

My name is Steve Marshall and I am the president of the South Shore Neptunes, a SCUBA diving club headquartered in Quincy, MA. We are coordinating an underwater clean-up around Thompson Island on September 18th as part of COASTSWEEP and the International Clean-Up day efforts.

The connection with the City of Boston is that many of our volunteers are coming from Dive Kulture an organization in Boston. As stated on their website, www.dive-kulture.org, "Designed for at-risk, inner-city teens, Dive Kulture is the first program in the nation to offer scuba certification together with jobs in the environmental industry. The program offers therapeutic outreach to youth and their families by trained clinicians. Graduates are eligible for five years of aftercare with program staff." As of today, we have approximately 12-15 SCUBA divers from Dive Kulture and a host of beach volunteers to assist in this effort.

In addition to the divers from Dive Kulture, we also have volunteers from UMASS Boston Department of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Studies (EEOS). It is my hope that the divers from Dive Kulture will not only have an opportunity to participate in a worthwhile environmental clean-up effort but will also be able to have a positive interaction with the participants from UMASS and thus see the possibilities and benefits of higher education.

The South Shore Neptunes is one of the oldest dive clubs in Massachusetts, tracing its history back to 1955. Most of the founding members were also members of the Quincy underwater search and recovery team. Our mission in 2010 and forward is:

- 1.) To support the club goal of promoting diving by engaging in underwater exploration, research and conservation
- 2.) To engage the membership in volunteer opportunities in support of environmental activities
- 3.) To identify and engage with other organizations and the public in support of similar activities
- 4.) To promote expanding membership by identifying and recruiting members with interests in scuba diving and environmental conservation activities

More information can be found on our website, www.southshoreneptunes.com.

We are hoping to capitalize on the club's long history and experience and, while we won't be performing the search and recovery efforts the likes of those performed by our founding members in the 1970s and 1980s, we do hope to search for and recover a good deal of underwater debris.

We are working closely with Sarah Swanson of Thompson Island Outward Bound, Dr. Anamarija Frankic of EEOS, and Laura Medrano of Dive Kulture to coordinate divers

and beach participants. Additionally, we feel that working with organizations such as Dive Kulture and UMASS Boston EEOS is one way that we can help give back to the community and aid those who may otherwise not have such an opportunity.

If this type of effort is of interest to the Mayor's Office I would be very interested in speaking with you more. Perhaps there are ways the effort can be promoted even more so as to raise awareness of the fantastic work Dive Kulture is doing as well as to promote the environmental clean-up activities.

Please feel free to contact me at my email address, president@southshoreneptunes.org or via my cell phone, 617-833-1178.

Thank you,

Steve Marshall
President
South Shore Neptunes