



The Mouthpiece



May 2004 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ADA AWARDS LUNCH REPORT

ADA presented its annual awards program March 28 at the Red Lobster in Kendall. Rick Barocas, from the Florida Frogman Dive Shop, displayed the next wave of sport diving technology, the rebreather, to an inquisitive audience of ADA members and friends. COOL (see article this issue) sent a speaker, Martha Collins, all the way from Tampa who informed and entertained the crowd with an impressive Power Point presentation of the environment issues facing us here as well as around the world.

Awards of appreciation were presented to our many volunteers of 2003. The Divers of the Year for 2003 awards went to Steve Herz, Nelson Benedico, and Chris Soule for international dives and Carol Cox for local dives.

We want to thank our speakers, Pat Hackett our Social Committee Chair, and Jim Kiernan our MC, for a job well done.

The free raffle sent every person (except one unlucky guy) home with a prize. Sorry Chris. Among the gifts were free dive trips, air fills, and classes. The food was good, the program was informative and entertaining, the raffle was fun, and we hope everyone enjoyed the day.

We also thank our donors for their raffle prizes. Thanks to Roy Wasson for the 4 Hurricane Football tickets, and Julio Raimundez for the many dive shop free trips and services.
(pics on pg.6)

DIVE PACS FOR 2004

ALL NON PAC DIVES \$35

Five Pac	\$150	Save \$ 25
Ten Pac	\$290	Save \$ 60
Fifteen Pac	\$405	Save \$120
Unlimited season pass	\$550	

Pacs must be used in 2004.

No refunds or credits to 2005

New Speigal Grove Requirements !!!

Effective for 2004, all ADA divers must have advanced certification or higher. Other divers may dive, but will be required to pay for a guide, cost to be divided among those who need the guide.

MAY Dive Schedule

May 8 Sat pm N. Key Largo (Barbeque \$7.00)
Sites may include: The Christ of the Abyss, the Elbow, N. Dry Rocks, N. N. Dry Rocks, Grecian Rocks, Carysfort, Shark Reef. Average depth 30', usually no current. Average visibility is 30-50' with many tropicals, moreys, cudas.

May 16 Sun pm Duane (*Advanced Divers*)
Our favorite Coast Guard Cutter, upright in over 100 feet of blue water. It DOES count even when you don't touch bottom! OUR LIMIT 100 feet! **See advanced criterion this issue.**

May 22 Sun pm Islamorada
Just 4 miles past Tavernier, sites may include: Hammerhead, The Canyon, El Infante, Crocker, No Name, The Valley Aquarium, Alligator. Average depth 30-40', visibility 40-50'. Some current, many fish, shallow wrecks.

May 29 Sat am Biscayne National Park
Sites may include: Rocky Reef, Elkhorn Forest, Ball Buoy, Far Out Reef, Cuda Ledge. Usually no currents, massive corals, small caves. The Keys "Best Kept Secret", only one commercial boat allowed in area. Depth 20-30', vis 30-60'.

June Dive Schedule

June 6 Sun pm Speigal Grove (*Advanced Divers*)
Down about two years now and still spectacular. Never dove it? Now is your chance. Dove it before? You still have a lot of ship to explore!

June 12 Sat pm Taveriner (Barbeque \$7.00)
Sites may include: Conch Reef, Davis Ledge, Hens & Chickens, Little Conch, Capt. Tom's Ledge, 40' Ledge, Fish Trap, Horseshoe. Average depth 30', average visibility 40-60', many moreys, schooling tropicals, unusual pillar corals. **BBQ after dive, see article this issue.**

June 13 Sun am Biscayne National Park (*Advanced Divers*)
Sites - The Wall, Anniversary, Rocky Reef, Elkhorn Forest, Cuda Ledge, Ball Buoy, Doc DeMilly. Expect currents, usually we drift dive the deep reefs. Depths 70-110', average visibility 40-80'. Only one commercial dive boat allowed in area.

June 19 Sat pm Hollywood
Sites may include: The Caves, Josey Reef, Cuda Reef, Lorraine's Delight, Coral Canyons, Shark Reef. Average depth 30', average visibility 40'. Usually no currents, very different from the Keys. Sometimes drift/swim dive.

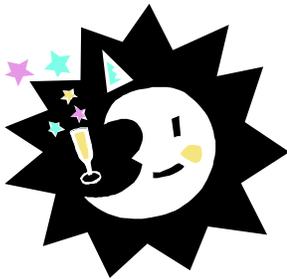
June 26 Sat am Looe Key
Approximately 5 square miles of spectacular reef to explore, this area is one of the top snorkel and dive spots in the world, and the finest reef in Florida. A photographers delight.

June 27 Sun pm Isamorada
Just 4 miles past Tavernier, sites may include: Hammerhead, The Canyon, El Infante, Crocker, No Name, The Valley Aquarium, Alligator. Average depth 30-40', visibility 40-50'. Some current, many fish, shallow wrecks.

Every year 600,000 to 700,000 tons of sharks are caught and slaughtered. Unfortunately the average weight of the sharks is only 10 to 20 kg. This makes an average of about 100 Million sharks per year or 273'973 sharks per day or 11,416 sharks per hour.

Study of the Nursery grounds in Rookery bay, Florida

Most sharks give birth to their young in shallow mangrove regions like those of Rookery Bay, Florida. Juvenile sharks live in these shallow, protected waters until they have grown sufficiently to survive in the open ocean. The Rookery Bay project will be one of the most in depth studies of its kind. It will elucidate the food supply chain, the surrounding environmental conditions, and the degree of adaptation of juvenile sharks to prey composition in these shallow mangrove regions. Furthermore, the study will examine the rate of survival of juvenile sharks under deteriorating environmental conditions, such as shoreline deforestation and pollution.



ARE YOU SOCIAL?

ADA is considering several plans for more socials this year. We would like your ideas of what and where. Do you know of a nice place that would be a good venue for a happy hour, snacks, and fun? Do you like the idea of a get-together for members and future members? Are you a party animal? Would you like to help organize and serve as greeter and host?

CALL PAT WITH YOUR INPUT!! 305 387 0015 TODAY

ADA JOINS COOL

On March 28 2004 ADA became a sponsor of COOL (Conserve Our Ocean Legacy). Martha Collins the Florida organizer for the National Environmental Trust on their COOL campaign gave an interesting and disturbing talk at the ADA awards luncheon. It was so interesting and compelling that the members present wanted immediate entry into this program. The board complied and a unanimous vote was obtained. No need to think about a program we all could agree that is much in need if we are to continue to dive the reefs around the world. Cool is a broad based campaign asking our political leaders to start paying attention to overfishing, bycatch and habitat destruction. ADA is proud to be a participant of this program. To find out more visit the web site at <http://www.oceanlegacy.org/>.

Welcome New Members

- Sheila Bennett
- Aurilio Garcia-Rebeyro
- Joseph Garwood
- John Koch
- Scott Pearl
- Oswaldo Rueda
- Hugh Hare- Scuba Quest Dive Shop in Sunrise
- Robert Sklar
- Matt Speller
- Earl Stewart
- Robert Svetlick



UF RESEARCHERS FIND IMPORTANT HABITAT FOR ENDANGERED SEA TURTLE OFF FLORIDA'S FAST-DEVELOPING COAST

CAPE SAN BLAS, Fla. --- The waters of St. Joseph Bay are a home to a previously unknown feeding ground for endangered green turtles, University of Florida researchers have discovered.

A large number of young turtles come to the bay to feed on sea grass and bulk up for the rigors of adult life, and the area's growing human population could pose a threat to the feeding ground, the researchers say.

"With more people using the bay for fishing and other recreational purposes, there's some cause for concern," said Erin McMichael, a graduate student in interdisciplinary ecology at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. "We know that turtles can be injured by boat strikes and fishing lines, and increased use of the bay could damage the sea grass beds that provide a food source for the turtles." McMichael and Ray Carthy, a researcher at the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit have spent the past three years studying the use of coastal habitats by green turtles along the coast of the Florida Panhandle, a study that included use of satellite transmitters to track the turtles' movements. The research unit is a cooperative effort jointly funded by UF, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the United States Geological Survey. The researchers presented their studies at the International Sea Turtle Symposium in Costa Rica earlier this year.

Once plentiful in tropical and subtropical oceans around the world, green turtles have been decimated by centuries of human activity. The docile reptiles, which can grow to weights of more than 200 pounds, were once widely hunted for their meat and leathery skin. They still face a number of environmental threats, including pollution, fishing-related injuries and development of beaches used nesting grounds. Though green turtles are still found in the world's warmer climes - including much of the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific coasts and all of the Gulf of Mexico coast - the turtles are now considered threatened throughout much of their range, and are listed as endangered in Florida. (*con't on pg. 5*)

Join us on June 12, 2004 for the 16th Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup!

Coral reefs are some of the most valuable and spectacular places on earth, and they are in crisis. Too often the beautiful, ecologically sensitive reefs off the south Florida's east coast are the victim of careless boating and recreational use as well as on-going pollution. These delicate reefs benefit from the clean-up efforts of the Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Clean-Up sponsored by Ocean Watch Foundation.

Since its inception in 1989, this ocean cleanup has hauled in more than 18 tons of harmful garbage, collected by more than 5400 volunteers.

Already a South Florida tradition, local charter boats, private boaters and beach walkers will sweep our beaches and coral reefs clean from harmful garbage and debris. We are expecting over 700 beach lovers and coastal residents to pitch-in to preserve the natural beauty of the shores and reefs along Broward and Palm Beach Counties on Saturday, June 12, 2004.

Charter dive boats will go out from various South Florida locations, with volunteer **divers** on board, searching for trash that endangers our delicate reefs. **Beach divers** are invited to participate from the shore at Anglin's Pier in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Fisherman's Wharf in Pompano Beach. **Private boaters** will be able to drop off garbage at Lauderdale Marina on S.E. 15th Street in Fort Lauderdale and Alsdorf Park on 14th Street in Pompano Beach.

Public beach cleanup efforts by **beach walkers** will start at 9:00 am and continue through 12 noon at six locations: the Deerfield Beach Pier at Hillsboro Blvd; Fisherman's Wharf north of Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach; Anglin's Pier at Commercial Boulevard in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea; South Beach Park (across from Bahia Mar) in Ft. Lauderdale; Dania Pier at Dania Beach Blvd, and the North Beach Park at Sheridan Street in Hollywood.

All participants are invited to the **Reef Sweep Party** later that day where OSCAR's will be awarded to the people who collect the most garbage, rope and monofilament. This lively party includes food, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes, raffles and door prizes.

Looe Key Weekend June 26-27.

ADA will host a 5 tank weekend. Ten am Sat departure from Looe Key Reef Resort will be an all day 3 tank dive, including a dive on the Bush wreck, lunch, and two reef dives. Nite dive optional. Sleep late and then north to Islamorada for a two tank afternoon dive. Divers may sign up for either day or both.

The ADA conservation committee is considering becoming involved in the buoy monitoring/maintenance program in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. We are requesting our members to assist in this endeavor. This assistance includes making dives on the buoys and performing maintenance work. Oh yes that four letter word. Of course there will also be the required paper work to be filled out with the program. If any of you are interested please contact me at (954)-680-1642 or you may write me at 10471 SW 51 St., Cooper City, FL 33328. I will need to know the level of your involvement that can be committed to this project so I can inform Ocean Watch (group overseeing the project) of what resources our group can commit to this endeavor. I am sure you will receive some personal satisfaction from this project along with making some new friends and sharing new experiences.

Jerry Kosakowski

(Con't from page 4)

For most people, mention of sea turtles brings to mind the image of hatchlings emerging from nests on the beach and struggling toward the ocean, but green turtles lead complex lives largely unseen by humans. In their early years, they ride ocean currents for hundreds of miles in seaweed mats, feeding on smaller animals and fish eggs. As they approach maturity, the turtles settle in shallow waters near coasts, where they feed on sea grass. Full-grown turtles spend their lives in various coastal feeding areas, returning to the beach to lay their eggs. But much is still unknown about the details of the turtle life cycle and the travels of different turtle populations. In early 2001, Carthy and McMichael set out to fill some of the gaps in that knowledge. Their plan was to capture and tag green turtles in St. Joseph Bay, to track their movements, look at their use of habitat, and measure their growth upon recapture.

While the researchers were awaiting permits to conduct the captures, the unexpected happened: Nearly 400 green turtles, stunned by the cold, washed up on the shores of the bay. Small numbers of stunned turtles routinely turn up on Florida shores during cold spells, but this was one of the largest cold-stunning events ever recorded in the US.

Most of the stunned turtles were rehabilitated, tagged by state wildlife officials, and released into the Gulf of Mexico, where the water is warmer. Carthy and McMichael have since recaptured 43 of the turtles in St. Joseph Bay - indicating that their presence there in 2001 was more than a fluke.

"There has been some speculation that the turtles enter the bay, which has a relatively small entrance, and can't find their way out again," McMichael said. "But I think our data show they're not just lost. If you take them out of the bay, they'll come back. We have been presented with an amazingly rare opportunity to examine the effects of cold-stunnings on green turtle growth and behavior."

The researchers say the bay is a temporary home for turtle "teenagers" - juveniles between 5 and 15 years old that live in shallow coastal waters and feed off sea grasses while growing to maturity. One reason for the attraction, the researchers say, is the relatively undeveloped nature of St. Joseph Bay, which is just now beginning to see the kind of development boom that has lined much of Florida's coast with resorts and neighborhoods.

"With the development that already exists along the coast, there aren't many feeding grounds that are left undisturbed," Carthy said.

Allen Foley, a wildlife biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said the scientific community was already aware of similar feeding grounds off the Florida's Atlantic and southwest coasts - though the UF researchers' finding is a first for the relatively undeveloped northwest.

"Nobody had any idea that the Panhandle had such a large assemblage of juvenile green turtles, but this study confirms that it does," Foley said.

The finding emphasizes the need for responsible development around the bay, the researchers say.

"This time we have a chance to get it right," McMichael said. "St. Joseph Bay is one of the most pristine bodies of water in Florida. In the rush to develop the Panhandle, we need to be careful not to damage it."



Martha Collins from COOL Presents



Our fearless leader and company



Good Food and Better Company



Rick Barocas, from the Florida Frogman Dive Shop

Post Dive BBQS

Cost \$7.00 includes-

Grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, chips and fixins. Soda & Beer.

While divers are tending their gear, our chef of the day will be preparing a feast fit for a King/ Queen or at least for hungry divers. We invite all divers on the above dates to join us for good outdoor food and telling tall fish tales. Please send \$7 along with the dive fees, you may make one check for both.

DIVE AND EAT FREE

That's right, on our BBQ days you can earn a free dive and free eats. It's easy, just volunteer to be the chef of the day and you go for free.

Here's how it works -

You buy the food and bring to the dive, after which you and the Safety Officer will prepare and serve. The supplies and menu list will be faxed to you a few days prior with an exact list of needed items. Then you submit a receipt and your expenses will be reimbursed. Call Lon for more info and sign up!

ADA RULES & REGULATIONS

All Members Must be familiar with the following

FOR ALL ADVANCED DIVES (DEPTHS OVER 60') ADA DIVERS MUST:

1. Be current (dive activity within the previous 3 months).
2. Have the approval of an ADA Safety Officer.
3. Have a minimum of 25 logged dives.
4. Carry an alternate air source (octopus), time keeping device and depth gauge.
5. Have previous ADA diving experience.
6. All members must dive with at least a 72 cubic foot tank.

ADA GUIDELINES FOR COMPUTER ASSISTED DIVING

1. Members using dive computers may extend their time underwater ten- (10) minutes beyond the time allowed by the tables.
2. Computer assisted dives must be well within the NO DECOMPRESSION LIMITS.
3. Members should understand and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
4. If a computer diver is buddyed with a diver using the tables, both must follow the tables.
5. If a buddy-team is using unlike computers, both must follow the more conservative computer.
6. If, in a buddy-team, either computer fails, both divers must terminate the dive.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR LOCAL DIVE TRIPS

Because of our contractual agreements with our service agents - dive shops and boat captains, we must notify them - usually seven days in advance - of the final number of spaces we are paying for. Thus, if our members cancel less than seven days in advance, we regret that **NO REFUND OR CREDIT** can be given, unless trip cancellation insurance has been purchased at the time of the dive trip payment (see next news article!)

ADA TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

The Board of Directors has approved a unique concept in local diving: **NO FAULT INSURANCE!!**

For an additional \$5.00, per person, per local dive trip, members can eliminate the worry of losing their dive fees because of an unforeseen change of plans.

If, for any reason you are unable to attend a local dive for which you are scheduled and have paid the insurance, ADA will credit your dive fee to another date. *The \$5.00 insurance is non-transferable and non-refundable!*

When you make a reservation, ask for dive trip cancellation insurance. The Board has elected to continue the insurance offer for this year.

NOTE: It may be discontinued at any time without prior written notice.

Please call Lon with your questions and comments.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY OFFICERS' COMMITTEE

All members are reminded to read the "Rules & Guidelines for Diving Activities" you received with your membership package. Number 16 states, "All divers must be present for the pre-dive briefing". If the diver is not present for the entire briefing, diving privileges may be revoked for that dive. Please plan to arrive on time - or better yet - a bit early. We thank you and appreciate your cooperation.

Julio, Dan, Robert, Lee and Lon

IMPORTANT WEATHER INFORMATION

Before departing for the dive site, confirm weather condition with Lon or the designated Safety Officer. It is the responsibility of the member to call; we cannot call you due to the large number of divers involved. For morning dives, call between 6 and 10 p.m. the night before the dive. For afternoon dives, call between 9 and 10 a.m. the morning of the dive.



HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

1. Check this newsletter or the annual calendar for upcoming dives.
2. (Call Lon at (305) 251-4975 to make a reservation. Please do not leave requests on his answering machine, the trip may be full.
3. We will hold your reservation for four (4) days from the date you call. If we do not receive payment within four days, your space may be given to other members. If you wish to confirm receipt, call Lon.
4. Ask for details about the trip when you call. Otherwise, details will be given when you call for a weather check. (See "Important Weather Information" this and every issue)
5. * Make your check payable to ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION, not to any individual, and mail to:
Lon Von Lintel, 15305 SW 104 Ave., Miami, FL 33157
6. Itemize dates of dives on bottom-left corner of check.
7. Do not pay for persons other than spouses or other family members. Include their names on check.
8. REMEMBER: That family members must have completed individual documentation to register as ADA members.



COPY Experts

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2004 ADA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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NEW MEMBERS DIVES
KAYAK TRIPS
CANOE TRIPS
COZUMEL EXPEDITION
DOUBLE WALL DIVES
BBQs and PICNICS
AWARDS BRUNCH
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SOMBRERO KEY DIVES
NIGHT DIVES
3 TANK DIVES
TWILIGHT DIVES
CAMPING/CAVERN DIVES



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THE Mouthpiece ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2004

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