



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Women Divers Hall of Fame to Welcome Six New Members in 2020

Dedicated to recognizing and honoring the contributions of women divers, the Women Divers Hall of Fame™ (WDHOF) is an international non-profit professional honor society whose member contributions span a wide variety of fields including: The Arts, Science, Medicine, Sports, Exploration, Underwater Archaeology, Media, Service, Dive Training and Education, Safety, Business, Marine Environment and Conservation, Free Diving, Commercial Diving, and Military Diving.

The Hall is proud to announce the selection of six new Members who will constitute the Class of 2020:

- **Susan R. Eaton** - Northwest Territories, Canada
Geoscientist, Journalist, Polar Explorer
- **Natalie Gibb** - Quintana Roo, Mexico
Cave Explorer, Writer, Entrepreneur
- **Shirley Lee** - Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.
Diving Pioneer, Dive Association Organizer, Swimming and Diving Champion
- **Caron Shake, CDR, USN (ret), Ph.D.** - Waterford, Connecticut, U.S.
U.S. Naval Operations Scientist, Research Physiologist, Diving Medical Officer
- **Angelique Songco** - Puerto Princesa City, Philippines
Park Superintendent, Environmentalist, Marine Conservationist
- **Hélène de Tayrac-Senik** - Nogent-sur-Marne, France
Dive Show Founder, Rescue Diver, Marine Conservationist

(See biographies of these women below.)

These extraordinary women will be officially inducted into WDHOF on March 28, 2020, at the Beneath the Sea (BTS) Awards Banquet in Secaucus, New Jersey (www.BeneathTheSea.org).

WDHOF, a 501(c)(3) corporation, was founded in 2000. WDHOF's mission is to recognize the contributions of outstanding women divers and to offer financial assistance and mentorship to women and men interested in pursuing diving careers. As such, WDHOF offers numerous scholarships and training grants each year. For more information about or to contribute to the WDHOF scholarship program, log on to www.wdhof.org/scholarships.

WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2020

The following summary provides a glimpse into the exciting and diverse backgrounds of the newest class of WDHOF members:



Susan R. Eaton - Northwest Territories, Canada *Geoscientist, Journalist, Polar Explorer*

A geoscientist, journalist, and polar explorer, Susan R. Eaton studies the interplay of plate tectonics, oceans, glaciers, climate, and life in polar regions. Named one of Canada's top 100 modern-day explorers by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Susan investigates the world's oceans—from Antarctica to the Arctic—in the snorkel zone, a unique land-sea-ice-air interface where charismatic animals and snorkelers coningle. In 2014, Susan founded the Sedna Epic Expedition, comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women ocean explorers, scientists, artists, educators, and scuba divers. Sedna's sea women have brought the ocean to eye level for more than 1,000 Inuit youths, girls, and elders in the Arctic.

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Recognizing the contributions of women pioneers, leaders and innovators in the many fields of diving; Promoting careers and opportunities for women in the dive community.

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WDHOF FOUNDERS

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Natalie Gibb - Quintana Roo, Mexico

Cave Explorer, Writer, Entrepreneur

Natalie Gibb's passion in life is underwater cave exploration, conservation, and education. With her exploration partner, Vincent Rouquette-Cathala, she has led her team to discover over 20 previously unknown cave systems in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, mapping more than 80 kilometers of cave passageways. She is a public speaker, author, photographer, and videographer, and uses these tools to inspire others to value and preserve the underwater aquifer. Natalie is co-owner of Under the Jungle, a cave diver training center in Mexico, and is a TDI Full Cave Instructor. She uses her shop to support and encourage citizen science projects.



Shirley Lee - Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.

Diving Pioneer, Dive Association Organizer, Swimming and Diving Champion

Shirley Lee is a pioneer in diving for women of all races and simultaneously for both black women and men. Her work in helping to structure organizations to support sport diving activities in the face of racial and gender bias has been critical to the sport diving community. Her work has been featured in *Ebony* Magazine and in books. Shirley was a major player in the organization and maturing of the Underwater Adventure Seekers and National Association of Black Scuba Divers. Her 54 years of dive experience and service may have started as the first female African-American certified sport diver.



Caron Shake, CDR, USN (ret), Ph.D. - Waterford, Connecticut, U.S.

U.S. Naval Operations Scientist, Research Physiologist, Diving Medical Officer

Dr. Caron Shake began diving in 1978 and advanced to Instructor. She joined the U.S. Navy as a Research Physiologist and qualified as a Diving Medical Officer. Her career spanned all aspects of research in Diving, Submarine, and Special Operations. She worked to improve air saturation abort decompression procedures, to provide guidance for escape and rescue of a disabled submarine, and assisted updating the Navy dive tables. Caron conducted research designing underwater breathing apparatus, gas monitors, and isobaric Trimix shifts and decompression. In 1994/95, she participated in Dry Deck Shelter diving operations, locking out from submarines with a SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two.



Angelique Songco - Puerto Princesa City, Philippines

Park Superintendent, Environmentalist, Marine Conservationist

Angelique Songco's title is Protected Area Superintendent of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, but she is better known as "Mama Ranger." She was hired as Tubbataha park manager in 2001. At age 50, she finished her Master's degree in Environment, Development and Policy from the University of Sussex, England. Angelique was named Hero of the Environment by WWF-Philippines twice. Under her leadership, Tubbataha won the Platinum Global Ocean Refuge Award, now known as Blue Parks, and was named one of three best-managed, large, no-take, marine protected areas in the world. She received the KfW-Bernhard-Grzimek-Preis 2019 for her work in biodiversity conservation.



Hélène de Tayrac-Senik - Nogent-sur-Marne, France

Dive Show Founder, Rescue Diver, Marine Conservationist

Hélène is the founder, producer, and organizer of the longstanding Paris International Dive Show, fully produced by her single-owner company. The Paris Dive Show is a highly respected institution in Europe. Exhibitors come from all over the world to meet divers, photographers, scientists, environmentalists, certification agencies, tourist organizations, and key influencers in the industry. The long hours spent working to promote diving and the protection of our seas are balanced by her time spent underwater. With over 20 years of diving experience, she is also a PADI Rescue Diver. Promoting diving and sharing her passion with tenacity completely define her.