Lunarscope

September 2022

MWaltins Sci

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Jordon Casev

Fieldwork on coral reefs in Australia, Indonesia, and French Polynesia.



Dr. Jordan Casey is an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute (UTMSI). Jordan joined UTMSI in 2021 after completing her Ph.D. at James Cook University in Australia, a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, and another postdoc at the Centre de Recherches Insulaires et

Observatoire de l'Environnement in France and French Polynesia. She is a ecologist investigates trophic interactions that reefs. Specifically, Jordan uses molecular tools such as DNA metabarcoding to reconstruct food webs, reveal cryptic biological interactions, examine trophic dynamics across biogeographical gradients, and examine the resilience of food webs under global change. With over 1,000 scientific dives in the Indo-Pacific and the Caribbean, SCUBA diving is an integral component of her work.

Jordan will provide an overview of the Marine Science Institute and discuss research highlights from fieldwork on coral reefs in Australia, Indonesia, and French Polynesia.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759900375? pwd=eEcvVVlsN1FjU3NaSHZ0T1J5MnREZz09

Meeting ID: 827 5990 0375 Passcode: 594562



Lunarfins Board Meetings are held every other each month. Our next meet will be in October. (except December) at 6:30 PM.

Will be a ZOOM Meeting only

If you have an item to bring before the board, contact any board member to get on the agenda.

Inside this issue

- 2 Events Calendar, Club Officers
- 3 President Notes, Thank you to last month speaker
- 4 New Meeting Place & Haak Winery Get-together
- 5 Beach Party-Texas City
- 6 Brion's "O" Crap Article
- 7 Mike Peters—Rainbow Lobster & Long Spined Urchin's
- 8 About our Members, Paul Cater Deaton, Stanley Fontento & Mike Peters
- 9 About our Members-(continued)
- 10 Brion's Corner
- 11 Brion's Corner (Continued)
- 12 Fling Trips
- 13 Brion Shared-Bumpy Blue Things
- 14 You should have been
- 15 You should have been there (continued)
- 16 Dive Shops

Paul Cater Deaton, Stanley Fontento, Mike Peters, Ja Van Pruett. Cindy Reuland, Brion Saathoff



Lunarfins P.O. Box 57514 Webster, TX 77598-7514

Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)



Membership

2022 Membership dues are Now being accepted.

Membership runs from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st 2023

The renewal form is required each year in February.

Please bring the form (below) to the next meeting or mail it in.

Please fill in all fields completely so that records can be verified this time around.

Don't forget to check your interest (s) and if you want to be included in the directory.

Membership Application

https://www.lunarfins.com/





Sept. 20th — General Meeting — Dr. Jordon Casey - Fieldwork on coral reefs in Australia, Indonesia, and French Polynesia

Sept. 17th— Haak Winery — La Marque 12:00pm (see P4)

Oct. 2nd — Beach Party— Texas City Dike 12:00pm (see P5)

Oct. 18th — General Meeting — Amanda Terry — Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Coastal Bend

Nov. TBA—Iceland—@ Moody Gardens—Opens Nov. 3rd

Nov. 15th — General Meeting — Bob Sanders — TBA

Dec. 11th — Lunarfins Scuba Club Christmas Party @ Opus Grill

Jan. TBA — Movie —'Avatar: The Way of Water'

Folks! Please remember, the more you volunteer for leadership or to be in charge of an event. The more you enjoy your club.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President **Cindy Reuland** Do you have **Vice President** Ja Van Pruett any ideas for **Deana Coale** Secretary John Gorman **Treasurer** event or **Social Director Brion Saathoff**

APPOINTED

Speakers for Training information Bill Jones 2023? **Trip information** PJ Campagna/ Please share

Deana Coale them with **TGCC** Representative **Tom Burns** any of our **Advisor Dennis Deavenport Advisor** PeeWee Dwire officers.

Advisor Mike Peters Newsletter Ja Van Pruett Website **Tom Burns**

Topics for

Lunarfins President's Notes

September 2022

Hello Lunarfins!

In August we started with a presentation by Shelby Dill on Skin Bends which was super informative for all divers. Good to be safe in the water and prevent injuries. I hope you were able to attend. We successfully connected it as a hybrid meeting. Thank you, Dennis for getting us setup! In September, we have a great speaker who will be speaking to us from another location. So, we will have a hybrid meeting in September. We thank you ahead for your patience. We are looking for ways to improve hybrid meetings since it allows us to have more access to speakers and allows members not present to participate. If you have experience with hybrid meetings, let us know. We would love to have your input and help. In August we had a nice brunch at La Brisa. Thank you, Brion for setting it up and for Kim taking RSVPs.

At September's meeting, we will have a special guest speaker, Dr. Jordan Casey, to tell us about her research on coral reefs in Australia, Indonesia, and French Polynesia. Don't miss it! Come in person or join on-line.

Brion has scheduled some great events for this Fall starting with a visit to Haak Winery on September 17 and a Beach Party at the Texas City Dike on October 2nd. RSVP to Kim Murphy and be sure to attend! It's not too early to put on your calendar the annual Christmas party scheduled on Sunday December 11th at Opus Ocean Grille!

Join us for fun events and volunteer to help with them to make your Lunarfins experience more meaningful! If you are new to diving, let us know and we can set you up with some dive training and trip ideas. If you have been diving this summer, share with us your experience at our September meeting.

See you in September!

Cindy Reuland

Thank you

Our speakers for August meeting was **Shelby Dill. Shelby gave an excellent report on her experience with Skin Bends** including hospitalization and hyperbaric chamber treatments.

If you missed there presentation, I am so sorry for you. .

We met at Spring Creek Barbeque on Gulf Freeway, same place we will meet in September & October. Please let a member of the Lunarfins Board of Directors on what you thought of the location.



A new place — Spring Creek Barbeque

Be sure to check out their menu http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com

September 20th, 6:00pm

Come at 6pm—and order, 6:30—announcements & social

Speaker start at 7:00 pm

2710 Gulf Fwy S., League City TX 77573

Up Coming Events



Lunarfins Get-to-gether Brunch Haak Winery



<u>Saturday Sept. 17th— 12:00pm – ???</u>

Brunch from 11 am to 2 pm at the Bistro or you can have a meal from 3 to 8 pm Visit the new Napa Wine Stations to do tastings at your own leisure.

Saturday Tour Schedule

12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm Cost \$35.00 person. Haak Winery is currently requesting a security deposit to save your date and tour time due to the limited number of guests on tours.

<u>Please Contact</u> – Kim Murphy to <u>RSVP</u> -

kamurph5717@gmail.com

6310 Avenue T — Santa Fe, Texas 77510

For more information: www.haakwine.com



Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Oct. 2nd @ 12:00PM Contact Kim Murphy 979-264-1621

Hello everyone! Just a quick note to let everybody know about the beach party. It will be Saturday, Oct. 02 on Texas City Dike 12 o'clock until whenever. I will be bringing snacks,

water and some drinks. Don't forget your chairs and umbrellas and if you want bring a lunch. Just look for the Lunarfins flag



Brion Saathoff — "O" Crap



I have a friend that I am very close to that has been hounding me for years to take him in the water and let him scuba dive. I have told him that I am not an instructor and that I not not going to do that over and over again.

A while back in one of the PADI magazines I found an article that justified my refusal to do this. The article is written by Eric Douglas who co-authored the book scuba diving safety.

It is titled **BEGINNERS MISFORTUNE**

An untrained over face of panic on descent. Stan was an uncertified diver, but his buddies convinced him to try scuba anyway. Underwater, he didn't understand how to get a breath from his regulator - he struggled with his gear for a minute and then looked around for help. Only then did he realize he was alone.

STAN was 23 years old, in good health and comfortable in the water, but he had no dive training. It was his first time ever using scuba equipment.

STAN met his two buddies at the site and they gave him some extra gear and a quick tutorial on how it all worked. They overweighted him so he wouldn't have any trouble getting down. They entered the water and swam on the surface from about 15 yards past the surf zone, where they began their descent. Dive conditions were good that day, but Visibility was low due to recent rains.

As soon as Stan put his head underwater his rig began free-flowing and he panicked. His buddies had submerged before him. When they turned around to look for him, Stan was gone. Rescuers pulled Stan's body from the bottom-about 50 yards away from where they began their descent-in 13 feet of seawater. The death was determined to be due to drowning, with panic is a contributing factor.

The first mistake was an uncertified diver entering the water unsupervised by an instructor. This is not the first time I've heard of Certified divers doing this with non-divers thinking everything will be OK we're not going that deep. Thankfully the stories that I've heard from other divers over the years ended that the non-diver had issues but did not die.

The second mistake was that they loaned him gear that was not their primary gear so it probably had not been maintained is it should've been nor used for a long period of time.

An investigation into the incident found that the regulator was malfunctioning, causing it to free flow. Without training, Stan didn't know how to react to this emergency. Lastly, Stan's buddies had overweighted him. The extra weight caused Stan to struggle on the surface and then made it difficult for him to resurface. Since he hadn't practiced with the equipment, stand it know how to inflate his BCD to make himself buoyant.

The best way to overcome panic, or keep it at bay entirely, is the practice dive skills so they can become second nature. He never knew those skills. By not wanting to disappoint his buddies, he lost his life, and the lives of his buddies were negatively impacted as well.

I would really love to be able to dive with my friend but he will have to pay the money and take the time to learn how to dive properly. And if you really think about it if it were just him and I down there and I had an issue that I could not overcome, He would not be able to help me so not only would I be risking his life but I could be risking my own.

Mike Peters — Shares — Rainbow Lobster



RAINBOW LOBSTER



Tropical rock lobster (Panulirus ornatus) is a large spiny lobster with 11 larval stages. It migrates annually from the Torres Strait to Yule Island in the Gulf of Papua in order to breed. After the migration the sexes segregate by water depth. Males enter shallower water and females enter deeper water until the eggs have hatched. Female Panulirus ornatus produce up to three broods with a reduction in size of each subsequent brood.

There is no return migration of breeding adults. Reproductive migration across the Gulf of Papua occurs in order to disperse larvae in oceanic currents that favour their distribution near the Torres Strait. Dispersed throughout the eastern coast of Australia. Panulirus ornatus larvae must migrate as juveniles

they remain in specific reef complex for 1–2 years until they are of breeding age and undertake the annual mass migration to breed.

Long-spined Sea Urchins News



Long-spined Sea Urchins are in Trouble and You Can Help!

Help track sea urchin health in the Caribbean by adding your observations of healthy, sick or dead urchins. These reports will help determine the causes and allow scientists to work on restoration approaches. You can report your sightings by visiting the AGRRA website at https://www.agrra.org/sea-urchin-die-off/.

The following infographic was prepared by Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA). Visit https://dcnanature.org/diadema-reporting/ to learn more.

About our Members

Thank you for sharing

Paul Cater Deaton, Stanley Fontento, and Mike Peters for the following beautiful pictures of the USS Texas



https://fb.watch/fesZhGExDr/





USS Texas is the only surviving battleship that served in both world wars, having fought in Europe during World War I and against the Nazis and the Japanese Army during World War II.

But the greatest challenge in recent years for the USS Texas has been a leaky, rusty hull that at times forced workers to pump out about 2,000 gallons of water per minute from the 110-year-old ship.

To ensure the historic vessel, commonly known to Texas residents as the Battleship Texas, doesn't sink and can continue hosting visitors, the foundation in charge of its care successfully towed the ship on Wednesday from its longtime home along the Houston Ship Channel to a shipyard in Galveston for repairs.

About nine hours later at around 4 p.m., the ship arrived in Galveston to cheering crowds of spectators. Four tugboats had pulled the vessel at a pace of about 5 knots.



Sent in by Mike Peters-Travis Davis

About our Members, (Continued)

congratulations





The paintings behind us are the originals for the work being installed in the tunnel at Bush Intercontinental airport 240 feet of flower gardens national marine sanctuary art.

Brion will be at
Mammoth Lake on
Sept. 11th, Sunday to
dive.

Brion's Corner



Hello everyone! I hope all is well,

I got to spend some time with the Covid monster last month that was a learning experience I don't wish that on anybody. I would like to apologize for not posting more days to dive at

Mammoth Lake. as most of you know I lost my constant dive buddy to the beautiful land of Cabo San Lucas. Fortunately, last month a young lady named Shanna Crewe and her 15-year-old son Weston offered to dive with me when she saw my post on our Facebook site. it turned out to be a great day and I made new friends; I hope to dive with them more often. We had the Dive into the Gulf expo at Moody Gardens that was really cool there were some amazing speakers, just to name a few of them was Jessie Concelmo, Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee (she did all the art for the show). Brooke Shipley, Jake Emmet (Dive safety officer at Moody Gardens) There was a raffle. some of the folks we all know donated to the raffle. Texas Scuba adventures. (They sponsored try diving time in the pool also). Eric and Ann (dive mom) from Oceanic Ventures. And many more. And then these folks all did it again (silent auction) for the lion fish banquet on the ninth floor at the hotel at Moody Gardens. I got to make new friends, got to see old friends. our friend Paul Cater Deaton (you really need to look his work up) was there, the view was spectacular, The Lion fish was awesome, Jake Emmert told us that it was going to be an entrée item on the menu at Moody Gardens hotel from now on. If you've never, had it you need to come try it and the lounge on the ninth floor has a really nice view. I could go on and on, I wish I could list everybody and everything. y'all all need to put that on your calendar for next year I'm sure it's going to be even bigger and better. It's for a good cause, it's all to benefit the mesophotic one of the Flower Gardens Marine National Sanctuary.

So, OK I need to get to the point. The fling is doing the lion fish round up this month and we've just had the lionfish banquet at Moody, so it would only make sense to to look into the Issues with lionfish and see what makes them tick.

LION FISH.(Pterois)

P. Volotans and P. Miles are the most significant invasive species in the Western Atlantic, Caribbean, Mediterranean Sea and most recently the flower gardens marine national sanctuary.

I remember years ago a friend had a saltwater aquarium and he had some lion fish in it, I told him that was awesome I would love to have an aquarium with lion fish in it they were beautiful. I think part of the problem was that a lot of people thought they were beautiful and then when they tired of them as unfortunately a lot of humans do with pets, they released them into the wild thinking that they were being kind. (Remember: the invasive species article).

I'm sure some seagoing lionfish have also found their way here.

One of the big problems is it lionfish are skilled hunters using specialized bilateral swim bladder muscles to control its location in the water column, it allows the fish to better attack its prey. They blow jets of water at their prey apparently to disorient them as the lion fish approaches them. in addition to confusing the prey these Jets of water also change the orientation of the Prey that way it is facing the lionfish, this results in a higher degree of efficiency as headfirst capture is easiest for the lionfish.

The lionfish is 18 venomous spines and a very large mouth. They are known to be over eaters, in fact they found 15 fish in a 9-inch long lion fish, the creature most commonly eaten in the sanctuary is the red Knight shrimp. But they will suck up anything that they can fit in their oversized mouths. Most lionfish examined have oversize globs of fat in their guts indicating they're over eating and becoming obese. I learned at Moody Gardens that you have to be careful about overfeeding fish because they can get fatty liver which is unhealthy and will kill them.

Brion's Corner - Continued

The lion fish is very good to eat, it is like a cross between a Chilean Seabass and a lobster. Fillets of at least 100 g are sent in for testing for ciquatera Which is common in a lot of groupers, file fish and other fish in the sanctuary area and its outskirts. So far everything indicates that the fish is safe to eat and for all my Jewish friends it is also considered kosher so you can actually try what a lobster would taste like.

A single female can spawn over 2 million eggs per year.

When they reach maturity, they can release 50,000 eggs every three days so between their predatory skills and their ability to rapidly reproduce this puts a severe strain on the ecosystems of wherever they wind up.

A 2021 publication based on research shows the oldest recorded Lion fish in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico was found at West Bank in 2018 the age placed it at 10 years old which puts him in the area before the first lionfish were observed in the sanctuary in 2011. Fortunately, between the lionfish round ups and divers getting trained to remove them the numbers have been kept lower than expectations which unfortunately even one line fish is too many. A single lionfish located on a reef reduced young juvenile reef fish populations by 79%. In 2010 Noah began a campaign to encourage the consumption of the fish. And from what Jake told us at the banquet is he found a company that not only provides lion fish fillets but makes leather out of their hides which would be a very unique looking leather. The biggest problem is so far there is only one way to get a lionfish they do not take bait on hooks and they get wise to culling efforts from divers so they tend to go deeper or hide more during the daytime hours when the culling is happening. From what I have read biologists are having more luck at learning to trap them without trapping other species that are not desired to be removed. The bottom line is I do like the meat so hopefully it will increase on the market and I think I would love to have a pair of lionfish boots.

Everybody be safe out there and keep your fins up. *Brion Saathoff*

Lion Fish Recipe (Served at Dive into the Gulf Dinner)

Lionfish will be seared to 135° F and then rest and come to temperature. Napped with Austrian Blanc Sauce

AUSTRIAN BEURRE BLANC SAUCE

½ cup of white wine vingar and ½ cup of sweet Pinot Grigio Reduced to ¼ c 1 cup of Heavy Cream Reduced to 1/3 of a cup 1 lb. of Room Temperature Unsalted Butter cut into 1-inch cubes Turn Burner off Wisk in Butter cube 1 at a time until a half lb. is melted into sauce pot Add the rest and whisk until all is incorporated Add ½ cup fresh chopped tarragon and salt and white pepper to taste Keep hot for service

For more information on Lionfish: check out "All hands on deck: All hands on deck: How researchers and divers are testing creative ways to quell the lionfish invasion-By Laura Pellicer

https://www.wunc.org/environment/2022-08-25/hands-deck-researchers-divers-testing-quell-lionfish-invasion-creep?fbclid=lwAR2xYLKvnbbZBRedNW3K2 FbTtP8BQrgVL5jO93qdOMz4GTumK57jWRR8Ug



Fling Charters 2022 Trips:

Sept. 10-11 —SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Sept. 12-14 — MTW (3-Day) Lionfish Invitational Cruise #2

Sept 15-16 — Th-F (2-day) Lionfish Hunt

Sept. 17-18 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Sept. 19-21 — MTW (3-day) Flower Gardens Excursion Trip

Sept. 22-23 — Th-F (2-day) Lionfish Hunt

Sept. 24-25 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Sept. 29-30 — Th-F (2-day) Oil Platform Excursion

Oct. 1-2 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Oct. 8-9 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Oct. 10-12 — MTW (3-day) Flower Gardens Excursion Trip

Oct. 15-16 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Oct. 22-23 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Oct. 29-30 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Here's the new web page: <u>TexasCaribbean.com</u>

Brion Saathoff Shared — "Bumpy blue things"



Scientists find blue 'unknown organism' during exploration of Caribbean Sea floor

NOAA scientists believed the unknown organism — or 'blue goo' — could be a soft coral, a sponge or a tunicate

NOAA scientists exploring <u>deep-water areas of the Caribbean Sea</u> uncovered what they described as unknown organisms that appeared blue and formless during a recent dive.

The strange creatures were found during the NOAA's Voyage to the Ridge expedition on Aug. 30 southwest of St. Croix, the agency said.

A photo posted on the agency's website from the expedition shows one of the blue organisms covered in apparent bumps.



At the time of observation, scientists were uncertain whether this organism seen during Dive 08 of the third Voyage to the Ridge expedition was a soft coral, a sponge, or a tunicate. (NOAA Ocean Exploration, Voyage to the Ridge 2022)

However, the find left scientists stumped.

<u>CALIFORNIANS PLAGUED WITH FEET-EATING 'MINI-SHARK' BUGS</u>



The aggregation of sea urchins, with at least 35 individuals, was a rarely observed phenomenon seen during Dive 08 of the third Voyage to the Ridge 2022 expedition. (NOAA Ocean Exploration, Voyage to the Ridge 2022)

The team said the highlight of Dive 08 was the rare sight of a gathering of the sea urchin *Conolampas sigsbei* at what may have been a breeding event.

Congratulations: Paul Cater Deaton



Paul Cater Deaton produced a national commercial for Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, a favorite in the Virgin Islands.

Bolongo Bay's in Paul's DNA. From coming back on the dive boat to see my bronze little girl running across the beach to meet Daddy, to performing at Iggie's with top shelf musicians, a lot of the most memorable moments of my 19 years in the Caribbean happened here.

Wheel of Fortune uses footage from this shoot when Bolongo Bay is the prize. About every three months, we'll get texts and IMs from friends all over the country, saying that they saw us on the show. (When you're the producer, you get to give yourself a cameo.)

Many thanks to the Doumeng family for suffering the slings and arrows of running a hotel, and thanks to Mikael for the cool aerial shots!



Lunarfins Get-to-gether Brunch at La Brisa

Brion Saathoff, and his grandchildren (Makenna and Julian), Kim Murphy, Mike Peters, Janie Craven and her daughter, John Garman, Gloria McGlothlin,

Bob and Marilyn Pushchinsky, Ja Van Pruett, PeeWee Dwire

Photo's by Brion Saathoff

Below is what you missed out on.





Happy Birthday! to

<u>anyone</u> that has
a birthday this month!

May <u>your day be wonderful!</u>

The Lunarfins Scuba Club was organized in 1963 by a small group of divers who worked at the Manned Spacecraft Center, as Johnson Space Center (JSC) was known back then. The club grew primarily through the sponsorship of SCUBA training classes, local dive trips and social activities. Since that time, membership has broadened to include anyone interested in diving. The majority of our members are in some way affiliated with NASA but this is not a requirement for membership and we have members from all across the board.

Lunarfins P.O. Box 57514 Webster TX 77598-7514

281-851-5206 webeditor@lunarfins.com

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/687047211312336

Website:

https://www.lunarfins.com/

TGCC

https://www.tgccdiving.org/

TPWD reefs:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/ landwater/water/habitats/ artificial_reef/



You should have been there!!

DIVE INTO THE GULF



Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casko Rd – Freeport TX captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml



Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX www.divetrip.com



Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Dr. – Houston TX oceanicventures.com



REEF Trips

Dive Vacations That Count – Key Largo FL reef.org/trips



Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX txdivecenter.com/







Gigglin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX gigglinmarlin.com



Maximum Scuba

134 Gulf Freeway North – League City TX maximum-scuba.com



Outside The Asylum

15015 Westheimer Rd #H – Houston TX otadiving.com



Sport Divers

20814 Gulf Fwy #60 – Webster TX sportdivers.com



Texas Scuba Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX texasscubaadventures.com



