

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Aug. 2015

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Blowing Bubbles



Dear Sea Nags, Some of you already know my wife, Carol, and I have finally sold our house. At the beginning of August, we will be heading off to Kingston, Mass, where we intend to live out our retirement years.

Officially, I have been a Sea Nag since January of 2006, the newsletter editor from January of 2007, and club president from 2008 – 2014. It's been a long, varied, and thoroughly enjoyable experience getting to know everyone and diving with so many of you over the course of these nine years. Some of us have become such very close friends that for first time in my adult life I feel like I have become part of a genuine community of people who share a deep-seated love of diving and the underwater world. I never expected to find this in Columbus, OH, much less in the surrounding quarries we frequent. What a wonderful surprise, joy, and loss to

contemplate, as Carol and I prepare to move on.

As for the newsletter, I will continue to publish it for you for the near future until someone steps up to take over or the end of the year, which ever comes first. Just know that if interested, 1) I will help you. And 2), whoever takes over this responsibility does NOT have to create as elaborate a publication as I have. It was not an expectation for me and will not be a requirement for the next editor, either. In the meantime, keep sending me the news, your stories, and suggested articles for the newsletter. Photos will help, too, unless you want me to start recycling old ones. Be advised that will get very stale in a hurry!

If you ever come to Massachusetts, Carol and I hope you will look us up and plan to go diving. Our new address as of Aug. 4 will be: **6 Harborview Drive, Kingston, MA 02364**. My email will remain the same--<robisonr25@yahoo.com>--and so will my phone number: **614-546-9018**.

Finally, there are so many of you to thank for all of your help and for your myriad contributions both large and small over the years that I will not try to single anyone out in this column. Instead, let me just offer a big THANK YOU to all of you. I will continue to be a Sea Nag and support you and the club the rest of my life. I wish each and every one of you many more years of safe diving and innumerable opportunities to dive into it and enjoy the hydrosphere.

Thanks again for all you have done to help make this club a success,

Rob

General Meeting Minutes

Not held due to 4th of July

Present at the Social: Donn Ellerbrock, Ryan Jones, Mag & Steve Ranft, Rob Robison

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Announcements

1. New email for Mark Thomas: mszthomas@wowway.com
2. Twilight dive at Circleville on Saturday Sept. 12. Steve has info.
3. 2015 Club membership dues are \$20.00, \$30 for husband/wife. Please note 2016 club dues will increase to \$30 for individuals and \$40 for husband/wife. 2015 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.
4. **Marty mentioned a possible dive trip he may be taking Sept. 25-27 to Texas to dive the missile silo. Contact Marty for details if interested.**
5. Tuesday afternoon/evening dives are in progress at Circleville. Meet at Todd's shop by 3:30 – 3:45 and get wet. Post dive grub and grog at Gibby's in downtown Circleville.
6. Club logo patches and decals are available to new club members as a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each—these are plastic/waterproof--and extra patches for \$2.00 each while they last.
7. Facebook: You can find the Club Facebook forum by going to: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>, thanks to Andy Dennis.

Treasurer's Report

\$6,025.76 total

Member Raffle, 50/50 & Evening Program

Not held due to the 4th of July

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2015

Aug

- 6 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: *Minnedosa* (Wreck of the) video or DAN video
- 20 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- 22 7th annual corn roast, gear swap, twilight dive, & movie, *Into the Blue* (Circleville: Glenn, Steve, & Ryan)

Sep

- 3 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: MAST Update by Patrick Enlow
- 12 Twilight dive cookout & movie (*Sea Hunt* episodes)
- 17 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Oct

- 1 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Club officer nominations. Program: Laurel Sheppard on Diving Roatan
- 15 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Nov

- 5 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Election & video (TBA)
- 14 Annual banquet: TBA
- TBA Exec Meeting

Dec

- 3 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Awards presentations & video
- TBA Exec Meeting
- 31/Jan1 8th NYs Eve Dive-in & Celebration @ C'ville

Executive Meeting Highlights

Not held

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to
<newsletter@seanags.com>

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Spasms

Oral Reports

For those of you who are unaware, **John Skobel** has contracted bladder cancer and is undergoing chemo for the next several months. We have sent him a card with well wishes from many of you. Thanks for your

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help. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from you when you have a moment. His email is:

<<jdskobel@gmail.com>>.

**Written Reports
Club Dive @
White Star and
Visit to National
Museum of the**

some fantastic diving and a memorable visit to the National Museum of the Great Lakes.



Ryan

Lancaster. July 7, 2015

I hope everyone had a wonderful July 4th weekend...

On Saturday I tried to repeat my dive from last week, although with less success. I filled a single tank, packed my scooter, and the rest of my gear, and arrived at 11:00am. I stayed around 15 feet as I attempted to circle the quarry, but at the 8 minute mark my scooter died. I swam around until I found the row boat and the followed the line to the plane, where I tried my scooter again, still no luck. I turned the dive and swam back by way of the culvert (stopping there to try my scooter again). Soon I was back at the Frito-Lay truck and in the entry area, where I tried my scooter one last time. The engine engaged, but the prop was spinning very slowly. At least I know it's not a mechanical problem.

I talked with another diver who is an IT guy, and he thought I have a bad cell in at least one of my batteries. I don't remember when I last replaced them, so I guess they are due. The batteries show and 80% charge, but when the motor is engaged it drops to less than 40%. That will have to

Great Lakes, July 18-19, 2015. By Ryan Jones; photos by Ryan and Steve Locsey. Here are some of the pics that I took during our dives at White Star last weekend. [All of] You missed some great diving. Vis was around the 50' mark and temps were in the low 70's at 30ft.



Steve Locsey (Above) and I (Below) made a total of six dives over what was essentially two days. We spent most of our diving above the thermocline and cruising the perimeter of the quarry. Our deepest dive was around 35ft., and our shortest dive was 37 min. with the majority of the dives exceeding the 60-minute mark. Laurel joined us for our Sunday morning dive, during which we circumnavigated the quarry. All in all it was a great weekend with

wait...

Safe Diving,
Marty

Circleville, July 19, 2015

Cat Encounter of a Special Kind

By Jim Wickline, Photo by Rob

Rob, I wanted to tell you about my catfish encounter [because] I know you like [them].

I had only 1500 lbs. of air in my tank, not enough to make a full dive. So, I just went down to the [flatbed] trailer and hung out for 35 minutes. I guess the catfish didn't feel threatened and must have been curious. He came up to me and stared into my eyes. I swear "he," I mean "it" must have been because "she" wanted to kiss me. She got up in my face at least 4 times and hung out with me at the trailer. [Afterwards, I realized] she must have wanted to be fed.



Cat face

Tuesday Nite and Sunday Dives. July 10, 2015

Happy Fourth to everyone!!!! Due to the unseasonable amount of rain and cooler air temps the past few weeks, water has remained in a very comfortable 74 – 77 degree range at the Twin Qs. Visibility has deteriorated somewhat because of the increased runoff. Still, we have seen a variety of large and small fish including larger bass and the ever-elusive catfish. To

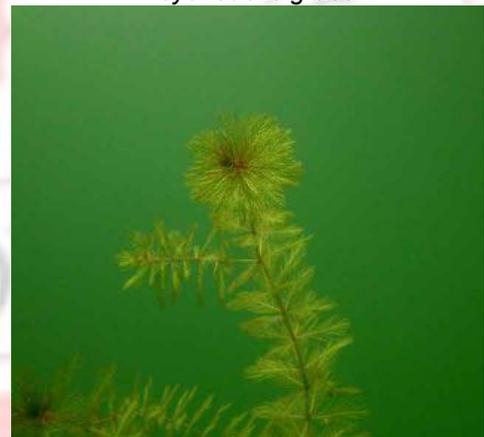
date no one has seen the small turtle that Steve King found last year. Hope springs eternal. Below are some of the better shots taken since the last edition of the newsletter.



Bass face to face



Psychedelic grass



Grass beauty

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John Guegold



Golden snail

This year, our Tuesday group has expanded with the return of Randy Beck and Jeff Dye. New additions welcomed have been John Skobel, Bruce Free, Ron Coleman, Laura Kelley, and Cleve Bartley's grandson Landon, all of whom have begun to really dive into it with us. As you can see from the photo below, we are having a whole lot of fun together. Join us won't you?



Tues Nite Group post diving @ Gibby's. (L) Bruce Free, Steve Wood, Randy Beck, Bob Bailey, Ron Coleman, Terry Norman. (R) Cleve Bartley, Steve King, John Guegold, Rob, Rick Blaine, & Eric Norman. Not pictured: Landon, Laura Kelley, John Skobel, Barry Miller & Jeff Dye. (Photo courtesy our server & Rick Blaine's camera)

Let's dive into it everyone! There's still plenty of summertime remaining!

Rob

Environmental News

Split-Colored Lobster is a One-in-50-Million Discovery

By KAYLEE HECK

July 8, 2015 12:26 PM

[Good Morning America](#)



Split-Colored Lobster is a One-in-50-Million Discovery

This is something you don't see every day.

A split-colored lobster was brought to the Pine Point Fisherman's Co-op in Scarborough, Maine, last week, the [Portland Press Herald](#) reported.

The lobster is half-orange and half-brown, dividing the animal almost perfectly straight down its tail. It has one orange claw and one brown claw.

This rare find was a one-in-50-million occurrence, according to research by the [Lobster Institute](#) at the University of Maine in Orono.

The institute reported that only the albino lobster is rarer than last week's find — a one-in-100-million catch.

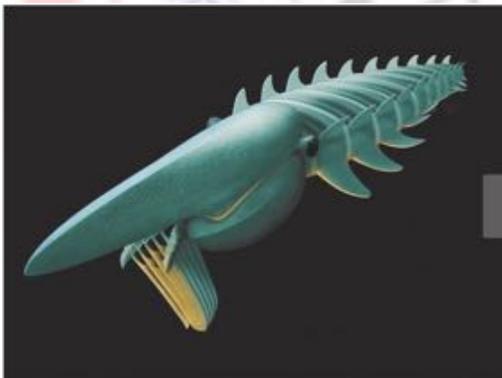
Source: <https://gma.yahoo.com/split-colored-lobster-one-50-million-discovery-145648355--abc-news-pets.html>

Rare Fossils of 400-Million-Year-Old Sea Creatures Uncovered

By Laura Geggel

<http://news.yahoo.com/rare-fossils-400-million-old-sea-creatures-uncovered-115036476.html>

Morocco's vast, rocky deserts were once covered with oceans teeming with life during the Ordovician period, about 485 million to 444 million years ago, a new study finds. But these stunning animals, now fossilized in mineralized splotches of violet, yellow and orange in the desert rock, would be unknown were it not for the tenacious work of a Moroccan fossil collector and a broke graduate student.



The Moroccan formation, known as the Fezouata Biota, holds some of the oldest known marine animals on Earth. It's home to more than 160 genuses, including an [armored, wormlike creature](#) (*Plumulites*

bengtsoni) and a [giant, filter-feeding arthropod](#) (*Aegirocassis benmoulae*), according to the new study.

During the past few years, these newfound Fezouata fossils have rewritten evolutionary textbooks. A batch of horseshoe crab fossils show that the critters are about 25 million years older than was previously thought. What's more, the horseshoe crab fossils are incredibly complex, suggesting their ancestors evolved far earlier, said study lead researcher Peter Van Roy, a paleontologist at Yale University. [[See photos of the extraordinary Fezouata Biota fossils](#)]

In other cases, the Fezouata Biota shows that some animals survived the Cambrian, a period that lasted from about 541 million to 485 million years ago. For example, it was thought that anomalocaridids, an ancestor of modern-day arthropods such as butterflies and spiders, lived and died during the Cambrian.

But according to the Moroccan fossils, "they were still in existence 25 million years later, and they were flourishing and a major part of the ecosystem," Van Roy told Live Science.

Given the scarcity of Ordovician fossils, the Fezouata Biota sheds light on life that swam around during that period of ancient history, Van Roy said. In fact, fossil findings hint that two well-known events — the [Cambrian explosion](#), the sudden emergence of animals and the great Ordovician biodiversification event, — in which animals diversified and the number of marine genuses quadrupled — may be the same event.

"What is emerging now is that actually these are not separate events, but that they are just two pulses in the same large-scale diversity dynamic," Van Roy said.



Fossil collection location

But getting to this point has been a long and storied path, he added.

Strapped for cash

Mohamed Ben Moula, a local fossil collector, discovered the exceptional remains at the Fezouata Biota in 2000. Researchers have known about the area since the 1950s, but Ben Moula was the first to find fossils with [fossilized soft tissues](#), a rarity in the world of paleobiology, Van Roy said.

In 2002, as a doctoral candidate, Van Roy was put in touch with Ben Moula, who invited him to the Fezouata Biota. Van Roy, a poor graduate student, didn't have enough money to rent a car, so he persuaded a taxi driver to take him on a roughly 8-hour trip (4 hours by road, 4 hours on unpaved desert) to the site.

The visit paid off. Van Roy found some fossils with soft-bodied remains. He returned the next year, and learned that fossil collectors — there were many — had uncovered troves of detailed Ordovician fossils.

But they were selling them for at least \$2,200 (2,000 euros) apiece. Van Roy was beside himself. [Ordovician fossils](#) are rare. It's unclear why, but it could be that the ocean's geochemistry was less conducive to fossils during that time, he said. Or maybe people are just looking in the wrong places. Regardless, the fossil collectors had struck a gold mine, and they weren't going to part with their treasures cheaply.



Marrellomorph arthropod

Furthermore, they didn't believe Van Roy was a scientist. "They thought I was another guy collecting stuff," he said. So, he asked his friends and family members for loans and bought as many specimens as possible.

In 2006, Van Roy finished his doctorate and gifted Ben Moula with a copy of his thesis. It was then the fossil collectors realized he was a researcher. "Suddenly everything completely changed," Van Roy said. "I started getting specimens for free."

Special specimens

Also in 2006, Ben Moula figured out that the Fezouata Biota had two pivotal layers filled with fossils. After that, fossil findings skyrocketed, Van Roy said.

In one instance, Van Roy learned that Ben Moula planned to sell nearly 100 well-preserved horseshoe crab fossils. [[Dangers in the Deep: 10 Scariest Sea Creatures](#)]

"I was feeling really despondent," Van Roy said. "I had been able to find some myself, but this was much better. I was thinking, 'there is no way that I am going to be able to afford this.'"

Ben Moula noticed, and offered to sell him the whole lot for 2,000 euros, instead of 2,000 apiece. Van Roy hesitated, but Ben Moula insisted, saying he admired scientific work. Now, Ben Moula saves all of his exceptional fossils for Van Roy, and tells him exactly where he found them so the

scientist can properly study each specimen.

"[Mohamed Ben Moula] is absolutely brilliant," Van Roy said. "He really understands the fossils. He's never been to primary school," but can identify different fossilized arthropods and their body parts, a feat that even some paleobiologists struggle to do, Van Roy said.

Several Fezouata Biota fossils now grace the pages of major scientific journals. The first known fossil of a machaeridian with preserved soft tissue was described in a study published in the journal *Nature* in 2008. Researchers had debated the anatomy of the machaeridian for about 150 years, with some calling it a barnacle (a type of arthropod) and others deeming it a mollusk. The newfound fossil proved it was a segmented worm, Van Roy said.

Van Roy and his colleagues have also published studies on arthropods such as anomalocaridids, cheloniellids and marrellomorphs.

The new findings will be published online today (July 8) in the *Journal of the Geological Society*.

Original article on *Live Science*.

Log Book

Sperm Whale Close Encounter: Tourists Swim with Gentle Giants

A screen shot from the video. Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser to watch the video.

Source: <http://on.aol.co>



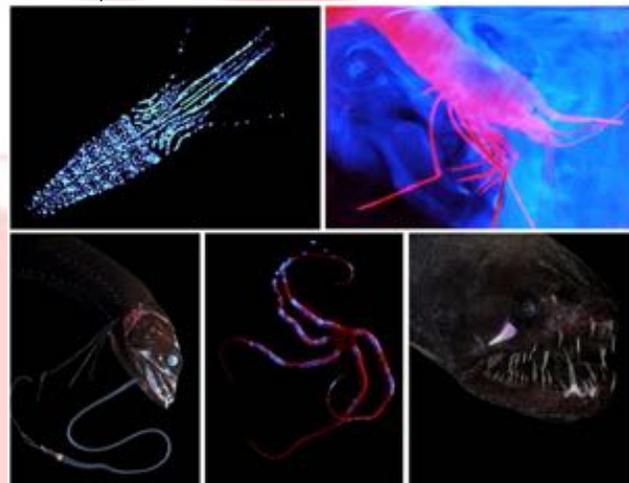
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Parting Thoughts and Shots

From the NOAA Ocean Explorer Website

(<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=9rintvqnqfsv8f#2135206408>)



Bioluminescence and Vision on the Deep Seafloor 2015

From July 14 - July 27, 2015, scientists will use their combined expertise in bioluminescence, taxonomy, visual ecology, imaging and molecular biology, together with the unique collecting capabilities and camera systems of the remotely operated vehicle, the Global Explorer, to continue studies of the deep-sea benthic environment in the Gulf of Mexico.

To find out more and read the rest of the story, go to:

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/15biolum/background/background.html>

Last month's summer reading list, provided by Rick Blaine, was so successful Donn couldn't wait to add these books to the list, all of which can be found on Amazon or elsewhere:

Scuba Confidential: An Insider's Guide To Becoming A Better Diver. By Simon Pridmore, 2013. A unique book of expert

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advice from professional and technical divers to help you become a safer, more confident and capable diver.

Deep into Deco: The Diver's Decompression Textbook. By Asser Salama, 2015. A straightforward, jargon-free, easy-to-read and understand reference that covers all aspects of decompression theory, including its history and the latest innovations and changes in thought re decompression.

Wreck enthusiasts, mystery lovers, and historians alike will enjoy Cris Kohl and Joan Forsberg's new book, *The Wreck of the Griffon: The Greatest Mystery of the Great Lakes*. Available from Amazon or direct from seawolfcommunications.com for \$19.95.

Despite the rain, here are two beautiful Twin Q photos taken by Mark Thomas Sunday, June 18, 2015. Let's celebrate Ohio diving. Thanks, Mark!



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AD Rates

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1/4 Page \$10.00
1/2 Page \$20.00
Full Page \$30.00

Club members receive a 10% discount on advertising rates. Non-members receive a 10% discount for three months paid in advance.



NEXT MEETING: 7:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Augusts 6, 2015. Program DAN video or video on the Wreck of the Minnedosa

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