

# Currents



Quarterly Journal: April 2018, Vol. 12, No. 2

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We have the power to heal, the power to nurture and the power to encourage. As individuals we may believe our circle of influence is very small. However, when the efforts of multiple individuals are combined, that very circle of influence grows and becomes a stronger force.

In this issue, we embark on a visit to beautiful Italy and the EUDI show where we witnessed the power of encouragement as our SEI and PDIC team members are enthusiastically sharing our training philosophy. Along with offering delectable morsels of food at the show, they rally current SEI & PDIC divers and reach out to others interested in the sport.

We learn how the power to nurture as leadership, whether as an Instructor Trainer or as a Divemaster/Dive Supervisor, impacts the quality and proficiency of divers we train and serve.

We observe the energy and life of an inspiring industry player who has been to the deepest depths of the ocean, filmed numerous underwater environments and wildlife, and continues to travel, sharing a message of inspiration.

Through the combined efforts of dedicated individuals and organizations,

world and environmental issues can be tackled unlocking the power to heal. In this issue we focus on our awareness of World Environment Day to address the environmental impact of single-use plastic on the world's oceans.

**What power can you tap into to influence your area of the world for the better?**



# SCUBA NEWS

**BEAT  
PLASTIC  
POLLUTION**



**WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY**



**INDIA  
2018**

**UN**   
environment

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY JUNE 5

India is the global host of 2018 World Environment Day which will take place on June 5, 2018.

With “Beat Plastic Pollution” as the theme for this year’s edition, the world is coming together to combat single-use plastic pollution. (cont. on pg. 12)

<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en>

**Visit us at DEMA 2018 November 14-17  
SEI & PDIC Booth #1440  
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA**

# DEMA SHOW

**NOVEMBER 14-17, 2018**  
Las Vegas Convention Center  
Las Vegas, NV





## CEO Tom Leaird Vistis EUDI Show 2018 in Italy



Ciao!

I recently had the privilege to travel to Italy to visit with SEI and PDIC staff who maintain and operate our office in Italy. The purpose of this visit was to attend and support SEI Italia's exhibit at the 2018 EUDI show in Bologna, Italy March 2-4. I arrived in Milan, Italy the day before the show and was warmly greeted by Alessandro Talamona- our representative and Course Director in Italy. After a long 8 hour flight across the Atlantic, it was a pleasure to be greeted so kindly. Alessandro was a fantastic host and an even more appreciated interpreter! We drove straight to Bologna, a 3 hour drive south, and got checked into our accommodations. We were greeted with snow and cold temperatures for the time we were in Bologna.

I appreciate Alessandro keeping me posted about the weather before my arrival because I came prepared with my winter coat.



L - R: Maximiliano Fiorese, Tom Leaird and Alessandro Talamona in Bologna Italy

Over the next few days I had the pleasure of meeting many SEI & PDIC leaders and divers and roaming the show floor. The EUDI show is about a quarter of the size of the annual DEMA show and is a consumer show but with many new and interesting things to check out. This show is a unique blend of diving activities from spear fishing, apnea diving, and all manner of scuba from travel to equipment and training.

A few things I saw that were interesting was a virtual reality shark cage dive, new equipment for CPR and lots and lots of dogs! I was actually quite pleasantly surprised to see so many dogs on the show floor with their owners! The SEI Italia team also offered an array of brochures and information to attendees about the different scuba clubs and training offered. They also had their traditional SEI chocolates, shaved ham, bread, cheese, and wine!

During an SEI Italia sponsored seminar at the show Alessandro along with Davide Cecamore- SEI Italia President, Fausto Salsa, and Maximiliano Fiorese presented many awards to their local leadership for their accomplishments through the year. I was humbled and taken aback when they asked me to stand and presented me with a blue velvet box with a silver plaque expressing gratitude for attending. I had a chance to surprise them in return by presenting them with a handmade black walnut ornament in the shape of the USA with a dive flag placed at the USA office location. I handmade each of these from wood that was harvested from my family farm and was pleased to present them as gifts to our team and dear friends.

The show was a wonderful experience and a success. At the close of the show, Alessandro drove me back to his home town to meet





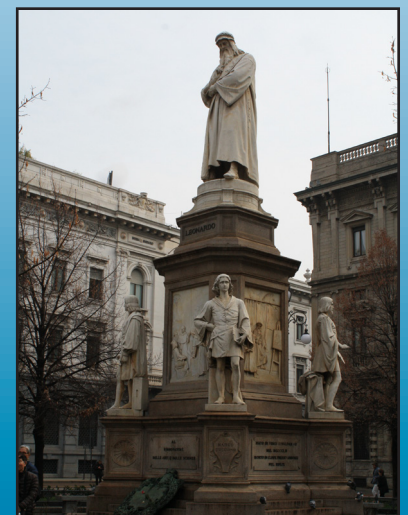
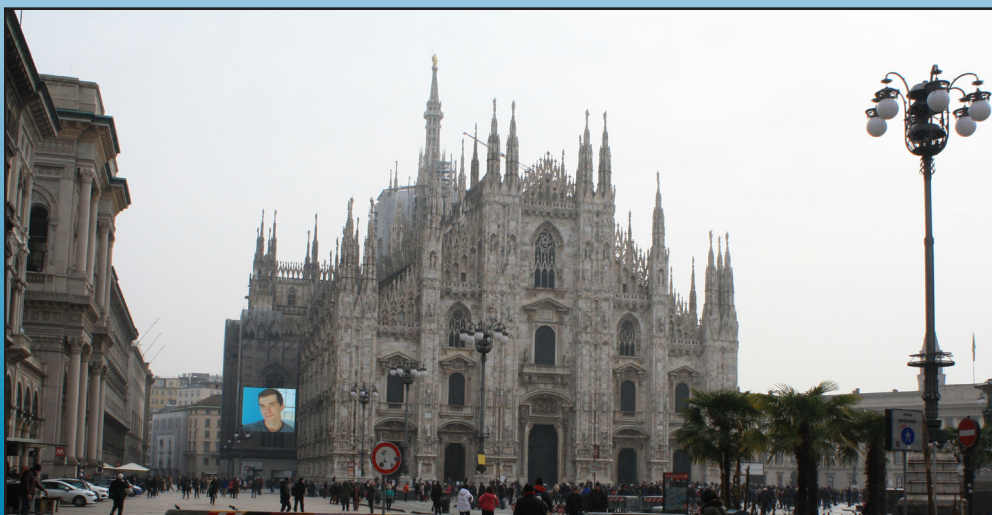


did see the 'Duomo di Milano' or the Milan Cathedral. The cathedral took 6 centuries to build and is the largest church in Italy. They have been in the process of cleaning it due to the smog that settles on the marble. I saw the monument of Leonardo Di Vinci and the Garibaldi statue in Varese. We visited with Davide Cecamore at his textile distribution factory and enjoyed a wonderful meal.

his beautiful family and to share a meal. I have never been treated so graciously and like family. I was deeply touched by their graciousness, kindness and hospitality.

On my last full day, Alessandro took me on a brief tour of Milan where I relished in such beautiful architecture and immense history. We did not have time to go inside but we

I had a wonderful time on my short trip. We accomplished much and so my trip was a success. Our office in Italy has done a fantastic job of building the SEI and PDIC brand in Italy and in growing various places in Europe. They are an irreplaceable value to our team and next year marks the 10th anniversary of SEI Italia and exhibiting at the EUDI show. I highly recommend the visit!





# Scuba Instructor: Becoming Your Best

by Kenneth Tuttle Wilhelm MSpSc EMT  
CMAS 3 Star Instructor & SEI & PDIC Instructor Trainer

I started climbing the dive professional ladder in 2002. This was after starting out as a nationally certified YMCA Swimming Instructor in 1980 (as a sophomore in high school). In the interim years, I would go on to become a coach for multiple sports, so I have been involved in education and sports training ever since.

By 2007, I reached the level of Course Director, and so I thought I had achieved the top of the ladder. And maybe I had. But, was this completion of my journey? Or

maybe there were other sub-aqua mountains to dive? Around the time I passed my OWSI Examination, I was not shy to say that I'd never go into technical diving. I saw nothing in the oceans that was worth the additional risks associated with any kind of decompression diving. Was I wrong? Yes, and maybe no.

Technical diving is definitely not for every diver, really, in fact it's not for most divers. For a variety of reasons, the vast majority of divers should not be headed past what are generally accepted as the limits of recreational diving. Honestly, technical training and certification itself, does not mean that a diver is suited to diving into the technical beyond.

The discussion and critique, of what the resort agencies are currently doing, in promoting tech diving as the 'next frontier' for any interested recreational diver, is a debate that absolutely needs to be had. But not here, not today.

I managed to reach the level of Course Director, and in the years that it took to accumulate those 500+ dives leading up to CD, I never once exceeded recreational limits. Yes, I was a 'safe' diver, I adhered to all the 'rules' of diving. But was I a good diver? Looking back now, I realise that my true level of skill and knowledge was quite lacking.



**new  
skills**

During my time of conducting monthly Instructor Courses, in a very popular resort destination, I was confronted with instructor candidates who were far better skilled than I was. And most likely they were far advanced in their diving knowledge.

It would be a form of vanity for me to claim that this caused me shame, and thus precipitated my subsequent foray into the world of technical diving. No, what happened was I found myself in a state of consternation. As good a recreational diver I was, here were instructor candidates that were obviously better, and some with far less dives than I had under my belt.

Surely, you've already correctly guessed that these candidates were technical divers. But, part of my surprise was due to the fact that my



first five years as an instructor were in SE Asia, where the waters are generally warm, calm, and at the time technical diving was almost non-existent. When I became a scuba professional, in Taiwan, there were only two diving centres on the whole island that had Nitrox, and helium wasn't to be had, except for the military dive teams.

When I became a CD, I had recently relocated to N. America, and this was where I was confronted with the expertise of technical divers who have trained in the rigorous cave environments of Florida and elsewhere.

This revelation that I had, began my journey, a journey beyond the industry's recreational minimum of skill and knowledge. And what I've learned is that there should be no end to accumulating knowledge, and make no assumption that my skills as a diver, nor instructor, have reached their peak.

An instructor who reaches the point, where they no longer study the diving sciences, or they no longer feel concern about their skill attainment and the maintenance of sharpness ... needs to get out of the business. We certainly don't need instructors who may have been good, may still be good, but now are content to sit on their 'laurels'.

Instructors need to be role models for the attitude that one's continuing education and development in scuba, has no end. It's not about going into technical diving, as I've said, it's not for everyone, and nor should it be.

The point is, that every professional needs to commit to ongoing improvement in: their own dive skills; their ability to teach; their knowledge of diving sciences. As you get better, you will raise your own personal standards, and what you expect out of your students. And so, it's fair to predict that as you go along improving yourself, you'll produce better and better divers.

I will never reach the experience level of my own technical instructor trainer. He's got too many tech/cave dives and he's more than a decade younger than me.

It's impossible for me to catch up to him, but that doesn't mean I shouldn't try.



# An Evening with Sylvia Earle

Written by Brooke Speedy  
SEI & PDIC Assistant Instructor



Photo Credit: <https://cms.bsu.edu/calendar/events/emens/emens-auditorium/2018/03/27/dr-sylvia-earle>

**“The greatest thing we are extracting from the ocean, even from the deep sea, is our existence.”**

Some say you should never meet your heroes because you will surely be disappointed. Well in this case it was my heroine and the moment couldn't have been more enlightening. I found myself sitting back in Emens Auditorium at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, USA, but this time as an Alum. The highly esteemed Oceanographer and Explorer Sylvia Earle, at age 82, stood on the stage before me and a room filled with a few hundred people. She was there to talk to us about something that should matter to us all much more than it does, our Earth's oceans. As scuba divers, we have a unique relationship with the oceans, lakes, and even quarries that belong to our Earth. We see in person what many only see in small doses on TV or at aquariums. Earle spoke of how “mastering the art of Scuba is a gift.” I believe that most divers would agree with her. Less than 1% of our world population is scuba certified and

even less than that has had the chance to master the art of scuba. It is our duty as divers to share our experiences, good and bad, with the rest of the population. Capturing photos and videos of sea life can inspire people to care about creatures they have never met. Telling stories of once clear water and newly plastic filled seas will help create images for people that would otherwise feel disconnected to our waters. Not everyone that hears us will truly listen, but if we don't try then the Earth's waters will continue to be at risk. Earle said that the actions we take, “Right now, mostly in the next 10 years, will shape the next 10,000 years. We need to protect nature as if our lives depend on it, because they do.” She also said that “the biggest problem is ignorance, the biggest solution is knowledge.”

## **“No child left dry.”**

Whether you live in a coastal area or smack in the middle of the Midwest like me, your everyday life is dependent upon the oceans. Earle talked about how, “...when the rain falls around you today, that's the ocean falling down surrounding you.” Not only is the water we use daily from the ocean, but the oxygen we breathe and the food we eat would not exist without the functioning ecosystems in our oceans. Our daily lifestyle choices not only affect us personally, but they affect the lives of every living thing on this planet. The food we eat, how we dispose of our garbage, where we shop, all these choices impact our oceans and our



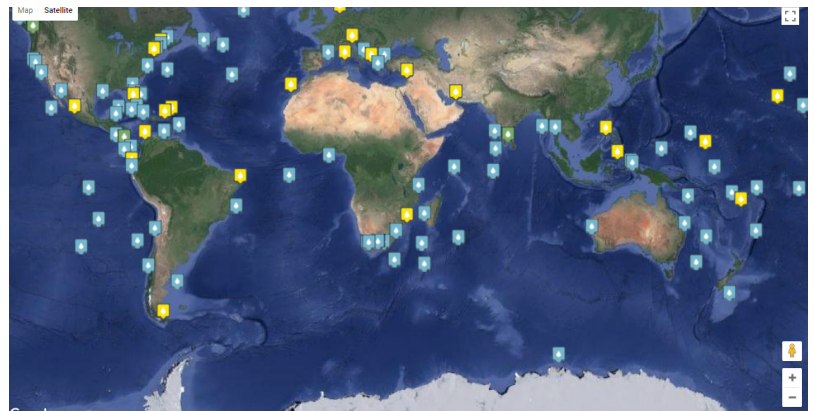
Sylvia Earle presenting at Ball State University



lives. Earle said, “That we have the evidence that everything connects and that we can sit here in Muncie and realize that the ocean keeps us alive. And that without the ocean, we couldn’t breathe. Without the ocean, the water cycle would stop. An ocean that’s in trouble means that Muncie is in trouble.” We need to get those around us to understand this truth. If we can do that then we can take steps to improve the health of our oceans and the health of our present and future generations. Earle said that, “We need everyone everywhere to buy into the concept that we have to respect our natural world” and that “knowing can take us to a much better place.”

### **“How much is it worth to breathe?”**

Earle’s talk was not all doom and gloom. She did speak of how our oceans are in crisis but reinforced that, “We have the power to destroy AND the power to control and recover” from what we have created. Just under 150 years ago the National Parks Service was created to protect parts of our terrestrial land its species and ecosystems. The same needs to be done for our Earth’s waters. In the past few decades we have been moving towards creating what she called “Hope Spots” or “Blue Parks.” Oceans make up 70% of our earth but currently only 4% of that is protected. The United Nations aim to have 10% protected by 2020 and 30% protected by 2030. While this is a great start we can do better. What better way to do this than to explore and share what we find. We take so much from our oceans every day, but we still only know so little. Earle said that we must, “insist on exploration before exploitation.” The deepest part of the ocean is just under seven miles. When you think about driving seven miles down the street that doesn’t seem so far. We have sent over 500 people into space, well over 200,000 miles away. Of course deep ocean travel isn’t as simple as driving seven miles down the road. We must have well-built submersibles that can withstand the great amount of pressure of the oceans depths. Earle dreams of a world in the future where every day people, even children, can hop into submersibles and visit deep depths of our oceans, just as we can climb mountains or spelunk inside caves today.



Map of Hope Spots Source: <https://mission-blue.org/hope-spots/>

### **“Everything starts with somebody who knows about something.”**

The most encouraging message I took away from hearing Earle speak was a message that I learned as a child but have started to forget over the years: It’s okay to continue to ask questions. Earle talked about how parents are so excited when their children first learn to walk and talk, but somewhere along the way kids are encouraged to sit down and be quiet. Her advice to keep us motivated is to, “Set a goal of where you want to be and then hunker down. Believe in yourself, don’t give up, don’t! Go above, around, under or through, but just don’t give up.” Sylvia has never stopped believing that one person has the power to make change. She encourages every person to, “Look in the mirror, you know who you are, you know what powers you have.” If we all can discover our different strengths, we can learn to use them to improve our planet and our way of life.

Sylvia Earle's full presentation can be viewed at <https://ballstate.mediasite.com/mediasite/Play/d6489a3789b14e6d8736a979e433d1901d>

# Sylvia Earle Quick Facts

Age: 82 (Born August 30, 1935)

**Nicknames:** "Her Deepness" "Sturgeon General"

**Hours Underwater:** Over 7,000

**Degrees:** B.S. from Florida State University, M.S and Ph.D from Duke University. 27 other honorary doctorates as well as a Research Fellow at Harvard University

**Leader of more than 100 Expeditions**

**Author of more than 200 publications**

## Honors and Awards:

1970: U.S. Department of Interior Conservation Service Award and Los Angeles Times Woman of the Year

1976: NOGI Award for Science

1980: Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award

1986: Set the women's record for a world solo dive depth and tie the overall record with Graham Hawkes

1996: Lindbergh Foundation award, the Explorers Club Medal and Zonta International Honorary Member

1998: UN Global 500 Laureate and National Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year

2000: National Women's Hall of Fame, Library of Congress Living Legend

2009: Artiglio Award (Premio Artiglio 2009) and TED Prize

2010: Earle was awarded the Roy Chapman Andrews Distinguished Explorer Award from the Roy Chapman Andrews Society in Beloit, WI.

2014: Walter Cronkite Award, UN Champions of the Earth Award, Glamour Woman of the Year, and the first woman to be celebrated at an Explorers Club Tribute Ceremony

2017: Rachel Carson Prize and Lewis Thomas Prize

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia\\_Earle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia_Earle)

## Notable Filmography:

2018 She Is the Ocean (Documentary)

2017 Diving Deep (Documentary)

2017 Sea of Hope (Documentary)

2016 A Plastic Ocean (Documentary)

2016 The Magic and Mystery of Sable Island (Documentary)

2015 Shark Land: Cocos Island (Documentary short)

2015 National Geographic's Polar Explorations (TV Series)

2015 Guadalupe White Sharks (Short)

2014 Mission Blue (Documentary)

2013 Descent Into the Depts (Documentary short)

2012 Blues Planet: Sounds (Video documentary)

2012 Chasing Ice (Documentary)

2010 Bag It (Documentary)

2007 Earth Report: State of the Planet 2007 (TV Movie documentary)

Source: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1862168/>







# DIVING INDUSTRY ALERT YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

## Sustainable Shark Fisheries And Trade Act

The [Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act](#) was recently introduced in the US House of Representatives. HR 5248 is a bi-partisan bill introduced in Congress in mid-March. It establishes a certification process to ensure that foreign nations engaging in the shark trade into or through the United States conserve and manage populations of sharks in a manner that is comparable to regulatory programs in the US and effectively prohibits the practice of removing shark fins and discarding the carcass at sea.

The market for shark fins, oil and meat, and other products drives a large international trade. The demand for fins, the key ingredient in shark fin soup, is one of the greatest threats facing shark populations around the world. [According to some studies, humans kill as many as 11,000 sharks per hour.](#) Fins from as many as 73 million sharks end up in the global market every year and more than 70 percent of the most common shark species involved with the fin trade are considered at high or very high risk of extinction. While shark finning is illegal in US waters, shark fins continue to be bought and sold throughout the US. This bill will limit the supply of these products in the US to those that are certified and meet the stringent criteria contained in the bill.

The [Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act](#), establishes criteria for determining whether a nation has, and effectively enforces, regulatory programs for the conservation and management of sharks and creates measures to prohibit shark finning that are comparable to those of the United States, including, at a minimum, a requirement that such programs be consistent with the national standards for fishery conservation and management set forth in section 301(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851). The bill also has provisions for the protection of skates and rays.

We strongly urge you to contact your elected representatives in Congress and share how this bill could protect the shark population as well as how your business and the recreational diving industry are made stronger by divers' ability to see these creatures in the wild. Your message to your Representative and Senator should be personalized and we encourage you to add details about the work of your organization and how this bill would impact your company and the citizens you serve.

DEMA is supporting this bill and asks all members of the diving industry to join us in contacting your legislators to vote for the passage of this important piece of legislation. You can easily do so by [joining our campaign to support HR 5248](#). When you complete the campaign form, your comments will be sent directly to your representative.

If you are able to contact your Representative or Senator, and receive any kind of feedback, please let us know right away. DEMA will continue to work toward supporting this bill and share updates on this issue as they become available. If you have questions about this issue, please email DEMA at [publicpolicy@dema.org](mailto:publicpolicy@dema.org) or contact us at 858-616-6408.

**PLEASE ACT TODAY TO SEND LAWMAKERS A MESSAGE TO PASS H. R. 5248, THE SUSTAINABLE SHARK FISHERIES AND TRADE ACT.**

DEMA, the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association, is an international organization dedicated to the sustained growth of the recreational scuba diving and snorkeling industry. For more information on DEMA, call 858-616-6408 or visit [www.dema.org](http://www.dema.org).

DEMA, The Diving Equipment & Marketing Association, 3750 Convoy St., Ste. 310, San Diego, CA 92111

## India to Host World Environment Day 2018

On February 19, 2018 Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Erik Solheim, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Head of UN Environment, jointly announced that India will be hosting the global World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2018.

**“Beat Plastic Pollution”**, the theme for World Environment 2018, urges governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives and urgently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting our oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health.

“India is excited to host the World Environment Day this year on June 5. Indian philosophy and lifestyle has long been rooted in the concept of co-existence with nature. We are committed to making Planet Earth a cleaner and greener place”, said Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

He added: “If each and every one of us does at least one green good deed daily towards our Green Social Responsibility, there will be billions of green good deeds daily on the planet.”

“India will be a great global host of 2018’s World Environment Day celebrations,” said Erik Solheim at the announcement on Monday.

He added: “The country has demonstrated tremendous global leadership on climate change and the need to shift to a low carbon economy, and India will now help galvanize greater action on plastics pollution. It’s a global emergency affecting every aspect of our lives. It’s in the water we drink and the food we eat. It’s destroying our beaches and oceans. India will now be leading the push to save our oceans and planet.”

India is emerging as a leader, given it has one of

the highest recycling rates in the world. It can be instrumental in combating plastic pollution. By hosting World Environment Day 2018, the Indian government is accelerating its leadership on an issue of tremendous magnitude.



World Environment Day is a UN Environment-led global event, the single largest celebration of our environment each year, which takes place on June 5 and is celebrated by thousands of communities worldwide.

Since it began in 1972, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated across the globe.

Most of all, World Environment Day is a day of everyone around the world to take ownership of their environment and to actively engage in the protection of our earth.

For more information about World Environment Day and Plastic Pollution, visit:  
[www.worldenvironmentday.global](http://www.worldenvironmentday.global)

### Plastic Pollution facts:

- Every year the world uses 500 billion plastic bags
- Each year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans, the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute.
- In the last decade, we produced more plastic than in the whole last century
- 50 percent of the plastic we use is single-use or disposable
- We buy 1 million plastic bottles every minute
- Plastic makes up 10% of all of the waste we generate

<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/news/india-host-world-environment-day-2018>



# Publications and Continuing Education

As a reminder, **Currents** is your publication. Submission to **Currents** counts toward continuing education credit, so we encourage participation in this journal. Articles or information may be sent to [info@seidiving.org](mailto:info@seidiving.org). We prefer Word documents for articles so text can be formatted to fit the layout. Photographs, figures and illustrations should be referred to in the text and attached separately with proper labeling. Photos should be sent as JPG or PDF files at least 300 dpi. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 765.281.0600. Please scan all files and pictures for viruses before sending.

SEI & PDIC are not responsible for the views expressed in the content of the articles published. These articles are written by independent leadership members sharing their personal experiences and insights they have gained over years of teaching and scuba diving. ❖

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