



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –March 2018

Welcome to the March E-Slate. In this edition, we release the 2018 Standards Update draft membership review, call for Board of Directors and Conrad Limbaugh Scientific Diving Leadership Award nominations, announce several student summer opportunities and job openings, and preview multiple upcoming events. We also remember a long-time member of our community, Brett Dodson. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

President's Message

The final draft Standards Manual is [here](#). Throughout 2017 an *ad hoc* committee comprised of Liz Kintzing, Steve Sellers, Robbie Christian, Katie Shultz, Christian McDonald, and Marc Slattery worked on the most substantive changes to the AAUS Standards Manual in a decade. This group represented a broad cross section of the AAUS scientific diving community that provided their unique perspectives (and spirited discussions) to the rewrite process. The goal was to consolidate material and standardize language, thereby streamlining the Manual and hopefully enhancing comprehension. The changes were broadly “rolled out” at the annual meeting in Alpena MI for feedback from membership, and many valuable suggestions were incorporated into the draft Manual over the next four months. Per AAUS Bylaws, the Board of Directors is releasing this current draft Manual to membership for a 60-day comment period. On May 1st the *ad hoc* committee will finalize this copy of the new Standards Manual, and the AAUS BOD will vote on this document during the late Spring conference call.

The linked draft Standards Manual includes color-coded highlighted text to point out changes. Specifically, text in green represent a change from the prior manual (often standardized language or minor word changes), whereas text in yellow indicate section headers/references that will be checked in the final document. You can compare this version to the prior manual for more specific information relative to these changes. As you read this document it is worth remembering that the AAUS Standards Manual represents minimal standards, each OM must meet these standards but they are welcome to exceed them relative to their own programmatic requirements.

Please submit comments on the AAUS website form found along with a link to the draft at http://secure.aaus.org/standards_update.

If you don't have any specific comments, please indicate on the form that you have reviewed this document. We look forward to hearing from you, and to the completed update of our Standards Manual.

Marc Slattery
University of Mississippi
AAUS President

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brett Dodson

Brett Wayne Dodson, Diving Safety Officer at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, passed away Thursday, February 1, 2018, after a two-year battle with cancer.



Brett held undergrad and graduate degrees in Biology from Texas A&M University and spent many long hours diving the cave systems of the Southeast. In college Brett would spend all week on campus working as a

TA, pack his van with cylinders and gear, make the 14-hour drive overnight to the caves of Florida, dive all day Saturday and Sunday and be back on campus Monday morning ready to do it all over again.

After college Brett continued his lifelong affair with the ocean and dive leadership and found his calling when he became the Diving Safety Officer at the Tennessee Aquarium. Brett made an incredible impact on the program there and a few years later was hired to be the first Dive Safety Officer at the yet to open Georgia Aquarium (GAI). Brett had an incredible work ethic and devoted his entire existence to creating the dive programs at GAI and bringing the ocean to landlocked Atlanta.

Brett was an active member of both AAUS and ADPA and an innovator in the aquarium dive industry who set the stage for how institutions dealt with OSHA by pioneering the use

of his now famous surface-supplied cart. And no Brett, we're not using a pneumofathometer! Brett was widely considered to be a standards whisperer by his colleagues and an expert in his field; working as a dive program consultant for many zoos and aquariums with his company Leadbelly Dive Program Salvage.

Brett also had a unique ability to identify and mentor many future university, aquarium and federal diving safety officers with numerous current DSO's now counting themselves as a member of his DSO tree.

After Atlanta Brett moved to Corpus Christi with his longtime partner, Carol Haley, to become the Diving Safety Officer at Texas A&M. Brett rebuilt the program there and continued his work with Leadbelly while enjoying his custom built meat smoker and working on his old truck, endless iPod playlists, seeking out a good paella and engaging in intellectual discourse. Along with Carol, Brett was an avid cyclist and ocean advocate.

He will be dearly missed by his friends and colleagues in the dive community.

The ADPA has established The Brett Dodson ADPA DSO Scholarship to help to fund a new zoo or aquarium Dive Safety Officer to attend the annual ADPA Symposium & Training Day. Make a contribution at <https://www.youcaring.com/brettdodsonadpadososcholarship/recipient-1094182>



“And for those that belong to the
sea;
They will never be far apart;
For each time they go to that place;
They are together again.”

2018 AAUS Dues

2018 AAUS OM dues are now due. OMs received an electronic invoice during the first week of January. You can pay the invoice by clicking a link within the invoice, logging in to your OM profile at www.aaus.org or you may mail in a check to the NEW address, listed below.

AAUS
PO Box 9067
Mobile, AL 36691-9067

AAUS BOD Call for Nominations

The 2018 AAUS Nominating Committee is now accepting for consideration nominations of individual members to stand for a Director-at-large position on the AAUS Board of Directors. Commencing on January 01, 2019 the elected Director-at-Large will serve one three-year term. An electronic poll will open on May 01 and close June 30, 2018. Qualified candidates must be full voting members in good standing with the AAUS. The nomination letter (not to exceed 300 words) is best focused on how a particular candidate can contribute to the Academy based on their academic or diving safety contributions, or previous development or not-for-profit organizational governance experience. Please submit your nomination letter, no later than **March 30, 2018**, to any one of the five AAUS Nominating Committee members:

- Rick Riera-Gomez, Chair (rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu)
- George Peterson (gpeterson@mbayaq.org)
- Rob Robbins (Rob.Robbins.Contractor@usap.gov)
- Lora Pride (Lora.Pride@ch2m.com)
- Steven Sellers (steven_sellers@nps.gov)

AAUS Statistics Due

Organizational Members of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences agree to submit summary statistics each year of dives, modes of diving and any incidents associated with their program. Annual stats may be submitted at <http://stats.diveaaus.org>. It is strongly recommended that you fill in the blank form by hand before attempting to submit your stats. Inputs are error checked and you may get a message that your totals do not agree. Please do not include any dives that do not meet AAUS standards, i.e. recreational dives accepted by the DCB as proficiency dives. AAUS statistics collection criteria and definitions are at http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats_definitions.asp. Statistical summaries will be accepted beginning January 01, 2018 and considered late on (and after) 01 April.

2018 Conrad Limbaugh Award for Scientific Diving Leadership Nominations

Nominations are open for the 2018 Conrad Limbaugh Award for Scientific Diving Leadership. Presented biennially to an individual who has made a significant contribution in diving safety and diving leadership on behalf of the scientific diving community. Nominations close March 31, 2018. For more information on eligibility and the nomination form, please visit aaus.org/leadership_award. Nominations can also be submitted directly to jheine@ucsd.edu.

2017 DSO Meeting Video

The video of the 2017 DSO meeting in Alpena, Michigan is now available. It was our initial intent to make these videos available on our website. However, the file size is prohibitive. Members can access the 6-part video for

downloading through a shared google drive folder. Please contact the AAUS office for access.

AAUS Social Media

In addition to our current Facebook page, AAUS now has an Instagram account: AAUS.Scientific.Diving. Follow us! The goal is to increase our social media presence and share the incredible work AAUS scientific divers are conducting around the world. Take pictures with your AAUS swag (hat, shirt, koozies, etc.) and we will post it! The idea is to track AAUS and scientific divers in a 'Where's Waldo' fashion as a way to gain interest and promote science. If you need a hat or koozie for this adventure, check out the website or contact Heather. Any other images, videos, stories, or other things you would like shared, please send them to: AAUSsocialmedia@gmail.com. Please include captions, hash tags, etc. that you would like to be included. Finally, if you are interested in helping with this initiative, please contact Jessica Keller at the social media address above.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

USC AAUS Scientific Diving Course

This USC course includes mainland Los Angeles based classes and several days of spectacular research dive training on Catalina Island including bluewater dive, night dive, mapping and navigation skills, Reef Check CA Certification and marine species identification. This course is open to both USC staff, students and the general public. Open-water SCUBA certification is required. Application deadline: May 1, 2018. For information, contact Eric Castillo, USC DSO (uscddso@usc.edu) More at wrigley.usc.edu/scientificdiving

Marine Subtidal Ecology and AAUS Science Diver Course

The University of Washington, Friday Harbor Laboratories is offering a Marine Subtidal Ecology course June 11- July 13, 2018. This course focuses on learning key ecological concepts, skills, and tools applied to the subtidal marine environment. Of primary importance, students will be trained as AAUS scientific divers. Students will conduct group and independent research projects addressing a tractable question in temperate subtidal ecology; the skills and principles of ecology will, however, be broadly applicable to underwater science. The training will include visits (and input!) from scientific diving instructors from around the NW, evening discussions of accident case studies, and extensive pool and in-water skills and rescue drills. More information at <https://fhl.uw.edu/courses/coursedescriptions/course/marine-subtidal-ecology-2018> or email pema@uw.edu.

REEF 2018 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the 2018 Marine Conservation Internship. REEF's Marine Conservation

Internship provides an in-depth look into REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project and Invasive Lionfish Program. The internship provides an array of diverse experiences including scientific diving opportunities, outreach and education, data collection and management, non-profit operations, and public speaking. Application deadline is March 12, 2018. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Northeast DSO Meeting

The Northeast Diving Officers will convene for an informal meeting at the Boston Sea Rovers show, Saturday March 10, 2018, 1-4pm. Stay tuned for meeting room location and other details. See the Sea Rovers website for details about this weekend (<https://www.bostonsearovers.com>). Contact UMaine DSO Chris Rigaud for questions or to submit agenda topics (crigaud@maine.edu).

The Functional Roles of Mesophotic Coral Reefs in the Anthropocene

The Mesophotic Coral Reef Ecosystems Gordon Research Conference will be held June 18-22, 2018 at Bates College in Lewiston, ME. The number of scientists studying MCEs is growing rapidly and includes coral reef ecologists, molecular biologists, oceanographers, physiologists, biogeochemists, paleo-climatologists, fisheries biologists, microbiologists, chemical ecologists, population geneticists and managers interested in resource conservation. This GRC will attract experts from around the world, as well as students and post-doctoral researchers, to present new data and evaluate the evidence supporting the multiple factors controlling the structure and function of MCE communities worldwide. More information at <https://www.grc.org/mesophotic-coral-reef-ecosystems-conference/2018/>

JOB ANNOUCEMENTS

Full information and application instructions for the following jobs can be found at www.aaus.org/job_board

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

Diving Safety Officer

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Dive Leaders

The Bay Foundation

Marine Programs Field Technician

USGS

Physical Scientist

The mission of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences is to facilitate the development of safe and productive scientific divers through education, research, advocacy, and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications, & operations.

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