

# reef notes



Reef Environmental Education Foundation  
Protecting Marine Life Through Education, Service and Research

## What's Happening Now

### The Nature Conservancy Honors REEF

The Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy recently presented REEF with a Grass Roots Leadership Award. The honor singles out an individual or organization that has been a pioneer in volunteerism and the development of broad based support for conservation projects. John Pitcairn, REEF's Director of Administration was in Winter Park, Florida to receive the award, "It feels wonderful to be recognized by The Nature Conservancy for our work" said Pitcairn. "The success of this program is due to the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. This award belongs to each and everyone of them". In 1992, TNC began a successful partnership with REEF, assisting in data base development, volunteer recruitment and the generation of scientific and public reports using REEF data.



#### REEF Board of Directors

**Paul H. Humann**, founder  
Marine life author and  
photographer

**Ned DeLoach**, founder  
President New World Publications

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N.M.F.S.

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The Nature Conservancy

#### REEF Staff

**Laddie Akins**  
Executive Director  
Key Largo, Florida



**John Pitcairn**  
Administrative Director  
Tampa, Florida

**Deena Wells Feeley**  
Director of Operations  
Key Largo, Florida



TNC's Mary Enstrom & Mark Robertson with REEF staff

### Members Raise Money For REEF

This year, several individuals have used their fundraising skills to generate money for REEF and deserve recognition. World renowned marine wildlife artist, Guy Harvey, recently made a personal appearance at T-shirt City in the Florida Keys. This event, organized by store owners John and Wendy Cioffi, raised \$250 for REEF. Because of Harvey's keen interest in the environment, proceeds from the sale of his merchandise at T-shirt City was put aside for a local conservation group. Long time REEF members John and Wendy Cioffi were excited to be involved in the first local fund-raiser to benefit REEF. "All our staff are REEF members. We are glad to show our support for this organization", said Cioffi. Harvey is a self-taught artist and native of Jamaica and holds a doctorate in fisheries management from the University of the West Indies. His inspiration comes from his love of the sea. "I feel a tremendous need to educate the public about the wonders of the ocean so that all will have a significant appreciation for marine life" said Harvey. He expressed admiration for the work of REEF founder Paul Humann. "I carry his marine life guides everywhere". Harvey is keen to see REEF expand their Fish Survey Project to the Pacific, "Where", he says, "there are plenty more fish to count".

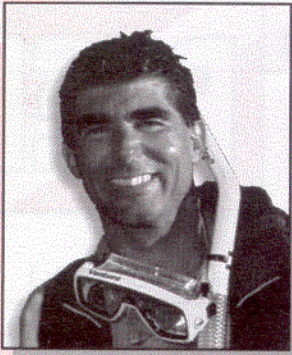


T-shirt City's John & Wendy Cioffi with Guy Harvey

At the 1998 DEMA show held in Los Angeles, Kar DeGeiso presented REEF with a check for \$75. That doesn't sound like much, but its actually a lot of dough. A biologist and dive instructor, Kar bakes bread as a hobby! She makes enough to sell to her colleagues at DuPont and donates her profits to a non-profit marine organization. This baking session, REEF was the lucky recipient. Thank you to Kar and all the cookie eating workers at DuPont.



Kar DeGeiso presents Paul Humann with fundraising proceeds



## Director's Corner

New opportunities. That's what REEF's motto has been for the last six months. Even though there has been a lot of background and behind the scenes work over the last three years, the flowers of our labors are all coming to bloom! Of special excitement, the long hours of John Pifcain's work are debuting this next month in the form of the new PADI Project AWARE/REEF Fish Identification Specialty. I know we've been talking about this for quite a while, but it finally hits the shelf this fall. The specialty is designed to be about 2 hours and will be a great introduction to both Project AWARE, fish id and surveying.

Depending on the area you'll be diving, there will be separate modules for the Caribbean, Southern California, Northern California, and the Pacific Northwest. Contact your local PADI dive center or PADI headquarters for more info.

Yes, you did hear me right. Pacific Northwest. As in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. REEF has joined forces with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, BC Wild and the San Juan County Bottomfish Recovery Project, to implement a pilot program for fish surveying in the Pacific NW. There is great enthusiasm from the groups involved and a great need for data on the fish assemblages in that area. All we needed was a survey program in place. Now it is!

The Great American Fish Count is blazing ahead. With Christy Pattengill taking the lead role as National Coordinator, the event is running very well. We enjoyed greatly increased participation this year and hope that all of you will take the opportunity to join in a free seminar and do a few surveys as part of next year's event. If you've been waiting to get started with your fish surveying, this is the perfect time to do it. Cool T-shirts too!

Plenty of festivities around the Caribbean took place this fall. Oceanfest '98 provided a great dive atmosphere right on the beach in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Music, trade show, free seminars and lots of shore and boat dives to keep you busy. The Bacardi Adventure series teamed up with REEF in Cozumel for the chance to learn about fish, corals, invertebrates, behavior, rebreathers, scooters and to see the mass coral spawning. It was a week of diving and learning and some of the first surveys from the Cozumel reefs. The Bonaire Dive Festival sponsored by the Coral Reef Alliance will again feature great talks and the chance to do some fish surveys as well as u/w cleanups and coral studies. A less demanding schedule is planned for this year and it should turn out to be one of the year's best. Don't forget to visit us at the trade shows in Atlanta, Chicago & Houston. There are always great seminars and its good to see and meet the members of REEF.

Finally, keep up the great survey work! Your support in the financial realm is helping us to expand to new geographic areas and produce more detailed reports, but its the surveys you send in that allow it all to happen. There are now over 14,000 surveys in the database and you've all been great! If you haven't had a chance to do a survey yet, stop in to your dive shop and ask about the new PADI AWARE/REEF specialty, the GAFC, or come join us on a Field Survey. Its the most fun you'll have in the water and you'll be SOOO glad you finally got started!

See you with the Fish!

Laddie Akins

## Volunteers: We Need YOU !!

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Calling all volunteers, REEF needs your help! Not content with having thousands of your surveys flooding into our mail box, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with some different aspects of the REEF program. Just to give you an idea, we are looking for help with the writing and editing of REEFnotes; data input and management; fundraising and grant writing; presentations and teaching classes; trade show support throughout the country and special projects such as the Great American Fish Count. If you have special skills and would like to donate some of your time to a worthy cause contact Deena at (305) 451-0312 or reef052@aol.com.

# Great American Fish Count - "Great in '98"

Results from the July 1-14, 1998 Great American Fish Count (GAFC) were a great success. GAFC partners, REEF, American Oceans Campaign and NOAA'S National Marine Sanctuary Program followed up on their 1997 success with an expanded 1998 program. Over 30 free seminars were conducted in Washington, California, Texas and Florida as part of the 1998 event. Participation was more than double from last year's event. "GAFC is a great way to start fishwatching ." says GAFC coordinator, Christy Pattengill. "GAFC offers divers and snorkelers the opportunity to receive free training in fish identification for their local area as well as a chance to join other marine life enthusiasts on a survey dive". Information gathered during GAFC provides valuable information on fish species diversity, distribution and abundance and raises awareness about the state of local fisheries. It is also a great way to learn how to conduct fish surveys for the ongoing REEF Fish Survey Project. Training sessions are free of charge and take place throughout Washington, California, Texas and Florida and now Georgia too, in June and the first two weeks of July. For more information about next year's GAFC or to register for a training session call (800) 1-8ocean-0, e-mail [gafc@yahoo.com](mailto:gafc@yahoo.com) or visit the web site at [www.fishcount.org](http://www.fishcount.org).



For any communications contact REEF at: P.O. Box 246, Key Largo, Florida 33037  
305-451-0312 • [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org) • e-mail: [reef003@aol.com](mailto:reef003@aol.com)

## REEF Intern Wins Prized Scholarship

June, 1997, witnessed the arrival of a second annual intern courtesy of the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society. Kirsten Bassion was set for a five month backpacking trip around Europe when she found out there was a summer of diving and fish counting awaiting her in Key Largo, Florida. A Studio Art Major, Kirsten arrived with only a few dives under her belt, but unmatched enthusiasm for exploring the underwater world. Her introduction to REEF was the responsibility of a newsletter mailing - not



much fun - but Kirsten soon began a routine of regular survey dives and learning about marine life. Self described as an environmentalist and "adventurer at heart", Kirsten filled REEF HQ with her colors and energy during her internship. She helped organize and teach classes for the 1997 Great American Fish Count; watched the coral spawn (even caught it on film); assisted on REEF Field Surveys in the Florida Keys and the Flower Garden Banks; took part in underwater clean-ups and even decorated the REEF office using her incredible artistic skills! By September she had over 80 dives, a life list of 224 fish species and a desire to further her experiences with the marine environment. Kirsten charted new ground when she re-applied for the full Our World Underwater Scholarship and WON!! She will spend 1998 on the-road actively participating in field studies, underwater research, scientific expeditions and other specialized assignments including a trip to the Arctic! REEF wholly enjoyed having Kirsten as part of the REEF team. She is an inspiration and her willingness and determination affects everyone she meets. We wish her the best of luck and know she will excel in every thing she does.

For more information on the OWU Scholarship Society write to  
P.O. Box 4428, Chicago IL 60680  
or visit their web site at [www.owu.ycg.org](http://www.owu.ycg.org)



# Thank You !

The following members and corporations have generously donated \$30 or more between December 1997 and October 1998. Space does not allow the listing of all gifts to REEF but each contribution made plays a crucial role in the continuance and expansion of our work. Thank you all for your support.

## SUSTAINERS CLUB

Bob and Jean Kirkpatrick  
David Herro  
Edwin Steiner  
Feodor U. Pitcairn  
Fred McConaughy  
J.D. Treisman  
John and Bonnie Strand  
John Pitcairn  
Joseph Meyer IV  
Kate Gustke  
Kathy Aguilar  
Ken Deaver  
Muns Farestad  
Nancy Betts  
Ned and Anna Deloach  
Ole Peloso  
Paul Humann  
Paul Hutley  
Steven Dingeldein  
Tom Isgar  
Tony Ramirez

### \$250 +

Carolyn Wilson Garrison  
Dawn Davis  
Doug and Jane Rorex  
Jeffrey Nehms  
Larry Laborde  
Martin Giesecke  
Patricia Ayers  
Phillip and Julie Rosenfeld  
The Leuders Family

### \$100 +

Abran Tamayo and Janice Workman  
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Allen Boorstein  
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Barry Leinhart  
Bev Chadwell  
Buck Hausman  
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Catherine Oberle  
Cheryl Apscott  
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Chris Ostrom  
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Dana Vihlen  
Darlene Gehringer  
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David Nank  
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David Preston and Carol Lorenz  
David Sandau  
David Standen  
David Wells  
Dawna Powell  
Deanna Hatcher  
Debra Johnston  
Dennis Murphy  
Diane Calessio  
Dianna Osborn  
Dick and Cynthia Eley  
Don Buck  
Don Eastveld

Don Ziperman  
Donna Gerrard  
Dorothy Lang  
Douglas Jones  
Dr Arthur Spinosa  
Dr Stephen Gittings  
Duncan Muirhead  
Duncan Pitcairn  
Ed and Ruth Reiker  
Ed Kiffrell  
Edwin Boynton  
Ellen Sarbone  
Elliott Ross  
Frank Peloso and Monica Furey  
Fred Immerman  
Gary Hartstein  
Greg Burnham  
Harvey and Fiona Fein  
Helga Burrell-Sahl  
Ira Bell  
Jackie Foster  
James Graham  
James Rosenow  
Jeff Martin  
Jeffrey and Sheri Tonn  
Jeffrey Cone  
Jeffri Botkin  
Jerry and Karen Berry  
Jerry Quebe  
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Mrs Wendy Cartwright  
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Park Chapman

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Peggy Berger  
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R. Jeffrey Brooks  
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Richard Reventlow  
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Robert Donaldson  
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Robert Kornahrens  
Robert Offens  
Robert Winters  
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Rowena Sim  
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Sharon Wander  
Shizue Douglas  
Stephen Fitzpatrick  
Suzanne Staton  
Thomas Grubbs  
Tim Brennan  
Timothy Reese  
Tom Reamy  
Valerie Whiting  
Valorie Powers  
Vilma Kohn  
Wayne M. Lampert  
Will Githens  
William Marchant  
William Sheppard

### \$50 +

Alexander Carver  
Alexander MacGregor  
Andrew Barnett  
Andrew Glass  
Angel Rodriguez  
Anne Selby  
Anthony Kajfez  
Art Shealy  
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Bob Plotnick  
Brenda Berlner  
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Brian Mccumber  
Bruce C Brown  
Candy Thomas  
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Carl Gaines  
Carol Shaw  
Catherine Morrison  
Cathleen Konyon  
Chris Clark  
Chuck Jirka  
Cindy Leo  
Dan Wagner  
Daniel Dunlap  
Daniel Spitzer MD  
Darcy Stottlemeyer  
David and Richelle Jarrell  
David and Susan Welch  
David Beer  
David Watson  
Debbie Friedenberg  
Denise and Roy Graves MD  
Dennis Day  
Dick and Jackie Maciel  
Dick Zingula  
Dolf and Cynthia Nation  
Don Peck

Donella Wilson  
Donn Ellerbrock  
Dorothea Browning  
Dorothy Carlson  
Dory Blobner  
Dr Ali M Khuraibit  
Dr Pamela Roe  
Drew and Karen Cashmere,  
Dwayne and Crystal Johnson  
Emma Schwarz  
Eric and Nanette Riesch  
Eric Ressler  
Frances Lipscomb  
Frank Kratovil  
Fred Gentry  
Fred Hartner  
Fritz Hayes  
Gale Dillashaw  
Gary Dorman  
Gary Pearson  
Gina Razete  
Greg Robinson  
Grigorios Delaportas  
Hank Parfitt  
Howard Krausman  
Jacob Brody  
James and Janet Redmond  
James Kiernan  
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Jason and Ruth Van Sciver  
Jeff and Barbara Schmitt  
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Laurie Gneiding  
Lawrence and Karen Desjardin  
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Martha Sanders  
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Michael Lazar  
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Nancy Goode  
Nancy Leblanc  
Nancy Sefton

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P Hampton Hylton  
Pamela Renee Ranson  
Patrick McGowan  
Phyllis Young  
Richard Blankfein  
Richard Trimpi  
Rick Halpern  
Robert A. Long  
Robert Balzano  
Robert Drake  
Robert Macmillan  
Robert Stolz  
Roger Taborsky  
Roman Pibl  
Ron Goodman  
Sarah Crawford  
Sarah Shoaf  
Scott Shreiner  
Skip Macelhannon  
Stan Brewer  
Stephan Gregory  
Steve Bailey  
Steve Amos  
Steven Bunn  
Sue Dauferman  
Sue Steinmann  
Susan Dasher  
Susan Gruber  
The Adkins Family  
Thomas Smith  
Tim Klingsick  
Trinity Davis  
Victoria Smith  
Virginia Wolfe  
Walter Redmond  
William Howell  
William S Cline  
William Stephenson  
William Strough

### \$30 +

Brad Sherman  
Brian Brandert  
Cassandra Warn  
Dennis McCann  
Diana Mosca  
Diane Hagelthorn  
Don Hughes  
Donald Leiss  
Frank and Robyn Miller  
Gene Morgan  
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Mike Chambers  
Mike Glover  
Neill Bell  
Patrick Geraghty  
Richard Penner  
Robert Schauer  
Theresa Cohen  
Vickie Ellett  
William Popper

## FOUNDATION GIFTS

American Express Philanthropic Program  
Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation  
Gulf of Mexico Foundation  
Henry Foundation  
The Jelks Family Foundation  
Project Aware Foundation  
Seaspacer

## CORPORATE GIFTS

Atlanta Underwater Explorers  
First Bank of Florida  
T-Shirt City, Florida

## MEMORIALS

A Lasting Gift  
Our special thanks to Marge Burkett for including REEF in her estate plans. If you have already, or would like to, include REEF in your will or other estate plans please contact REEF's John Pitcairn for further information at (813) 991-5903. Such gifts make a lasting legacy of your commitment to ocean conservation.

## WISHES GRANTED

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their donations of equipment and merchandise to REEF headquarters:

Joseph Froelich (slide projector)  
Ken Marks (office equipment)  
Stephen Frink (merchandise)

## GIFTS IN KIND

We are thankful for the help of Barbara Doernbach in the layout and design of REEF productions; Ken Marks for the design and maintenance of the REEF web site; Edwin Steiner for the design and production of REEF waterproof paper; Denise Mizell for her help in maintaining the REEF membership data base and also many thanks to Laurie Wilson for her help with REEF press releases.

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

First Bank of Florida recently donated \$190 to REEF on behalf of nineteen new customers. Each time a customer opens a new account, First Bank of Florida donates \$10 to the conservation organization of their choice. For more information about this program contact First Bank of Florida at (561) 655-8511.

## WISH LIST

- Slide Projector and Screen
- TV/VCR
- File Cabinets
- Laser Printer
- Laptop Computer

*We regret any mistakes or omissions and hope you will bring them to our attention.*

## Reef Rankings

REEF Volunteers top the 10,000 survey mark

SURVEYS RETURNED : 14,030 (Florida, Caribbean ) 435 (Pacific)  
SITES SURVEYED : 1449 (Florida, Caribbean) 108 (Pacific)  
BOTTOM TIME : 12, 114 hours (Florida, Caribbean) 314 hours (Pacific)  
# SPECIES SEEN : 490 ( Florida, Caribbean) 144 (Pacific)

The following members have completed at least 20 surveys to make the REEF Rankings:

### Over 100 Surveys

LADDIE AKINS-503  
DEENA FEELEY-383  
LINDA SCHILLINGER-286  
JOE THOMAS-285  
JOHN PITCAIRN-268  
EMILY SCHMITT-LAVIN-247  
CLIVE PETROVIC-234  
JEAN KIRKPATRICK-203  
ANN KNOLLENBERG-190  
JULIE OVERING-149  
CATHY COUGHLIN-147  
SHERYL SHEA-136  
ELAINE MORDEN-130  
CINDY HELM-105

DAVID PRESTON-55  
JIM MORABITO-54  
RANDY KEIL-54  
GREG BUNCH-53  
DAVID MULVEY-53  
CONNIE DOLAN-52  
CHUCK JIRKA-52  
CHRISTY PATTENGILL-52  
ROBERT ANTONELLI-51  
BRICE SEMMENS -51  
JONATHON TROMM-51  
PATRICIA AYERS-50

CHERI ARNOLD-36  
ED GERRARD-36  
LYNN HUBERT-34  
SARA THOMAS-34  
ERIC RIESCH-32  
EDDIE GERRARD-32  
TODD AIKINS-31  
ROBERT SCHAUER-31  
JANE ROREX-30  
ROBYN OSBORN-30  
WADE BEVIER-30  
EMMA HICKERSON-30  
JOSEPH THOMAS-30  
GARY LENNING-29  
MARK BAILEY-29

RICK HALPERN-22  
CELESTE PRESPERIN-22  
ANN OUTLAW -22  
CATHY SPRINGER-21  
MARIA EDWARDS-21  
HILARY HARDER-21  
DR GITTINGS -21  
FRANK ELIA-20  
BEVERLY MORABITO-20  
DARCY STOTTELMYER-20  
ROBERT DRAPER-20

\*\* Pacific Surveys

### 50-99 Surveys

MONTY DOYLE-99  
CAROL REICHERT-98  
KEN MARKS-97  
EDWIN STEINER-96  
KEN DEEVER-91  
BARBARA MODAFARI-84  
SHELLEY TYRE-81  
PAMELA CEFARATTI-80  
JIM MODAFARI-79  
KIRSTEN BASSION-78  
JEAN GASEN-68  
LESLIE WHAYLEN-68  
JERRY LIGON -67  
DOUG ROREX-66  
TONY SEBASTIAN-65  
RACHID FERETTI-64 \*\*  
BETSY SAUNDERS-63  
BOB BISHOP-63  
MONICA VEGA-62  
KATHLEEN SCOTT-61  
BRUCE PURDY-60  
MARJORIE NELSON-56  
CAROL LORENZ-56  
ANTHONY KAJFEZ-56

### 20-49 Surveys

ROBERT WINTERS-49  
DAVE DOWNS-49  
PAMELA BEZUIDEHOUT-49  
EDGAR TOMEI-49  
GAIL TOMEI-48  
KAREN GARCIA-46  
TOM ISGAR-46  
GLEN THIEL-46  
CURRIER RANDALL-46  
CRISTI KORBECK-44  
RICHARD HITT-43  
PETER RENNEMANN-43  
BRENDA HITT-41  
JONATHAN EDWARDS-41  
ANNA DELOACH-41  
NOREEN DOWNS-40  
JAMES BROOKE-40  
DARLENE GEHRINGER-39  
SHAWN EDWARDS-38  
JANET EARNSHAW-38  
DENNY LUTZ-37  
WALTER BRINEY-37  
DONNA GERRARD-37  
JOHN KELLY-37  
JOYCE SCHULKE-36

SARAH TAMBLYN-29 \*\*  
MARK SPRINGER-28  
BOB BONANNO-28  
ROXANNE CHAVANNE-27  
KATHY BONANNO-27  
CHRISTY SIMMS-27  
PETE WYMAN-26  
CLAUDIA CAMPOS-26  
REBEKAH MOORE-26  
VAN DUNCAN-26  
WOODY BROOKS-26  
LANA SMITHSON -26  
CORINNE HALBERG-26  
JESSICA LOREK-25  
JOSEPH FROELICH-25  
ARNOLD WALKER-25  
DON PECK-24  
KEVIN FAGER-24  
CLINT WHITAKER-24  
MARTHA KELLOGG-24  
JOHN CASSON-24  
DARREN BRODE-23  
BILL SILLIMAN-23  
ROBERT GRIST-23  
H.C. YOUNG-22  
KITTY PHILIPS-22

# 1998 Activities

Every year at REEF is a busy year, but we thought you'd be interested to see just how busy your organization has been in '98. We've taken a "do something" approach in our planning and projects and it shows!

## FIELD SURVEY VOLUNTEERS



### Bonaire

Charles Turner, Nitin Shenoy, Robert Schauer, Andy Luk, Barbara Kirchner, Jose Kirchner, Laddie Akins, Ken Deaver, Michael Hellum, WJ Penniston, Sylvia Bennett, Robert Draper, Eddie Gerrard, Bryan Gerrard, Donna Gerrard, Ed Gerrard, Leslie Whaylen, Cathy Coughlin, Cindy Helm, Tom Isgar, Donna Hellum, Danny Jones, Linda Jones (not shown: Deena Feeley, Rick Halpern, Ed Steiner, Clint Whitaker, Theresa Turner, Jerry Ligon, Ditte Preker)



### Grand Cayman

Will Ruggles, Douglas Rankin, Robyn Osborn, Steve Ganon, Cheri Arnold, Linda Shillinger, Laddie Akins



### Flower Garden / Stetson Banks

Candy Thomas, Robert Draper, Todd Aikins, Donella Wilson, Leroy Walker, Christy Semmens, Brice Semmens, Leslie Whaylen, Laddie Akins, Rachid Ferreti

## FEATURED FIELD SURVEY by Laddie Akins Flower Garden and Stetson Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Mantas, Whale Sharks, Hammerheads, Massive schools of Jacks, African Pompano, Golden Trunkfish, Wrasse Bass and Tusk Gobies. Have I gotten your attention yet? All of this and much, much more are common to the Gulf of Mexico sites protected as part of the Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank. And we gather every August!

The FGBNMS REEF Field Survey has become one of the highlights of my year. Every August, since 1995, REEF members have congregated in Freeport, Texas to board the M/V Spree for a one week trip to one of the most spectacular and unique reef systems in North America.

The Flower Gardens lie about 100 miles south of the Texas/Louisiana border in the warm, clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Temperatures are in the mid 80's and visibility is seldom less than 100 feet! And what marine life and coral coverage! You would never expect to see so much in the middle of nowhere, but its there. The coral reef system has grown over many thousands of years on geologic salt dome uprisings from the ocean floor. The reefs have some of the highest percent coral cover in the Caribbean (I say Caribbean, because that's what it's like). Huge Star, Brain, and plate corals dominate the bottom with as much as 50% live coral coverage. And the fish life is staggering as well. Not as species rich as some Caribbean sites, it has what much of the Caribbean doesn't - a combination of the big and the little. Mantas are commonplace (1 out of every 10 surveys), Whale sharks not uncommon, large pelagic Jacks in incredible numbers midwater and then lots of colorful Angels, Butterflies, Damselfish, Groupers and other tropicals covering the bottom. Most dives, I don't know where to look first. We even found and photographed the first record of a Greenbanded Wrasse last trip!

If diving the Flower Gardens aren't enough, we normally get a dive or two on a nearby oil rig, and then move to another incredible site called Stetson Bank. Added to the protection of the Flower Gardens just last year, Stetson is not a coral reef, but rather a shale rock uprising with coral growth on it. And even more fish! Many species found at Stetson are completely different than those at the FGB. Schools of juvenile African Pompano have been found on most of our trips here as well as Wrasse Bass, Deepwater Squirrelfish, Unicorn Filefish and more. Though the vis can be less, Stetson is many team members favorite dive. Diving off the M/V Spree is a joy. The boat is set up specifically for divers, and the food is always good and plentiful. Accommodations on the boat are what I call "group style". Don't take that wrong! Below decks are four bunk curtained off rooms with each bunk having its own privacy curtain. I've never heard a complaint about the arrangements and the camaraderie and team atmosphere makes it much more fun than private staterooms. Especially when its time to say "Goodnight, John Boy..." August is the prime month to dive the Banks and normally very calm and clear, but divers wanting to join the Field Survey or

visit the Flower Gardens should have experience diving offshore. I would recommend 20 dives or more and an advanced certification. The depths are 60-80 feet and being in the middle of the Gulf you never know exactly what the conditions are going to be like. Sometimes current, sometimes none, sometimes seas and sometimes flatter than the coffee in your mug. But if you are ready to get in awe-inspiring diving, join us in August, you'll never think of Texas the same again!



### Turks & Caicos

Kathleen Gunderson, Phillip Steiner, Cathy Coughlin, David Preston, Cindy Helm, Ed Steiner, Deena Feeley

# 1999 FIELD SURVEY SCHEDULE

**SPECIAL  
EDITION  
PROJECTS**

- May 1 - 8 Dominican Republic  
Punta Cana Beach Resort  
Package rate = \$753.00 per  
diver / double occupancy
- May 22 - 29 Los Roques National Park with Paul Humann  
M/V Antares III
- June 12 - 19 Bonaire, Netherland Antilles  
Sand Dollar Condominiums,  
Package rate = \$814.00 per  
diver / double occupancy (1 bedroom unit)
- July 17 - 24 Grand Cayman, BWI  
Sunset House Resort,  
Package rate = \$969.00 per  
diver / double occupancy
- August 15 -21 Texas Flower Gardens  
M/V SPREE,  
Package rate = \$600.00 per passenger
- Sept. 4 - 11 Florida Keys (upper)  
by invitation
- Sept. 11 - 18 Florida Keys (lower)  
by invitation
- Oct. 9 - 16 - St. Croix, USVI  
Ultimate Bluewater Adventures  
Package rate = \$718.00  
per person / double occupancy
- Nov. 6 -13 Saba  
M/V Caribbean Explorer,  
Package rate = \$1195.00 per passenger
- Dec 4 - 11 Cozumel  
Allegro Diamond Resort/Dive Palancar

## **Special Projects**

- August 6 - 11 Catalina Island (4 days)

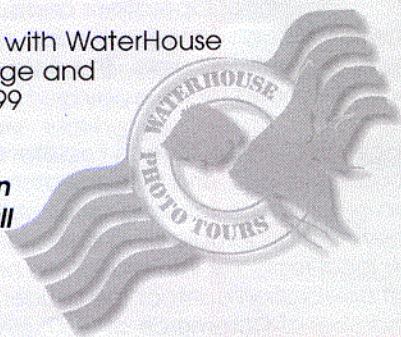
*Prices listed are for accommodations and diving only and do not include the \$200.00 REEF Program Fee.*

*Call for details and airfares from your gateway city!*

*Full cost of this trip may be tax-deductible.*

We have partnered with WaterHouse Photo Tours to arrange and handle all of the 1999 REEF Projects.

**For more information  
and reservations call  
1-800-272-9122**



## **Spotted Dolphins in the Bahamas - June 18-25, 1999**

Join REEF on a special marine mammal expedition to the Bahama Bank to swim with the Spotted Dolphins. Free, wild pods of Spotted Dolphins have become accustomed to humans and interactions occur on a regular and prolonged basis off West End, Bahamas. We'll have time to dive the local reefs in the morning and look for the dolphins each afternoon. Learn about their unique intelligence, behavior and physiology during seminars with award winning marine mammal expert Laura Urian, Executive Director of the Dolphin Project. Price includes a week of liveaboard diving, accommodations, meals and seminars. \$1,595.00/person

## **REEF is pleased to announce the eagerly anticipated release of PADI's newest specialty course, the Project AWARE Fish Identification Specialty.**

REEF worked with PADI over the past year to create this introductory course so as to greatly increase access to basic fish identification and surveying skills for interested divers and snorkelers. PADI will offer the course through its network of more than 3,500 dive centers and resorts and more than 85,000 dive professionals worldwide.

The course goals are to (1) familiarize students with the role that Project AWARE plays in preserving the aquatic environment, (2) introduce students to the most common families and species of fishes that they are likely to encounter in tropical and temperate ocean waters and (3) to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills to participate in the REEF Fish Survey Project.

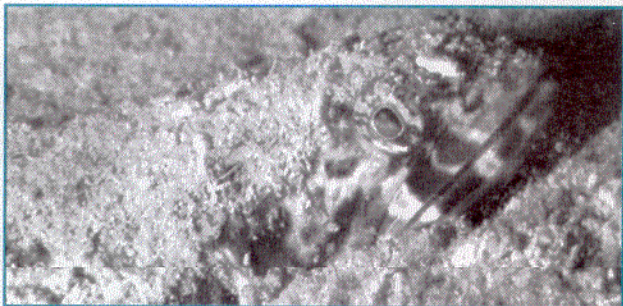
As you know, the Fish Survey Project enlists volunteer divers and snorkelers to gather reliable marine fish biodiversity data on a continuing basis in the coastal waters of the Tropical Western Atlantic (Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and Bahamas) and California. In 1999, the Project will expand to include survey data from the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington and British Columbia) and the South Atlantic (Northern Florida through the Carolinas).

The basic Project AWARE Fish Identification Specialty instructor outline is now available from PADI. Instructors will then contact REEF to purchase the appropriate geographic fish module (including fish identification outline and slides) for the region to be covered, student kits (including underwater fish i.d. card, survey slate, decal, etc.) and other fish identification training materials. Regional fish modules are now available for the Tropical Western Atlantic, the South Atlantic, Southern California, Northern California and the Pacific Northwest.

So, sign up for the Project AWARE Fish Identification Specialty at your local PADI dive center and take a course that really counts!

# The Dance of the Lizardfish by Deena Feeley

If you've ever spent much time diving at dusk you may have witnessed the normally motionless Sand Diver (*Synodus intermedius*) at it's most active. These voracious predators tend to spend much of their day lounging on the reef or resting buried in the sand with head protruding awaiting unsuspecting prey to come into view. Their camouflage and stillness can leave them almost invisible against the right backdrop. But at dusk the entertainment



a resting Sand Diver



Sand Diver, *Synodus intermedius*

begins. You can usually find some love birds out in the sandy areas just off the reef. There is no visible difference between the sexes but it is likely that the smaller individual is the male. The male will vigorously chase his lady, swimming around to lay in front with gills flared. Feigning a lack of interest, the female will swim off in another direction hotly pursued by the eager male. After about fifteen minutes of chase, the female finally gives in, rising up into the water column with the male positioned on her back. At the right moment a cloud of gametes is released and the fish fall to the sand only to repeat the sequence moments later.

The Sand Diver is a member of the Lizardfish family, Synodontidae, meaning 'teeth together'. The Latin name describes a mouth full of teeth that are present even on the tongue and allow the Lizardfish to grasp and swallow its prey. The Lizardfish family are identified by their large upturned mouths, pointed snouts and long cylindrical bodies. They rest motionless on long ventral fins and forked tail with the body pointed slightly up into the water column. The pectoral fins are not well developed making the torpedo-like body ready for firing. When dinner arrives, the lizardfish lunges upward into the water, looping around backward to its take-off position, hopefully with a tasty morsel entrapped. So how can you tell a Sand Diver from it's counterparts? There are at least five known species of Lizardfish in the Caribbean, including the Sand Diver, Bluestriped, Inshore, Red Lizardfish and

Snakefish. The Sand Diver is by far the most common and has been reported from all regions of the Caribbean. It is most often confused with the Bluestriped Lizardfish which is less prevalent and most commonly seen in the northwest Caribbean according to REEF data. The two are distinguished by the color of their body stripes. Those of the Bluestriped Lizardfish are, as the name would suggest, blue (or turquoise) whereas those of the Sand Diver are gold (you can think of 'golden sand'). The Sand Diver also has a dark spot on the top of its gill cover which is very obvious when it reaches it's maximum size of over a foot! The Red Lizardfish is less common and quite different. Four or five darker bars run across its' back and a tiny black triangle decorates the tip of the snout. As for the rest of the family, according to information in the REEF data base the Inshore Lizardfish has seldom been seen and there are no reports of the Snakefish. So, fish friends, start hunting for those reptilian look-a-likes soon!

## Fall festivities

**The second annual Bonaire Dive Festival** is shaping up to be better than ever. Last year the event brought divers from around the world to hear talks from marine experts such as Dr Sylvia Earle, and Dr Robert Ginsburg, while diving Bonaire's awesome reefs. Deena Feeley was there for REEF conducting fish seminars all week long and joining in the underwater cleanups and coral studies. This year will be even more fun. Deena will again be hosting fish talks and diving with participants to conduct surveys on the local dive sites. The festival takes place November 7-14. Contact Caradonna Tours for more information at 800-328-2288

**Ocean Fest '98** took place September 17-20 at Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida. This is the second year for Oceanfest and even with downpours of rain the attendance was 6,500. There were 184 booths with six bands playing on the beach throughout the three day festival.

REEF founder, Paul Humann, conducted 2 fish identification seminars with an overflowing attendance of 110 people. Following the second seminar, a fish survey dive was conducted by REEF members. A great variety of fish species were recorded from the near shore reef system, though it was disappointing that no Groupers or Snappers were seen by the group. "This is the second year of surveying the reef at Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, and we have yet to see a grouper", says Deena Feeley, REEF's Director of Operations and survey group leader. "There has been considerable talk of establishing this site as a protected area. The data we are gathering shows the need for it."

Proceeds from the Ocean Fest Silent Auction were donated to REEF and Oceanwatch, a local conservation organization focusing on establishing mooring buoys for Lauderdale area dive sites and protection of the local reefs. For information on next year's Oceanfest celebration contact the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Chamber of Commerce at (800) 699-6764.



# REEF Gear

## REEF T-SHIRTS

Proudly show your support of the underwater world every time you wear one of our REEF shirts. The back of each 100% cotton shirt displays the REEF logo underscored by the "We Speak Fish" banner, the front reads "Reef Environmental Education Foundation." Sizes: M, L, XL - \$15.00

## REEF DELUXE SURVEY KIT

Be prepared! The REEF Deluxe Survey Kit contains everything you need to conduct and record fish surveys: three ring logbook, REEF underwater slate, waterproof fish I.D. card, 24 underwater I.D. sheets, and 12 REEF Marine Wildlife Survey Scansheets. Printed with the names of 30 of the most common fishes found in Florida, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean Basin, 70 spaces for write in identifications, and complete survey site and dive information, the underwater I.D. sheets are specifically designed to fit over the underwater slate for surveying. Post-dive they fit into the log book to provide a permanent record of each dive. A dream come true for every REEF member. - \$30.00

## REEF CAP

Keep the sun out of your eyes between dives with our REEF cap. The red, gold and black REEF logo is embroidered on a black baseball hat with black braid detail. One size fits all. - \$15.00

## LICENSE PLATE

Show the world you are not only a diver, but a supporter of REEF with the new REEF logo license plate. All metal with the raised red, white, black and yellow REEF logo.- only \$10.00!

## NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH REEF

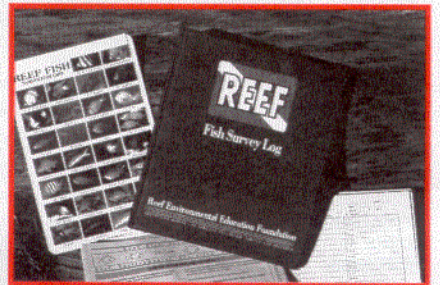
Numerous identification books, including Fish, Coral, Invertebrate, Plant and Behavior books. Give us a call and let us help you find the reference you are looking for. Prices are at standard retail.

## THE NEWEST, HOTTEST ID TOOL AROUND IS THE REEF FISH ID CD-ROM.

Over 1600 images including every species from the Humann Reef Fish Identification book. The CD-ROM also includes virtual dives, four separate quiz programs, fish finder, and more. - \$39.95

## FOR THOSE OF YOU WANTING TO TEACH IDENTIFICATION... PROJECT AWARE FISH IDENTIFICATION SPECIALTY

Four brand new modules for the Project AWARE Fish Identification Specialty are now available through REEF. Courses which include over 60 colorful slides and a full teaching curriculum are available for the Tropical Western Atlantic, South Atlantic, Southern California, Northern California and the Pacific Northwest - \$85.00 plus shipping. Student packs are ready to accompany your fish identification course. Each pack includes a fish survey slate, underwater fish identification card, waterproof survey paper, REEF decal and BC tag and the newly published "Fish-in-a-pocket" ! Call for more details !



## ORDER INFORMATION

_____	T-shirts @ \$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Survey Kits @ \$30.00	\$ _____
_____	Hats @ \$15.00	\$ _____
_____	License @ \$10.00	\$ _____
_____	CD-ROM@ \$39.95	\$ _____

Florida residents add sales tax & .7.5% \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$3.50 shipping & handling (plus \$1. each additional item) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# REEF field stations

The dive centers, resorts, boat operators and instructors listed below have demonstrated their support for REEF by becoming corporate sponsors and volunteering as REEF Field Stations. Each serves as a distribution point for survey forms and actively recruits new members. Most offer fish identification courses, organize survey dives and sell related fishwatching materials.

**"Visit the REEF web site at [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org) for direct links to REEF Field Station web sites"**

## USA

### ALABAMA

Montgomery Breakaway Scuba 334-281-9208

### CALIFORNIA

San Carlos Kinichi Au Chau Divers 415 591-9489  
San Ramon Undersea Adventures 510 838-2348

### COLORADO

Boulder Rocky Mountain Dive Center 303 449-8606

### FLORIDA

Ft. Lauderdale Glen E. Thiel, Volunteer  
Nekton Diving Cruises 800-UW-WORLD  
Islamorada Lady Cyana Divers 800 221-8717  
Capt Scuba Charters 305-664-DIVE  
Jacksonville Meridian Divers Inc. 904 262-1606  
Mermaid Dive Guides 904 268-2417  
Juno Beach Marinelle Center of Juno Beach 407 627-8280  
Largo Sea-Jis Scuba & Travel 813 585-DIVE  
Tanks-A-Lot Dive Charters 813-531-9101  
Marathon - Ft Keys National Marine Sanctuary 305 743-2437  
Miami Dallance 954-684-8678  
Miami Springs Blackbeard Cruises 800 327-9600  
Winter Park Great American Dive Center 407-673-4777  
Tampa Depth Perception Dive Center 813-689-3483  
Tallahassee Organization for Artificial Reefs 904 656-2114

### ILLINOIS

Chicago John G. Shedd Aquarium 312 939-8069

### LOUISIANA

Shreveport Scuba Ventures 313 222-DIVE

### MINNESOTA

Rochester Minnesota Dive Center 507 288-8802

### NEW YORK

Buffalo Dip n' Dive 716 837-DIVE  
Henritta Aquatic Center of Rochester Inc 716-334-1670

### RHODE ISLAND

Jamestown Ocean State Scuba 800 933-DIVE

### TEXAS

Humble W W Diving Company 713 540-1616

## INTERNATIONAL

### BAHAMAS

Andros Island Small Hope Bay Lodge 809 368-2618  
Bimini Scuba Bimini 954-359-2705  
Nassau Custom Aquatics 809-362-1979  
Walker's Cay Walker's Cay Undersea Adventure 809-352-5252

### BELIZE

Placencia Rum Point Divers 011-501-6-23239  
Soulshine Resort 800-890-6082

### BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Tortola Baskin-In-The-Sun 800-233-7938  
Blue Water Divers 284-494-2847  
Virgin Gorda Dive BVI 800-848-7078

### CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Brac Brac Reef Beach Resort 800-327-3835  
Grand Cayman Ocean Frontiers 800-544-6576  
Little Cayman Little Cayman Beach Resort 800-327-3835  
Southern Cross Club 345 948-1099

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Punta Cana Punta Cana Dive Center 809-221-2262

### HONDURAS

Roatan M.V. Isla Mia 800-874-7636  
Utila Salty Dog Productions 011-504-45 3363

### JAMAICA

Reading St. James Poseidon Divers 809-952-3624  
Runaway Bay Superclubs Breezes Golf and Beach Resort 876-973-2436

### LEEWARD ISLANDS

St. Eustatius Golden Rock Dive Center 800-311-6658

### NETHERLAND ANTILLES

Bonaire Sand Dollar Dive & Photo 800 288-4773  
Curacao Habitat Curacao 011-599-9-864-8800

### PUERTO RICO

Culebra Reeflink Divers 787 742-0581

### TURKS & CAICOS

Providenciales Dive Provo 809-946-5029  
Fish Frames 649-946-5719  
Provo Turtle Divers 649-946-4232

### U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. Croix V I Divers Ltd. 800-544-5911

### WINDWARD ISLANDS

St. Lucia Anse Chastanet Hotel/Scuba St. Lucia 758-459-7000

I want to help REEF with its 1999 urgent coral reef preservation program! Please put my tax-deductible contribution to immediate use to extend your fine program to more areas to save the reefs we love.

\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$Other \_\_\_ \$1000 Sustainers Club

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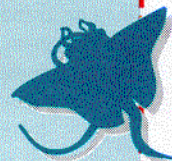
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acct # \_\_\_\_\_ exp date \_\_\_\_\_

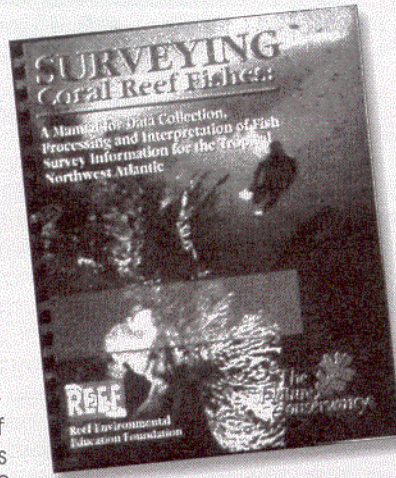
signature \_\_\_\_\_ phone # \_\_\_\_\_



# REEF Manual Now Available

REEF and The Nature Conservancy are pleased to introduce a brand new publication - a manual that describes all aspects of data collection, processing, and interpretation of fish survey information from the REEF Fish Survey Project. This manual is a useful tool for any volunteer and a must for those interested in organizing groups to regularly survey sites and contribute to the reef fish distribution and abundance database. "Surveying Coral Reef Fishes" assists the informed amateur and professional alike in contributing to the study of marine life especially in the wider Caribbean and tropical Atlantic region. It describes what you need to do to report the species you see when you go snorkeling or diving anywhere in the region. The manual contains contributions from a wide variety of experts in the field of marine research, and represents a remarkable collaboration between two major conservation bodies, the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and The Nature Conservancy

Any group or individual that would like to contribute data or access information from the reef fish database should consult this manual. It is available directly from REEF for \$12 (plus \$3.50 shipping and handling),



Schmitt, E.F., D. Wells Feeley,  
and K.M. Sullivan Sealey. 1998.

*Surveying Coral Reef Fishes: A  
Manual for Data Collection,  
Processing, and Interpretation of  
Fish Survey Information for the  
Tropical Northwest Atlantic.*

Media Enterprises, Ltd.  
P.O. Box N-9240 Nassau,  
Bahamas. 84pp.

Call (305) 451-0312 or order by e-mail at reef052@aol.com.

**JOIN A 1999  
REEF FIELD SURVEY  
AND "TAKE A DIVE THAT COUNTS!"**



Reef Environmental Education Foundation  
Protecting Marine Life Through Education, Service and Research



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