



The Mouthpiece



February 2008 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL 2008 PRE-DIVE SEASON INFO EDITION ADA '08 DIVE SEASON GEARING UP!

- ADA dive season begins in April. The March newsletter will have a schedule for the entire '08 year. Watch for it and mark your calendars. We will visit many of your most popular sites as well as some new surprises. We have been able to hold prices the same as last year, but that could change without notice at any time.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES COMING!

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, your notice will arrive.

1. It may be you have a credit from last year and your notice will be marked as applied to 08 membership, an automatic renewal.
If so, no action is needed on your part. If you want a full refund of credit from last year, (does not apply to unused dive pacs) call Lon.
2. It may be marked as above and also include a refund check for the difference.
3. It may be marked as membership renewal due. (\$35)

Please remit.

If your records indicate that we have made a mistake, call Lon

THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION'S 15th ANNUAL DIVE SEASON KICKOFF EVENT !!

**MARCH 30 2008 10 AM
BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK
PROGRAM INCLUDES:**

- *Volunteers awards presentation
- *Diver of the Year award
- *Highlight of the 08 dive season
- *Incredible coral transplant discovery presented by The Florida Marine Sanctuary
- *Biscayne National Park volunteer program presentation
- *AND what could be the best BBQ you will ever eat.

Please call Pat Hackett for reservations

Space is limited to 35 seats.

305 387 0015

Price for the BBQ \$15

Mail check payable to ADA to

Lon Von Lintel

13374 SW 46 Terr.

Miami Fl. 33175



Transplant Help Needed!

In what may be the world's first successful effort to propagate and transplant native corals in the wild ADA will be assisting Ken Nedimeyer. Ken has recently completed another stage in restoring damaged parts of the coral reef and needs additional assistance.

Our task will be to transplant the promising beginnings of Staghorn forests to a section of the reef in the Keys.

Originally Nedimeyer had negotiated with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) to keep coral colonies that sprang up when polyps settled on his "liverrock" operation. Daughter Kelly suggested using some of the corals to repopulate areas of the reef that had died due to hurricanes or other damage. Wow Ken actually admits to this.

Staghorn coral grows relatively quickly and this project looks very promising. But Ken needs help. Some of us ADA members have already volunteered. If you want to be included contact Jerry Kosakowski at 954-990-9534 or E-Mail: GCK4061@aol.com.

Check out this web site for more info: www.sanctuaryfriends.org.

TURN OLD CELL PHONES INTO CASH!

ADA is collecting old unused phones and shipping to Pace Butler who will send us a check. If you want to donate the cash to ADA, we will use it for special projects such as our disabled divers program. **So bring them to any and all ADA activities.** If you want the cash forwarded to you, attach your name and mailing address. Pace Butler will pay as much as \$50 each. (amount depends on model) Bring phone and batteries only.

WANTED : NEWSLETTER ASSISTANT!

We need your help. If you would like to give back to a club that does much for you, and you are able to pick up the newsletter from the printer near Miami International Airport, please call Lon.

Pics by Sharon Baron



GOOD NEWS!

1. The Miami Herald reports that the severe drought affecting the Southeast US has been of benefit to some of our environment. The lack of water is neutralizing harmful drainage from farms and developments, reducing water pollution and helping marine life. Sea grass is thicker and healthier. Fish are more plentiful. Agriculture has been forced to cut water use by 45%, as a result scallops have been found in some bays for the first time in years and are expanding in other bays. Oysters are thriving as well in Sarasota County. In Dona Bay oysters and sea grass are thriving. The lack of red tide that often kills sea life has not occurred, due in part to less polluted fresh water runoff. The lack of red tide that nearly wiped out spotted sea trout in 2005 has allowed the species to recover.
2. Manatee deaths are down for the first time in years. But a spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg called the results encouraging, stated that year-to-year changes aren't as significant as long term trends. In 2006, 92 sea cows were killed by boats, the second highest number since 2002. Last year the manatee's status was changed to "threatened" and a new review of its status was ordered.
3. The ADA Board of Directors has voted to roll over all 2007 unused dive pacs to this year. So anyone who could not use all the dives in their pac last year will get credits for dives this year. Please call Lon to confirm the number of dives unused in your pac.

LITTLE SALT SPRING EXHIBIT AT FLORIDA AQUARIUM IN TAMPA BAY—JAN. 13—MARCH 30

Little Salt Spring is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Sunshine State, and perhaps the nation, for its wealth of information about the first Floridians more than 12,000 years ago. The sinkhole's water chemistry and temperature have helped to create a one-of-a-kind, prehistoric submerged site where late Paleo-Indian and Archaic artifacts have been excavated from a portion of the spring basin.

Diving aficionados and history buffs have a chance to view an unusual collection of artifacts excavated from Little Salt Spring in an exhibit showing at The Florida Aquarium titled: "Dive into the Past: An Exhibit on the Little Salt Spring Archaeological Site." Conceived and created by Dan Hughes, the Sarasota County archaeologist, in collaboration with scientists from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, it will be on display from January 13 – March 30.

Donated to the University of Miami in 1982, Little Salt Spring was first discovered to be an underwater archaeological site in the late 1950's. In 2005, Dr. John Gifford, Rosenstiel School associate professor and Little Salt Spring principal investigator, and his graduate students discovered two exceptional archaic artifacts estimated to be approximately 7,000 years old — a greenstone pendant and another carved stone artifact that appears to be part of a spear-thrower. Deer antler and bone tools, wooden relics, and preserved organic materials compose a large portion of the rarities selected for display at The Florida Aquarium.

Shake A Leg Miami Get Together 12-01-07

ADA and the DiveHeart Organization teamed up to give a presentation on scuba programs available to disabled divers at the Shake A Leg Miami facility. We had a nice presentation with slides and equipment for the kids to try on. There was food and drinks and we ended with a nice ride around the bay on Shake A Leg's new custom 40' power catamaran equipped for disabled divers. Shake A Leg is a non-profit organization designed to educate disabled and underprivileged children about the aquatic environment and to provide them with many water related activities.

You may visit their site here: <http://www.shakealegmiami.org>

The DiveHeart organization, also non-profit, teaches and certifies able bodied scuba divers to assist disabled divers.

In addition, they train and certify disabled persons to dive. A group of ADA members recently became certified through DiveHeart to assist disabled divers. This was a very worthwhile experience. Another course will be taught January 4-6, 2008. If you would like to participate or for more info please call Connie Crowther (305) 445-5545. You can visit the DiveHeart site here: <http://diveheart.org>



pictures courtesy of Frank Young

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