construction and testing of six additional submarines at this site between the years 1899 and 1905, the location in New Suffolk soon became an active submarine base, the very first in the United States.

The USS Holland was decommissioned in 1905, sold for scrap and later portions of it were put on display in Philadelphia, the Bronx, NY and finally Patterson, New Jersey. She was totally scrapped in 1932.

John Holland's Electric Boat Company eventually became the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation, with its base in Groton, Connecticut and has been the primary builder of submarines for the U.S. Navy for more than a century.

Today, the significant history of this tiny corner of water front real estate is almost lost to the passing of time. An historical marker on the site briefly documents the story of Holland's submarine base and a few rusting rails and bulkheads are the only remains from this era.

Our dive to explore the underwater site of the first United States Submarine Base began on the shoreline adjacent to the decaying bulkhead. A protected cove, the entry is easy and not subject to significant wave action. We gradually descended in murky water and immediately came upon decaying timbers and rotted wood pilings, perhaps some of the last submerged



The history of this old sub base echoes through the years

vestiges of this time period.

Heading due east from the shoreline, we eventually cleared a small rock jetty that provides additional protection from the open water. Along the rocks, we found spider crabs, small fish and a few Peconic Bay Scallops watching us warily with their multiple eyes.

Once we rounded the jetty, we swam due north to the abandoned submarine launching pen. Here, as we explored the rusting remains of the bulkheads and pilings careful to avoid stirring up the muddy, silty bottom, our thoughts drifted back in time. What was it like to work on these early submarines? How exciting must it have been to launch these experimental and innovative machines alongside these very same bulkheads?

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The age of innovation was in full swing, and the commissioning of the USS Holland, built and tested here at this very site, was the first in an unbroken string of submarines that continues to this day. We contemplated the significance of this as we further explored the submerged remains of the base.

The dive in New Suffolk at the site of John Holland's submarine base did not reveal dramatic underwater terrain, or large numbers of artifacts, or great quantities of marine life. It was a murky dive in an otherwise nondescript location. But the cloudy water was an apt metaphor for historical significance of this site...as time passes, sites like these become lost to the developments of the future. At some point, this site will be converted to another purpose and Holland's submarine base will disappear except from the pages of history books. We were glad to have explored it both above and below the water.

As we exited the water, we spotted an Osprey perched atop one of the pilings. His distinctive call to his mate bounced off the bulkhead walls of the old sub base, echoed over the waters of the Peconic Bay and back through time to a moment in history when this placid spot was the center of submarine development. As the Osprey resumed its hunt, we paused and we reflected on the rich history that lies all along our shores and under the waves of our familiar waterways.

