

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS [HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM](http://www.seanags.com)

May 2012

In This Issue

General Meeting Minutes	p. 1
Calendar	p. 1
Executive Meeting Highlights	p. 2
Dive Reports	p. 2
Environmental News	p. 5
Log Book	p. 7
Parting Thoughts & Shots	p. 7

General Meeting Minutes

By Adam Biehl

Present: Marty & Maggie Bailey, Randy Beck (New member—Welcome!), Jim Bergner, Adam Biehl, Rick Blaine, Josh Carney (Welcome back!), Andy Dennis, Jeff Dye (guest—welcome!), Donn Ellerbrock, John Guegold, Danny & Yung Holt, Steve Locsey, Maggie and Steve Ranft, Rob Robison, Laurel Sheppard, Michelle & Rick Thomas, Rebecca & Tom Zelanin

50/50

Danny Holt made a dent on his quest to save for another trip to Cozumel by taking home the enormous pot of \$20 from the 50/50.

Member Raffle

Rick Blaine walked off with a WWF bag, thanks to Laurel's donation.

Announcements

- Lake Erie cleanup may be taken over by OSU's Stone Lab and conducted in June.
- North Point Dive Quarry, run by Newark Parks Dept & Discover Diving will officially open July 20-21.

Additional Announcements

- **2012 Club membership dues are \$20.00**
2012 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.
- 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.
- 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May

- 3 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 6 **Sunday Club dive @ Lancaster. Details to follow**
- 17 Exec Meeting @ TBA house 7:30 PM

June

- 2 **Saturday - Club tune up dive & cookout @ Circleville. Details to follow**
- 7 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 21 Exec Meeting @ TBA house. 7:30 PM

July

- 5 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 19 Exec Meeting @ TBA house 7:30 PM
- 21-22 **Dan BBQ & Club overnight dive & cookout @ Portage.**

Aug

- 2 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 11 4th Annual Corn Roast & Swap Meet, C'Ville TQ
- 16 Exec Meeting @ TBA's house 7:30 PM

Sept

- 6 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 20 Exec Meeting @ TBA house 7:30 PM

Oct

- 4 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 18 Exec Meeting @ TBA house 7:30 PM

Nov

- 1 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- 15 Exec Meeting @ TBA house 7:30 PM
- ?? Annual Banquet, Mary Kelly's TBA

Dec

- 6 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA
- ?? Annual Christmas Party TBA
- 31 6th Annual New Year's Eve Dive-In @Circleville Twin Q

Evening Program

Special thanks to **Rebecca and Tom Zelanin** who gave a spectacular slide show on their recent dive trip to Cozumel!

Our May 3 meeting will feature **Marty and Maggie Bailey** on their recent trip, Diving and Exploring New Zealand. Don 't miss it!

Treasurer's Report

- Marty has paid our OCSSDI dues. Our paid member total is now at 32 and climbing; checking @ \$6,540.85, \$57.25 in petty cash, total bank @ \$6,598.10.

Executive Meeting Highlights

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May 2012

- The club now has 35 paid memberships for the year
- Marty has been tasked with purchasing a Pelican box for all of our AV equipment
- The club will have food at the Lancaster club dive. See email announcement with this newsletter.

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to [<newsletter@seanags.com>](mailto:newsletter@seanags.com)
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Spasms

Oral

Laurel made two dives in the Col. Zoo aquarium.

Randy Beck and **Jeff Dye** dove Circleville, where the grass is up about 18 inches, which is early for this time of year.

Andy Dennis dove Gilboa, which now costs \$23/day; H₂O=39°, vis = 30' on one side and 80' on the other.

Rick & Michelle Thomas reported that visibility might not be good at Portage this year because the slag pile on the west end of the quarry has been dumped into the water.

Tom Zelanin made his first dive in a dry suit.

Written

March 2012

Seattle's Aquarium
by Laurel Sheppard

In March I spent a long weekend in Seattle to visit a friend from high school. She took me to the [Seattle Aquarium](#), which is housed in a vintage building on the harbor on Pier 59. It is the 9th largest Aquarium in the U.S. by attendance and among the top five paid visitor attractions in the Puget

Sound region. The aquarium opened in 1977 and in 2007 expanded by 18,000 square feet at a total cost of \$42 million.

The Aquarium's species collection is featured within six major exhibits: Window on Washington Waters, Life on the Edge, Pacific Coral Reef, Puget Sound Fish and Dome Room, Puget Sound Orcas Family Activity Center, and Marine Mammals.

Among the exhibits was a tank with two giant Pacific octopuses all curled up,



a domed aquarium where we watched the female diver do a feeding (too cold for me, only 44

degrees), various other tanks with colorful fish and coral, and an outdoor exhibit with an adorable baby sea otter (born January 14) and its mother. Some facts about otter



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pups:

- They nurse exclusively for about one month.
- They begin to shed their fluffy pup fur at about six weeks; by 10 weeks, the coat will look more like that of an adult.



- Their fluffy fur keeps the pups buoyant, so pups don't attempt diving until after six weeks.
- They begin to become proficient at opening shellfish—either by biting or pounding shells together on their chests—at about three months old.

LS

April dives: Lancaster & Circleville

Story by Rob; photos by Rob, John Guegold, & Rick Blaine

Lancaster Sunday, April 7. John Guegold and I met at Lancaster around 10AM, missing Marty and Dave Fleming who beat us to the site by more than an hour and were just hopping in. We donned our own gear; then, hit the water, passing by the Frito-Lay truck and platform, through the conduit, to the west side taking the long way out to northwest corner in search of the wheel chair, vans, tire pile, stoplight, airplane, row boat, cabin cruiser, back to the platform, Frito-Lay truck, and the exit. Somewhere toward the end of that run, one of

my 4lb soft weights ripped through its rotting pouch and fell to the bottom. Sadly, a brief search yielded no results. Some fish activity but nothing remarkable. Bottom time = 56 min, H₂O = 44°, max depth = 38', vis = 15- 20'.



John Guegold



Circleville, April 10, Tuesday night dive group. A 59 minute dive with excellent vis, blue gills and bass starting to really make their presence known—a blunt-nosed lunker bass kept nudging me the entire dive. Catfish were nowhere to be seen. H₂O = 55 - 57°, vis = 15- 20'.



Blunt-nosed bass

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Sunday, April 15. Rick Blaine and I suited up and dove the South Quarry, which was still sporting 15 – 25' vis, despite the influx of a few dive classes, hopped out at the north end, crossed the road, and plopped into the south end of the North Quarry for 10-15 min. We landed on top of a school of mid-sized bass and other freshwater “pelagics.” Vis was not quite as good as the South Quarry, but better than we had last year by a long shot. Next, we exited and returned to the north end of the South Quarry, where Rick took a few shots of me swimming on top of the cloudy spring. Then, we headed back to the bus, which I swam through in search of catfish—again, no luck. No catfish anywhere. Bottom time: 70 min, H₂O = 55 - 57°, vis = 15-20'.



Rob in bus

Tuesday night dive group, April 17. Randy Beck, Jeff Dye, a friend of his from Brooklyn, NY named George, Rick Blaine, and I took the tour in search of catfish, lunker bass, and more. The blue gills made a beeline for his ears and attacked George, who was diving without a hood. These critters are definitely hungry after a long winter fast and are trying to pack on lost “pounds.” We saw no catfish. We are definitely thinking that they have all expired over the winter. Bottom time: 70 min, H₂O = 57°, vis = 20-25'.



Rick B in tub love



Rob over spring



Randy Beck looking prayerful. The photo on the next page shows why!



catch because they naturally form really tight schools called bait balls. You've probably seen these things in nature documentaries such as *Planet Earth* (and the photo above) -- the massive school of fish packed so tight they appear to move as one being. Well, they do that regardless of dwindling population numbers, and it's incredibly easy to throw a net around that bait ball and catch the whole school. That makes these fish populations vulnerable to collapse, the report found: "Fishermen might therefore be able to scoop up large numbers of forage fish during a natural population decline, greatly compounding that decline."

Overfishing of anchovies and their ilk hasn't always been a problem, because there's not a great consumer market for the little fish, but as *The New York Times* points out in its coverage of the study, thanks to their increased use in agriculture and aquaculture the fish "now account for 37 percent, by weight, of all fish harvested worldwide, up from about 8 percent half a century ago." Because they're so easy to catch quickly, the fisheries face a distinct risk of collapse, and that means a domino effect for the rest of the ecosystem. "The Task Force found that the only fishing strategies that reliably prevented a decline in dependent predators were those that limited fishing to half the conventional rate," the study says.

But there's an economic benefit to curbing forage fish catches, *The Times* points out: Because the small fish support larger species such as tuna and cod, they're actually more valuable left in the water than they are out. "The task force estimated that as a source of food in the wild for larger commercially valuable fish, forage fish were worth more than \$11 billion, or twice as much as their worth when processed for aquaculture and other uses." Now the scientists just have to persuade the industry that makes \$5.6 billion directly

Environment

From *The Atlantic Wire*:

Tiny Fish Need Saving from Themselves



By Adam Martin, 4-2-12

Even as their numbers decline, the habit of tiny fish such as sardines to form into tightly packed "bait balls" keeps them super easy to catch, which puts them at risk of collapse and means active conservation such as catch limits is crucial for their survival. In fact, we might want to halve the number caught each year, says a new report from a 13-scientist panel funded by the Lenfest Foundation, called "Little Fish, Big Impact." The report found that as fishing for these little guys increases -- they're used in animal feed, as bait, and as food for aquaculture -- they get no more difficult to

from the forage fish catch.

Source: <http://www.theatlanticwire.com/business/2012/04/tiny-fish-need-saving-themselves/50632/>

In case you missed this:

Blue-green algae worth noting on Earth Day

By **Dave Golowenski**

For *The Columbus Dispatch* Sunday April 22, 2012 6:22 AM, p. C13.

Earth Days come and go, today being the 43rd anniversary of America's semiofficial acknowledgement that life leans on nature and that self-interest demands humans not mess up a good thing.

The question of whether the anniversary marks any change in the American lust for stuff or whether the day has been co-opted and ritualized, which typically ends any chance for meaningful action, seems to be answered by the current goings-on.

If data fed into a computer at MIT are valid, the planet's capacity to sustain the exploitation of resources is likely to end soon, and with a bang, not a whimper.

By 2030, the computer forecasted, the world's economic system likely will have collapsed. A serious worldwide population decline will follow based on the demise of a food-growing system wholly based on cheap natural gas, comprising fertilizers and petroleum byproducts, including pesticides.

If food becomes scarce, Asian carps eventually might look pretty good in Lake Erie, although the present seems not especially promising.



Toxic algae bloom in Lake Erie near South Bass Island, August 2009. A similar bloom is building in western Lake Erie this year.

Courtesy of Ohio Sea Grant.

<http://www.wksu.org/news/story/26055>

The lake increasingly has been plagued for a

number of years by cyanobacteria, commonly referred to as blue-green algae. The photosynthetic bacteria, which thrive in Lake Erie under heavy loads of phosphorous drained mostly from farm fields, produce poison.

"They are some of the most powerful toxins known to man," Mary Clifton, the Ohio Department of Health's recreational program director, said a few weeks ago. "There is no antidote. ... My fear is that we'll be ending up with some human deaths out of these things."

The liver is put at risk from merely swimming in the blue-green tide.

Helpfully, the administration of Gov. John Kasich recognizes the link between agriculture, phosphorous runoff and the production of blue-green algae. Phosphorous is an important fertilizer. It's also a component of Roundup, the chemical key in no-till farming, which is accepted as a solution to the loss of topsoil caused by the plow.

Regulation, though, won't be on the governor's to-do list until voluntary measures are tried, it was announced recently.

Meanwhile, rainwater this spring is carrying phosphorous into a lake that is about as warm as it's ever been on this date — 10 degrees warmer than it was a year ago at this time. Erie's cyanobacteria-making machine didn't start running until late May last year, and the plumes by August ended up among the thickest and most widespread ever. If cyanobacteria blooms in late April and the weather goes hot and dry, the outbreak of toxic algae could take the lake to places it's never been.

The toxin microcystin, which is produced by the predominate cyanobacteria found in Lake Erie, was traced last year by a U.S.-Canadian research team in the lake's predator fish, which include walleye, at levels the World Health Organization says pose a human health hazard.

On a brighter note, the U.S. Coast Guard, supposedly to be followed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is going where Congress has refused to go for decades. The Coast Guard announced that ocean vessels sailing the Great Lakes must have vastly improved ballast water systems designed to purge the tanks of invasive species before the contents get dumped

where they don't belong.

Ballast water, the hiding place of numerous stowaways, is considered the source of the menacing species — including quagga and zebra mussels, gobies, ruffe and spiny water fleas — from another hemisphere that have altered conditions in the Great Lakes.

The downside of the ballast regulations, aside from enforcement difficulties, is that their gradual implementation leaves open a window until 2021 for continued dumping of invasives. In the meantime, climate change has put so-called "killer shrimp" into position on the British Isles and western Europe where they can easily be sucked up and transported for dumping into, say, Lorain Harbor.

The threat posed by killer shrimp is thought to have prompted the Coast Guard to finally act.

A National Wildlife Federation survey released in March showed that a large number of hunters and fishermen acknowledge they've seen things in the wild — trout disappearing from streams, moose die-offs in Maine and Canada, the vanishing of ice-fishing seasons — that they attribute, many reluctantly, to global warming.

The federation said it surveyed hunters and fishermen because people who spend considerable time outdoors noticing nature seem like they ought to recognize whether something is amiss.

Acknowledgement is not action, of course, and it could be that a failure to act promptly means the planet will soon run out of Earth Days, at least the kind that most people and other living things can tolerate.

outdoors@dispatch.com

Log Book

Donn Ellerbrock sends this wonderful link to all things related to the underwater world:
<http://www.reef.org/resources/links>

Shark Attack Risk Smaller Than Many Realize, Experts Say (PHOTOS)



Do sharks deserve their reputation as vicious man-eaters? Probably not. Last year in the U.S. 29 people were attacked by sharks--none fatally, according to the International Shark Attack file. During the same time period, dogs killed 31 people in the U.S.

Yes, people spend a lot more time around dogs than around sharks. But experts say the average shark is nothing like the monstrous Great White that gobbled beach-goers in the 1975 thriller "Jaws." The animals are intelligent, with a strong sense of curiosity and typically little interest in human flesh--in fact, some have been taught to perform tricks, according to Dr. Neil Hammerschlag, a University of Miami shark researcher.

Story continues here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/03/shark-attack-risk_n_1400316.html#s839326&title=Whale_Shark

Parting Thoughts...

Children Writing About The Ocean

TO EVERYONE who can really enjoy the beauty of "out of the mouths of babes".....

Can you imagine being the teacher reading these papers? Kids really do say the darndest things!

Children Writing About the Ocean.

The next time you take an oceanography course, you will be totally prepared.

- 1) This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly, age 6)
- 2) Oysters' balls are called pearls. (Jerry, age

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- 6)
3) If you are surrounded by ocean, you are an island. If you don't have ocean all round you, you are incontinent. (Mike, age 7)
4) Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend any more. (Kylie, age 6)
5) A dolphin breathes through an asshole on the top of its head. (Billy, Age 8)
6) My uncle goes out in his boat with 2 other men and a woman and pots and comes back with crabs. (Millie, age 6)
7) When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans. (William, age 7)
8) Mermaids live in the ocean. I like mermaids. They are beautiful and I like their shiny tails, but how on earth do mermaids get pregnant? Like, really? (Helen, age 6)
9) I'm not going to write about the ocean. My baby brother is always crying, my Dad keeps yelling at my Mom, and my big sister has just got pregnant, so I can't think what to write. (Amy, age 6)
10) Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves in to chargers. (Christopher, age 7)
11) When you go swimming in the ocean, it is very cold, and it makes my willy small. (Kevin, age 6)
12) Divers have to be safe when they go under the water. Divers can't go down alone, so they have to go down on each other. (Becky, age 8)
13) On vacation my Mom went water skiing. She fell off when she was going very fast. She says she won't do it again because water fired right up her big fat ass. (Julie, age 7)

14) The ocean is made up of water and fish. Why the fish don't drown I don't know. (Bobby, age 6)

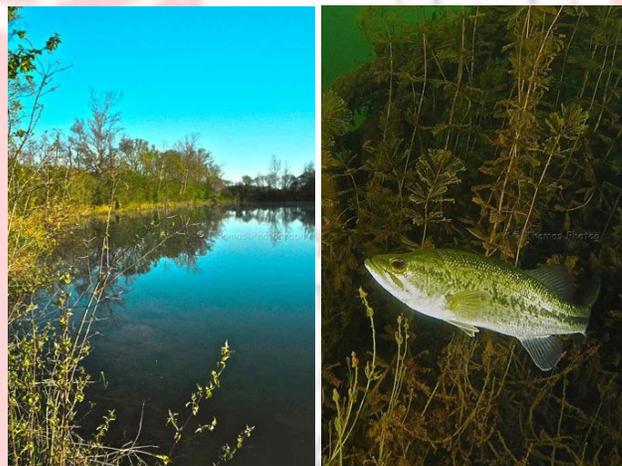
15) My dad was a sailor on the ocean. He knows all about the ocean. What he doesn't know is why he quit being a sailor and married my mom. (James, age 7)

If you didn't smile at one of these, you need to find a better sense of humor.

Special thanks to Rick Blaine.

... and Shots

**Circleville at rest
April 7, 2012**



Photos by Mark Thomas



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: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., May 3: Marty and Maggie on Diving and Exploring New Zealand

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