Meeting Schedule

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

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

Cover Shot
Anne DuPont

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

Invasion of the Lionfish
Intra-Club Contest Winners March 2010
Bio Blitz with National Geographic Dive
2010 Intra Club Contest Subjects
Links to Photo Contests
Classifieds
A couple of weeks ago, our Judy Townsend found the first Lionfish to have invaded our beloved Blue Heron Bridge while on a night dive with FORCE -E Divers. This was only 1.5 inches long.

This discovery poses many new issues. For one, the Bridge was declared a No-Take zone in late 2008. Therefore the petition that was signed by so many of us, suddenly works against us.

Lad Akins from REEF has contacted Karen Marcus, the county Commissioner, about rewording the NO TAKE ordinance to include removal and to also allow us to retrieve the invasive species without a PERMIT.

Likewise, he warns that unless you are very, very sure that you can capture or kill them, don't try. They learn quickly and if missed it will be extremely hard to get a second chance. He says they give birth about every 4 days laying up to 30,000 eggs (yes that is the correct amount of zeros!). The egg sack floats up into the water column hangs around for about 2 days, then breaks open so the individual eggs float for another 2 days and then voilà . . . little baby Lionfish all over the place.

Lad is talking about giving training classes to set up a group of people who can catch them when a sighting is reported. However, he needs funding for that, so our thinking caps are on, and if you haven't donated recently to the cause, this would be a good one to consider.

With no known predators, the Lionfish have been found to grow twice the size as the native Pacific ones… up to 1 meter here vs. 1/2 meter there. Akins has said the story of their history here is that the first Lionfish got into our water as a result of Hurricane Andrew and some aquarium breaking. In this month’s Scuba Diving Magazine, Lad has an article about their invasion with impressive images with over 6 in one shot taken in the Bahamas.

So, what keeps this invasive fish in check in the Pacific? Surely someone must know what eats them. Sadly, Lad Akins says that not much research has been done. Akins only has a guess and believes it is some sort of plankton that eats them when the eggs are floating around in the pelagic zone at the very beginning of their life cycle.

Recently on a Lionfish round up in the Bahamas they captured over 1400 in just 1 day!!

We can’t let this happen here!
Your support is needed. Please feel free to contact Lad Akins at Lad@REEF.org for more information or to lend a hand.
Ruth Petzold has had a life long passion for photography and the sea. Born in Michigan, Ruth blends her love of nature into unique photographic images.

She has traveled to exotic and remote parts of the world in pursuit of her subject matter and has worked closely with Dr. Eugenie Clark “The Shark Lady,” and Dr. Denise Herzing of the Wild Dolphin Project.

Her work is a collection of artistic and humorous portraits of the natural world and it’s curious inhabitants. She has captured the personalities and antics of such creatures as Herman the Hermit Crab, and Eleanor the Eel, in their ocean homes as well as the charismatic creatures of Africa, Antarctica and the Arctic.

Her works have been displayed in one person shows in national museums and galleries. She has received a gold medal for international photography and has been published in various scientific journals and in National Geographic. To see more go to: http://www.ruthpetzold.com
Get the Lead out Dive – Tune up the BC- Don’t Flood the Camera!

We are off to a great start- what a line up! There should be sign up sheets at the next meeting or contact Carol Schurtz if you wish to sign up. Here’s a quick note from Carol regarding tipping etiquette:

We tip a waiter 15-20 percent for taking our order and bringing the food and drinks to our table for 1-2 hrs. Tip on $60= $9-12.
We tip the Dive master for helping us get on the boat, fixing our tanks, taking care of our entry and exits, handling our valuable cameras, rescuing us if needed, And a whole lot more for 5-6 hours. $10-15 depending on your needs? Think about it and tip accordingly. Yours truly . . . the Mad Mermaid.

April 17  1:30 PM Dive on the Little Deeper in West Palm Beach
561-436-5299 http://www.littledeepercharters.com
12:30 Show  1:30 Go
Cost: $70.00 plus tip. This is the weekend of the Palm Beach Reef cleanup. There will be drawings and a BBQ at Phil Foster Park after the dive. Lots of give aways from the dive shops and boats

April 30- May 1  Bio Blitz at Biscayne National Park Homestead with National Geographic & National Parks
Public on-line registration for the general public (including your family and friends) is officially open. Registration is linked from the main Bio Blitz page www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz. Anybody who wants to reserve a spot on one of the NGS-chartered snorkel or ferry boats must do so on that site. Those spots are likely to fill quickly.
This is an opportunity for the public to go into Biscayne Bay and the surrounding National Park to assist National Parks and National Geographic “inventory” the natural wildlife. Free to the public. Lots of fun family activities for the junior scientist in us all.

SFUPS PARTICIPATION:
MAY 1 Sat. morning dive at Biscayne Bay. SFUPS has (2) 6 packs on reserve. We have 11 signed up, 1 spot open, 2 on waiting list. Please contact Suzan at wussdiver@bellsouth.net if you are interested. Photos will be submitted to National Geographic. NGS is not sponsoring scuba for Bio Blitz due to liability, but we have been approved to submit our photo documentation.
Let me know if you are interested in going. Price is $75 with your own tanks, or $90 using theirs.

May 8  Tennaco Towers  1:00 PM  SHOW  1:30 GO! Davie area
Cost $55.00 Tip Not included info@scubafortlauderdale.com

May 15  Dive the Keys with Blue Water Diver  12:30 Show 1:00 GO  Key Largo
Max. 10 divers
Cost $78.00 includes tanks http://www.bluewaterdiver.net
June 12  Starfish  Lantana
7:15 AM  Show  8:00 AM Go  http://www.idivestarfish.com
Cost $55.00 Tip Not included

June 26  On-The-Day Contest!! NIGHT DIVE with South Florida Diving Headquarters
(Pompano out of Fish City Marina)  http://www.southfloridadiving.com
5:30 Show  6pm GO
Cost $52.00 Tip Not included- this is a 2 tank dive
Twilight then a night dive on wrecks.

July 3  SHARK TOOTH DIVE  - Venice  941-486-1400
Back by popular demand  http://www.megladoncharters.com
1:00 Spend all afternoon looking for Megladon Shark Teeth
12 spots open
Recommended hotels: Hampton Inn, or Motel 6

Jul 4  SHARK TOOTH DIVE  Venice  941-486-1400
8:00 AM Shark Tooth Dive
For those of you who want to look some more

Aug 14  Keys

Sept 25- Oct 3  Coral spawn in Bonaire  or with Slate’s in the Keys

Aug 28  Jupiter

Sept 5  Starfish, Lantana

Oct 3  Miami Wreck Dives

Oct 16  Pumpkin Carving and Costume Dive  Blue Heron Bridge
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST:
March: Masters Jellyfish

1st Place: Steve Kovacs
2nd Place: Steve Kovacs
3rd Place: Wayne MacWilliams
3rd Place: Christopher Guglielmo
5th Place: Suzan Meldonian
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST March
CHALLENGERS: Sea Slugs

1st Place: Fletcher Forbes

2nd Place: Judy Townsend

3rd Place: Lureen Ferretti

4th Place: Kirk Kilfoyle

5th Place: Judy Townsend

APR 2010
FUTURE INTRA-CLUB CONTESTS

APRIL
M - Silhouettes
C - Ambient Light

MAY
M - Pretty Pink
C - Patterns

JUNE
M - Humor
C - W/A Sponges

JULY
M - Polka Dots
C - Bars & Stripes

AUGUST
M - Squid/Cuttlefish
C - Octopus

SEPTEMBER
M - Close Focus W/A
C - Reef Scapes

OCTOBER
M - Carry da Load
C - Hitchin a Ride

NOVEMBER
M - Commensalism
C - Cleaning Station
CREATIVE

DECEMBER
VIDEO DUE
& HOLIDAY PARTY

2010 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 Alena Carlini at audiovisual@sfups.org by 12 noon on the Sunday before the meeting.

Once an image has won in any category, it must be retired from further competitions.

Alena will send you a confirming email to let you know she has received the file. Send to audiovisual@sfups.org

If you can’t find your newsletter- you can always check on our website. www.sfups.org For our new members, winning shots accumulate points throughout the year. Challengers may compete in both Challengers and Masters categories. Only 2 entries per month -per person (except on the day contests). Masters are those who have previously won Photographer of the year, and they may only compete in the Masters categories.

The person with the highest points wins the illustrious title of “Photographer of the Year” and is awarded a beautiful trophy. Please see the website for the point system. Good luck! Bonne chance!
MASTERS

FEBRUARY
Odd Couples – main subject of the photo is two fish/creatures that are not of the same species doing something together. The key word is odd – this excludes cleaning or symbiosis which are “normal” for the featured species.

MARCH
Jellies – includes jellyfishes, box jellies, salps, and other free-swimming gelatinous or jelly-like animals.

APRIL
Silhouettes – subject must be very dark to black against a light background.

MAY
Pretty in Pink

JUNE
Humor – may include divers.

JULY
Polka Dots – a fish or creature that has well-defined dots, not irregular splotches.

AUGUST
Squid or Cuttlefish

SEPTEMBER
Close Focus Wide Angle – forced perspective - the main subject is very close to the lens and looks larger than life when compared to the wide angle background.

OCTOBER
Carry the Load – a creature physically carrying something. (e.g. crab with urchin on back, jawfish with rock in mouth, cardinalfish with eggs in mouth).

NOVEMBER
Commensalism – two different animals living together in a symbiotic relationship in which one or both benefit but neither is harmed (e.g. Shrimp-goby with its host shrimp, anemonefish in host anemone).

CHALLENGERS

FEBRUARY
Sand Dwellers – fishes or other mobile creatures that make their home in the sand (animals, not plants; may include anemones, sea pens - which are soft corals, mushroom corals - which are hard corals).

MARCH
Sea Slugs - must be a gastropod mollusk which includes headshield slugs, sapsucking slugs, side-gill slugs, seahares and nudibranchs. Does not include flatworms.

APRIL
Ambient Light – no strobes, photos taken in shallower water work best.

MAY
Wide Angle featuring Sponges – a sponge or group of sponges as the main subject of the W/A photo.

JUNE
Bars & Stripes – subject must have contrasting vertical (bars), horizontal (stripes) or oblique bands or lines of color.

JULY
Reef Scapes – reef scenes shot with a wide angle lens.

AUGUST
Octopus

SEPTEMBER
Hitching a Ride – a fish or creature riding on another fish/creature. (e.g. a remora on a shark, a shrimp on a nudibranch).

OCTOBER
Cleaning Stations - must feature the cleaner and its client(s).

S P E C I A L (November)
“Creative” – anything goes (no points for this one, just have fun & let your imagination run wild).

To be announced: Sometime between May and October there will be an on-the-day contest in which contestants participate in a dive or dives and submit up to two of their photos taken on those dives. This one is for points, open to all club members. Space may be limited depending on the venue, so sign up early once this is announced.
2010 Windland Smith Rice International Awards

**DEADLINE** April 5, 2010

Nature's Best Photography magazine invite all photographers to enter the 2010 Windland Smith Rice International Awards competition. Category Winners and a selection of Highly Honored photographs will be displayed in an exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, one of the most widely respected and highly visited museums in the world. In addition, all winning images will be published in the 2010 Awards collector’s edition of Nature’s Best Photography magazine. Entries are judged on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. Enter a TOTAL of up to 20 images for one entry fee of $25 US dollars this website or mailed to our office in Reston, Virginia, USA (see below). **Deadline: January 1 until April 5, 2010**

Nature’s Best Photography
http://www.naturesbestphotography.com/enter_guidelines.php

National Wildlife Deadline is July 6.
http://www.nwf.org/PhotoContest/ is now accepting entries to our 40th annual contest. Cash prizes totaling more than $30,000 — including two $5,000 grand prizes — 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 2010 issue of the magazine. Enter today! Visit our 2010 Contest page for entry details and categories.

BioBlitz 2010 - Biscayne National Park, Florida

**A Chance to work with National Geographic in Biscayne Bay Apr 30- May 1**

1 spot open for SFUPS approved

Dear BioBlitzers: On-line registration is now closed for scientists, naturalists, and other experts.

www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz

Sign up to participate as the public. By clicking on the website, you can sign up to be notified when participation sign up is open to the public. Should be any day now.

This year’s BioBlitz is logistically complicated because most travel requires boats and we cannot assume liability for the use of boats provided by anyone other than the National Park Service.

Please note that registration will open soon for the public registration site. We expect to discovering all sorts of fascinating organisms.

Best wishes, Tim Watkins NGS/NPS Bioblitz Team Bioblitz@ngs.org
FOR SALE:
Canon XT (300D) Digital Rebel (body only), Ikelite housing with built-in electronic controls, 6-inch dome port for wide angle and flat port for 18-55 or 60 mm macro lenses, charger, two batteries and owner’s manual. Both camera and housing are in perfect working condition. The camera has a scratch on the top. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,000 firm.

Contact Amaury Cruz - amaurycruz@yahoo.com

FOR SALE:
Light & Motion “SunRay Mini-S Pro Video Lights”. Includes (2) HID Lightheads on Infinity Arms w/ Wet Connectors, (2) Battery Pods, (4) Lithium-Ion Battery Packs & 110/240 Fast Charger. Very Good Condition..........................................................$995.00

Light & Motion “SunRay Mini-S Elite Video Lights”. Includes (2) Halogen Lightheads on Infinity Arms w/ Wet Connectors, (2) Battery Pods, (4) NiMH Battery Packs & 110/240 Fast Charger. Very Good Condition..........................................................$599.00
***Buy Both and will include @ no cost a hardware kit to “stack” (4) battery pods for long burn times on a single dive.

Olympus PT-E03 Housing. Includes Olympus E-410 DSLR Camera, Zuiko ED 14-42mm Zoom Lens, Olympus PPO-E05 Lens Port for 14-42mm, extra camera battery, battery charger, CF 2GB memory card, spare o-rings, INON fiber-optic kit, manuals & boxes. (Only need zoom gear for lens, strobe(s) and strobe arm(s) for complete system using included 14-42mm lens)...................$995.00

SeaQuest Black Diamond BC. Size XL. Like new condition w/ standard power inflator..........................................................$275.00

Contact Jeff Hutchinson. E-mail: bouncedvr@comcast.net or mobile 954-612-2922

For Sale:
Package of ULCS parts - $200 OBO:
2 12” ARMS  2 8” ARMS  2 4” ARMS  5 clamps

Dual Nikonos to Ikelite TTL cord: Great condition. $50.00
Pelican case 23X18X9” $40.00
Pelican case: 19x13x8 $30.00
Contact: Susan Schermer at livingthings@the-beach.net or 305 588-7234
RAJA AMPAT TO KOMODO TRIP May 3- MAY 19   3 SPOTS LEFT

The purpose of this email is to alert you (and hopefully thereby the members of SFUPS) about the second of our documentation/research expeditions. I'll be leading this one from May 3-19 in the same general region as Keri's December trip. This is a 16-day cruise aboard Pindito from Raja Ampat almost all the way to Komodo... a tremendous itinerary which is ideally suited to our mission of documenting as many species as possible. The full details for our expedition goals and the particulars about the upcoming expedition are at:


We are looking to fill 3 remaining spaces with keen photographers, videographers, and/or marine life enthusiasts with good eyes. Naturally we again thought of you and your friends/members. Perhaps you can get the word out?

Looking forward to meeting and diving with you one day!

Kris

RSMAS Sea Secrets Lectures Back in Full swing
http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/info/calendar/

RSMAS PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE APRIL 18th !!!

The University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science is accepting submissions for the Annual Underwater Photography Contest, now through April 18th. The contest is open to amateur photographers who earn no more than 20 percent of their income from photography. Since its inception in 2005, the contest has drawn entrants from across the globe submitting more than 400 images per year. Photographs are judged in five separate categories: Fish or Marine Animal Portrait, Macro, Wide Angle, Student, and Best Overall. The winning images are announced at the last Rosenstiel School's Sea Secrets lecture and are displayed in a traveling exhibit throughout the South Florida community.

Please see our website for contest rules, entry form, and previous winners.

http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/support/advancement/uw-2010/
Parting Shot

by
Anne DuPont

Anne DuPont is the SFUPS Featured Photographer for April 2010

Visit www.sfups.org to see our galleries

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

JOIN SFUPS

update your Gallery!

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:

Steve Jarocki, 8907 W. Oakland Pk. Blvd., Sunrise, FL 33351

Membership forms can be found on our website at www.sfups.org and will also be available at the meetings.

Chain pipefish, Syngnathus louisianae, Lake Worth Lagoon, Riviera Beach, FL

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