



March 2002

NEWS



Volume 3, Issue 3

Artificial Reef Presentation at the February DVD Meeting

By Jodi Sykora

On February 13, Joe Feyti gave a club presentation about artificial reefs and reef balls. In 1985, there were very few artificial reefs to be seen. They were mostly vessels from WWII and tragedies of sunken ships. Now over 95 vessels and barges have been sunk. Artificial reefs are also made up of bridge rubble, bridge decking, tires cabled together, and cable cars. A lot of effort is required to prepare these items to become environmentally safe for divers and other aquatic life. The cleaning and towing charges have been paid for by donations of dive clubs, and mostly by local fisherman. Artificial reefs not only provide great dive sites, they are hot spots for sport fishing, and help keep boat congestion down.



Photo of reef ball on land. Photo of reef ball underwater.

Reef balls are the most widely used design for artificial reefs. What exactly is a reef ball? A ph-balanced concrete module designed to last over 500 years in a reef environment. The patented features of reef balls include floating deployment (to assist divers in placing them on the ocean floor), high-tech holes (which give it the swiss cheese look), surface textures; concrete technology; stability; and flexibility.

All reef balls must be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. There are various reef ball programs available. Log onto www.reefball.org for more information.

Continued on Pg. 2

Upcoming events

March 13

DVD meeting - Presentation by Gary Szabo on Truk Lagoon

March 22, 23, 24

Beneath The Sea - 26th Annual Dive and Travel Exposition with special events and seminars, at Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey

April 10

DVD meeting - Presentation by Marcia Gaddy

April 20 (rain date April 27)

2nd Annual Spring Scuba Tune-up and picnic at Dutch Springs

Message from The Prez...

As winter comes to an end, it's time to outline what you would like to do this year. We have put a list of events and created many opportunities for our new, young, and "seasoned" divers. But don't forget that we have events for non-diving family members too so they will not miss out on having fun as well. So get involved, get your family involved, and put the club's events for this year's season into your calendar. Make it happen! It's been lots of fun with all we did and we can have even more fun this year! Talk to us and let us know if there is anything else we can do for you, our environment, and our club's legacy.

Helen Bilinski
President

