Lunarscope

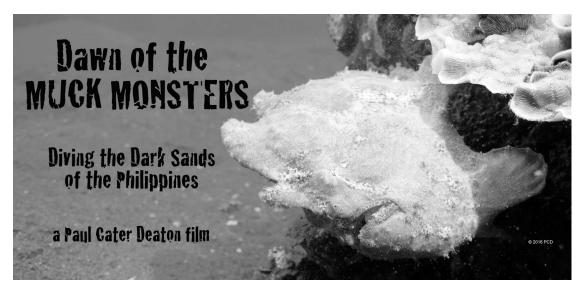
November 2023

Lunarins Scuba Club

THEY CAME FROM THE MUCK

November 21

The island of Negros, in the southern Philippines, is named for the black, volcanic sand that surrounds it. Diving day and night in this undersea savannah, **Paul Cater Deaton** finds unlikely habitats that are home to multitudes of bizarre creatures. Surprises lurk around every dark corner of the black sands.



In Person at South Shore Grille or Join Zoom Meeting

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 Thursday of the Month. Our next meet will be on <u>January 11th</u> if you want to <u>attend</u> contact Brion Saathoff at <<u>brionsaathoff@icloud.com</u> > 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.

Inside this issue

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Frank Burek, , Paul Cater Deaton, Dennis Deavenport Stanley Fontenot, Jessica Lee, Mike Peters, Ja Van Pruett, Brion Saathoff



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



(Tentative plans)



Membership

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

<u>"The renewal form and dues</u> 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 <u>all fields completely</u> 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/



Nov. 19th — Iceland "Rainforest Holiday"— 5pm

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

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

Tom Burns

Dennis Deavenport Media Manager Training information Jessica Lee **Trip information** PJ Campagna Jessica Lee **TGCC Representative Tom Burns Dennis Deavenport Advisor Advisor** PeeWee Dwire **Advisor** Mike Peters Newsletter Ja Van Pruett

Website

Do you have any ideas for event or

Topics for Speakers for 2024?

Please share
them with
any of our
officers.

Lunarfins President's Notes

Hello Lunarfins,

Happy Thanksgiving, I hope all is well with everyone. Well, the holiday season is upon us lots of events, parties, and family time. I especially enjoy the family time. Please join us for an evening with Paul Cater Deaton, if you have not met him, he is an award-winning underwater

Deaton, if you have not met him, he is an award-winning underwater film maker and I'm pretty sure one of the biggest Star Wars fans I have ever known or will know. It will be very entertaining. that's on Tuesday November 21 at 6pm, Paul starts at 7pm.

It's that time of the year to select a Lunarfins Member of the Year. If you would like to nominate someone, send a letter by snail mail to the Lunarfins mailbox or e-mail one of the board members and we will get them on the ballot for the vote at the Christmas party on December the third. Please join us, the details are in the newsletter, it's always a good time and good food. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RSVP BY NOVEMBER 20TH so the restaurant can be properly prepared for us. this Sunday November 19th at 5 pm we will be at Moody Gardens for Iceland, this year's theme is the Rainforest there is also the trail of lights and ice skating for those interested, I do good with roller skates, but I have never had the courage to try ice skates. I do wish everyone a happy and safe holiday, and many of us will be doing a lot of road time, so to quote the Sergent on hill street blues "be safe out there."

Best Regards, Brion Saathoff 2023-2024 President!





Happy Birthday! to

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

May your day be wonderful!







Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

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

Nov. 21st., 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 November 19th Social



MOODY GARDENS ANNOUNCES
"RAINFOREST HOLIDAY" AS
ICE LAND'S
THEME FOR 2023 @ 5pm



Guests can anticipate the rich biodiversity of the rainforests, complete with **monkeys**, **birds**, **butterflies**, **and orchids**, and be led through this magical icy world by **leaf-cutter ants** adorned with Christmas decorations. These master ice carvers will guide guests on a mesmerizing journey through the globe's rainforests, featuring a **massive ice slide** that whisks guests from treetops to the forest floor, ancient ruins, and riversides. The thrill of the giant ice slide serves as the pinnacle of this attraction as it offers a birds-eye view and some fantastic festive fun for those who are up for a cool ride. Additionally, guests can indulge in festive holiday spirits at Shivers Ice Bar, an exceptionally cool bar sculpted entirely out of ice.

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

About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton





On October 13, 2023 This happened LtCol Justin "Astro" Elliott was really happy with his 501st South The South Texas Squad of The Star Garrison coin, too.





Fourteen years ago today (10-12-2023) an exceedingly talented group of actors, singers and musicians took the stage at the old Pistarkle Theatre, on St. Thomas, for "Little Shop of Horrors." My performance as "Mushnik" was the first musical I had done since we did "Everyman" in college. Photos by Drew Alston.







Paul Cater Deaton got to hang out with some amazing friends last night at the world premiere of In the Lone Star Wars State. **Alejandro Cabrera** congratulations on finishing up your 8 year journey!! Keep a lookout in the Spring of next year for an online release of In the Lone Star Wars State!! November 11, 2023.

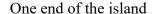
About our Members

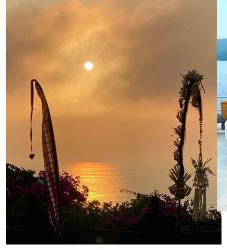
Dennis Deavenport



Made it to **Bali** after about 24 hours travel on EVA through Taipei. Our resort on the southern peninsula of Nusa Dua is superb so far. Always wanted to see what it was like here but always went north instead. We stay here four days with two days touring with an old acquaintance, Gusti, from a previous trip. Tomorrow is just recovery and dinner and a Barong dance. I plan to take my drone out to the beach to reacquaint myself with the controls. I'm a terrible pilot. Need practice or I'll lose it or crash it somewhere on the trip







A favorite shot at dusk and in the mist.

More pictures to come in December newsletter.

Our dinghy group on the Indo Siren. Eileen and Scott Singleton, Ron Chadick,, and our two dive guides... Stefan and Fandi.

About our Members

Stanley Fontenot





Stanley Fontenot— Today I dropped off the 66 shoe boxes I had prepared! I'm thankful for all those who have sent money to help make this happen. I did not ask anyone for help, people just pitched in to get this many boxes paid for!! Thank you!

I'm now waiting to see what sales there will be on Black Friday!!!!!! I'm ready to get toys for next year!!!!

Denise M. Omstead--Kudos to you for all of your hard work all to the glory of God

Stanley Fontenot Denise M. Omstead honestly, the Lord gave sooo much to me to make this happen! Many people contributed to this offering!!!! I'm so thankful!

About our Members Continued)

Justin Wallace





Got into the Halloween Spirit today... ooh wait



Today's Office—Nov. 7, 2023



Today's Office—Nov. 9, 2023

About our Members Continued)

Justin Wallace — (Continued)

Today's Office— Nov. 9, 2023







Today's Accomplishment... Long Live the Queen







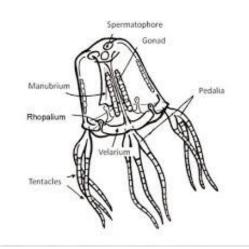
Today's Office— Nov. 14, 2023



Brion Saathoff



It seems that jellies are not the simple creatures that we once thought. Poisonous Caribbean box jellies can learn at a surprisingly complex level despite having limited nerve cells and no centralized brain. Asserts a new study published in the journal Current Biology. despite having only 1000 nerve cells and no centralized brain they can learn at a more complex level than ever imagined according to a new study from the University of Copenhagen. Scientists say the findings may change the fundamental understanding of the brain - and could reveal more about human cognitive functions and the process of dementia.



Jellyfish have been around for over 500 million years, up until now they have been thought of as very simple creatures with very limited learning capabilities. opinion is that more advanced nervous systems equate with elevated learning potential. Jellies and their relatives collectively known as cnidarians, are the earliest animals to develop nervous systems. Professor Anders Garm has been researching box jellyfish for more than a decade, they are among the world's most poisonous creatures. One fingernail size species lives in the Caribbean mangrove swamps; there, they use their impressive visual system, including 24 eyes, to hunt for tiny copepods among the roots. It was once presumed that they could only manage the simplest forms of learning, including habitation.

(The ability to get used to a certain stimulation, such as constant sound or constant touch.) What they are finding is jellyfish have a much more refined ability to learn and that they can learn from their mistakes, and modify their behavior, they have found that contrast -how dark the root is in relation to the water - is used to assess the distances to the roots, which allow them to swim away at just the right moment, the relation between distance and contrast changes daily due to rainwater Alge and wave action, the professor said that as each new day of hunting begins, box jellies learn from the current contrasts by combining visual impressions and sensations during evasive maneuvers that fail, get too close they risk damage get too far away they can't catch their meal, the jellies have 1000 nerve cells we have roughly 100 billion, yet they have associative learning, and they learn about as quickly as fruit flies and mice, the findings contradict what previous perceptions of what animals with simple nervous systems are capable of, these studies will help scientist learn about the structural and physiological changes that occur in cells as learning takes place, my two biggest takeaways from this article are one, I had no idea that we had box jellies in the Caribbean and two, after working in cnidarians at Moody gardens and being around jellies for an extended amount of time, I still thought

of them floating around aimlessly in the current getting a meal out of luck rather than having some control over their





Hidden Shipwreck

A Diver Stumbled Upon the Treasure of a Lifetime—and It May Lead to a Hidden Shipwreck



He uncovered 30,000 coins ancient coins in remarkable condition. They had to have come from somewhere.

A diver stumbled across the find of a lifetime off the coast of Sardinia when a stray shiny item loosened itself from the sea grass below. That metallic sheen turned out to herald a bounty of more than



30,000 bronze and copper coins minted in Rome during the fourth century. The coins that were found were dated from the first half of the fourth century according to AP News. It is presently unknown exactly how many coins have been collected from the area, though it's estimated there could be nearly 50,000 based on their weight. It is also currently unknown how much the lot of coins are worth. Per a statement made by Italy's Ministry of Culture, the coins "were in an excellent and rare state of preservation."

"The treasure found in the waters of Arzachena represents one of the most important discoveries of numismatic finds in recent years," Luigi La Rocca, director general of archaeology, fine arts, and landscape for the region, says in a translated statement from the Italian culture ministry.

Near the town of Arzachena, divers were trolling an area of sandy clearing near the beach that was also surrounded by seagrass. That one coin soon yielded tens of thousands of others, all in an "excellent and rare state of preservation" and dating back to between 324 and 340 AD. The ministry says that, thanks to the weight of the coins, there could be at least 30,000 of them and as many as 50,000. That would make this one of the largest ancient coin finds in the past few decades.

And, if we're lucky, it may even point to a completely undiscovered hidden shipwreck.

The underwater makeup of the region has the potential to preserve a lost shipwreck, which could explain the finding of so many coins in one spot. While there is no news yet of a wreck being found, experts remain hopeful that one could turn up after further investigation.

(This is not the actual picture of the coins)



Right now, we will have to content ourselves with the excitement of the huge bounty of coins discovered littering the seafloor. The follis coins—found in both bronze and copper—were used first by the Romans and then later by the Byzantine Empire.

When the divers first saw the coins, they contacted authorities and art protection squad drivers joined with the ministry's undersea archaeology department, fire fighter divers, and border police divers to dig into the area.

Alongside the coins, the divers also located walls of narrow-necked jugs with two handles, which also helped point experts towards the idea that a shipwreck may be nearby.

"(The finding) highlights the richness and importance of the archaeological heritage that our seabed, traversed by men and goods since the earliest times, still guards and preserves," La Rocca said.

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!

Please, I need a good head count by November 20th.

Dress— Dressy or Sunday clothes

<u>Please RSVP</u>: Kim Murphy, text or email

kamurph5717@gmail.com

or Ja Van @ caladyfish@gmail.com

FGBNMS

BOEM's Environmental Studies Program 50th Anniversary Showcase

December 13, 2023

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Eastern Time

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Environmental Studies Program (ESP). To commemorate this milestone, BOEM is hosting a showcase event to celebrate 50 years of the bureau's research and scientific studies.

Join them to learn about deepwater shipwrecks, deepsea corals, ocean acoustics, physical oceanography, submerged cultural resources, long-term monitoring partnerships, and innovative technologies.

Working Together for the Gulf

Most people think of Moody Gardens as a tourist attraction, but it's much more than that for Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS). It is our closest aquarium partner, just six miles down the road from sanctuary offices.

Moody Gardens has supported a variety of sanctuary education and outreach efforts over many years. They've co-hosted movie screenings, shared live video feeds direct from the sanctuary, sponsored a sanctuary-focused Dive Expo, provided space for us at their annual Educator Open House, and most recently, hosted the Gulf of Mexico Coral Reef Symposium focused on sanctuary science needs. They also have a sanctuary display in the Visitor Center and a small Flower Garden Banks reef exhibit in the Aquarium Pyramid. Whew!

On top of all that, they have provided invaluable <u>dive support for our research</u>, <u>monitoring and resource protection activities</u> since 2013. To date, the Moody Gardens dive team has supported 31 missions in the sanctuary, including the installation of mooring buoys, long-term monitoring data collection, fish surveys, water quality monitoring, and more.

And now they are home to FGBNMS corals, too! While the sanctuary's reefs are currently healthy, there is always a chance that could change. Rather than wait for the worst, FGBNMS researchers collected over 50 coral fragments, from five different species, and brought them to the Coral Rescue Lab at Moody Gardens for safekeeping. Studying these corals will help us learn more about how they respond to disease and our changing climate, while also ensuring that we have healthy corals to transplant back to the reef, if needed in the future. Be sure to take a peek at our corals the next time you visit the Aquarium Pyramid.

At this point it should be clear-- working with Moody

Mike Peters Corner — Red Toothed Triggerfish

Redtooted Triggerfish could be seen as the vampire of the coral reef. It is a strong and aggressive animal. It is quite a common species among the reefs of the Red Sea and the Indian and Pacific oceans. However, these fish have very powerful jaws that can chew through just about



anything. As adults, they have bright red teeth which gives them their common. They use these jaws to grind through coral and to feed on starfish and sea urchin. Triggerfishes are able to achieve an unusual means of propulsion by undulating their dorsal and anal fins. Its appearance is unique among the marine life community. These adorable sea creatures love to form big schools and swim in midwater. Their silhouettes look epic when you look up at the surface during a dive. Sometimes you can even spot them flapping their tiny, blue fins on the ocean surface.

Argonaut Octopus — Mike Peters

Argonaut Octopus, Victoria, Australia. On November 1, a young girl saw this rare Argonaut - often called a Paper Nautilus it had washed onto the beach at East Cape Conran. She told locals about it and Myke Mollard went and picked up the little dude then released her back into deeper water. The argonauts are a group of pelagic octopuses. They are also called paper nautili, referring to the paper-thin eggcase that females secrete. This structure lacks the gas-filled chambers present in chambered nautilus shells and is not a true cephalopod shell, but rather an evolutionary innovation unique to the genus. Argonauts are found in tropical and subtropical water worldwide. They live in the open ocean, they are pelagic. Like most octopuses, they have a rounded body, eight limbs (arms) and o fins. However, unlike most octopuses, Argonaut live close to the surface rather than on the seabed. The male of the species is very different, and much smaller than the female. Argonauts are also voracious predators; they bite their prey and inject a poison produced in their salivary gland. The Paper Nautilus shell is very rare and highly sought by collectors. We should all be so lucky to find this kind of Octopus.





Family Fun Scuba Spring Break

Included:

- -7 night beachview stay at Cayman Brac Beach Resort March 9-16, 2024. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- -5 2-tank am boat dives, 5 1-tank pm dives (15 total), complimentary use of dive computer
- -Roundtrip airport transfers
- -Welcome rum punch and Manager's cocktail reception, 3 complementary drinks
- -Resort fees, taxes, and gratuities (except dive staff gratuities)

Add ons:

- -Nitrox
- -Drink Package -\$200
- -Night dive
- -Courses: Fish ID, Nitrox, Advanced

Not Included:

- -Roundtrip airfare to Cayman Brac
- -Dive staff gratuities
- -Insurance: Dive and Travel
- -Rental equipment

Pricing:

Double Occupancy Diver: \$2,465 Single Occupancy Diver: \$3,332 Quad Occupancy Diver: \$2,136 Non-Diver: subtract \$400

Book Now

divingwithjess@gmail.com | 979.236.9430 | @divingwithjess

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.

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!!

Dinner at Villa Capri Sept. 28,



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





