



WDHOF Global Sisterhood at the 2020 Paris Dive Show

By Nathalie Lasselin (2016)

The 22nd annual Paris dive show in January was once again an amazing one. The biggest French-speaking event in the dive community is not only for the French-speaking. In fact **Hélène De Tayrac** (New Member Class of 2020) put together a better-than-ever version of the show despite the big strike in Paris in January. 49 countries were represented by 65,000 attendees (of which 65% were between 18 and 44 years old) and 512 exhibitors.

Of course people could see the newest dive gear, try diving in the swimming pool, attend lectures in two locations with a wide array of subjects including freediving, medicine, exploration, wildlife, and technical diving. Scuba diving seems to still attract a lot of people and the national media coverage of the event reached 2 million people.

What makes the dive show a success is, of course, the energy and commitment of Hélène and her team and the unique spirit of the show. It was my 10th show, giving lectures, and it really feels like a family gathering. France being France, of course, around noon, there is always a bottle of some wine or champagne to be opened to cheers at this unique gathering. I have had the opportunity to go to dive shows in seven countries and the Paris one always has something special to surprise me.

This year was the rebirth of the Festival Mondial de l'Image Sous-Marine of Antibes. Begun in 1974, the world-renowned festival was out of breath until Hélène took care of the situation. This year for the 45th anniversary, 45 films were presented by among others, Jean-Marc Barr from Big Blue Films.

The other premiere was to be able to have WDHOF represented at the show. My program was named "From the tip of the iceberg to my tap water," and I made a big wall in my exhibit booth explaining the history and importance of WDHOF. Thanks to Hélène for supporting it. With my partner of exploration, Marie-Josée De Carufel, we were able to urge younger female divers to follow the example of achievements of WDHOF Members and describe opportunities to pursue their career and dreams. It is always a great honour to make people aware of our sea sister group.

This March Hélène will be part of the new inductee Class of 2020. I feel very privileged to have nominated her with the support of Pascal Lecocq, the painter of blue, who actually did his first scuba dive at the show this year.



Nathalie Lasselin, Hélène De Tayrac and Pascal Lecocq.



Hélène and Nath.