

# DEEP EXPOSURE



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

February 2009

[www.sfups.org](http://www.sfups.org)

**NEXT MEETING:**  
February 10, 2009

## Future Meetings

March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

7:30 PM at  
**El Palacio**  
(formerly the  
Holiday Inn)  
21485 N.W. 27th  
Avenue, Miami  
305-621-5801

**Cover Shot**  
**Steve Kovacs**

Submit "Cover Photo"  
material to the  
Newsletter Editor  
Suzan Meldonian,  
561-394-6391  
or e-mail:  
[newsletter@sfups.org](mailto:newsletter@sfups.org)  
Please include a short  
paragraph about the  
photo, including camera  
information and location.  
**DEADLINE IS THE  
25th!**



© Steve Kovacs

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## They're here!



Photo © Marlin Meldonian  
1 of 7 lionfish seen on 1 dive in the  
Bahamas

On the first day of this year, Joe Marino was diving just outside the Hillsboro Inlet, when he came upon and photographed a small invasive lionfish.

When REEF (REEF.org) was notified, a seek-and-collect mission was mounted, without success. On that same day, and within ¼ mile, another diver collected a juvenile lionfish. Unfortunately, it appears to be a different fish.

We've been worrying about the impact of the inevitable invasion, so anything we can do to stave it off is important.

In the Bahamas, a single lionfish was enjoyed as a novelty for months. Then a second was seen, and within a few more months, they were everywhere. Eradication attempts are in process but there's little hope of controlling them.

They are pretty, but bold. They are voracious, eating anything from tropicals to juvenile grouper and snapper. They have no local predators. They are incredibly prolific. They are sexually mature when they are only inches long. Unlike most fish which have a batch of eggs once or twice a year, lionfish reproduce regularly, spawning thousands of eggs. Once they are established, they seem impossible to contain, with serious impacts to the local habitat.

**Let's not let them get a foot-hold here like they have in the Bahamas!**

### What should you do when you see a Lionfish?

When REEF goes out, they are equipped with two clear vinyl collection nets with mesh bottoms, needle-proof gloves, and a transparent dry bag. ( See the store section at www.

REEF.org ) These fish have incredibly painful venom that is introduced by their fin spines. Do not risk physical contact unless you are prepared for a visit to the local ER.

Smaller fish are difficult to spear and, if you miss, you teach them to hide from divers.

So, what will YOU do when you see one?

For now, please, please, establish the location and let the professionals and their volunteers capture them.

How to mark the location:

If diving on small/private boats:

Talk to the captain -- establish a signal. To mark a specific location on some boats, the diver pulls their flag line tight, then pulls the flag under 3 times. The boat takes a GPS mark and acknowledges it by revving the engine 3 times. The divers can then continue their dive without interruption (Thanks to R/V VONÉ).

You could also carry a marker buoy (like a Pelican Float) that you can deploy. You can come back after the dive, get marks, and recover the buoy.

If diving on larger/commercial boats:

Talk to the captain – establish a signal. If conditions/currents allow, tie off the flag line and ascend or have a buddy go to the surface. Make contact with the boat and have them get a GPS mark. Re-descend and continue the dive.

Then, contact REEF at <http://www.reef.org/lionfish> and file an "Exotic Species Sighting Form".

Thanks for helping protect our reefs.  
Robert Shearer



## *Presentation:*

As many of you know, I was fortunate enough to be chosen by PADI U.S.A. and Sport Diver Magazine to represent the United States in the Epson Red Sea World of Underwater Images Shoot-out in Israel this past November.

This yearly contest is held in Eilat, a city of about 70,000 people, and is located at the southern most tip of Israel on the Red Sea, bordering Egypt and Jordan.

The 2008 Epson Red Sea contest was composed of two parts. The first part was a traditional mail in photo contest with categories including the best singular entry, best portfolio of 5 images, environmental images, wrecks and best humoristic image. The Second part consisted of a 3 day shoot-out and images had to be taken within a specified 3 day period and only in the waters of Eilat. The biggest surprise was that only raw images were judged. No cropping, manipulation or touching of the images in any way was allowed. The ultimate photographic challenge! With a first place prize of \$10 000 Cash and 3 weeks in PNG for two including airfare for the portfolio winner and similarly lucrative prizes in the other categories, the shoot-out attracted 130 photographers from 14 different countries.

Practically all diving during the contest was done from shore and, with less than 6 days a year of rainfall, visibility was rumored to be always at least 80 feet. Add to this the beautiful species inherent to this region and I received a nice introduction to Red Sea diving. The quantity of life was supposedly no where near the



© Steve Kovacs

levels of nearby sites such as Sharm el Sheikh but was quite nice none the less.

Dive sites were mostly sand

with patches of reef and there were a couple of wrecks thrown in for good measure. Surprisingly, some species more commonly associated with the Indo-Pacific, such as Frogfish and Ghost pipefish, appeared to be quite common as were Eagle Rays foraging in the sand. The other big surprise was the cold water temperature which was a consistent bone numbing 72F.

At the end of the week there was an awards ceremony where the prizes were awarded.

Done a little differently than most contests, each category had 5 nominees named (finalists if you will) and then only one winner was chosen from those five nominees.

Results can be found at: [www.eilatredsea.com](http://www.eilatredsea.com)

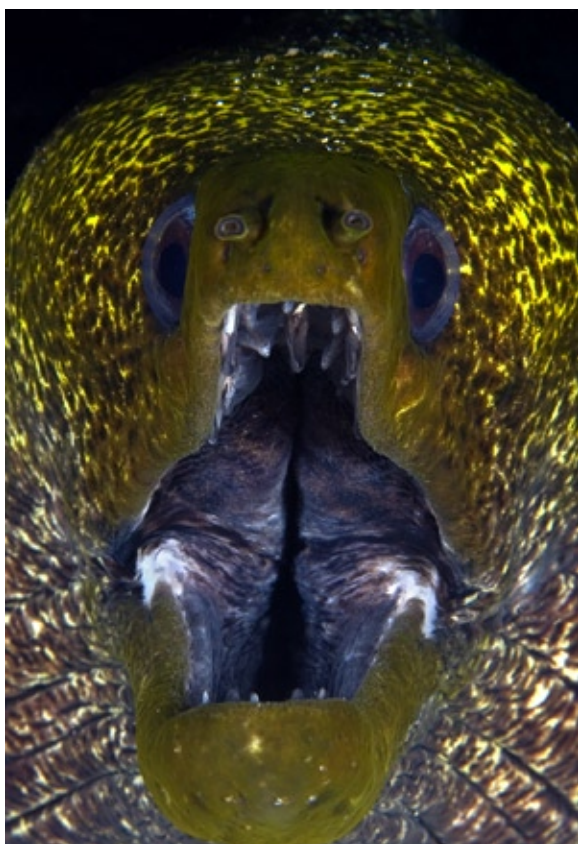
Overall the competition was a great experience. I was able to meet some great people, see some mind blowing images, learn some fascinating techniques and watch some of the most artistic photographers on the planet ply their craft.

I look forward to sharing details of this fascinating competition at the next meeting. - Steve Kovacs

# Steve Kovacs

Steve Kovacs is the Photographer of the Month on SFUPS  
If you haven't seen his imagery, you really must have a look!  
This is a mere sampling of his abilities.

All images copyright Steve Kovacs



The host of Epson Eilat, has assured me he will email me the link for the next session for 2009 and how to purchase the amazing book as a result of the contest containing some of the absolute finest underwater photographers in the World! You won't want to miss it.

**EPSON® Red Sea** Eilat, Israel  
November 10-15 2008  
**World of Underwater Images**

UNDERWATER PHOTO COMPETITION



EPSON REDSEA

## Outside Contests:

Feb 19 Deadline San Diego Underwater Photographic Society Film Festival

<http://www.sdupsfilm.com/contest-hom.php>

This is a film contest –submissions are 5 minutes long

Mar 15 Deadline Scuba Diving Magazine

<http://www.scubadiving.com/2009photocontest>

entry by mail- so leave yourself enough time

Grand Prize **Dive trip for one to Wakatobi**

Mar 31 Deadline British Underwater Image Festival

<http://www.divemagazine.co.uk>

Jul 20 Deadline



### [OUR BIGGEST PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION EVER!](#)

- \$25,000 in Cash Prizes
- Two \$5,000 Grand Prizes
- Pro, Amateur and Youth divisions
- Submit up to 20 photos in 7 categories

*National Wildlife*® is now accepting entries to [our 39th annual contest](#). Cash prizes totaling \$25,000—including two \$5,000 grand prizes—plus other gifts will be awarded to the winners in three divisions: professional, amateur and youth. Winning photographs will be published online and a selection will appear in the December 2009 issue of the magazine.

In exchange for your \$15 entry fee, you can [submit as many as 20 photographs](#) in the following seven categories. You also will receive a one-year membership to the National Wildlife Federation, including six issues of *National Wildlife*®.

- Mammals
- Birds
- Other Wildlife
- Backyard Habitats
- Connecting People and Nature
- Landscapes and Plant Life
- Global Warming and Wildlife

For entry details, categories and deadline information, visit [www.nwf.org/photozone](http://www.nwf.org/photozone).



## FREE AIR FARE!!!

JOIN THE BUBBLE BROADS FOR A WEEK ON THE NEKTON LIVE-ABOARD DIVE BOAT!!! <http://www.nektoncruises.com>

May 9-15. Call David ASAP There's only 4 remaining cabins= 8spots.

354-463-9324 Tell him you are with SFUPS Bubble Broads, Carol and Sharon!

Cost including nitrox and tip.. \$2500 Ask about better deals if available.

Be there or we will win all the photo contests this year!!!!

"Dream, Dive, Discover the Underwater World of Medio Reef."

Medio Reef is an underwater sea mount located on the western edge of the Great Bahama Bank. It was discovered by Nekton while developing the Cay Lobos itinerary. It was included as a one day stop on the way to Cay Lobos, but due to its immense popularity divers requested Nekton to spend more time on Medio Reef to explore the wonders of this incredibly unusual reef.

Medio Reef features spectacular shallow diving including mini-walls that rise out of 50 to 60 feet to within 25 feet of the surface. The sea mount is much too large for a single dive and it is possible to make a dive on this plateau and not realize that you are even on an underwater sea mount. The plateau is coral covered with dense fish with various pelagic populations giving the illusion you are diving in a tropical aquarium. The miles of this sea mount spread from 20' to 40' mini-walls to massive sloping shoulders of reefs

The gin clear waters provide a color collage paradise for divers and a photographer's alike. Because of the easy shooting conditions even beginner photographers will see professional results. The extreme remoteness and uncharted location has resulted in a virgin dive destination only visited by a few fortunate Nekton guests. Be one of those few to experience Medio Reef.

While the itinerary varies from week to week due to weather conditions, the outline below will give you a good feel for the exciting week in store for you.

Note: Traveling to the Bahamas requires that U.S., Canadian and citizens of other countries have a valid PASSPORT.

## 2009 PHOTO CONTEST RULES

### Digital Files:

Realizing that some computer adjustments are necessary for digital files, we ask that only minor adjustments be made in the computer. Only minor cropping, color adjustments, backscatter removal and sharpening are allowed. No extreme computer manipulation, removing items or adding items to the image.

- Images will be submitted prior to the meeting so that they can be compiled for easy viewing and judging.

- Image size should be no greater than 1024 pixels on the long side and the file size should be less than

1.4 megabytes. Images should be submitted in JPEG format.

- Each image file name must include your name, month, category, and number. Use "mastr" for Masters Category and "chall" for Challengers category. For example an image submitted by John Doe for the January Challengers contest would be named: JDoe-JanChall-1.jpeg

- Entries must sent via email to Bob Weybrecht at [audiovisual@sfups.org](mailto:audiovisual@sfups.org) the Friday night before the Monthly meeting.

## DUES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that it's time to pay your 2009 dues for South Florida Underwater Photography Society. Annual Dues are \$35.00 (individual), \$45.00 (family) and \$20.00 for "Out of the Area" non-participating members. Make your dues check payable to SFUPS and mail to:

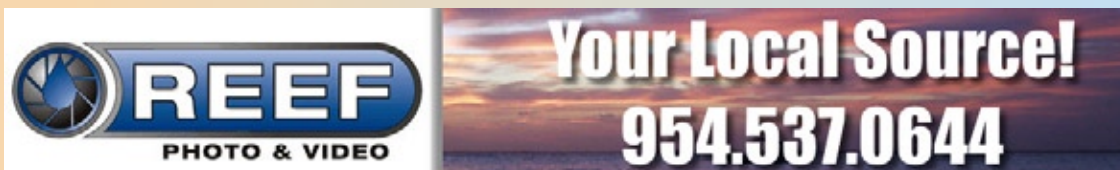
Linda Ianniello  
359 Cottonwood Lane  
Boca Raton, FL 33487

## SFUPS 2009 Intraclub Contest Categories\*

|             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| <b>Jan</b>  | M | Surgeonfishes – Family Acanthuridae, subfamily Acanthurinae (includes tangs, excludes unicornfishes)   |
|             | C | Spadefishes- Family Ehippidae, (commonly called batfishes in the Indo Pacific).  |
| <b>Feb</b>  | M | Topside from below - includes above-water features within the image taken from beneath the surface (such as sky, clouds, trees or a boat).   |
|             | C | Pairs – liberal interpretation, can be a true mated pair, “twins” or simply two of the same kind together in the image.  |
| <b>Mar</b>  | M | Snappers – any fish of the family Lutjanidae   |
|             | C | Grunts – any fish of the family Haemulidae including sweetlips.  |
| <b>Apr</b>  | M | Eyespots – ocelli or any color mark or structure that resembles an eye.  |
|             | C | Warning! – any type of threat or warning display (offensive or defensive)  |
| <b>May</b>  | M | Sea cucumbers – any member of the Class Holothuroidea.   |
|             | C | Brittle stars – any member of the Class Ophiuroidea except basket stars (family Gorgonocephalidae).  |
| <b>June</b> | M | Predators or predation – an animal in the act of stalking or feeding on another animal   |
|             | C | Herbivores or herbivory – an animal in the act of feeding on algae or seagrass (e.g. grazing parrotfishes – even if feeding on “dead” or live coral; tangs; plant-eating molluscs) |
| <b>July</b> | M | Red Algae – any algae of the Phylum Rhodophyta (e.g. crustose corallines, and a huge variety of red to purple or brownish delicate lacy to fleshy seaweeds – mostly small).        |
|             | C | Seagrass – image must feature seagrass or a seagrass bed as the dominate subject.  |
| <b>Aug</b>  | M | Teeth - images must show teeth.  |
|             | C | Weapons – any structure used for offense or defense other than teeth (e.g. sea urchin spines, mantis shrimp raptoral appendage, crab “claws”).                                     |
| <b>Sept</b> | M | Reflections – image must include a reflection of the primary subject.  |
|             | C | Beneath the sun – image must contain a sunball, shafts, or rays of sunlight.   |
| <b>Oct</b>  | M | Haunted castles – reef or wreck scene with a spooky ambience.  |
|             | C | Goulies – any animal that looks ghoulish or frightening.   |
| <b>Nov</b>  | M | Fall colors – must include a substantial amount of orange or red.  |
|             | C | Turkeyfish aka Lionfish: any fish of the subfamily Pteroinae.  |

TBA: On-the-day contest; digital creations.

\*If you are uncertain about what qualifies as an animal or plant category, please consult a reputable guidebook such as Humann/deLoach’s Reef Set. If still in doubt, contact Rob Myers or Mike Schmale well before the contest. They will be happy to clarify this or look at a potential submission to confirm if it fits the category.



**FUTURE  
INTRA-CLUB  
CONTESTS**

**WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST JANUARY:  
CHALLENGERS: Spade Fishes**

**FEBRUARY**

- M - Topside Below
- C - Pairs

**MARCH**

- M - Snappers
- C - Grunts

**APRIL**

- M - Eyespots
- C - Warning!

**MAY**

- M - Sea Cucumbers
- C - Brittle Stars

**JUNE**

- M - Predators
- C - Herbivores

**JULY**

- M - Red Algae
- C - Sea Grass

**AUGUST**

- M - Teeth
- C - Weapons

**SEPTEMBER**

- M - Reflections
- C - Beneath the Sun

**OCTOBER**

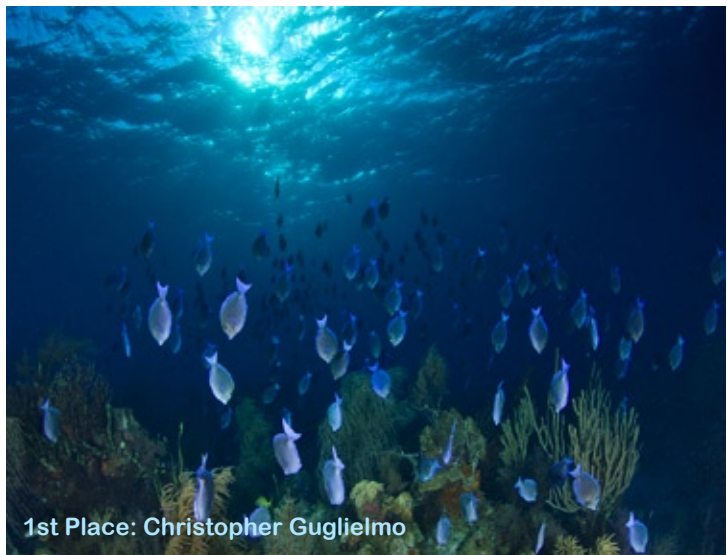
- M - Haunted Castles
- C - Ghoulies

**NOVEMBER**

- M - Fall Colors
- C - Lionfish



WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST JANUARY:  
MASTERS: Surgeonfishes



1st Place: Christopher Guglielmo



2nd Place: Rob Myers



3rd Place: Amaury Cruz



4th Place: Patrice Marker



5th Place: Sharon Baron

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## THE CLASSIFIED'S

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### Pelican 1650 Black Case, Used, But In Good Condition, \$80

Interior Dimensions:

28.50" x 17.37" x 10.50" (72.4 x 44.1 x 26.7 cm)

- Watertight, crushproof, and dust proof
- Easy open Double Throw latches
- Open cell core with solid wall design - strong, light weight
- Fold down handles
- Great for safely shipping photography equipment

Includes a layer of foam in the lid, base, and around the sides.

**Contact Linda Ianniello, [lindai1@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindai1@bellsouth.net) or 561-999-9820**

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Classified ads are free to SFUPS members as space allows. Deadline is the 25th of the month. Requests received after will go into the next month's Newsletter.

Please email ads to Suzan Meldonian at [newsletter@sfups.org](mailto:newsletter@sfups.org) or call (561) 394-6391

**(2) Olympus E-410 camera bodies.** Both in excellent condition. Each camera comes with charger, extra battery, cables, original box, software and manual. \$250.00 each or both for \$450.00.

**(1) Olympus PT-E03 Housing for E-410.** Like new condition. Comes with spare o-ring set, original box and manual. \$650.00

Contact Jeff Hutchinson at [bouncedvr@comcast.net](mailto:bouncedvr@comcast.net) or (954) 612-2922 cell



Recommended strobes would be:

Inon strobes (D-2000 or Z-240) would be the optimum strobes for fiber-optic sync cords.

Only other option is housed Olympus strobes wired to the bulkhead or the small Olympus strobes made by Sea & Sea.

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# PARTING SHOT

Parting Shot  
Photo  
by  
Steve Kovacs

Steve Kovacs  
is the SFUPS

Featured  
Photographer  
for  
FEBRUARY 2009

Visit the NEW  
[www.sfups.org](http://www.sfups.org)  
to see  
the galleries

Update your  
Gallery!

Your on-line gallery  
comes with your  
paid membership..  
Take Advantage!

## JOIN

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11



Ormate Ghost Pipefish, taken in Eilat.

© Steve Kovacs

With our new website, and all the new digital images you've been taking, we need to really, really update our website. So don't waste any time. Go to [www.sfups.org](http://www.sfups.org) for guidelines. We can't wait to see your latest images!

## South Florida Underwater Photography Society MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SFUPS is a Non-Profit Organization promoting interest in Underwater Photography. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (January- November) at 7:30 p.m. at the El Palacio Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn- Pro Player), 21485 N.W. 27th Avenue, Miami

Annual Dues are \$35.00 (individual), \$45.00 (family) and \$20.00 for "Out of Area" non-participating members. Dues are payable each January. After June 1st, dues are prorated to 1/2 of the above rates for new members only.

A Membership form must be filled out, signed and returned along with payment, a copy of your C-card and dive insurance. Make checks payable to SFUPS and send to: 359 Cottonwood Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33487.

Membership forms can be found on our website at [www.sfups.org](http://www.sfups.org) and will also be available at the meetings.