



# WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## The Women Divers Hall of Fame to welcome 6 New Members in 2014

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, Exploration & Technology, Marine Archeology, Business, Media, Training & Education, Safety, Commercial & Military Diving, Free Diving, and Underwater Sports.

### The Hall is proud to announce the selection of six new Members who will constitute the Class of 2014:

- **Barbara Allen:** *Pioneer, Instructor, Ocean Advocate*
- **Kristine Barsky:** *Marine Biologist, Environmentalist, Author, Videographer*
- **Emma L. Hickerson:** *Unit Diving Supervisor, Conservationist, Submersible Pilot*
- **Jayne Jenkins:** *Photographer, Educational Non-Profit Leader, Conservationist, Safety Diver*
- **Deidre Sullivan:** *Marine Geologist, Educator, Submersible Diver*
- **Tamara Thomsen:** *Maritime Archaeologist, Shipwreck Conservationist, Instructor*

(See biographies of these women below.)

These extraordinary women will be officially inducted into WDHOF on March 29, 2014 at the Beneath the Sea (BTS) Awards Banquet in Secaucus, New Jersey ([www.BeneathTheSea.org](http://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 13 scholarships and training grants a year. For more information about or to contribute to the WDHOF scholarship program, log on to [www.wdhof.org/scholarships](http://www.wdhof.org/scholarships).

## WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2014

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



### **Barbara Allen - Pioneer, Instructor, Ocean Advocate**

In 1957, Barbara Allen graduated from the 6th Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Certification Course, the second woman to do so. She taught at Dive N' Surf and the Diving Locker. In 1961 Barbara became secretary of the San Diego Underwater Photographic Society. She worked at the Westinghouse Ocean Research Lab as a technician in near shore studies, and demonstrated Mark VI semi-closed circuit mixed-gas rebreathers at Offshore Exploration Conferences. She also worked with the FMC Ocean Engineering Department, using her diving and underwater photography skills in test tanks. In 2009 Barbara was honored by the San Diego Underwater Photographic Society as a diving pioneer. Barbara currently serves as a volunteer with the California Surf Museum, educating people about the ocean environment and aquatic history.

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For more information about the Women Divers Hall of Fame, log on to [www.wdhof.org](http://www.wdhof.org).

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.

#### WEBSITE

[WDHOF.ORG](http://WDHOF.ORG)

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#### WDHOF FOUNDERS

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**Kristine Barsky - Marine Biologist, Environmentalist, Author, Videographer**

An avid diver since 1972, Kristine Barsky is a senior marine biologist and diver with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Humboldt State University. One of the Department's senior environmental specialists, she interacts with the public, other government and academic colleagues, and fishermen. Kristine is currently in charge of the Department's lobster fishery management plan. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Diving Society USA as well as the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. As well as being an author, Kristine is a photographer, dive model and videographer.



**Emma L. Hickerson - Unit Diving Supervisor, Conservationist, Submersible Pilot**

Emma L. Hickerson was born in Sydney, Australia, and moved to Texas in 1984. She was initially trained as a diver in 1990, and since has logged more than 1250 dives. The majority of these have been as a NOAA Diver. She has held the position of Research Coordinator of NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary since 1997. During this time she has contributed to over 40 scientific publications relating to the marine environment. She has served as the Unit Diving Supervisor for NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary since 2005, and has supervised over 5000 dives during over 155 sanctuary research cruises. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Zoology from Texas A&M University.



**Jayne Jenkins - Photographer, Educational Non-Profit Leader, Conservationist, Safety Diver**

An avid diver and distinguished underwater photographer, Jayne Jenkins set up the PADI Travel Network in Australia, and became a volunteer diver with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service in Sydney. Jayne worked as a safety diver and researcher for various underwater film, television and photographic expeditions focusing on diving in the Pacific, including the cave diving spectacular "Sanctum." She established the first digital shoot-out competition at Lord Howe Island – now an annual event. As Vice President of the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society in Australasia, Jayne has been an invaluable mentor to a lucky handful of scholars. Jayne is currently resident photographer /consultant with the Catlin Seaview survey to record and reveal the world's oceans and reefs like never before, in high-resolution, 360-degree panoramic vision.



**Deidre Sullivan - Marine Geologist, Educator, Submersible Diver**

Deidre Sullivan's 35 years of dive experience include diving director for Catalina Island Marine Institute, the largest program certifying teenagers in the world, to research diver/submersible diver/marine geologist making marine habitat maps of the ocean floor. Many areas mapped by Deidre are now Marine Protected Areas in California. She is a NAUI and CMAS instructor and has taught thousands of students. Deidre is currently the director of the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center, which uses marine technology to improve science and engineering education and to provide the technical workforce with appropriately-educated marine professionals. One example of MATE's successful programs is its network of underwater robotic competitions which engage thousands of students each year.



**Tamara Thomsen - Maritime Archaeologist, Shipwreck Conservationist, Instructor**

Tamara Thomsen opened Diversions Scuba, Wisconsin's first technical dive shop in 1994, became the state's first technical diving instructor, and she continues to teach a full range of mixed gas, rebreathers, and cave diving courses. Since 2004, Thomsen has worked as a Maritime Archaeologist for the State of Wisconsin's maritime preservation and archaeology program. She is the state spokesperson for maritime heritage, disseminating information about the importance of our submerged cultural resources through presentations, radio, television and newspaper interviews and has developed 7 museum exhibits, 2 websites, 6 educational kiosks, a maritime geocaching program, a school curriculum, and 43 historic markers. Using underwater still and video photography to document, and a core of volunteers to survey deep water shipwreck sites, Thomsen's work has resulted in 32 Great Lakes shipwrecks being added to the National Register of Historic Places.