

Priceless

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# SCUBA & H<sub>2</sub>O

## ADVENTURE

*Wreck diver to the bone*

**SPECTACULAR  
MINI-SEASON  
IN KEY LARGO**

**EXPLORING  
THE LAND  
OF LINCOLN**

**WASHINGTON'S  
AMAZING  
SAN JUAN  
ISLANDS**

*Paul Holtzman*

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**About the Cover**  
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**glorifies wreck diving for his**  
**latest shirt.**

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# Dive Locally & Often!

In this month's edition we are happy to provide you lots of information to dive locally and more often.

The first Southeast Regional we profiled NAUI's Green Dive initiative. NAUI (National Association of Underwater Inspectors) is currently rebuilding the infrastructure after many years of complacency. The Green Dive Initiative and Welcome Program offers meaningful conservation help to individuals and organizations in the industry than other existing programs. Great job by NAUI – to read more about this program please visit page 6.

In the second Southeast Regional News story we profile Patriots for Disabled Divers, a Virginia based 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to helping disabled divers (not just for the military) find the theory in scuba diving with a special 'Try to dive' with Whale Sharks inside the Georgia Aquarium. Read more about this inspiring story on page 8.

In our Southeast Feature we salute Indian Valley Scuba Center of Harleysville, PA and Florida's lobster mini-season. Each year they take a four-month break from commercial and recreational lobster harvesting and allow a two-day frenzy as recreational divers get first dibs on this new crop of succulent crustaceans. This story profiles one of the many Northeast dive stores who travel to Florida for tasty lobster. Dive into lobster season on page 10.

In our Northeast Regional news we share the strong work of LIDA (Long Island Dive Association) as they work with local communities (Townships) to keep and restore access to dive sites. In the Northeast, access to beach is not a right but a privilege and LIDA is working diligently to restore these access points for the many cherished sites. Learn more about their work on page 14.

Another Northeast Regional story gives us an inside look at the Port of New Jersey by the Working Harbor Committee. Dive News Network Regional Correspondent Gary Lehman, editor of the Scuba Sports Club Newsletter, got a personal tour of this historic and strategically important seaport. Read his account on page 16.

Our Northeast feature profiles the historic green mountain state of Virginia – one of the original 13 tribes – this state is for LOVERS. Find out what is below the waterline and why divers and fishermen are flocking to its waters. Discover your romantic rendezvous on page 18.

Our Midwest Regional is about Traverse City, Michigan, at the head of the Manitou Passage – one the shipwreck graveyards of the Great Lakes. Discover what draws divers and visitors from around the region to its waters on page 24.

In the Midwest Feature we profile the inland side of Illinois – the Land of Lincoln. Illinois is known as a dive destination because of nearby Lake Michigan and while it's shoreline is

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# Finding Common Ground: LIDA and the Village of Greenport Work Together

Text and Photography by Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver  
(Eco-Photo Explorers)

Recently, the Long Island Divers Association (LIDA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit regional organization dedicated to the promotion of local diving, the representation of divers interests throughout the diving and general community, and the protection of divers rights through outreach to local and regional government officials, began working with officials from the Village of Greenport on Long Island's north fork to open access to divers to Clarke's Beach.

Known to divers for years as "Secret Beach", this stretch of pristine Long Island shoreline had for years been declared off-limits by the Village of Greenport. However, through the efforts of LIDA, Greenport Village officials agreed to provide limited access to the site for divers and on July 23rd and 24th, the first official dives at the site were conducted. These divers were followed up by additional dives on August 13th and 14th with more dates planned for the future. The re-opening of Clarke's Beach ("Secret Beach") was a real victory in the efforts to protect diver access rights to the shoreline and marine environments around Long Island.

In an example of how the dive community can partner with local officials to provide benefits to all, LIDA offered to give back to the Village of Greenport as part of the arrangement to provide diver access to this terrific shore dive. The first tangible outcome



Clarke's Beach ("Secret Beach") offers great local diving in New York

of this effort was to conduct beach cleanups on the site whenever divers were present. For the inaugural dive weekend, 7 large size trash bags of litter were removed from the site and more trash was collected on the August dates. Indeed, the commitment by LIDA to leave the beach in better condition than before it was used is being realized.

Additionally, when arrangements were being made to open access to the site for local divers, the Village officials expressed interest in hearing from the divers about the state of the underwater environment and, in particular, the condition of several metal tubes that extend from the shoreline out into the

waters of the Long Island Sound. During the August dives, officers of LIDA were first able to remove a plastic blockage from one of the tubes that was inhibiting the flow from the tube. After that, divers photographed and recorded video of the tube to document its condition. These images were then given to the Village of Greenport officials and are another example of how divers and local officials can work together.

A future project that LIDA has agreed to assist the Village of Greenport with is an underwater inspection of a bulkhead in the town marina area that the Village officials are concerned about. Once again, in addition to a visual inspection,

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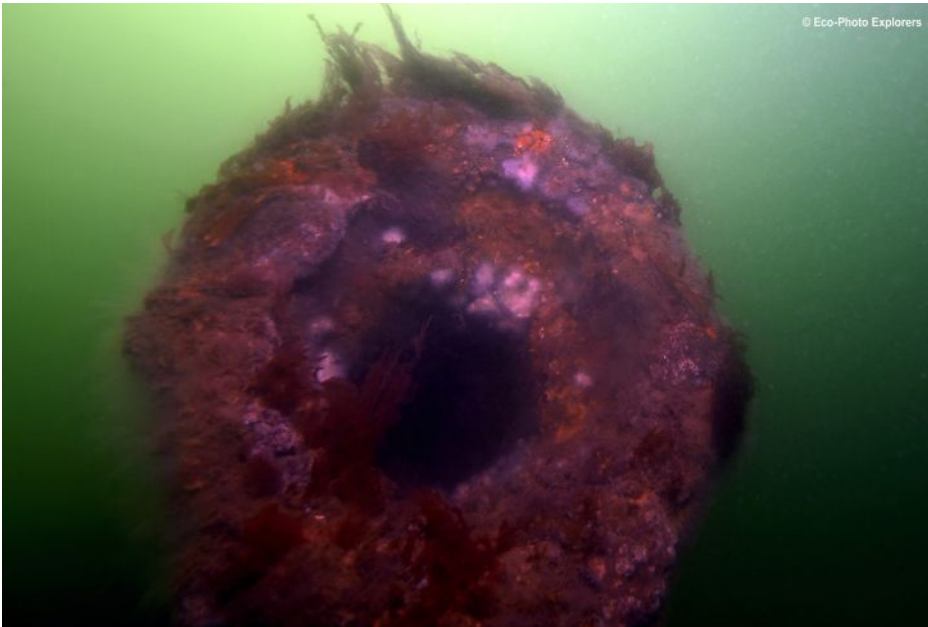
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The Long Island Divers Association (LIDA) is a not-for-profit regional organization dedicated to the promotion of local diving, the representation of divers interests throughout the diving and general community, and the protection of divers rights through outreach to local and regional government officials. It is staffed entirely by volunteers who are passionate about the sport of SCUBA Diving and who are committed to serving the interests of the diving community.

Recent efforts by LIDA have given the student divers of the NY Harbor School opportunities to be exposed to exciting dive sites on Long Island, have secured the long term preservation of the Ponquogue Bridge, one of Long Island's premier dive sites in the town of Southampton, and have re-established diver access to the formerly off-limits dive site known as "Secret Beach" in the town of Greenport.

To learn more about LIDA and to see how you can help in their efforts, visit their website at [www.lidaonline.com](http://www.lidaonline.com)

Opening to one of the metal tubes

LIDA intends to provide images and video to help Village officials better understand the condition of the asset they are concerned with.

By coming together to find common ground and to seek ways in which both sides of a issue can benefit, LIDA and the Village of Greenport have shown how a mutually beneficial relationship can be created. LIDA, for its part, continues to seek ways to give back to the local community, providing tangible examples of how divers can lead by example and be part of a positive contribution to the local community.



Diver's entering the water at Clarke's Beach ("Secret Beach")

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## Long Island Divers Association

LIDA is a not-for-profit regional organization dedicated to the promotion of local diving and is staffed completely by volunteers.



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