

## September Program

### Reef Ball Foundation Program and Polo Benefit

*Presented by Kathy Kirbo*

The Reef Ball Foundation is an international environmental non-profit foundation whose mission is to help restore the world's ocean ecosystems and to emphasize and protect our natural reef systems through preservation, technology, and innovative public education opportunities and community involvement. They have over 1500 projects worldwide and have won two national awards for environmental education (Sea World/Bush Gardens National Environmental Education Award) and a governor's award in Florida.

The Reef Ball Foundation works with governments, businesses, schools, research institutes, and a variety of community organizations. Their projects range from the Boy Scouts of America's High Adventure program in Islamorada, Florida to the government of Sarawak's marine sanctuary for sea turtles in

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Cocktail Cove

### Dive Cleanup Report

*By: Jill Mashburn*

We had a blast and the lake got a face lift! Not that you can see the difference that we made on the bottom of the lake, but the fish know. It was fun on land and in the lake on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. We had 12 divers in the water and seven people on shore, in addition to our 'ship-to-shore' staff and our Divemasters.

Altogether, we got five or six *huge* bags of trash, several small bags, five anchors, a tire, and the remains of a lawn chair. We had the divers in teams and each was briefed by Chris Hellyer and Terry, our Instructor and Divemaster for the day. We followed the rules for safety and fun. The divers only went 30' deep to find all this trash; we were barricaded in by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and three other boats belonging to members, and friends Frank Mayo and Janet McCully stayed on the boats to maintain our protection. The Coast Guard also had a man on a PWC going out to meet boats that were coming too close to our area. We had diver-down flags and signs (explaining what that means) on two of the boats to try and educate the masses.

A picnic for the clean up participants went off very well, thanks to our grillmaster Wes Gonzales, and we had enough food to feed a few dozen hungry Girl Scouts that were cleaning the shore near our dive site. (Man, those girls can eat, they put some of our men to shame!)

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## Aquarius Habitat

*A note from Cathy Sakas, Gray's Reef NMS*

Hello, Hello!

I am off to Key Largo to become an aquanaut, and if all goes well with training, I will enter the Aquarius Habitat on September 10<sup>th</sup> and stay until the morning of September 19<sup>th</sup>. I thought you would want to check out the web site for information about this incredible mission and to see me on the web! There will be a live video feed from Aquarius to the web site as of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Information about the mission and the aquanauts (that would be me and three other scientists and two technicians) are up on the web now. When I see you next I just may have grown gills!

On the web, check out:  
[www.uncwil.edu/nurc/aquarius/](http://www.uncwil.edu/nurc/aquarius/)

Fish Lip Smiles,  
Cathy



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### **Reef Ball Foundation** (Continued from page 1)

Malaysia to Instituto Ecoplan's habitat restoration project in Brazil! More locally, the students of The Walker School in Atlanta built Reef Balls at their school and deployed them off the coast of St. Simons Island, Georgia.

This month, the Reef Ball Foundation is hosting a "Polo Ball Benefit" which combines a polo match and a picnic style event, so feel free to bring your lawn chairs and coolers! This event will be hosted at Chukkar Farm (770-664-1533) in Alpharetta, Georgia on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001 at 2:00 pm. Some food and drinks will be provided, however, you can bring your own as a picnic—which is what we're planning to do! The cost to enter (after all, this *is* a benefit event!) is only \$10 per person, and for those who have never seen a Polo Match—this is a great opportunity!

To learn more about Reef Balls and the Foundation's worldwide efforts, check out their website at [www.reefball.org](http://www.reefball.org). (770-752-0202) ❁

### **Divemaster's Corner**

*By: Rick McCully, PADI Divemaster*

Just when some of us Reef Dwellers begin to feel land-locked and hear as others describe exotic diving adventures to distant vistas, we realize there is some darn good diving fairly close to home:

- ❁ Panama City, Florida and the Aqua-Nut Charter operation hosted us in both June and October and is only a 5½ hour drive south.
- ❁ Our "Georgia's own" beautiful and laid-back Gray's Reef off Sapelo Island, GA and Pot Luck Charters is only 4 hours away.
- ❁ The many fresh water springs, caverns, and caves of North Florida with wonderful camping and diving opportunities, such as Vortex Springs and Ginnie Springs, to name a couple, are a straight shot south about 4½ hours away.
- ❁ And our upcoming dive with the dolphins trip to Grand Bahama Island, Oct. 18-22, is a mere 1¼ hour inexpensive flight on Air-Tran. Call trip chairman Bill Gray (770-789-0524) if you are interested in a great diving deal to the beautiful Bahamas.
- ❁ And, as they say, "nothin' could be finer" than the wreck diving off the capes of North Carolina, with sunken U-boats, etc. to explore! I will be organizing a trip off Morehead City, NC in the Spring...more on that later.

So, fellow Reef Dwellers, we can easily drive or fly to nearby dive destinations, keep up our skills, have fun, keep the costs down, and enjoy our wonderful sport!

Be safe, and enjoy the rest of the Summer! ❁

### **Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club**

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*Diver's Log* is published monthly by the Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club. No material may be used or reprinted without written permission. For inclusion in the *Diver's Log*, material must be received at least 2 weeks prior to the club's next meeting date in order to be included in that month's publication.

Annual club membership dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$30 for a family membership to a single address. To receive a membership application form, please contact the club secretary.

Advertising rates for business card sized ads...\$15 for non-members and \$10 for club members. Members are allowed one free ad per year. (All ads are "space permitting")

The Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club is an independent organization and is not affiliated with any other dive-related organization. The purpose of this organization shall be to: 1) Encourage the exchange of ideas for the mutual benefit of all divers; 2) Promote marine interest and activity for members and the general public; 3) Develop participation in a healthful hobby and sport; and, 4) Encourage the development and improvement of the techniques, skills, equipment and safety measures used in skin and scuba diving.

## Calendar of Events

### 2001 Meetings

**September 11 at 7:30 pm**  
Reef Ball Foundation  
Polo Ball Benefit Presentation

**October 9 at 7:30 pm**  
Tennessee Aquarium Presentation

**November 13 at 7:30 pm**  
Annual Photo Contest  
Prizes to be awarded!

**December 11 at 7:30 pm**  
Annual Holiday Party & Meeting  
Door Prizes & Gift Swap!

### Upcoming Events

**September 23**  
2:00 PM  
Reef Ball Polo Ball Benefit  
Polo Match & Picnic for Reef Ball Benefit

**October 18-22**  
Bahamas & Dolphin Dive Trip  
Contact Bill Gray at 770-789-0524

**November 23-25**  
3rd Annual Ginnie Springs  
Turkey Weekend Extravaganza  
Diving, Gear Swap & Camping  
Contact John Law (770-422-2733)

### Upcoming Events in 2002

**April 20-27, 2002**  
Annual Florida Keys Dive Week  
Contact John Stigaard (770-428-0987)

### Did you know...?

Over 99% of all lobsters die within a few weeks of hatching!

The odds are 10,000-to-1 against any lobster living long enough to be eaten by man!

Only 1 in 4 million lobsters are blue! (the rest are really happy.)

### Have an idea for an event?

If so, please contact one of your Steering Committee Members or send an email to: [info@reefdwellers.com](mailto:info@reefdwellers.com)

The club is interested in finding out what you would like to see and do, so please make suggestions either at the meetings or via the web or email.

## Cocktail Cove Dive Cleanup Report (Continued from page 1)

Prizes were given out for The Most Trash found—Rich Kale and Wayne Austin each won a \$40 gift certificate for that honor. The second place for Most Trash went to the father and son team of Jim and Jason Robertson—They each received \$35 gift certificates. The prize for the Most Unique Trash went to Tom & Ginny Peary for finding the tire from a boat trailer in the middle of the lake, and for that they received a \$60 gift certificate. These gift certificates were paid for by a portion of the grant from PADI's Project AWARE, and are honored at the following dive stores: Diving World USA, Garrard Dive Educators, S&S Undersea Adventures, and The Dive Shop IV.

Other dive teams and shore help participating were: John Law and Gary Gutierrez (a local diver that came to assist), Jim Sulsona, Bill Mashburn, Bill Gray and Maryellen Farquhar. The shore team that brought in the most trash was Stacy Gandel and her friends Diana and Mike. We also had Wes Gonzales and Gail Guthrie on shore. Robin Sulsona helped on shore to get trash out of the transport vessel and Jill Mashburn talking to the press and also helping to get trash from the transport vessel. Our star of the day was Rick McCully who volunteered to pick up the trash from the divers in the lake and bring it to shore. We really made a mess of his dinghy but we couldn't have run such a smooth operation without him!



And to think this all started back in April with the help of Anna Watkins when we wrote the proposal to see if Project AWARE would sponsor our clean up!

Thanks to everyone that helped!!! We'll make an even bigger splash next year! *-Jill Mashburn, events coordinator*

## Scuba News & Tidbits

**Australia:** There will soon be one of the world's largest artificial reefs off the coast of Albany, Western Australia in Princess Royal Harbour...a decommissioned 437' Royal Australian Navy guided missile destroyer...the *HMAS Perth II*...which is scheduled to be scuttled November 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year.

**North Carolina:** Annual Underwater Beach Sweep, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001. Here's the info from Discovery Diving Company (414 Orange St., Beaufort, NC 28516):

"A greeting from Beaufort where the water is warm and the diving is great. Just wanted to let you know about the annual Underwater Beach Sweep. It swept up on us so we are scrambling to get the word out. The national clean-up day is the 15<sup>th</sup> but the tides are bad for us, so we are sweeping the waters of Radio Island clean on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001. Be at the dive shop by 10:30 on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rental gear is free while it lasts. Afterwards we'll have a picnic at the dive shop. Call the shop if you want to participate so we can get a head count and let you know if there are last minute changes."

For more info, call 252-728-2265, or on the web at: [www.discoverydiving.com](http://www.discoverydiving.com)

**Texas:** The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Dive Clubs will be holding their 26<sup>th</sup> annual TrashFest on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Prizes will be awarded! This is a day-long event to clean the Comal River in New Braunfels, TX (between San Antonio and Austin). For more info, call 281-496-4687 or visit: [www.tgccdiveclubs.org](http://www.tgccdiveclubs.org).

**Florida:** Schooners Beach Club in Panama City Beach will hold their annual Lobster Festival & Tournament, Sept 21-23. Visit [www.schooners.com](http://www.schooners.com) (850-235-3555)

**PADI:** They report that they have now certified their 10 millionth diver! Wow.

*Have something to report? Send your info to: [editor@reefdwellers.com](mailto:editor@reefdwellers.com)*

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Your club membership expires on the date indicated in the upper right hand corner of your address label. See page 2 for details on club membership and dues.

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**The Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club**  
meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at:

**Jocks & Jills Sports Grill**  
Brookhaven Location

4046 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30319

Telephone: 404-816-2801

(Across from the Brookhaven MARTA Station)

<http://www.jocks-frankies.com/brookhaven.htm>



## **GAFC Prizes Awarded To ARDSC Divers**

**Our July Gray's Reef N.M.S.  
Great American Fish Count dive  
pays off...literally!**

We had two of the divers win prizes from July's Great American Fish Count Challenge. Although we did not have the grand prize winner, both Jeff Magee and Anna Watkins won prizes from REEF! Jeff received a year's subscription to Dive Training magazine and Anna won an autographed limited edition print from Paul Humann. Congratulations to them both!

Don't forget...you can continue to contribute to REEF's fish count efforts all year. Just contact Jill Mashburn for the fish count forms needed for submission and for additional information— or visit [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org) on the web for details.

REEF is the Reef Environmental Education Foundation  
and is headquartered in the Florida Keys.

### ***September's Featured Program:***

**Reef Ball Foundation  
and Polo Ball Benefit**

*By Kathy Kirbo, executive director*

**[www.reefball.org](http://www.reefball.org)**

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**Support Your Local Dive Shops!**

**Don't forget to stop by our website!**

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