



Lunarfins Scuba Club



Michelle Johnston

Sanctuary Superintendent, Acting Research Coordinator

michelle.a.johnston@noaa.gov

Dr. Michelle Johnston joined the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary team in 2012 and has been with the sanctuary program since 2010. She has served in a variety of roles, including marine ecologist within the headquarters science division, and both research ecologist and research coordinator at FGBNMS. Michelle also served as acting deputy superintendent at National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. Michelle brings a wide variety of expertise across multiple fields of sanctuary management, including applied science, outreach, and community engagement. She is a NOAA dive master and has expertise in coral reef ecology and invasive species management. Michelle has previously been a scuba dive team member at the Seas Aquarium in Florida, a sea turtle field biologist in South Carolina, as well as a marine educator and surf instructor in North Carolina, Australia, the Bahamas and Hawaii.

Michelle's academic studies started at University of North Carolina-Wilmington in marine biology, where she rehabilitated sick and injured sea turtles, and continued at the University of South Carolina where she completed her M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Health Science researching bacterial pathogens in coastal waters. After graduate school, Michelle was awarded a NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy fellowship with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

I will be discussing current FGB research and outreach efforts, including coral monitoring, lionfish control, and climate adaptation.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGTOpWL1hTdz09)

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2772 Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Our next meet will be on **July 11** 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

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

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Brandy Behanna,
Skip Behanna,
Mike Callaway,
Karen Clark,
Deanna Coale,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Stanley Fontenot,
Julianne Leissner,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Cindy Reuland,
Brion Saathoff,
Bob Sanders,
Justin Wallace



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



Membership

2024 Membership dues are now being accepted from **April 1st, 2024 to March 31st 2025**

“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 fiANelds 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)

June 18th. — Dr. Michelle Johnston — Newly Appointed Sanctuary Superintendent

July 16th. — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojo

Aug. 20th. — General Meeting Lily Douglas— Robotics

Sept. 19th — General Meeting — Dennis Deavenport

Oct. 15th — Jennifer Opiela-Miksch — The Treasure of Codos Island



ELECTED OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Social Director

Brion Saathoff
Ja Van Pruett
Frances Boutin
Cathy Straham
Mike Peters

APPOINTED

Media Manager
Training information
Trip information

Dennis Deavenport
Jessica Lee
PJ Campagna

TGCC Representative
Advisor
Advisor
Advisor
Newsletter
Website

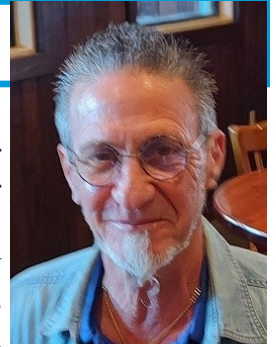
Jessica Lee
Tom Burns
Dennis Deavenport
PeeWee Dwire
Mike Peters
Ja Van Pruett
Tom Burns

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,

I hope everyone is doing well, the first day of summer is right around the corner and I'm sure everyone is gearing up for summer vacations and travels. May your summer be happy and safe.

The Spring Checkout dive turned out to be a great time for everyone, we had a really good turnout with a lot of support from Lunarfin's members and the other Clubs (HUPS, CHUM, BAD, and BUC.) I would like to thank all of them and the Council for joining in to make this a success, it warmed my heart to see everyone mingling and visiting with each other, making new friends and connecting with old friends that don't get to see each other very often. We had thirty people that attended, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Special thanks go out to Dennis Deavenport (go pro workshop) Jessica Lee (buoyancy workshop) and Mike Callaway (for cooking).

I have always felt that we are all in this together and we all have the same goals, Marine conservation, education and passing on our love for the water and scuba diving. Any time we can all get together is a good thing and a good time.

The HUPs underwater workshop on the first of the month was very informative and the timing was perfect as I am going to give it a go at moving up the photography and video food chain. (Wish me luck as I tend to be a low-tech redneck) David Lenderman and Craig and Betsy Beasley did an awesome job, if you missed it, I'm sure there will be more in the future, we will keep you posted on the next workshop.

Please come and join us on the 18th at South Shore Grille for a presentation by Dr. Michelle Johnston. She is the new sanctuary superintendent / research coordinator, I met her for the first time at the Dive into the Gulf Expo at Moody Gardens, she is very personable and knowledgeable and has an awesome vision for the Sanctuary going into the future.

I want to welcome to the family our new members Brandy and Skip Behanna, Trish Ross and Mike Callaway, we are happy to have y'all.

I would also like to congratulate two of my friends and trainer/dive buddies at The Moody Aquarium. Bud and Emily Swindler on their new baby girl Josephine Pearl Swindler. What an awesome Father's Day present for Bud. They have had a huge hand in moving me up the chain at the aquarium. I know that baby girl will one day have a regulator in her mouth and a love of the mother ocean in her heart.

May your summer be fun.

Best Regards,
Brion Saathoff
2024-2025 President!



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



Welcome to Our Newest Members

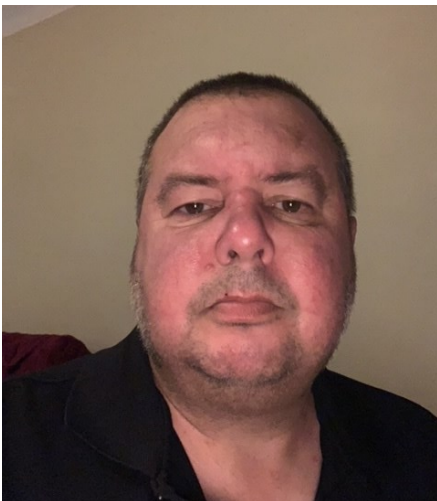


Mike Callaway

Came to Lunarfins Christmas Party in 2023 and was the cook at the Lunarfins Check-out Dive at Mammoth Lake , June 2. Great food and great fun.

Trish Ross

Was Lunarfins May speaker on Safety. She decided to join us at Mammoth Lake and join our Club.



Skip Behanna



Brandy Behanna

This couple comes to us from CHUM and BAD. We are so delighted to have them join Lunarfins as well.



Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

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

June 18th., 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

Lunarfin's Raffle — Let's Make Some Money

Lunarfin's will be offering raffle items at meetings. Tickets will be very reasonable and the items raffled off will be interesting and worth having. The first raffle was a 16" x 20" print donated by Dennis Deavenport. It is mounted on foam board or Gator Board and ready to frame. Dennis is donating lots of his photo's. Each month will be a great item. Bring a few extra dollars to the meeting to help Lunarfin's make some money.

Your friendly Board of Directors

NOAA NEWS

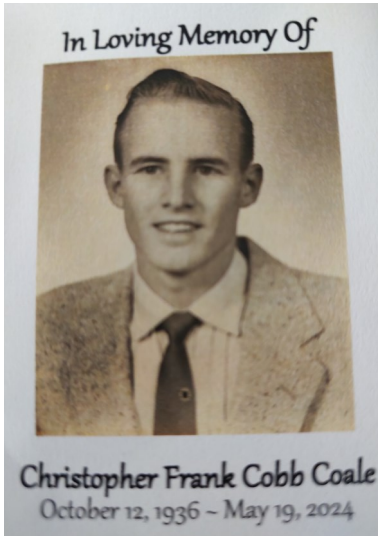
Special Funding Opportunity: Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program

NOAA's Marine Debris program would like to announce a new funding opportunity that is **open through August 12**. With funding from the NOAA Marine Debris Program provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, [BoatUS Foundation](#) is now accepting applications under the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program. The program will award up to \$7.5 million for projects between \$50,000-\$1 million to support removal of abandoned and derelict vessels throughout coastal and marine areas nationwide.

Read the full post on [NOAA's Marine Debris Blog](#)

About our Members

Prayers are Needed



Deana Coale

We (the club) need to send prayers to Deana Coale and her family. Her father Christopher Frank Cobb Coale, passed away on May 19th. He was 88 years old.

Deana's words "My Poppa was the best supporter, teacher, and friend. He was the best kind of person you could think of: kind, compassionate, warm, and resilient until the very end. Although these last few days have been difficult, knowing you are no longer in pain and watching over us all puts me at ease. You were always there for not only me, but everyone in our family and continued to fight until the very end. No time could've been long enough but I'm grateful that I got to know you, and will continue to live my life for you. Rest easy Poppa. ❤️ "

Stanley Fontento



We (the club) need to send prayers to Stanley Fontento. "My Daddy went to be with Jesus on March 8th. He battled with Dementia for the last 4 years. This last year has been the most challenging. He had Lewy Body Dementia which is the fastest progressing form. God showed him mercy and didn't let him go on this way any longer. He passed peacefully in his sleep at home. I miss him terribly! I'm so sad that he's not here anymore but I'm so happy to know where he is." "We decided to have my dad interred at the Houston National Cemetery on June 21 at 11:15am. It's a military cemetery. He will have full military honors. He has not always been the most kind and gentle father but on July 14, 2013, he gave his life to the Lord and his life was changed. I'm so thankful! He was a Navy Vietnam Veteran. When I asked him about the war, he adamantly told me that it was not something he wanted to talk about.

Stanley Fontenot, sold his home and moved in with my parents to help take care of my dad.

About our Members

Prayers are Needed

Peggy Widaman

Peggy lives in Ft. Worth, and she down every year for our Christmas party and has been since Randy Widaman (her brother) passed away in 2021. We need prayers for Peggy, in late December, she called from ER and they told her she needed to see an oncologist right away. Well, it's took 3 months to get her started on Chemo. Peggy has a mass in her Colon, and they have to reduce it before surgery. Peggy was in the hospital for 2 week having surgery and now going back in for round 4 of Chemo. We are planning a trip to New Orleans, stopping off to visit some of my family in Sulfur and Lake Charles. I want them to meet my Peggy before New our visit New Orleans.



Julianne Leissner

Was in the hospital with the flu a complete Pneumonia. At first her Cardiac Enzymes went very high but there does not appear to be any really bad damage. Trying to heal up the infection in her lungs. Will need support and prayers for her improving recovery and gaining strength. Update-Julianne is at home and getting better, it's just slow, so please continue paying for her.

Karen and George Clark -(No picture of George available at this time) - _have been going through medical problems for several years. George went through knee replacement surgery that caused him to have a hip replacement surgery with problems. Karen is now going through both knee problems with very bad results presently. She had both knee joints implanted with that GELL that is now being used. She now has bad problems with both knees. She went back to her doctor, and he said he wants to kill 4 of her knee's nerves to solve her problems. They both said NO. She went to another doctor, and he said the same thing. She has a lot of pain and is barely walking without lots of pain and a walker to help her. She is not showing much progress. So, please keep them in your prayers.



This was taken in 2011 when Karen won this award.

About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton

This is one of the reasons why I love what I do. May 30th, I got to film a robotic bronchoscopy procedure at UTMB Health, where I do some of my best work. It was absolutely fascinating.



Congratulations!!

Kimi Sanders

Kimi's Eagle Scout Court of Honor and Celebration



Congratulations!!

Stanley Fontenot



TexasCaribbean.com

M-V Fling has been carrying divers out to the World-Class sites at the Flower Garden Banks NMS and beyond! It's by far the best diving in Texas. Come with us to dive in BLUE-WATER and see coral reefs and all the animals there!

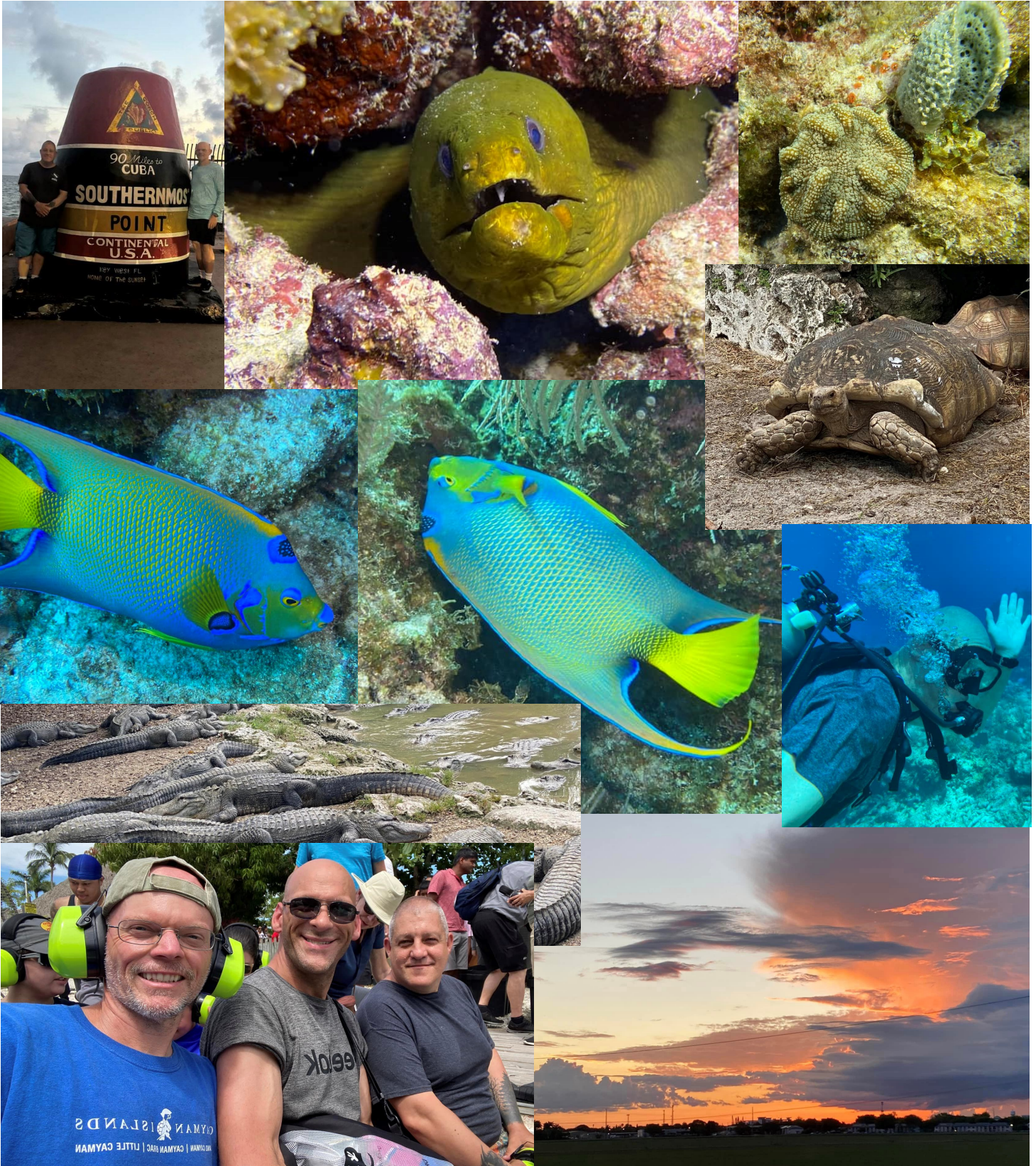
726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX,
United States, Texas
(979) 233-4445
info@TexasCaribbean.com



Go view this video to get a small view of the Flower Garden Banks: <https://www.facebook.com/100057303948082/videos/422927503937073>

About our Members

Stanley Fontenot



About our Members (Continued)

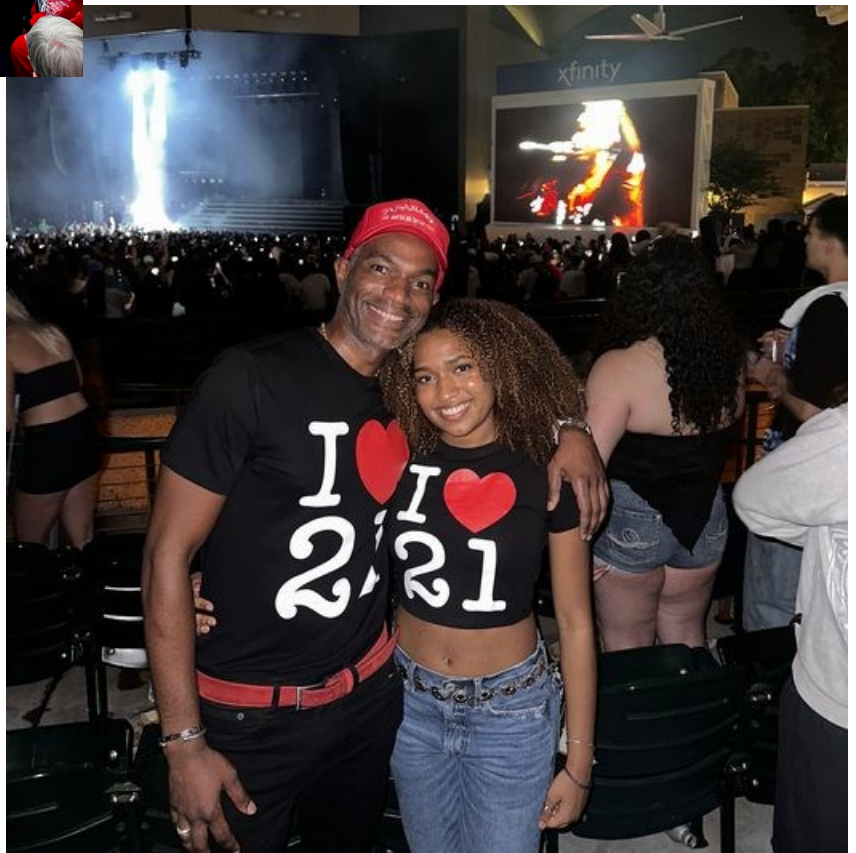
Justin Wallace



June 9 at 12:42pm—Montreal, QC
— at [Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.](#)

May 17th

Justin Wallace is at [Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Woodlands, Tx.](#)





Most valuable treasure': \$17 billion Spanish shipwreck from 1708 to be recovered

The San José was sunk in 1708 by British warships off the coast of Colombia.

By [Leah Sarnoff](#)

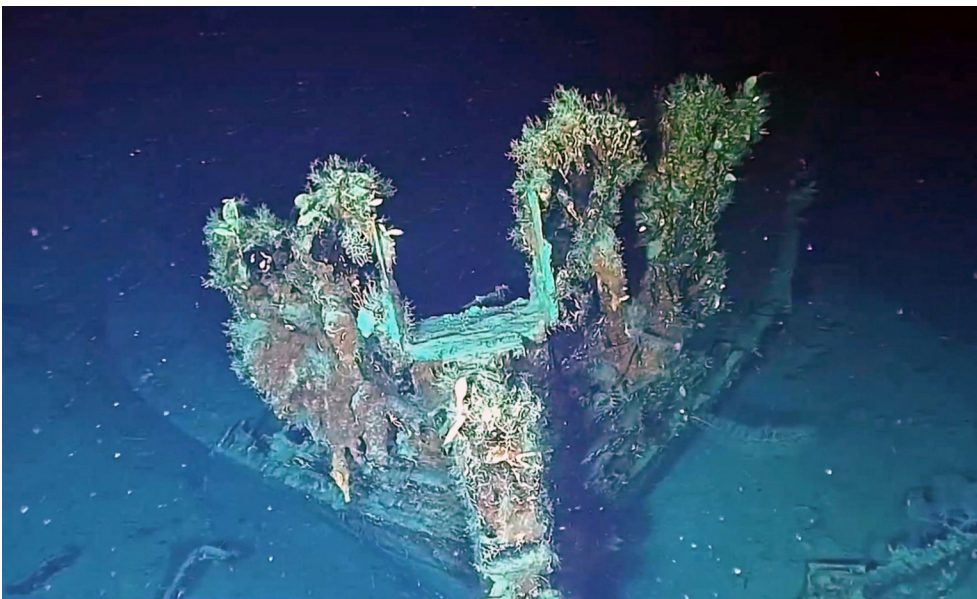
March 20, 2024, 2:05 PM

Sent in by [Mike Peters](#)

Centuries after the Spanish galleon ship San José sunk in Colombian waters and nearly a decade after it was initially discovered, the estimated \$17 billion shipwreck is set to be recovered as soon as April, according to officials.

"For the first time in history, a model of comprehensive public management of the archaeological site and asset of cultural interest, protected by regulations and public missionality, is advanced," the Colombian government [said in a press release](#), which was translated, Tuesday.

The 150-foot-long, 64-gun, three-masted galleon ship's treasure is comprised of 200 tons of silver and emeralds, 11 million gold coins, an intact Chinese dinner service and porcelain pottery, according to [Colombian Navy divers' findings](#) in June 2022.

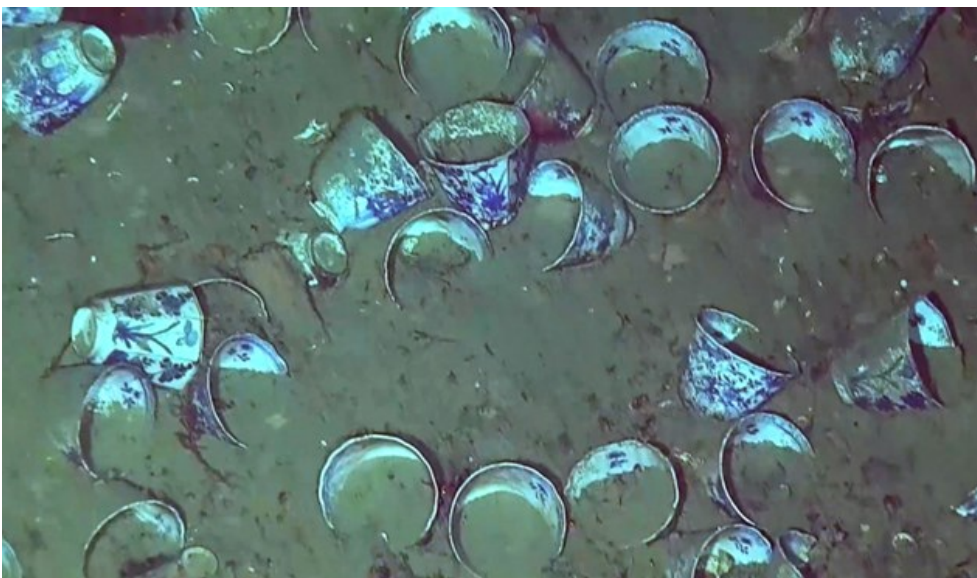


In 2015, when the wreck was initially rediscovered, former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said in a [news conference](#), "This is the most valuable treasure that has been found in the history of humanity." Santos also paid tribute to the 600 people who were onboard the ship during the wreck.

Current Colombian President Gustavo Petro ordered the recovery to be coordinated by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge, the National Navy's General Maritime Directorate and the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History, according to the release. The shipwreck's deep-sea location, which remained a mystery until 2015, is near Cartagena, a port city on Colombia's Caribbean coast, Colombian officials said in the press release.

Santos [announced the discovery](#) of the San José galleon, which launched an international debate over the rightful owner of the ship's bounty.

Colombia, Spain, Bolivian Indigenous groups and an American salvage company have all attempted to take legal ownership of the historical wreck, which is now estimated to be worth \$17 billion, according to court documents from Colombia's National Legal Defense Agency, obtained by [Business Insider](#) in 2023.



The San José was sunk in 1708 by British warships while it was returning to Spain, with a cargo full of treasure meant to help fund The War of the Spanish Succession, a European conflict that spanned from 1701 to 1714.

You should have been there!!

Dive Checkout Pictures



You should have been there!!

Dive Checkout Pictures



Recipes from Lunarfin's Checkout Dive

Sweet Corn Salsa (from Farmer John's Cookbook)—given to us by Louise Toole

Makes 2 1/2 cups

- 3 ears sweet corn
- 1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 medium tomatoes, diced
- 1/2 red onion, finely chopped, rinsed
- 1/2 cup loosely packed chopped cilantro leaves
- freshly squeezed juice of 2 limes (about 1/4 cup)
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 small clove garlic, minced (about 1/2 teaspoon, optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

1. Cut the corn kernels off the cobs. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat; add the corn kernels and sauté for 3 minutes.
2. Combine the corn and all remaining ingredients in a medium bowl and mix well. Serve warm or chilled.



Peacekeeper Cookies—given to us by Ja Van Pruett

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans, toasted

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large mixing bowl, cream together the softened butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar until the mixture is light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, followed by the vanilla extract, ensuring the ingredients are well combined.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt.
5. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, mixing until just combined.
6. Gently fold in the toasted chopped pecans.
7. Drop heaping tablespoons of dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave enough space between each cookie.
8. Bake in the preheated oven for 10-12 minutes, or until the cookies are golden brown around the edges but still soft in the center.
9. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.

American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



2024 Supporter Registration

The “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) was established by SCUBA divers on March 31, 2023. ACWA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public non-profit charity. Staffed by non-paid volunteers, ACWA’s administrative and donation support is provided annually by members of our community.

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America. 2024 registration is \$20.

“Supporters” on record for 2023 are listed on a “Supporter Master List” and need not complete this form. They continue their charity efforts with their 2024 payment of \$20 to ACWA’s treasurer - Mark Leiserowitz (contact information listed below).

New “Supporters” need to complete this form to provide ACWA with contact and IRS reporting information. To join as an individual (must be a certified scuba diver, or a member of a dive club) - fill out the application below. 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 by you or the IRS.

Dive Club _____

or

Certifying Agency: _____ C-Card Number: _____

Make Checks Payable To: **ACWA, c/o Mark Leiserowitz, 5205 De Milo Dr., Houston, Texas 77092**

Name: _____ Phone / Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2024 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2024. This scholarship is given in memory of Jack Allyn, John Anderson, Soodabeh O. Babcock, Randy Gray, Mike Griggs, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, Richard Mork, John Petty, Cynthia Ann Ramsey, Jackie Reid, Mary Lou Reid, John Ringrose, Wanda Roark, Peter Schmidt, Katie Springs, Margie M. Straight, Frank Strausborger, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman, Ted Wimprine, Kenneth Young and Dick Zingula; deceased members of our dive community. It is also awarded in recognition for support of the TGCC Scholarship Program by Rodney Dwire, Alicia Grimes, the Houston Underwater Club, the Houston Underwater Photographic Society, Linda Petty and Russell Ramsey. The purpose of this award is to support the members who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

3

Eligibility Rules:

3

Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2024, or a high school senior that has been accepted to college in 2024.

The applicant, the parent(s) (biological or through formal adoption), or the grandparent(s) of the applicant, must be an individual member of TGCC or a member of a TGCC member club with dues current in 2024.

Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2024**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 11, 2024.

Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

Scholarship General Guidelines:

Scholarship decisions of TGCC are final.

Scholarship winner is expected to keep TGCC abreast with his/her progress in college.

TGCC reserves the right to not award a prize depending upon the number of entries and qualifications of the applicants.

A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.

Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.

TGCC is offering this scholarship as a reward to TGCC members, TGCC member and associate clubs or the children of these members to thank them for supporting TGCC's efforts in promoting safe sport diving. The committee will take into consideration the applicant or applicant's parents involvement in TGCC and member clubs and/or the diving community in general.

Applications should be e-mailed to the TGCC Donations Committee Chairman:

jfburek@consolidated.net

2024 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Applicant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

High School: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Name of college to be attended in 2024: _____

(Please enclose a copy of the acceptance letter, or current college transcript):

Comments and information about the applicant's grades and academic performance:

Comments and information about the applicant's sports and/or other extracurricular achievements:

TGCC Affiliation (member of TGCC or TGCC member club)

Applicant Parent Grandparent (please circle one)

Affiliate First Name(s): _____ Last Name: _____

Affiliate Clubs (TGCC, CHUM, HUPS, Lunarfans, etc.): _____

Number of Years as member of the above named club(s): _____

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: _____

You should have been at May General Meeting!



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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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.tgccdive.org/>

TPWD reefs:

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



You should have been at May General Meeting! Page 2



This is the photograph that PeeWee won and let Ja Van pick out which one she wanted in the May Raffle. There were several Shark Key Chains given out. Each month there will be a nice surprise from Photographs, Blankets, a really nice coverup or towels, you just never know what we will find. So come and buy a ticket, it only takes one.

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

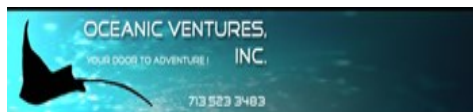
www.divetrip.com



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/



Giggin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

gigginmarlin.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