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ADVENTURES MAGAZINE



**10 UNDERWATER
PUMPKIN CARVING**

**14 THE HUMAN DIVER
PROJECT**

**BUBBLES BELOW
RESURFACES**

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Publisher's Note: *Falling in Love ... with Autumn*

Every year sometime between late September and early October I fall in love. Autumn is returning; the lingering warm days turn into the chill of fresh crisp air as the evening darkness blankets the earth, leaves change from greens to bright yellows, hues of gold, reds, and orange, animals start building their winter hideaways, and my heart fills with a sense of wonder and awe as the world transforms before me.

It can be challenging to enjoy this season between the warmth of summer and the bitterness of winter as each day brings unpredictable weather, the chaos of school days, and preparing the home and land for its winter slumber. So, in the spirit of the upcoming holidays and the promise of indoor activities I challenge you to enjoy Autumn.

Here are a few tips:

Decorate your home – break out those autumn-colored accessories, pick out some pumpkins, and make your living space festive!

Celebrate with fall foods: Cocoa, cider, pumpkin-spiced lattes, pumpkin pie, fresh apples and apple pies, candy corn, and homemade stews.

Enjoy the crisp, fresh outdoor air. Don't let the chill in the air discourage you from heading outdoors. Get your drysuit on and dive!

Grab those cool-weather clothes.

Pumpkin carving, apple picking, stepping on crunchy leaves, and sitting by the campfire go hand-in-hand with the fall season.

Spend a guilt free chilly afternoon on the deck with a warm drink, book in hand, and a blanket.

Be present to the changes around you. Snuggle up to someone you love – my dogs make great companions on long walks.

Not everyone will share my enthusiasm for this season of change, but I do encourage you to enjoy the moment, take in every sight, sound, and smell. Be present in the season and take time to enjoy the world around you. Seasons come and go – enjoy it while it lasts. Each season brings its own gift.

Selene Muldowney

About the Cover:

Wolf-eel inside a pumpkin, crafted by Fritz and Joyce Merkel and Kelly Britz – photo by Joyce Merkel

SOUND
BITES

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An Epic Expedition

of women in STEM (Science, Technology, and Mathematics) fields is around 24 percent. The numbers, Latinas represent only...

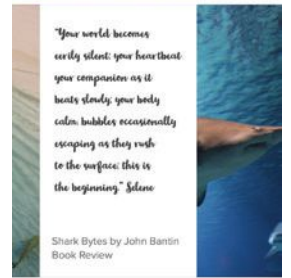


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Equal Woman of the Ocean – Latinas
of women in STEM is around 24 percent. If

INSTAGRAM

Book review on John Bantini's impressive impression on sharks: Shark Bytes is a great read – a must read for any ocean aficionado. John Bantini, Fernhurst Books
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Shark Bytes by John Bantini
Book Review

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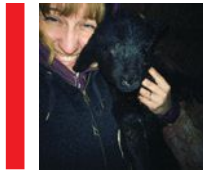
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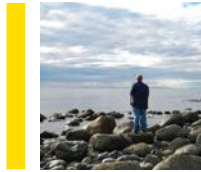
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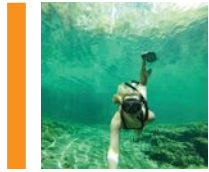
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Caitlyn is Content Writer and Editor for Divers Alert Network in Durham, NC. She is an active PADI and NAUI Instructor, RAID Rebreather Instructor and graduate of the University of Georgia.



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.



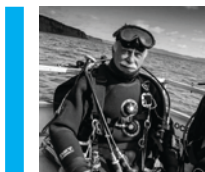
BONNIE
MCKENNA

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.

THE DIVE TEAM DESCENDS



CAUAYAN: DIV

MICHAEL SALVAREZZA & CHRISTOPHER P. WEAVER



A diver is shown from the side, swimming in deep blue water. The diver is wearing a silver scuba tank with "CRESCENT" written on it, and black fins. The diver's head is partially visible on the left. The background is a dark, clear blue. A horizontal grey bar with black borders is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text "IVING THE ROCK".

IVING THE ROCK

The Sulu Sea in the Philippines is home to one of the most pristine marine reserves in the world: The Tubbataha Reefs Marine Preserve. Here, for a few select weeks a year during its short season of access, divers can find reefs bursting with colorful corals and teeming with myriad marine creatures. Precipitous walls are adorned with large sea fans, massive barrel sponges and dazzling soft corals. Prowling these deeper waters are ocean going giants: Trevally, Barracuda, Tuna and Sharks. And roaming the drop-offs are the largest fishes of all, the giant Whale Sharks.

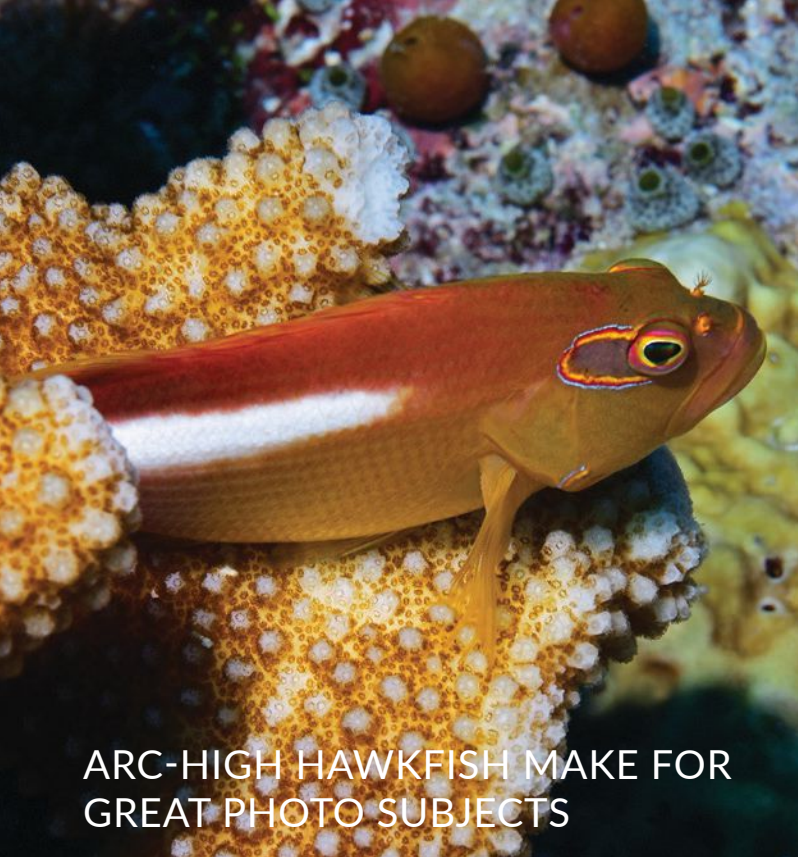
Tubbataha, and all of the Sulu Sea, sits in the middle of the Coral Triangle, a stretch of ocean that is considered the center of marine biodiversity in the world. Bordered to the west by Palawan, to the east by Mindanao and to the south by the nations of Malaysia and Indonesia, the Sulu Sea is a veritable wonderland of ocean life.

As divers, we enjoy the thrill of discovery and the excitement of exploration. After a weeks' worth of magnificent diving in the Tubbataha Marine Preserve, we left aboard our liveaboard home, the Discovery Adventure, for Apo Reef and, eventually, Puerto Galera. Along the way, we stopped at a little known and rarely explored rock jutting up from the sea floor, known locally as Cauayan and prepared to dive.

Cauayan has been explored underwater by only about 100 or so divers according to the dive leaders aboard the Discovery Adventure. It lies far off the beaten path and not very close to any established diving services. Our explorer juices began to flow!

THE DIVE TEAM DEPARTS FOR THE DIVE AT CAUAYAN





ARC-HIGH HAWKFISH MAKE FOR GREAT PHOTO SUBJECTS

We suited up aboard the liveaboard and then transferred in teams to small zodiacs for the quick run over to the island. The sun was shining and we began to sweat in the tropical heat of the Philippines. As we approached the stark piece of rock we could see the sea birds swirling above and could hear the rush of water as the surge crashed into the rocky island walls.

Having discussed the possibility of dangerous currents, including down currents and swirling whirlpools, we back-rolled into the clear water with our senses on alert. Quickly, we made our way to the rocky walls of the main island and began a descent along a beautifully colored coral wall.

Hard and soft corals were competing for space here. We were instantly delighted to find anemones and their resident anemone fish tucked alongside large boulders. A small school of Sweetlips hung motionless near a cleaning station, the neon blue cleaner wrasse scouring the bodies of these bulky fish, while butterflyfish flitted amongst the coral nearby.

As we swam further down, we encountered geologic formations and rocky swim-throughs, which delighted the photographers in us. As we looked back up the wall towards the surface, clouds of brilliantly colored Anthias swarmed over the corals in an exhilarating

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display of marine fecundity.

On the bottom, we swam over bright blue starfish, large sea cucumbers and an occasional pufferfish keeping a wary eye on these unexpected visitors to their ocean home.

The rocky substrate of the small island seemed to provide an ideal base for the reefs to build. Using our macro photography setups, the small denizens of these reefs came into sharper focus. Nudibranchs, tiny gobies, blennies and even whip coral shrimps all became the latest stars of our photographic library.

Towards the end of the dive, a small crevice in the side of the island's base came into view. As we approached, it became evident that a torrent of water was streaming out from untold depths deep in the rocks. More interesting than the velocity of the water was the temperature: our gauges recorded 73 degrees and dropping while the surrounding water was in the high 80s!

Before long, it was time to surface. Our time at Cauayan was far too short and our boat was itching to move northward towards Apo Reef. But we still had a safety stop to do, and Cauayan wasn't quite done with us yet. Suddenly, as we slowly rose to 15 feet of water, we found ourselves unable to move forward toward the dive leader. And we were unable to rise any further either...we were caught in a swirling, shifting, confusing current that was deceptively powerful. We tried to swim out of it but that was difficult. We struggled to stay at 15 feet, and that was difficult. And, interestingly, the rest of the dive team, who were no more than 20 feet away, were having no trouble at all! Clearly, we were in a small eddy, and it took all of our strength to break free of it and swim a mere 20 feet to calm water!



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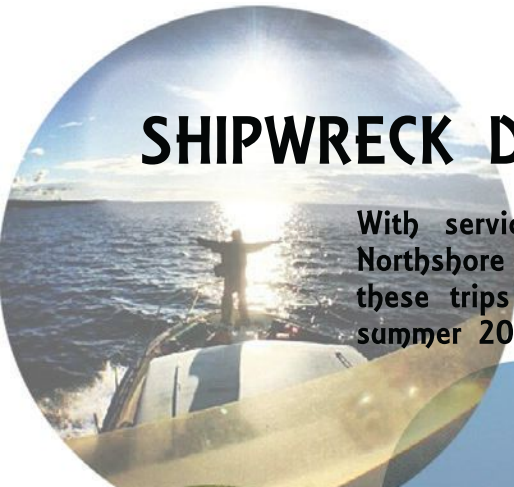


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We left Cauayan behind later that morning as the Discovery Adventure began a 15-hour run to Apo Reef. With the island receding into the distance we reflected on this tiny patch of ocean paradise and were grateful that it chose to reveal a few of its secrets to us as we briefly visited on the way to Apo Reef and beyond.

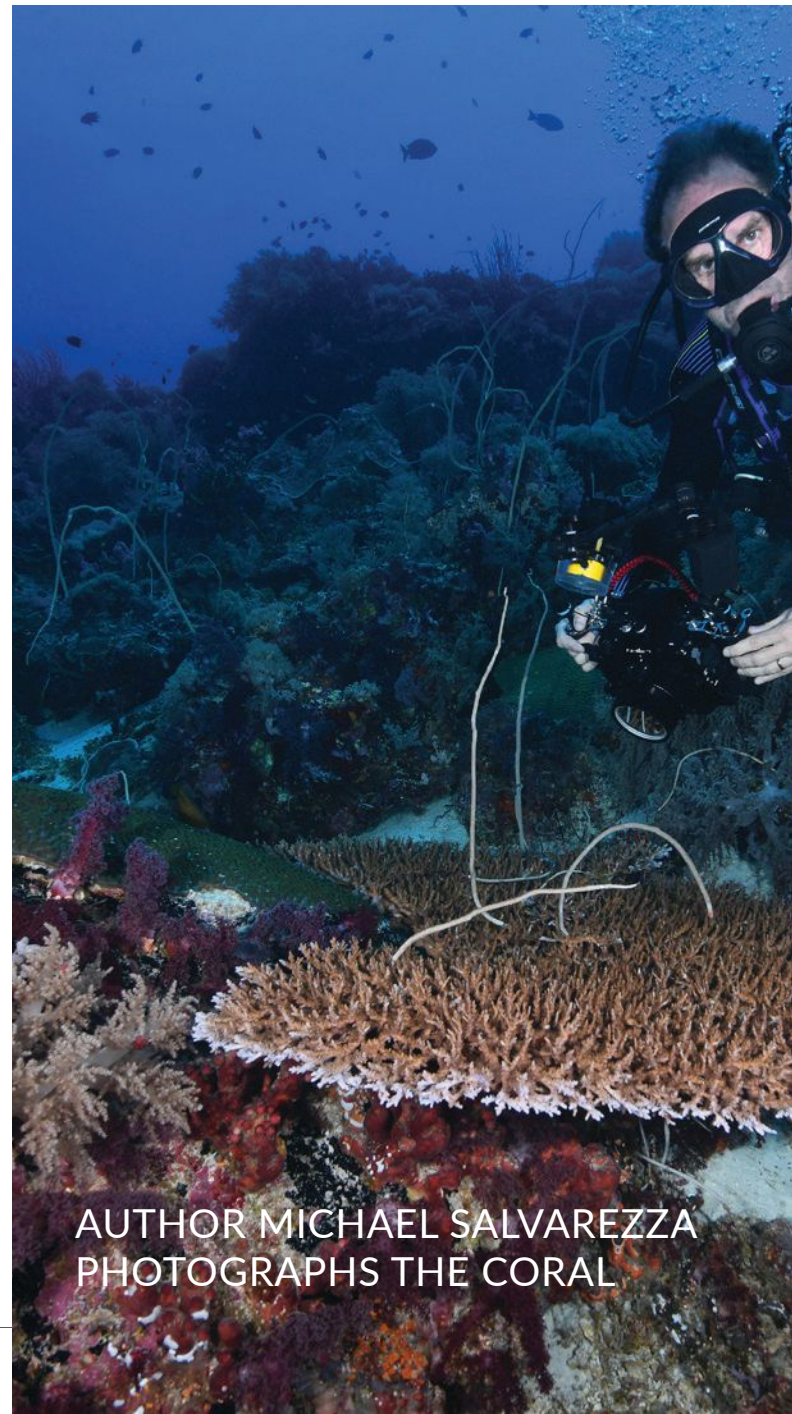
The expedition to Tubbataha, with the stop at Cauayan, was organized and chartered by the Marco Vincent Dive Resort in Puerto Galera. We thank them for their spirit of adventure and exploration which helped shape the very special itinerary of this trip.



AUTHOR MICHAEL SALVAREZZA EXPLORES THE CAUAYAN REEFS



CAUAYAN IS HOME ONLY TO BIRDS ABOVE THE WATER



AUTHOR MICHAEL SALVAREZZA PHOTOGRAPHS THE CORAL



RES



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