

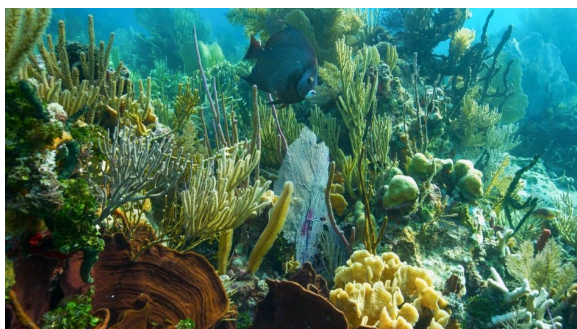


Lunarfins Scuba Club

TREASURE OF THE CARIBBEAN

Sept. 19th

An exceptional video that your Vice Pres./Editor wanted to share.



A Story of Hope in Troubling Times

Guatemala. A fisherman struggling to feed his family is forced further offshore and discovers an unknown reef a great distance from the mainland. The reef is brimming with life and big school of fish the likes of which haven't been seen before. When a handful of scientists find out, they conspire with local fishers to keep the reef a secret – and for good reason.

If word gets out, the reef will be plundered by a host of forces, such as illegal fishers from neighboring countries, unscrupulous charter boat captains catering to wealthy sports fishers, and fisheries officials willing to look the other way to line their pockets.

'Treasure of the Caribbean' is a rich mix of adventure, natural history, and cutting-edge conservation science told against a ticking clock.

The heroes of the story form an unlikely alliance: fishers, scientists and conservationists are working together to explore and protect the reef. What they are finding thus far is staggering. The reef is approximately 250 square kilometers, five times the size of Manhattan, featuring three times the live coral cover of any reef in the region, and it's teeming with life! There are canyons, vertical walls, subsea cliffs, and deep ocean caves. But what's most remarkable is that the edge of the reef is studded by giant spires that sprout hundreds of feet off the sea floor, forming points that look like a crown, giving rise to its name, 'the Cayman Crown'.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTdZ09)
[pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTdZ09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTdZ09)

Meeting ID: 836 7464 2772

Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Monday of the Month. Our next meet will be on **Nov. 2nd** if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at brionsaathoff@icloud.com > before 7:00 PM. on day of meeting to get the zoom access code.

It 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.

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Frank Burek,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Stanley Fontenot,
Pete Hasbrook,
Andy Lewis,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Brion Saathoff



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



Membership

2024 Membership dues are now being accepted from **April 1st, 2023 to March 31st 2024**

“The renewal form and dues payment is required as soon as possible prior to April 1.

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/>



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Sept. 11th — Lunarfins Board Meeting — ZOOM — 7:00 pm

Sept. 19th — General Meeting — Treasure of the Caribbean

Sept. 30th — Beach Party — Texas City Dike

Oct. 17th — General Meeting — Members — Tell your Oops! Moment

Oct. 28th — Social — Dinner with the group -Villa Capri

Nov. 21st. — General Meeting — Paul Cater Deaton — TBA

Nov. 19th — Iceland “Rainforest Holiday”—details next month

Dec. 3rd. — Lunarfins Christmas Party— Opus Grill 5pm



ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Brion Saathoff

Vice President

Ja Van Pruett

Secretary

Christi Dawson

Treasurer

John Gorman

Social Director

Mike Peters

APPOINTED

Media Manager

Dennis Deavenport

Training information

Jessica Lee

Trip information

PJ Campagna

Jessica Lee

TGCC Representative

Tom Burns

Advisor

Dennis Deavenport

Advisor

PeeWee Dwire

Advisor

Mike Peters

Newsletter

Ja Van Pruett

Website

Tom Burns

Do you have any ideas for event or

Topics for Speakers for 2024?

Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunarfin's President's Notes

Hello Lunarfin's family,

It's been a very busy summer; we have had many members traveling all over the globe and sharing their experiences and photos with us. It's good to see so many of us getting time under the water.

I would like to welcome three new members to Lunarfin's. Lilly Douglas, Jessica (Jess) Lee, and Owen Key. Jess has volunteered for training information and help putting trips together, she is a PADI master scuba trainer, scientific diver, and marine ecologist. I met her and her father at my first BUC (Brazosport Underwater Club) meeting. Lilly and Owen are affiliated with JSC. Let's give them a warm welcome.

I want to congratulate our dear friend Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee for receiving the CODA people's choice award for her amazing work at Houston Intercontinental airport - The Aquarius Art Tunnel.

It is between terminal D and E, it's worth the effort to see it. Thank you to all our members and the folks in the dive community that voted for her work, there was some tough competition worldwide. I met Janavi and her parents when she invited Lunarfin's to a private showing of her work called "Calm Water Color Storm". (Thanks to Dennis Deavenport, Jessie Concelmo and JaVan Pruett) I was so impressed that I came back the next weekend for an artist talk with curators and artists from all over the area. I met some amazing people we have been friends ever since then.

My friend Aaron the dive safety officer at the Moody aquarium has put out a call for volunteer divers, it's a lot of work getting in there, but I find it fun and rewarding being on the inside looking out and interacting with the children and adults. I have learned more than I ever thought I would about Marine Biology and dive safety by working behind the scenes since 2019. (Thank you, PJ Campagna, for getting me interested).

Please come join us for the presentation on the Cayman Crown next Tuesday. Something I found after the article was written is that the location is so unique that in 2019 there was a bleaching event where the entire reef went completely white. Within four months it had begun to heal, and all the coral had regained its color.

Due to so many obligations this month we had to change the date for the beach party from the 23rd to the 30th. We need to get an RSVPs for a food count, please!

See ya'll next Tuesday, Fins up and plenty of bubbles.

Best Regards,
Brion Saathoff
2023-2024 President!



Happy Birthday! to
anyone that has
a birthday this month!
May your day be wonderful!



Welcome to Our Newest Members



Lili Douglas



Owen Key— Brand new diver



Jessica Lee — has agreed to be our Training Officer— So let's welcome Jessica.



Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

<https://soshoregrille.com/league-city-south-shore-grille-food-menu>

Sept. 19th, 6:00pm

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

Speakers start at 7:00 pm

2800 Marina Bay Dr. League City TX 77573

Lunarfins October 28th Social



**Come for an
early dinner and
enjoy other
members**



Oct. 28th—5 p.m.

Frenchies's Villa Capri

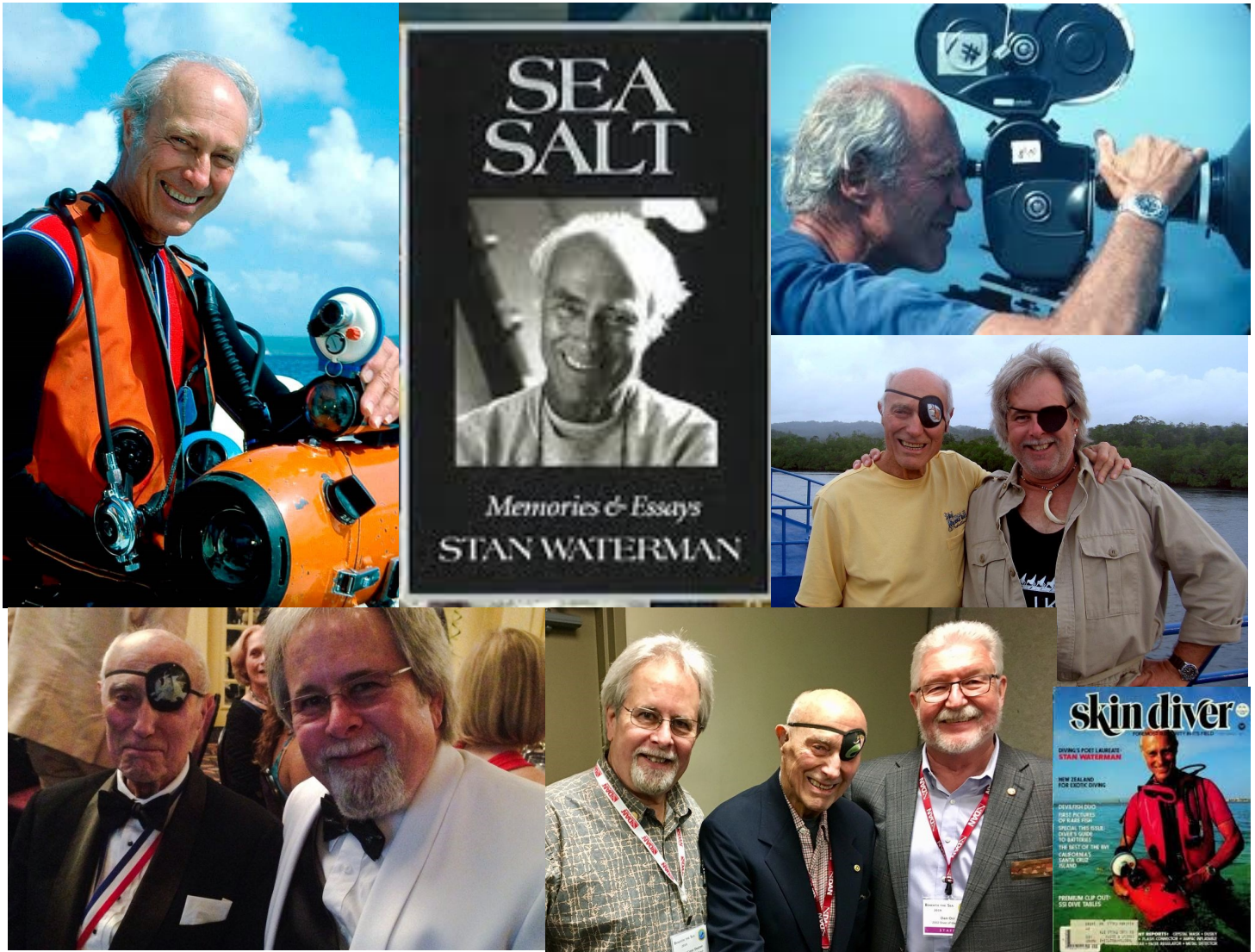
3713 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586

We've had dinner here and had a great time.

Please contact Mike Peters at MGPetershome@comcast.net or Kim Murphy at kamurphy5717@gmail.com

On August 10, 2023

The Dive Community Lost Stan Waterman



Stanton Arthur Waterman (April 5, 1923 – August 10, 2023) was an American and underwater film producer who was a five-time **Emmy Award** winner.

He began his SCUBA diving career in the Bahamas where he owned and operated a diving charter business from 1954 until 1958. His big break came in 1965 when he filmed a year-long family trip to **Tahiti**. **National Geographic** purchased the rights to the work and showed it on television. He was a producer and photographer on the 1971 film **Blue Water, White Death** which was the first cinematic filming of the great white shark.

Stan was the subject of a **Discovery Channel** biographical special titled *The Man Who Loves Sharks*. Working with his son, he won the first father and son Emmy for the **National Geographic Explorer** production *Dancing With Stingrays*. His television credits include *The American Sportsman* (1965), *The Bermuda Depths* (1978), and *The Explorers* (1973) and film credits include *The Deep* (1977) and *Jaws of Death* (1977).

Waterman won five **Emmy Awards** for his work on underwater films and TV programs. In 2005, Waterman wrote *Sea Salt: Memories and Essays*, with forewords by Peter Benchley and Howard Hall. He also wrote essays for **Ocean Realm** magazine.

In 2013, Waterman took his last dive in the **Cayman Islands** at the age of 90. Stan died on August 10, 2023, at the age of 100.

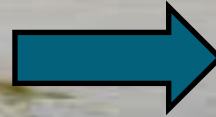
Lunarfin's Sept. Social

Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Sept. 30th @ 10:00AM

Hello everyone! Just a quick note to let everyone know about the Beach Party. It will be on Saturday the 30th, Lunarfin's is supplying water & drinks. Don't forget to bring your chairs, umbrellas & a side dish. There will be a Bar-b-que pit for grilling and Brats and Fajitas.

Look for the Lunarfin's Flag



There will be a Donations Jar to help cover the cost of the food.



Another Lost—

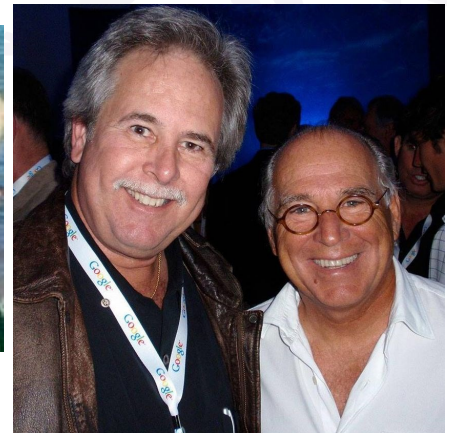
On September 1, 2023 We all Lost Jimmy Buffett

Jimmy Buffett knew how to live life, and how to write some damn fine stories about it.

He loved the sea and (more than most people) knew what was at stake if we weren't good enough stewards of this one-in-a-gazillion planet we're blessed with.

I only saw Jimmy Buffett once, but if I had a dollar for every song of his that I've played, I'd never have to work another day in my life.

I would, though, because I know what's at stake. Fighting for it is going to be an uphill battle all the way and it's going to take a lot of work to set things right if we want our fragile, blue marble to survive so that we can, too.



Congratulations!

Kaitlyn Greve for winning a \$500.00 Scholarship Award from Texas Gulf Coast Council for her to go to Norte Dame. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Mary Smith.



Congratulations!

Justin Wallace — is introducing one of the newest and youngest divers — **Justin Jr**



Congratulations!

Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee

Thank you!

To all that voted for the 2023 CODAwards

George Bush Intercontinental Airport

The Aquarius Art Tunnel won People's Choice in the 2023 CODAwards!

The internationally acclaimed CODAwards celebrate the projects that most successfully integrate commissioned art into interior, architectural, or public spaces.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE



Congratulations to artist [Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee](#) (Artist) for her award-winning masterpiece!

Janavi, just won a codaworx award !! it s a big win for us all but a bigger win because it shows people believe in the work I am creating to save our oceans!

Ms. Mahimtura Folmsbee told Glasstire, “It is an honor to be the first female South Asian artist in the Houston Airports Public Art Program & Collection. However, it is a bigger honor to have won a people’s choice award by CODAworx for a project that speaks to educating and investing in our environment through reminding us about our Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and other U.S. Marine Sanctuaries. The very fact that people care about this work gives me hope and belief that art matters and my work has helped create a difference.”

“I want to thank you again!”



THE ULTIMATE FLING COURSE SPECIAL

Sign up for select Fling dates and
get astronomical savings on SSI
courses!

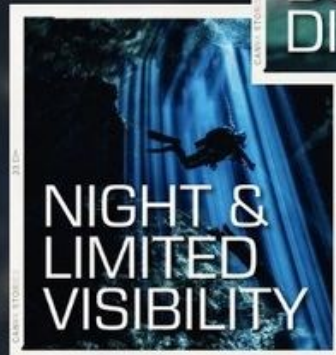
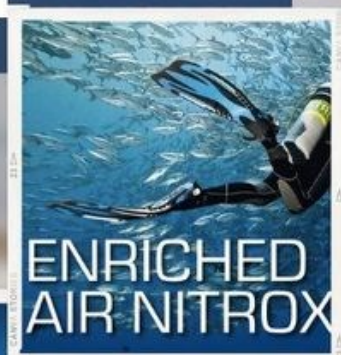
Deep - \$50 (\$180 Savings)
2 Course Bundle - \$199 (\$100
Savings)
4 Course Bundle - \$349 (\$250
Savings)

Courses Available:

- Boat
- Computer Diving
- Deep
- DPV
- Enriched Air
- Night

Dates Available:

July 16 - 19	Sun - Wed	11 Dives
Sept. 1 - 3	Fri - Sun	11 Dives
Oct. 5 - 8	Thur - Sun	11 Dives
Oct. 27 - 29	Fri - Sun	7 Dives



SIGN UP NOW!

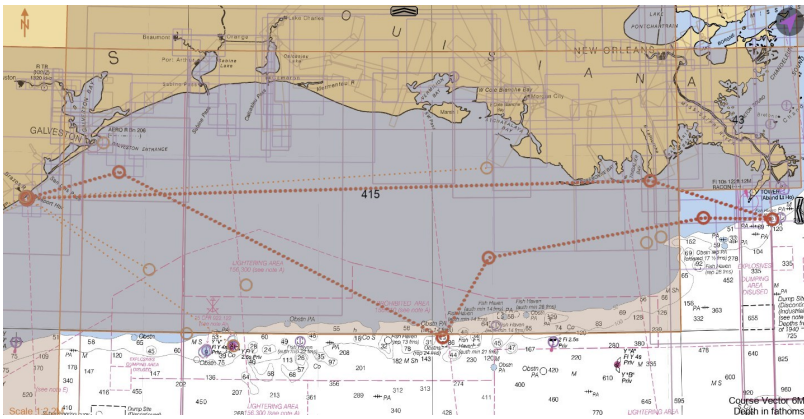
HIGHTIDESCUBA.COM/SHOP/TRAVEL
(817) 483-0376

Our retail partners at High Tide Scuba have rolled out a special deal for Fling divers who want to get in some continuing education!

If you're a new diver, there's no better way to get out to the Flower Garden reefs than to come with a dive instructor who can lead you through the training and the reefs!

We are especially pleased to offer DEEP certification at a DEEP discount for new divers. What better place to complete your DEEP cert than the deep, BLUE, crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico!

Check out the course offerings and give [High Tide Scuba](#) a call. They will get you started on the academic parts and book you on the Fling trip too! You'll save a lot with their special pricing, but they will also save you the 6% online booking fees.



The Fling is doing a walkabout journey across the middle Gulf. We'll be shooting video segments for a documentary featuring the repurposing of offshore oil platforms.



The customer is investigating adding wind turbines on top of decommissioned platforms, and looking at the existing "reefed" platforms to show how they continue to support ecosystems by providing shelter and substrate (anchoring places) to all manner of marine life.

It's a lot of miles and a lot of diving ahead! We'll post pictures as we're able. We're hoping to run across a whale shark or 10....

About our Members

Cindy and Tom Rueland



Cindy and Tom Rueland—A fun day on Sunday exploring Lake Norman in Charlotte! Great dinner at Hello Sailor. Enjoyed the cabana and pool on Saturday and a luncheon with the ladies Bible study.



How was Canada? So Glad your Home!

Dennis Deavenport



How was Peru? Welcome Back!

Stanley Fontenot



About our Members

Welcome Home!

*Pete & Annette
Hasbrook,
You must really like Ireland*



About our Members (Continued)

Pete Hasbrook



Pete Hasbrook is at **Waterford Crystal**.

· [Waterford, Ireland](#) ·

We visited the Waterford Crystal factory and saw the backup trophies for the Notre Dame Navy football game. The tall trophy is for the team, and the helmet is the coach's trophy. Then as we toured the factory and watched the master craftsman, we saw that one of the craftsmen had created his own commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 landing on the moon. He only made three or four of them for his personal use. It's good to be a master craftsman!

I also went on a hike near our VRBO and saw a burial mound and hiked up to a castle ruins.

I kissed the Blarney Stone! 🍀

And I think I gave it some of me own blarney, because I'm sure it kissed me back



Brion Saathoff

I was kicking around the idea of what to delve into this month and Mike Peters and JaVan sent me information on a coral reef that has been found off Belize. It has been named The Cayman Crown.

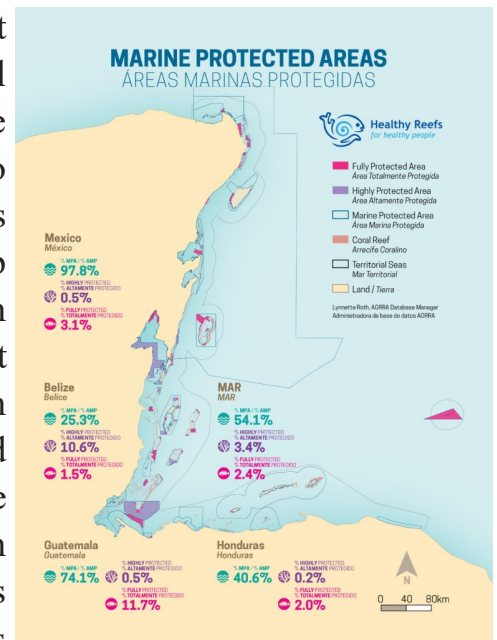
In 2013 in the waters of Belize and Guatemala a fisherman was desperate for fish, so he took his small boat out to the open ocean. He wound up with engine trouble and as he peered over the side of his boat he was amazed at a massive uncharted crown of rocks and corals teeming with life. This secret coral garden is larger than Manhattan. It is a refuge for a vast array of marine life. schools of yellow jack and blue tang, Bottle nose Dolphins and many critically endangered species of marine life. while it is not totally immune to the perils that face many of the world's coral reefs (up to one third of the globe's corals have been lost in the past few years) It is believed that this reefs resilience is due to its location on the edge of the Cayman Trench. Cold currents rising from the depths of the trench bring nutrients and help cool the corals. Also, the reef has slow growing corals that can withstand warming waters and fast-growing corals that proliferate like weeds after bleaching events. The Cayman Crown was given protected status in 2020 by Belize and Guatemala. On July 31, 2020, the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve was expanded to 321,623.5 acres to include Cayman Crown, but there is still much to be done to protect it. At this time both Belize and Guatemala have designated the Crown as a no take zone which will help combat illegal fishing within its boundaries.

Cayman Crown was kept a secret for almost a decade so biologist's and scientists could study it undisturbed by tourists and fishermen. They are mapping the reef and cataloging its inhabitants. They also used pioneering new ways to use underwater acoustics to discern how fish rely on sound and experimenting with new approaches to protect breeding fishes. What they learned gives hope to the future of reefs everywhere. There is so much more that you can learn about this pristine reef system, PBS (Nova) had a documentary on it called Treasure of the Caribbean /premiere: 4/26/2023.

Thank you for taking the time to read about this amazing site.

Best Regards,

Brion



Moody Gardens News

Attention all divers!

The Moody Gardens Dive Program (MGDP) has opened applications and is recruiting divers for participation in the Volunteer Diver Program!

Application and program requirement information is posted and available on the [Moody Gardens Adult Volunteer](#) page, and applications are available here: [Moody Gardens Volunteer Diver Application](#). Divers of all levels are encouraged to apply if interested. Considerations for applicants include diving skills and acumen, positive mental attitude, and an interest in the diverse nature of zoo and aquarium dive operations.

The application period for this onboarding cycle will close on October 10th. Recruiting and application opportunities occur each year in January and September. Questions and further information requests can be directed to Amanda Cagnon, Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteers@moodygardens.org, and Aaron Bouwkamp, Dive Officer, at abouwkamp@moodygardens.org.

We look forward to sharing more information about this rewarding program and appreciate your support of the Moody Gardens Volunteer Diver Program!



Aaron Bouwkamp | Dive Officer

One Hope Blvd, Galveston, Texas 77554

Office 409.683.4104 • Cell 616.299.7983 • Email abouwkamp@moodygardens.org

moodygardens.org | Like us on [Facebook](#) • Follow us on [Twitter](#) • Watch us on [YouTube](#)

REEF's Discover the Sea Photo Contest

All photographers, regardless of experience level, are invited to submit their favorite ocean-themed photos for this year's contest. It's free to enter, and you may submit up to three photos per person in each of the following categories:

- Fish Portrait
- Macro
- Invertebrates
- REEF Survey
- Habitat/Seascape/Environment

Submissions close at noon EDT on September 18, 2023. Public voting will be from September 19-30. First, second, and third place winners will be selected for each category. The winning photos will be featured on REEF's social media and communications channels.

For rules, submission guidelines, and more, visit www.REEF.org/photocontest.



Diving with Jess

Guided group trip to Grand Cayman

Oct 28—Nov 4, 2023

Come “Dive, Chill, and Dream” with us on the beautiful island of Grand Cayman. I have hand-selected Grand Cayman’s newest bespoke dive resort, Ocean Cabanas, and their dive team at Living the Dream Divers for this guided dive trip.

We will be staying in stunning oceanfront cabanas. Each cabana is a 2 bedroom, 2 bath with a shared living area, kitchen, lanai, and dive gear drying racks. Each room is a king suite with a private en suite bathroom. Accommodations are based on double occupancy per room, and there is an additional single occupancy rate available.

Living the Dream Divers specializes in small groups on big boats. They have the best designed boats and the friendliest staff, taking valet diving to the next level! They will be taking us to the best dive sites on the island, including the USS Kittiwake wreck and Stingray city*.

Boat dives include tanks, weights, towels, freshwater shower, and gear storage. You can also use their complementary dive computer, mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit if needed. Regulators and BCDs are available for rent. We will also have access to unlimited shore diving near the resort.

Included

- • 7 night stay in a beautiful Oceanfront 2 bedroom/ 2 bath cabana (double occupancy per room) with kitchen, living space, and lanai
- • 4 days of 2 tank boat dives, valet dive service, trip to Stingray City and the Kittiwake wreck*
- • Unlimited shore diving near the resort
- • Roundtrip airport and dive boat transfers
- • Welcome Rum Punch Party
- • Local Taxes/Resort Fees

Not included

- • Roundtrip airfare to Grand Cayman
- • Meals
- • Gratuities
- • Insurance: dive and travel

Optional Add-ons

- • Nitrox for boat dives- \$112
- • Guided night shore dive- \$100
- • Rental car
- • Rental gear
- • Bioluminescence Bay Tour
- • Courses: Fish ID, Nitrox, Advanced

Pricing

- • Double Occupancy Diver: \$1,895.88 pp (base)
- • Non-Diver: subtract \$379 pp from base
- • Single Occupancy: add \$889.88 pp to base

Payments

*All dives are weather dependent

Sign up or reach out for more information by emailing Jess at divingwithjess@gmail.com or calling at 979.236.9430!

I MALE Spot Left

Jessica Lee

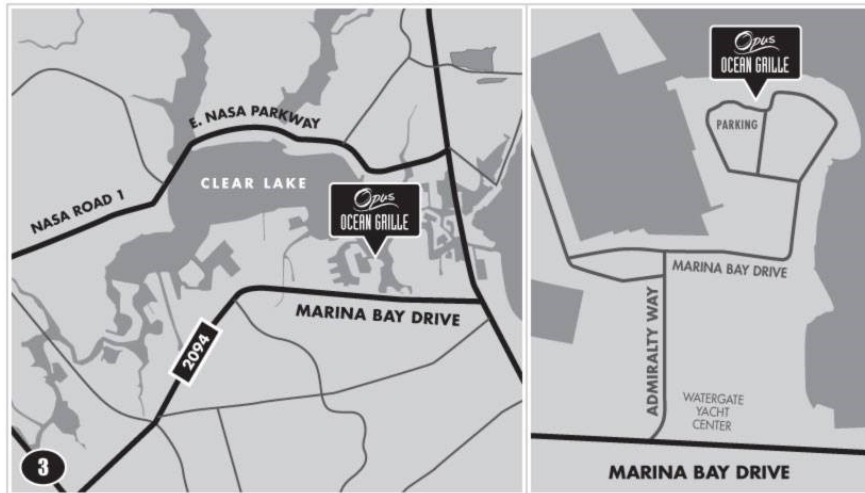
Owner, [Diving with Jess](https://divingwithjess.com)

PADI~NAUI~DAN Dive Instructor

2023 NASA Lunarfins Christmas Party

OPUS OCEAN GRILLE

Dec. 3 @ 5:00 PM



1510 Marina Bay Drive, Building 124

Clear Lake Shore, TX 77565

Opus Ocean Grille offers a variety of your favorite fresh seafood dishes; from oysters on the half shell, Alaskan King Crab, Chilean Sea Bass and much more!

Located within the Watergate Yachting Center in Clear Lake Shores, our waterfront dining experience makes for a perfect evening out with friends and family.

Each person should bring a gift [**\$25.00-\$30.00**] (something **you** would like to receive) for Gift Exchange if you plan participate.

Plus, we will have Door prizes!

I need a good head count by November 18th.

Dress— Dressy or Sunday clothes

Please RSVP: Kim Murphy, text or email

kamurph5717@gmail.com

or Ja Van @ caladyfish@gmail.com

<http://www.opusoceangrille.com/>

News from the Flower Gardens

Final Management Plan for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries recently published a [final management plan](#) and accompanying environmental assessment for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS). The new plan, which will guide the course of sanctuary management over the coming decades, was shaped through significant public input.

This final management plan, which replaces the previous 2010 plan, contains 15 Action Plans addressing priority issues under four primary goals: ensure a thriving sanctuary, increase support for the sanctuary, deepen our understanding of sanctuary resources, and ensure coordinated support for sanctuary infrastructure, staff, and field operations.

The revised plan addresses current and emerging issues such as climate change and changes in water quality, and prioritizes resource protection through innovative research, outreach to user groups, and increased tribal engagement. This management plan also includes a strategy in each action plan to continually evaluate ongoing management activities and implement new ones as needed. There were no boundary or regulatory changes.

Additional information, including a copy of the final management plan and final environmental assessment, is available on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary [website](#).

SOURCE: SBNMS

Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK) Intern - DC

Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is hiring a six-month paid Intern to support the [Outdoors Alliance for Kids \(OAK\)](#). OAK is a national strategic partnership of more than 100 organizations working to expand equitable access to the outdoors for children, youth and families.

Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to justice, equity, inclusion and anti-oppression values, and have awareness of their group identities and how they have shaped their life and experiences at work. Applicants should have an analysis of how racism and other forms of oppression in society impact relationships, systems and culture, and bring experience and skills for working effectively with colleagues across group identities and position/role. Candidates should have strong interpersonal skills with a commitment to engaging in mutually-beneficial partnerships. Top candidates will have strong communication skills, work ethics and be highly dependable. Policy and advocacy experience is a plus.

[Learn more about the OAK Internship and apply today.](#)

SOURCE: ONMS

Texas Association for Environmental Education - TX Conference

Sept 29 - Oct 1, 2023

Don't wait to register, register now for the 46th Annual Conference Sept 29 - Oct 1 at Camp Olympia in Beautiful Trinity, Texas. It's time to Renew, Rebrand and Rebirth your heart, mind, and environmental education.

Designed for formal and non-formal science educators from all fields.

Early Bird Registration is Still Open through August 31st.

SOURCE: TAE



Mike Peters Corner — Land crab

Imagine finding this when trying to empty your trash bin

🤪 **The coconut crab** – the world's largest land crab – can weigh over 4 kg (8.8 lbs.) and span nearly a meter (3 feet) across. This guy can rip open a coconut with its power-claws, and it can also climb trees (ouch)! And, it could be the animal that devoured Amelia Earhart.

Eating coconut crabs is safe as long as you do not have an allergy to shellfish. They have the same dietary issues as other crabs. Eating coconut crabs is very popular in some island nations, even though we have hunted them nearly to extinction.



Mike Peters — New Dive Gear



Brand	Lobster League
Material	Kevlar, Nitrile
Size	S, M, L
Sport	Diving, Fishing
Age Range	Adult
Color	Grey Blue

Lobster Gloves, Dive Gloves, Fishing Gloves, Spearfishing Gloves, Freediving Gloves, Scuba Diving Gloves, Protective Gloves

[Visit the Lobster League Store](#) or Amazon

DSMB 4ft Surface Marker Buoy with 100ft Finger Spool Reel Diver Below Signal Flag Tube Scuba Diving Equipment Open Bottom Set (4ft)

Brand	JZLiner
Material	Nylon
Size	96 X 60 X 98 inches L X W X H
Sport	Diving Outdoor
Color	Orange



[Visit the Lobster League Store](#) or Amazon

American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



2023 Supporter Registration

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWAF) is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America. This 2023 payment is made to the Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) to support the incorporation and nonprofit application process of a new 501(c)(3) organization. 2023 Registration also indicates your current intent to support this new organization for the foreseeable future.

Our Purpose: This nonprofit corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purpose within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code. Its charity awards and function are intended to:

- Encourage and promote education in the watersport community
- Encourage or increase safety
- Support the conversation and appreciation of marine biological resources, the marine and coastal environments
- Perform 501(c)(3) public nonprofit actions that support the watersport communities and the environments that they utilize.
- The work of the corporation shall not be for profit. No dividend, compensating or part of the income of the corporation is to be distributed to its directions or officers. The corporation shall not attempt to influence, or participate in, or intervene in any political campaign.

To join as an individual (must be a certified scuba diver, or a member of a dive club) - fill out the application. Please print legibly as e-mail addresses will be utilized to keep supporters abreast with the charity’s status and your name as identified below, used in any future donation reporting required to confirm your support of ACWAF. Once officially formed, it is anticipated that the annual Supporter Fee for the new organization will be \$20.

☐ \$15

The Texas Gulf Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC or Council) 2023 Report

By Frank Burek

Founded in 1963 to protect the right of divers to pursue their sport, the TGCC is celebrating its 61st year of service to the diving public. The TGCC is a membership of clubs and individuals whose overall objectives are to share their diving experiences, improve themselves and grow their community.



Memberships in the TGCC is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals from Texas and surrounding States.

TGCC's Purpose and Objectives:

To defend and advance the legal rights and privileges of all divers through appropriate State and Federal legislation.

To encourage, and promote cooperation and water safety among all divers, member and non-member clubs.

To monitor and keep its clubs abreast with respect to Federal, State and Local proposed or enacted rules, regulations and actions that affect them and their members.

To encourage and facilitate communication among its various member clubs.

To promote education in the dive community.

To support higher education for members of the dive community.

To provide recognition for outstanding contributors to the dive community.

To foster environmental awareness in the dive community.

To promote safe skin and Scuba diving.

To enable the individual dive clubs to participate jointly in the dive and local communities.

TGCC's web-site (www.tgccdiving.org) is available to individual members and clubs to inform members of community activities, as well as of news of interest from around the world.

TGCC has several award and recognition programs available to members. Those include our (1) Neptune Award (for community educational participation and leadership), (2) Member-of-the-Year based on contributions to the diving community, and (3) Lifetime Achievement Award (based upon leadership and extensive involvement with the diving community).

The TGCC Memorial College Scholarship Program (MCS) which is conducted annually and available to members of TGCC Member clubs, their children and grandchildren. Awards are based upon merit; the value and number of MCS awards are based upon the Council's budget. This award is given in memory of significant members of our community who have passed on - Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, John Ringrose, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman and Dick Zingula.

The TGCC is presently determining the feasibility and support of the diving community, for the creation of a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its purpose is to provide the diving public with a tool to support the educational advancement of divers; support our families; and impact science, research and environmental conditions in areas where we pursue our passion for diving.

The TGCC Clubs Annual Awards Luncheon – Annually the TGCC member clubs join together to celebrate another year of dive club service to the dive community. We review the events of the past year; the plans for the current year; and present award the current service and outstanding performance awards to key members of each club. Significant activities that effect our community are also covered - including the TGCC scholarship program and the Houston Underwater Film Festival.

You should have been there!!

Aug's Social Early Dinner on
Saturday, Aug 19th at Top Water Grill



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

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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!!

General Meeting August 15, 2023



If, you missed this meeting you missed a wonderful presentation by Gail's Chapman.

Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casco Rd – Freeport TX

captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml



Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX

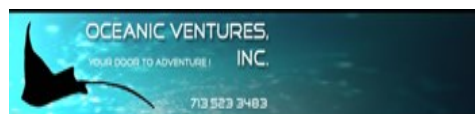
www.divetrip.com



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