

# Bottom Times

The News and Views of the Association of Dive Program Administrators

## Presidents Corner – By: George Peterson

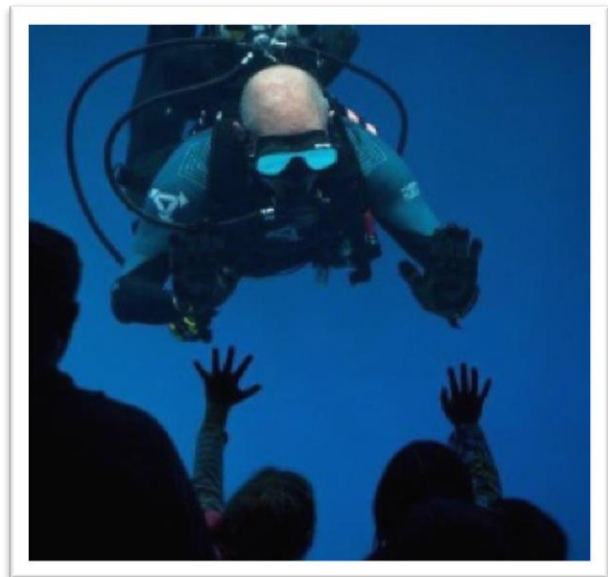
**G**reetings ADPA! Welcome to the sixth edition of the ADPA newsletter *Bottom Times*. I'm hoping you're all having a safe and productive summer full of diving, family and friends. The Board and committee chairs/members have spent the last few months focused on reviewing and improving our suite of member services and compiling our annual report. We've made improvements to the DPiC dive log and management system based on valuable member feedback, created the framework of a regional mentorship program, reviewed and re-committed to the DSO scholarship program and have started the gradual improvement of the member services section of our newly re-designed website.

I'd like to personally thank the ADPA Board, Committee Chairs and members who work so tirelessly to make this such a valuable organization.

As Summer starts to wind down the Board and Symposium Committee will turn our attention towards our annual ADPA Symposium and Training Day to be held

October 30-31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 in Orlando, Fla. We're looking forward to seeing you all there and hearing your exciting presentations!

Safe Diving and #WTTADPAMF!




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## Registration is now OPEN!

### 2017 ADPA Annual Symposium Schedule

Additional details for all events will be posted to the listserv as they become available. First time attendees; be sure to apply for scholarships. All ADPA members receive discounted DEMA registration, including a free upgrade to seminar package. See registration code on the listserv or contact any Board member for assistance to register. Finally, we are accepting proposals for Symposium talks at this time by contacting Katie Shoultz. Accepted speakers receive a discount on Symposium registration.

*If you have your ADPA lanyards from last year please bring them!*

**Sun Oct 29:** Board of Directors meeting. Open session to be announced

**Mon Oct 30:** Training Day, location TBD. Offerings include New DSO Workshop, Full Face Mask Workshop, other dive-related and professional development offerings

**Tues Oct 31:** Annual Symposium. Followed by Symposium Social

**Wed Nov 1- Sat Nov 4:** DEMA

- "Get the Most Out of DEMA" sessions for first time attendees
- Additional training offerings via ADPA and DEMA
- Exclusive ADPA room available for meetings, socialization, etc. Daily events TBD



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## Membership Update

Please join us in welcoming 14 new members to the ADPA since our April issue!

### Professional Members:

**Chris Grace** – SeaTrek Training Coordinator at Miami Seaquarium

**Jonathan Bergeron** – Dive Safety Officer at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

**Jason Sheremeta** – Assistant Dive Safety Officer at North Carolina Aquariums

**Jorge Mahauad** – Director of Marine Operations at the Florida Aquarium.

**Brad Waite** – Dive Safety Officer at Mystic Aquarium.

**John Pence** – Supervisor / DSO / Diver at SeaWorld Texas.

### Associate Members:

**Hannah Baker** – Education Animal Care Specialist at Little Rock Zoo

**Adriana Reza** – Operations Manager at Texas State Aquarium

**Windsor Cowart** – Mammal Keeper at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden

**Warner Buchman** – Life Support Systems Manager at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden

**Mark Gonka** – Lead Keeper - Marine Mammals; Dive Safety Officer at Brookfield Zoo

**Taylor Grace** – Dive Safety Program Assistant at the National Aquarium.

**Lauren Larese** – Dive Operations Manager at Wonders of Wildlife.

**Andrew Brusso** – Dive Safety Technician at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park.

**Miranda Bovy** – Keeper III-sea lions at Audubon Nature Institute

# WTTADPAMF!

Sincerely,

*The Membership Team,*

*(that includes all ADPA members, and now you too – Go Team Membership!*



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## Organization Spotlights – *By: Roger Williams / Andrew Morgan*

### New York Aquarium – Coney Island



The [New York Aquarium](#) opened in 1896 and is currently the oldest continuously run aquarium in the country. The original aquarium was built in Manhattan’s Battery Park and was relocated in the 1940s to the Bronx Zoo, later finding its current home on Coney Island in 1957.

The dive program at the New York Aquarium is managed by Dive Safety Officer Roger Williams along with the support of 80 volunteer divers and 14 staff divers. These 95 divers accomplish more than 1000 dives per year.

Under Williams’ dive watch, the volunteer dive program has grown from four teams to seven in the last five years. There is even more growth

on the horizon as the footprint of the New York Aquarium is slated to double in size with the opening of their new [‘Ocean Wonders: Sharks!’](#) exhibit. With the increase in square footage,

both acrylic & substrate, Williams expects continued growth in the volunteer dive program, lamenting, “I am terrified.”

The *‘Ocean Wonders: Sharks!’* exhibit will bring regional species to the foreign and domestic patrons of the New York Aquarium. Williams describes this expansion as a “concert [between] the [Wildlife Conservation Society’s \(WCS\)](#) Seascape program [and Aquarium] which is working to progress conservation policy up to and including a new National Marine Sanctuary to protect the Hudson Canyon.” In a climate of conservation policy uncertainty, the New York Aquarium and its WCS partners are dedicated to expanding a conservation ethic and are examples of private industry advocating for marine and terrestrial environments alike. Learn more about the New York Seascape [here](#).



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## ABOUT THE DSO



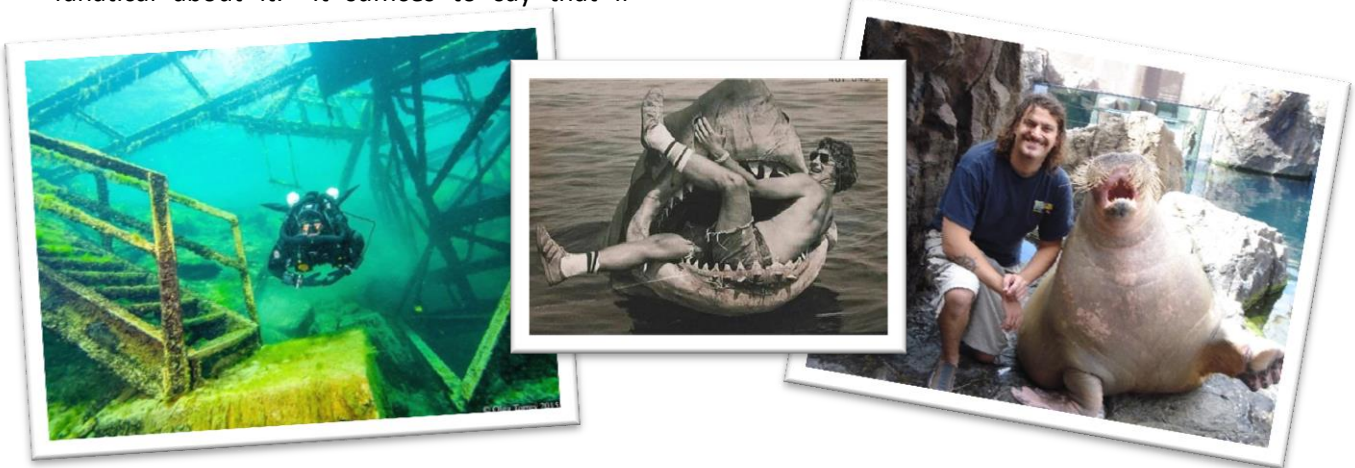
Ask Roger Williams what his hobbies are outside of diving and his wholehearted response will be “Is this a joke?!”

In addition to logging dives for work and play, Roger is writing about diving, geeking out with friends about dive safety, technical diving and gear configuration. As an avid cave and rebreather diver, Roger and his wife have spent considerable amounts of emotional and financial capital on gear and training and expresses, “I figure we bloody well better be fanatical about it.” It suffices to say that if

you’ve got a question or comment about diving, Roger will gladly provide an informed opinion.

Roger’s route into the aquarium dive industry is a serpentine example of how the universe places individuals exactly where they should be. With an educational background in literature and religion and a professional background in data network engineering, the last place his resume should have ended up was at the top of the crop for the DSO job at an esteemed aquarium. Of course, scientific background in aquatic biology and husbandry is not however the end all for the diverse work a DSO completes. Roger’s journey into this field is a shining example of how lived experience and not formal education enriches our lives and others’.

Roger is a self-proclaimed eco-hippie, vegan (as close as it comes to a hobby outside of diving) and a champion of the concept that a conservationist mindset can make a positive impact on aquarium visitor’s lives. “Perhaps they will remember that in not taking a plastic bag from the corner bodega they may be saving the life of a sea turtle 10,000 miles away...”



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# OUTREACH



## AZA Connect Article Spotlights ADPA and DPiC

This spring, the AZA magazine *Connect* approached ADPA members for assistance with an article highlighting the challenges of record keeping for DSOs. *For the Love of Data - Institutional Dive Records: How Aquariums Keep It All Straight* by Katie Morell was published in the June edition of the magazine, providing significant free press for the ADPA and the new DPiC software to AZA industry professionals. AZA uses professional writers to interview members to focus on the specific topic at hand. For this article, Jack Jewell, Mandalay Bay; Katie Shultz, The Florida Aquarium; George Peterson, Monterey Bay Aquarium; and Arnold

Postell, South Carolina Aquarium contributed.

Timing for this article worked well as DPiC (Dive Program in the Cloud) was launched to the ADPA membership at the beginning of this year. DPiC has the potential to be an incredibly useful resource for our industry. The more streamlined we can make record keeping, the more free time for DSOs to focus on other parts of our programs. Time is one of the most valuable commodities we have. The other benefit to this software is compliance. Detailed record keeping and having the ability to prove compliance when OSHA comes for a visit is priceless.



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# In Memoriam



***Keith A Pamper, Dive Safety Officer Shedd Aquarium Chicago, IL passed away June 22, 2017.***



Keith joined Shedd Aquarium in 1988 as manager of the aquarium's 90-000 gallon Caribbean Reef exhibit as its primary aquarist and diver. After becoming the aquarium's Dive Safety Officer, Keith oversaw staff and volunteer divers who combine to complete more than 4,000 underwater man-hours every year performing a variety of tasks including feeding and caring for the many of Shedd's 32,500 animals as well as cleaning and maintenance on animal habitats throughout the aquarium. Keith also led countless expeditions aboard the aquarium's research vessel, the R/V Coral Reef II.

Keith loved nature, and found his niche in marine biology as a young boy. He followed that passion to University of Florida before becoming an important and highly valued member of the Shedd family.

He was an advocate for coral reefs and worked continually to research and preserve them and their inhabitants. Keith travelled the world with Shedd and with friends to pursue his love of diving and of the ocean's beauty. An award-winning photographer, Pampers' work has appeared in Alert Diver and Ocean Conservancy's magazine. He enjoyed travel and described his passport as "well worn," from having visited many diving destinations around the world.

**Tim Binder,**  
Shedd Aquarium



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When I started at Shedd Aquarium in the Winter of 2000, one of the first people I met was Keith Pamper. He greeted me with a huge smile, welcomed me to the aquarium, and then asked, "do you dive?" I told him I was not a diver and really wasn't sure if I wanted to become one, but as only Keith could do, he began telling me these amazing stories about his underwater adventures - painting an incredible scene that only the best creative minds in Hollywood could come close to emulating. It was at that moment I changed my mind and became a diver. But more importantly, lifelong bonds were formed.

Keith (or BoKeefus as many of us called him), was an incredible ambassador for Shedd Aquarium, for fish, marine mammals, and all living things. There are coral reefs saved, animal species protected, and better human beings on our planet because of his amazing efforts. And while world-renowned in the diving world, organizations like Special Olympics and others benefited from his passion and generosity. I will always remember the "themed" parties he (and others) would host that brought together the aquarium staff and volunteers in the early years. Nobody threw a party like Keith. And nobody made a better New Year's Eve lucky bean soup than Keith. I'm sure we all owe some of our success to the luck his culinary skills brought to us every January 1st.

For those of us that knew him, we were blessed. For those that never met him, his spirit lives on through many of us, just take a closer look and you'll realize how wonderful a human being Keith is. We miss you good friend.

**Roger Germann,**  
President/CEO, Florida Aquarium



As an ADPA member since 1991 and a BoD member since 2000, I have had the privilege to watch our aquarium and zoo dive programs grow tremendously. I began my career at the New England Aquarium and was fortunate to meet Keith Pamper on the R/V Coral Reef II, Shedd's research vessel. Keith was a friend, advisor on boat operations, and Shedd's long-term DSO, amongst other duties.

While the dive safety officer occupation has evolved over time, our roots began with pioneers such as Keith. In ADPA, we consider all of our member's family, Keith amongst them, and we will miss his thoughtfulness, loyalty to our profession, and humor.

**Holly Martel Bourbon,**  
Director of Dive Programs, National Aquarium



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## Corporate Partner Report

### What is the Be A Diver Pool?®

For Zoos & Aquariums, the Be A Diver® Pool is a great opportunity to not only engage your guests and draw new visitors to your establishment, but also increase media coverage and local interest and exposure.

The Be A Diver® Pool Tour is a year-round, nationwide program that enables targeted potential diving customers to try scuba diving in the warm, safe confines of a four-foot deep swimming pool under professional supervision.

The Be A Diver® Pool travels throughout the United States, making appearances during large-scale events which already attract potential customers who fit the same affluent demographic profile targeted by the diving industry. The Be A Diver® Pool uses a professional New York-based Public Relations firm to help attract media attention as well as potential customers, and is often used by the event to help draw media attention for the event itself.

To learn more, please visit -

[http://www.dema.org/resource/resmgr/Be\\_A\\_Diver\\_Pool\\_Tour/2016BADZooAquaProsp\\_Web.pdf](http://www.dema.org/resource/resmgr/Be_A_Diver_Pool_Tour/2016BADZooAquaProsp_Web.pdf)

<https://dema.site-ym.com/news/286071/Over-905000-Potential-Divers-Reached-by-Media-Coverage-of-DEMAs-Be-A-Diver-Pool-Tour.htm>



**Divers Alert Network**

<http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>



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# Aquatic Solutions

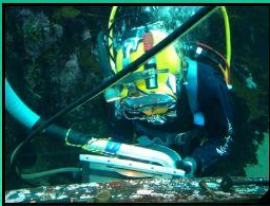
*Underwater Repair Technologies*  
800 Cristich Lane, Campbell, California 95008  
P: (408)866-1973 F: (408)866-1931  
Email: [Drew@aquaticsolutions.com](mailto:Drew@aquaticsolutions.com)  
Web: [www.aquaticsolutions.com](http://www.aquaticsolutions.com)



*Corrosion Treatment*



*Acrylic Polishing*



*Concrete Restoration*



*Leak Detection and Repair*



<http://aquaticsolutions.com/>



<http://www.submersiblesystems.com/>



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OCEAN ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES is a small business that produces high quality "OCEAN EARS" underwater speakers, synchronized swimming sound systems, hydrophones, acoustic diver recall systems and U.S. Navy approved

diver signaling devices. We are located in North Canton, Ohio and are proud to say our equipment is **MADE IN AMERICA!**

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## Jobs

AZA Website Job Postings  
<https://www.aza.org/joblisting/>

AAUS Website Job Postings  
[http://www.aaus.org/job\\_board](http://www.aaus.org/job_board)



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## Newsletter Info

**Bottom Times** is the quarterly newsletter of the Association of Dive Program Administrators. Please submit jobs, ideas, and other info to the communication committee one month before the next release date.

Scheduled releases: January 2017, April 2017, July 2017, October 2017, January 2018

## Communication Committee

Chair	Dave DeBoer	(Adventure Aquarium)	<a href="mailto:ddeboer@adventureaquarium.com">ddeboer@adventureaquarium.com</a>
Co-Chair	Andrew Morgan	(Monterey Bay Aquarium)	<a href="mailto:amorgan@mbayaq.org">amorgan@mbayaq.org</a>
BOD Rep	Katie Shoultz		<a href="mailto:kshoultz@hotmail.com">kshoultz@hotmail.com</a>
BOD Rep	Arnold Postell	(South Carolina Aquarium)	<a href="mailto:apostell@scaquarium.org">apostell@scaquarium.org</a>

## Board of Directors

President	George Peterson	(Monterey Bay Aquarium)	<a href="mailto:gpeterson@mbayaq.org">gpeterson@mbayaq.org</a>
President Elect	Holly Martel Bourbon	(National Aquarium in Baltimore)	<a href="mailto:hbourbon@aquaa.org">hbourbon@aquaa.org</a>
Secretary	Katie Shoultz		<a href="mailto:kshoultz@hotmail.com">kshoultz@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Paul Dimeo	(Aquarium of the Pacific)	<a href="mailto:pdimeo@lbaop.org">pdimeo@lbaop.org</a>
Membership	Chip Arnold	(Alaska SeaLife Center)	<a href="mailto:chipa@alaskasealife.org">chipa@alaskasealife.org</a>
Director at Large	Arnold Postell	(South Carolina Aquarium)	<a href="mailto:apostell@scaquarium.org">apostell@scaquarium.org</a>

ADPA Website [www.adpaonline.org](http://www.adpaonline.org)

ADPA Google Group <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/adpa> (Member Access Only)



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