



The Mouthpiece



May 2009 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**WE'RE SORRY,
BUT WE CAN'T CONTINUE TO SEND YOU NEWSLETTERS UNLESS YOU HAVE PAYED YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2009.
PLEASE REMIT \$35, payable to ADA,
and send to
Frank Young
1115 Country Club Prado
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134**

ADA KICKOFF EVENT A SMASH !!

April 4, 2009, Biscayne National Park, Homestead Fl.

In the air conditioned comfort of the BNP auditorium, a full house of ADA members and guests learned some of the many secrets hidden away in the depths of the largest under water park in the USA. " I never knew" and "I didn't know there were wrecks" were some of the comments overheard as the crowd filed out to dig in to Shorty's BBQ Bonanza.

Park Ranger Heather provided a very informative presentation that peaked the interest every man, woman and child without exception.

Awards were presented to all the many volunteers who helped out last year. And the **Diver of the Year 2008 went to Frank Young**, who made the most dives with ADA. A raffle was also held and some of the prizes included free dive trips, t-shirts, dive equipment, gift cards, and a bunch of humorous gag gifts like false teeth, baby bottles, and some we never did figure out what they were. Lee Wood won a pair of women's Bikini red panties, congratulations Lee, wear in good health.

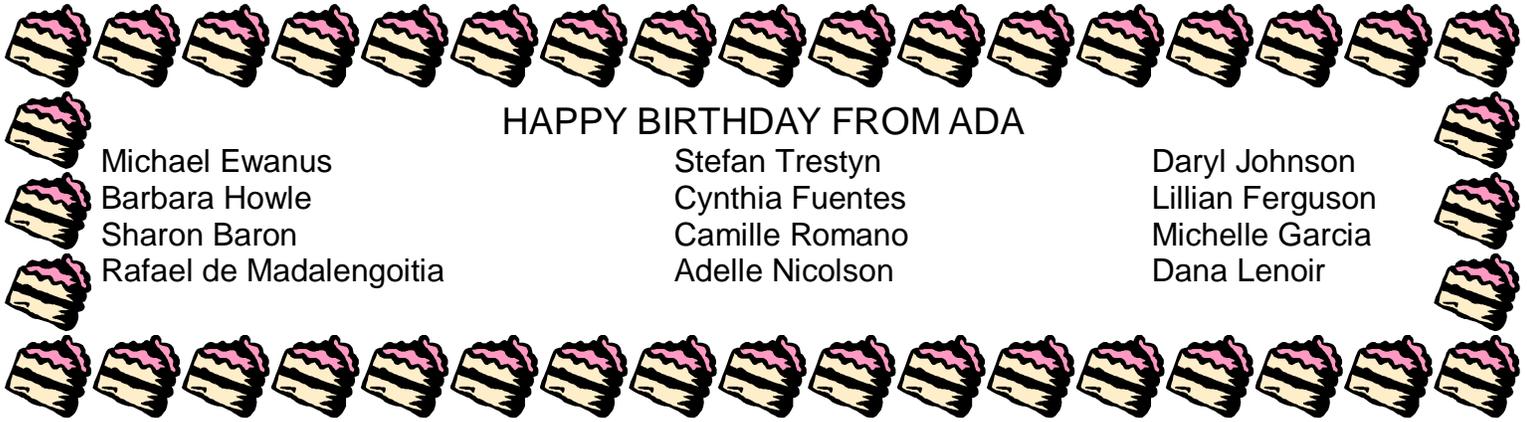
There was so much food at the Bonanza, everyone ate 'til bursting and then carried away trays of an equal amount. Robert Fox, Dan Baeza, and others provided their specialties in addition to Shorty's. Thanks guys!



Newsletter Assistant Needed !

Do you have Newspaper ink in your veins? Is your mind organized into column inches? Do you start every letter with a Hook in the first paragraph? Well We can't help you with those problems, but we do need an assistant to help with the newsletter.

Call Lon for an interview.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ADA

Michael Ewanus

Stefan Trestyn

Daryl Johnson

Barbara Howle

Cynthia Fuentes

Lillian Ferguson

Sharon Baron

Camille Romano

Michelle Garcia

Rafael de Madalengoitia

Adelle Nicolson

Dana Lenoir

Coral Restoration Project

ADA and make a difference as we have actually planted living coral in areas that have suffered coral loss in the past few years.

The plan:

We meet at the Florida Keys Dive Shop at 8 am on either May 8th and 9th. After check in, we move to a nearby facility for orientation and demonstration of how to prepare coral "babies" for transport and planting.

Then after lunch, we board the boat for a two tank dive on a local reef. Under the tutoring of Ken Nedimyer, we carefully cement the babies to the reef. We also may visit previous transplants in other areas to witness the progress of growth.

Call the Florida Keys Dive Shop for reservations 1 800 433 8946

Call Lon for more info.



ADA 2009 DIVE SCHEDULE

July

5	Sun. am	BNP	Basic reef
11	Sat. pm	Palm Beach	Adv. reef
11	Sat. Night	Palm Beach	Basic reef
12	Sun. am	Beach dive	Basic reef
19	Sun. pm	Hollywood	Basic reef
25	Sat pm	Islamorada	Basic reef

August

1	Sat. pm	Tavernier	Adv. drift/BBQ
8	Sat. am	Beach dive	Basic reef
9	Sun. pm	N. Key Largo	Basic reef
15	Sat. pm	Ft. Lauderdale	Basic reef
15	Sat. Night	Ft. Lauderdale	Basic reef
22	Sat pm	Palm Beach	Adv. reef
30	Sun. pm	Tavernier	Basic reef

September

5	Sat. pm	Miami	Basic reef
13	Sun. pm	Spiegel Grove	Adv. wreck
20	Sun pm	Islamorada	Basic reef
26	Sat. pm	Duanne	Adv. wreck/BBQ
26	Sat Night	Tavernier	Basic reef

October

3	Sat. am	Beach dive/BBQ	Basic reef
4	Sun. pm	Miami	Adv wreck
10	Sat. pm	Hollywood	Adv. reef
18	Sun. pm	Tavernier	Basic reef
25	Sun am	Elliott Key	Basic reef

November

1	Sun. pm	Tavernier	Adv. drift
8	Sun. pm.	Miami	Adv. wreck
14	Sat pm	Pompano	Adv. reef
22	Sun. pm	Eagle	Adv. wreck



Coral Transplant Surgery Prescribed for Japan

SEKISEI LAGOON, [Japan](#) — Beneath the waves of this sapphire-blue corner of the East China Sea, a team of divers was busily at work. Hovering along the steep, bony face of a dying coral reef, some divers bored holes into the hard surface with compressed-air drills that released plumes of glittering bubbles. Others followed, gently inserting small ceramic discs into the fresh openings.

Each disc carried a tiny sliver of hope for the reef, in the shape of fingertip-size sprigs of brightly colored, fledgling coral.

This undersea work site may look like a scene from a [Jules Verne](#) novel, but it is part of a government-led effort to save Japan's largest coral reef, near the southern end of the Okinawa chain of islands. True to form in Japan, the project involves new technology, painstaking attention to detail and a generous dose of taxpayer money.

The project has drawn national attention, coming after alarming reports in the last decade that up to 90 percent of the coral that surrounds many of Okinawa's islands has died off. This raised a rare preservationist outcry in a heavily industrialized nation whose coastal vistas tend toward concrete sea walls and oil refineries. The result has been what marine biologists call one of the largest coral restoration projects in the world, begun four years ago. The goal, say biologists, is to perfect methods that could be used around the world to rescue reefs endangered by overfishing, pollution and [global warming](#).

They say they are using the [Sekisei Lagoon Reef](#), which is named after the broad, shallow lagoon that it created, as a test bed for new techniques that they hope will one day make transplanting coral in the sea as routine as raising tree saplings on land. "We have been replanting forests for 4,000 years, but we are only just now learning how to revive a coral reef," said Mineo Okamoto, a marine biologist at [Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology](#), who has led development of the palm-size ceramic discs. "We finally have the technology."



Critics, however, say the project might be wasted effort. They say transplanting is futile without addressing the problems that caused the reefs to deteriorate in the first place, like coastal re-development and chemical runoff from terrestrial agriculture. There is also the bigger problem of rising ocean water temperatures, for which there may be no easy fix. Here in the Sekisei Lagoon, which sits between the tropical islands of Ishigaki and Iriomote, another problem also becomes apparent: the puny size of the efforts to save a reef that stretches as far as the eye can see in almost every direction.

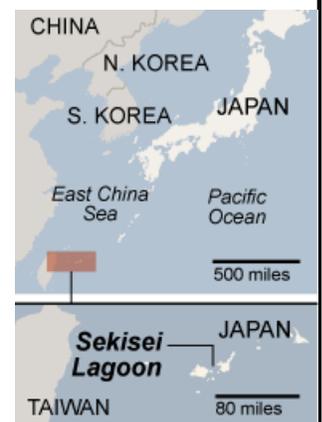
Since 2005, the project has planted around 13,000 pieces of coral, at a cost of some \$2 million, said Hajime Hirosawa, a preservation officer at the [Environment Ministry](#) who helps oversee the transplanting. This is a far cry, he admits, from the tens of millions of pieces that need to be transplanted in this reef alone, which stretches over an area of about 100 square miles. Worse, survival rates have been low, Mr. Hirosawa said. Only a third of the coral sprigs transplanted in 2005 have survived threats ranging from predators like the Crown-of-Thorns starfish to "bleaching," an ultimately fatal condition caused when rising water temperatures turn coral a sickly white.

"Saving the reef is not something that we can do in three to four years," Mr. Hirosawa said, "but more like 30 to 40 years."

Still, say Mr. Hirosawa and others, the techniques have steadily improved, lifting survival rates. One change was to shift from placing new coral on flat sea bottoms, which proved vulnerable to typhoon-driven surface waves that broke off coral, to more protected vertical reef faces.

Another advance was the ceramic discs, which are baked at 2,700 degrees until hardened, but whose surface contains tiny pores that allow coral larvae to take root. Every spring, a team of a dozen divers has spent up to two weeks drilling holes and gluing in the discs.

While labor intensive, this method offers a more secure footing for the young coral than previous methods, like attaching coral pieces with wire and nails, Dr. Okamoto said. The improved transplanting methods have become promising enough that the Environment Ministry says it plans to double the number of coral pieces planted next year, to 10,000. While the project's main goal is environmental, there are also geopolitical motivations. Tokyo plans a much larger and more expensive coral transplantation to try to strengthen the reef protecting Okinotori, a tiny, remote islet that Japan uses to claim economic control of a vast swath of the Pacific Ocean. The government wants to prevent a strong typhoon from wiping away the tiny outcropping, and with it the basis for Japan's territorial claims, which have already been challenged by China.



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Post Dive BBQS

Cost \$10.00 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 \$10 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 KEEPING DIVE COSTS DOWN

1. We do not plan to raise our local dive prices this year.
2. We are offering free beach dives this year in the metro area. No need to drive long distances to dives.
3. Our prices are still the lowest in town.

Examples:

Dive shop A- walk in divers \$99

Our price same shop \$59

Dive shop B- walk in divers \$80

Our price same shop \$49

4. Free dives and free food. See article this issue for details.
5. We are offering a frequent-diver discount. Pay for any 5 local dives and get the 6th FREE. You can't beat that with a stick.

There is also a friendly race among global scientists trying to develop the best coral transplantation method. Competing ideas vary from creating coral habitat with large concrete "reef balls" to the use of mild electric current to speed coral growth. For now, the most common transplanting technique involves breaking off pieces of adult coral and affixing them elsewhere on the reef. Besides damaging the host coral, this method, while quick and easy, also means that most of the transplanted pieces share the host's DNA, giving the reef a smaller and less healthy gene pool. In the Japanese method, the discs are stacked underwater for 18 months near a healthy stretch of reef, allowing coral larvae released during spawning to naturally attach and grow on the ceramic surface. This ensures that each disc carries genetically distinct coral organisms, more closely replicating the results of natural reproduction.

"Japan's methods are expensive and labor intensive, but they also bring more genetic diversity and thus healthy reefs," said Baruch Rinkevich, a specialist in coral transplantation at Israel's National Institute of Oceanography in Haifa.

In Sekisei Lagoon, healthy reefs are increasingly found only along the lagoon's north side, where most coral still flourishes. This has led scientists to speculate that the north side may have evolved coral species adapted to surviving in warmer oceans. Starting next year, the divers will transplant northern coral to the lagoon's more decimated southern side, said Shuichi Fujiwara, the diving team leader.

"This is absolutely worth doing," said one of the team's divers, Ryo Isobe, 26, who works as a diving instructor during the summer tourist season. "When I think of how colorful these reefs used to be, I know we need to do all we can."

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.

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

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 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.

1.

HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

1. Check this newsletter or the annual calendar for upcoming dives.
2. Call Lon (305) 251-4975 to make a reservation. Please do not leave a message on the 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 report. See important weather information in this and every issue)
5. Make your check payable to ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION. Not to any individual, and mail to :
Lon Von Lintel , 13374 SW 46 Terrace Miami, Fl. 33175
7. Itemize dates of dives in the left hand corner of your check.
8. REMEMBER! That family members must have completed individual documentation to register as ADA members.

ADA CHECK-IN TIMES !!!

Ours are different than the dive operators.
When making dive reservations or during the all important
WEATHER CHECK.

Inquire about the ADA CHECK-IN TIME. Please arrive on time, or better yet, a bit earlier and chat with new friends and old buddies.

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