



# **NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club**

## **September 2006**

**Wednesday September 27— Meeting - 7:30pm**

**Guest speaker is Larry McKenna with SOLO**

Larry McKenna of Happy Cat Video Productions. is an internationally acclaimed Adventure Videographer. Larry organized SOLO "Save Our Leatherback Turtle Organization" dedicated to the preservation of Leatherback Turtles, which are the largest Sea Turtle and reptile. Come and learn about this fascinating sea creature which is threatened with extinction.

**Thanks to:**

Guest speaker is Kelly Drinnen with

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

The Flower Gardens are the northern most coral reef system and is the only coral reef off the Texas Coast and a qualifies as a "local" dive trip. Come and learn about the sea creatures, the corals and the unique geological formation known as the Flower Gardens and Stetson Banks!!

### **The BAD Calendar**

#### **September, 2006**

- 5 BAD BOD Meeting
- 27 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### **October, 2006**

- 5 BAD BOD Meeting
- 7 Trashfest in New Braunfel's
- 14 BAD Flea Market — Jim DeLane
- 14 Ambergris Caye — Tom Doolin
- 21 Coco View Resort — Randy Widaman
- 21 Haunted Tour of Houston
- 27 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### **November, 2006**

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 18 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual BAD Anniversary Party
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### **December, 2006**

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 18 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual BAD Anniversary Party
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### **January, 2007**

- 5 BAD BOD Meeting
- 27 BAD General Membership Meeting

**Have an event you want to lead, contact the Board for more details**



### **September**

Judy Rabren	9/3
Barbara Courtright	9/9
James Parker	9/13
Thomas Arena	9/16
Nanette Skelly	9/16
David Erdin	9/17
Emsley Haywood Phifer	9/18
Frank Resch	9/18
Debbie Stanford	9/21
Madeleine Barnes	9/22
Fran Eubanks	9/26
Sam Lindsey	9/29



### **COME VISIT and DIVE WITH YOUR FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS**

Bay Area Divers meet at Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Road 1 at 7:30 pm the last Wednesday of each month (except December).

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

The B.A.D. Board of Directors meet at Ryan's Steakhouse on Bay Area Blvd. on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

All members are welcome.

# B.A.D. B.O.D. BRIEFS

By Beverly Cutler

Yes, it is still very hot out there but in a couple of months most of us will cease diving around here. You still have lots of time to make the best of this warm weather so let's go blow lots of bubbles really soon. And, you know it is not too early to begin planning your dive trips for next year.

## Activities

Rowe Henry is providing a TrashFests, October 7, 2006 Roster for teams and team members and our Annual Flea Market is October 14. Mark your calendars to come on out to help with this event and shop for additional items for your dive locker. Contact **Beverly Cutler, 713-472-9788/713-898-9413**, if you would like to volunteer to help with our Flea Market. A Halloween Tour of Houston will take place on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Call Beverly to sign up. Halloween Costume Contest will be held on Oct. 27. Diver of the Year will also be elected on Oct. 27. When it comes to our Anniversary Party, November 18<sup>th</sup>, see any of the BAD Board Members for tickets. BAD Officers and Board members will be elected at the Nov. 29 General Meeting. We are still looking for a Nominations Committee Chairperson to help with the 2007 officer Election process. We need someone who will gather names of people to run for our BAD BOD. This organization needs BOD members who are willing to donate a little time to help this club continue to provide an environment of diving opportunities, education and socializing for our members. This can be a very fun and educating opportunity. (Just a little note: If you are the

*Continued — Nominations Committee Chairperson you may not run for or be elected to a BAD BOD Position.)*

## Agenda for Oct. 5 BAD BOD Meeting.

- Reports from Officers and Committee Chairpersons.
- Discussion on upcoming Events.
- Discussion on our upcoming Flea Market.
- Discussion on to inform members of services offered by other members.
- If you have something to add to the agenda please notify me.

Please make note that this agenda will probably be changing as the month progresses.

## Keep Blowing Those Bubbles!

# Members & Guests

### New Members —

**Dan/Lori & Bruce, Tony, Chrissy Collins, James Foley, Walter Giebelhaus, Alan & Christopher Lattie, Moira Elizabeth Pechacek**

**Guests —** Kelly Drinnen, Walter Giebelhaus, Gail Hoffman

## Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

President	Beverly Cutler	<a href="mailto:bcutler@pdq.net">bcutler@pdq.net</a>
V. President	Jim Delane	<a href="mailto:Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org">Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org</a>
Secretary	Madeleine Barnes	<a href="mailto:dwbmkb@aol.com">dwbmkb@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Fred Swerdlin	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bayareadivers.org">treasurer@bayareadivers.org</a>
Editor	Ja Van Pruett	<a href="mailto:aladyfish@verizon.net">aladyfish@verizon.net</a>
Board	Rowe Henry	<a href="mailto:rowehenry@hotmail.com">rowehenry@hotmail.com</a>
Board	Butch Shannon	<a href="mailto:butch@pdq.net">butch@pdq.net</a>
Board	Randy Widaman	<a href="mailto:cap10randy@houston.rr.com">cap10randy@houston.rr.com</a>
Webmaster:	Jim Delane	<a href="mailto:Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org">Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org</a>
Bartender:	Polly Swerdlin	<a href="mailto:pfollyred@swbell.net">pfollyred@swbell.net</a>
Sales:	Verna Shannon	<a href="mailto:butch@pdq.net">butch@pdq.net</a>

**WEBSITE:** [www.bayareadivers.org](http://www.bayareadivers.org).



## Congratulations!!

**Gloria and Joe are the proud parents of their daughter **Moria Elizabeth Pechacek**. Moira was born on August 16, 2006 at 7:07 pm. **Moria** weighed 10lbs-2oz and was 21 inches long.**

# SEPTEMBER BAD BOD BRIEF

By Madeleine K. Barnes

The Texas Gulf Coast Council (TGCC) of dive clubs is hosting their annual "Trashfest" clean up of the Comal River at New Braunfels on October 7th. Rowe Henry is putting together BAD teams for competition and requests participants to contact him. There are currently 1-2 teams being formed. The plans for the October 14<sup>th</sup> Flea Market are coming together according to Jim Delane who has sold 29 tables as of this date. Rowe Henry announced that he has the club raffle item (a regulator) for the event. Beverly Cutler is heading up the volunteers for the event and BAD requests your help to make it a success (contact her to sign up). Be sure to wear your BAD shirt, if you have one, to the event and go through your dive gear for any that you want to sell at the BAD table (no cost to members and volunteers sell it for you). Every club member volunteer will receive a BAD (logo) hat for their time and effort in addition to participation in the volunteer door prize drawing and party after the event. BAD will have a nice brochure describing our club to hand out at the Flea Market gate courtesy of Judy Rabren. Randy Widaman stated that tickets are available for the Anniversary Party planned for November 18<sup>th</sup> at Monument Inn. The cost of the meal is only \$20 and covers all you can eat and each club member may also purchase one ticket for a guest if you want to bring someone to the party to join in the fun. (See the event calendar link for details on [www.bayareadivers.org](http://www.bayareadivers.org)) Voting will take place at the September 27<sup>th</sup> membership meeting regarding the addition of a budget item to cover agreed upon payment for club meeting security services provided in the past. Beverly Cutler is requesting that volunteers for the Nominating Committee contact her. The club election for officers and board members for 2007 will take place at the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

If you have any dive related magazines that you have finished reading and want to share with other Baddies, bring them to the meetings and place them on the back table. Any vendors/others running trips can also place their trip flyers on the table for club member information and participation.

**BAD's BOARD (BOD) MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO All**, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2006** at 7:00 PM at Ryan's Steak House on Bay Area Blvd. near Hwy 3. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we appreciate everyone's participation and your input. Come earlier if you would like to eat and visit with some of us prior to the meeting.

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Continued —

**Note:** As per Jim Delane, our Flea Market Chairperson, 34 Flea Market tables have been sold as of 9/11/06.

**Go Jim!**

## Texas Clipper in Trouble

**YOUR help urgently needed!!!**

The Texas Clipper did indeed settle her stern at her berth in Beaumont. I'm unsure whether the exact cause was a leak, a bilge pump problem, or something else, but she has been fixed and is floating again. However,



as a result of this incident MARAD (who currently holds title to her) has decided that maybe she'd be better off **scrapped** and has sent out emergency

RFP's to get bids on scrapping her. PLEASE WRITE MARAD AND LET THEM KNOW TEXAS DIVERS DON'T WANT HER SCRAPPED. Emails should to to [Ms. Julie Nelson](mailto:julie.nelson@dot.gov) (julie.nelson@dot.gov) with a CC to [Ms. Zoe Washnis](mailto:zoe.washnis@dot.gov) (zoe.washnis@dot.gov).

3

**Deadline** for article submission for next month is **October 8th, 2006** E-Mail [aladyfish@verizon.net](mailto:aladyfish@verizon.net)

# TrashFest 2006

## Getting to TrashFest

**From Houston:** Exit I-10 at Seguin on Hwy 46 North. Stay on Hwy 46 North under I-35 (becomes Loop 337). Take Loop 337 to Common Street, then left. Registration will be held at the Comal County Fairgrounds on Common Street (on the right).



## Saturday, October 7, 2006 New Braunfels, Texas

Just for fun, the council gathers once a year in scenic New Braunfels to clean the crystal clear Comal River after a season of tubers have "lost" literally tons of trash. You can be proud that this is one of the oldest environmental clean up campaigns in the nation --- we taught the rest of 'em how to do it, Texas style!

Why wait? If you would like to brush up on your diving skills, practice diving in the shortest river in Texas, enjoy the underwater view or just need to get wet, New Braunfels just can't be beat. Be sure to wear your Trashfest T-shirt, and it wouldn't hurt if you pass this on to both your diving and non-diving friends.

For information, contact the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce at 800-572-2626 or online at <http://www.nbcham.org>

For information on the Comal River visit <http://www.exploreuw.com/sc04004.htm>

## Schedule of Activities

- 8:00 - 10:00 AM Registration at Comal County Fairgrounds
  - 10:00 - 10:45 AM Contestants Meeting
  - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Diving in assigned areas of the Comal River
  - 1:00 - 3:00 PM Diving in any part of the Comal River
  - 3:00 PM All Trash Due at Check-In Site (Prince Solms Park)
  - 5:00 - 8:00 PM Dinner and Awarding of Door Prizes and Super Scooper Prizes
- Entry Fee: \$15/Person, Team of 8 - \$100

This is a TEXAS GULF COAST  
COUNCIL OF DIVE CLUBS event  
for more information

<http://www.tgccdiving.org/trashfest.html>

# Swimming with Whale Sharks in Holbox Mexico

August 10, 2006

On July 26 at the Bay Area Divers general meeting, Joan David with Sharks.org did a presentation about whale sharks. Holbox is just north of Cancun.

The comment that stuck was "Holbox is right on your doorstep". Since I had planned to go diving in Cozumel, which is just south of Cancun, Holbox was really on my doorstep. I was not sure how difficult it would be to set up an excursion at the last minute. That is where "Rodrigo" comes into the picture. He is an ex-pat from El Paso and has lived there for over 8 years. He offered to take care of everything and did a fine job. Learn more about Rodrigo and our trip to Holbox on the page and slideshow "The Holbox Adventure". We left at about 7:30 am and the ride was about an hour. The whale sharks congregate in a shallow area off shore where the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean converge. It is plankton rich and it is common to see manta rays feeding as well. They feed until around noon and then descend back into the depths. We got 4 encounters lasting about 10 minutes each. The guide positions the boat in the path of a feeding shark and you hit the water and up to and swim along side of the shark for as long as you can. Then you chase another until exhausted, get back in the boat and let the next group go. These fish are large and are leisurely feeding. However, due to their size, what is slow and easy movement to them is a lot of work for us. The greatest experience I had was as I was swimming alongside towards the head of one shark, it saw me and slowed down. I got eyeball to eyeball and we looked at each other for a period. Truly awesome. If you ever have the opportunity - go!



\*Did you know? Whale sharks are thought to live 100 to 150 years.

Deadline for article submission for next month is **October 8th, 2006** E-Mail [aladyfish@verizon.net](mailto:aladyfish@verizon.net)

# Test-Tube Coral Babies' May Mend Reefs

Sent in by Jim Ward

**KEY LARGO**, Fla. Aug 16, 2006 (AP)— Marine scientists hope "test-tube coral babies" will take root to help restore a tract of reef ravaged by a 1984 ship grounding in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.



A team of University of Miami marine science Researchers is collecting coral eggs and sperm all this week during an annual reproductive ritual, dubbed coral spawning.

Looking like an upside-down, underwater snowstorm, most corals in the Keys, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean release eggs and sperm into the water a few days after the full moon in August. In the wild, eggs and sperm randomly mix and fertilize to become larvae. Some take root to become foundation blocks for new coral.

Researchers led by Margaret Miller, an ecologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, gather spawn in cone-shaped, tent collectors anchored over portions of the coral reef off Key Largo. The spawn is blended in jars and the portion that fertilizes is transported to a field laboratory.

"From that stage, we hope we have embryos," Miller said. "It's a fairly labor-intensive process over several days of siphoning off waste products and providing them fresh sea water for a week."

Beginning this weekend, Miller's team plans to take the larvae to the site of the M/V Wellwood, a 400-foot freighter that ran aground on Molasses Reef off Key Largo Aug. 4, 1984. The grounding destroyed nearly all corals in an area totaling about 5,000 square feet.

Using funds from fines paid by the ship's owners, much of the site was restored structurally in 2002, but there has not been evidence of hard coral growth.

Researchers will install fine mesh enclosure tents around limestone-based, artificial reefs and place free-swimming larvae inside. Miller hopes the larvae will attach to the reefs and mature into polyps, initial building blocks for a coral colony.

Even though coral maturation is extremely slow, growing anywhere from a third of an inch to less than four inches each year, success of the project could eventually mean hope for declining coral reefs around the world, said Miller, adding that currently there is a high mortality rate for lab-produced coral larvae.

"There's millions and millions of eggs even our team (off Key Largo) is able to collect," she said. "If we can learn how to enhance the survivorship of larvae to settle and become new corals on reefs, that is huge potential."



## CoCoView Resort Trip October 21-28, 2006

By Captain Randy

Come join me, Captain Randy Widaman (M/V Fling) and 13 other guest to CoCoView Resort on beautiful Roatan, Bay Island Honduras October 21-28, 2006. The trip includes round trip airfare from Houston IAH airport, transfers to and from the resort, 7 nights lodging and 6 days of diving, welcome drink, 3 meals a day, a BBQ picnic on the cay weather permitting, 2 boat trips per day with each boat trip having 2 dives each, unlimited beach diving day or night. We have 2 Bungalows and 5 A/C rooms reserved. Not included in the price is Roatans departure tax, tips, your drink tab, land tours, and gifts for the folks back home. We will soon have a flyer out on the BAD web page [www.bayareadivers.org](http://www.bayareadivers.org) so check it out under "events." For further info call Randy Widaman 281-338-8808 home/fax or 832-264-8047 cell. My email address is [cap10randy@houston.rr.com](mailto:cap10randy@houston.rr.com) You can also check out CoCoView's web page at [www.cocoviewresort.com](http://www.cocoviewresort.com) I have been to a lot of places diving and I honesty have to say this is the best, so come join me for a fun filled week of great diving and relaxation.

## Contest

Every time your name/or picture has been entered in the newsletter you receive a point. The way to get your name in the newsletter is to get involved. We have several events coming up. The Winner will receive their prize at the January meeting.

5

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# Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter"

CAIRNS, Australia

Sept. 4, 2006 (AP)—

Steve Irwin, the hugely popular Australian television personality and conservationist known as the "Crocodile Hunter," was killed Monday "by a stingray barb to his heart" while filming off the Great Barrier Reef. He was 44.



Irwin was at Batt Reef, off the remote coast of northeastern Queensland state, shooting a segment for a series called "Ocean's Deadliest" when he swam too close to one of the animals, which have a poisonous barb on their tails, his friend and colleague John Stainton said.

"He came on top of the stingray and the stingray's barb went up and into his chest and put a hole into his heart," said Stainton, who was on board Irwin's boat at the time.

According to Australia Zoo, the wildlife park Irwin ran in northeastern Queensland. Irwin left his American-born wife Terri, from Eugene, Ore., and his two children, daughter Bindi Sue, 8, and son Bob, who will turn 3 in December.

The couple met when she went on vacation in Australia in 1991 and visited Irwin's Australia Zoo; they were married six months later. Sometimes referred to as the "Crocodile Huntress," she costarred on her husband's television show and in his 2002 movie.

Australia Zoo and Wildlife Warriors Worldwide are today in mourning for a beloved friend and respected leader. The global response to the loss of Steve Irwin and the public outpouring of empathy we have received has been overwhelming, and a significant comfort to those of us who knew him. This is not just a loss for us, but for a planet full of people who loved him so well, and for the world's precious wildlife that he laid his life on the line to protect.

Steve was a true original; he brought energy and passion to everything he did. Whether it was performing groundbreaking crocodile research on board his vessel *Croc One*, filming wildlife documentaries or simply celebrating his children's birthdays, Steve didn't do anything by half. A hard-core Wildlife Warrior and dedicated family man, Steve did for conservation and education what no one had ever done before. He brought wildlife conservation right into people's living rooms and created a whole new generation of Wildlife Warriors.

The exceptional life Steve led is a testament to his respect for all creatures great and small, and his passion for wildlife was matched only by his passion for family life.

*Sent in by Jim Ward*

# Beachdiving Stingray Injury

*Sent in by Jim Ward*



Beach entries can be hazardous from several points of view. Not only is the entry difficult due to water action but there is another danger that is difficult to prevent, particularly if you back into the surf in a proper fashion. That is a stingray injury.

It is not too difficult to recognize what has happened to you as the pain of a stingray is quite severe and unrelenting. Immediate recognition of the situation helps as pressure, heat and immobilization are appropriate while the diver is being transported to an emergency facility.

This brings up several thoughts. First—just what first aid measures would be helpful with a stingray or other dangerous marine animal injury; and second—concerning what other harmful things could happen at the beach and near shore.

First, we need to know that any wounds that occur in sea water should be treated as contaminated wounds—sea water contains marine bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics, and all wounds should be washed out with soap and fresh water. All wounds, no matter how received, should be watched carefully for infection, dressed with sterile material and treated with antibiotic ointment for at least ten days. Sutures should be avoided because of the high chance of infection and butterfly closures should be applied.

Most of the hazards related to the beach fall into two groups: 1). Puncture wounds and 2). Marine toxins. Injuries from predators (sharks, barracuda, morays, large grouper) are so rare at the beach as to be newsworthy—but when they occur they need to be treated as noted. Barnacle cuts and sea urchin punctures are particularly painful and difficult to heal.

Marine toxins occur in just about every creature in the ocean as a protective mechanism. At the beach and around piers and jetties we need to be concerned mainly with jellyfish, fire corals and anemones. All of these produce a tiny "nematocyst" inside of which is a toxic barb which, if ruptured, fires off into the skin causing intense pain, burning, redness and swelling. Flush with sea water, vinegar or alcohol but not with fresh water and certainly don't rub it! Meat tenderizer is also said to be helpful. Most people don't realize that "sea lice" are also nematocysts of the thimble jellyfish floating around in water that get under your clothing.

Other frequent injuries that are seen at the beach are puncture wounds from sting rays, sea urchins, scorpion fish and fins or spines from dead fish in the sand (particularly catfish). Stingray wounds usually occur when the buried

Continued from p. 6 —

animal is stepped upon and he instinctively fires his stinger located at the base of the tail. Most injuries are to the foot and lower leg, but occasionally to the head and neck in snorkelers. Rapid treatment should consist of removal of the stinger, immersion in hot water (45 degrees centigrade, or as hot as one can stand it) for 30-90 minutes, give adequate pain relief, watch for heart irregularities, treat for shock and infection and give tetanus prophylaxis. Spines from sea urchins break off under the skin and sometimes require surgical excision. Vinegar soaks are said to help.

## Stingrays Mutilated After Irwin's Death

Sent in by Jim Ward

Provided By: [The Associated Press](#)



Steve Irwin and wife Terri and a nine-foot

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - At least 10 stingrays have been slain since "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin was killed by one of the fish, an official said Tuesday, prompting a spokesman for the late TV star's animal charity to urge people not take revenge on the animals.

Slain stingrays since have been discovered on two beaches in Queensland state on Australia's eastern coast. Two were discovered Tuesday with their tails lopped off, state fisheries department official Wayne Sumpton said.

Sumpton said fishermen who inadvertently catch the diamond-shaped rays sometimes cut off their tails to avoid being stung, but the practice was uncommon. Stingrays often are caught in fishing nets by mistake and should be returned to the sea, Sumpton said.

Michael Hornby, the executive director of Irwin's Wildlife Warriors conservation group, said he was concerned the rays were being hunted and killed in retaliation for Irwin's death.

"It may be some sort of retribution, or it may be fear from certain individuals, or it just may be yet another callous act toward wildlife," he said.

He said killing stingrays was "not what Steve was

# Hyperbaric Tour Report

By: Randy Widaman



Well on Aug 12, 10 BADDies all drove up to the Memorial Hermann Hyperbaric Chamber facilities for a tour. What a very very very informative tour. For those that missed it you should have been there. We all meet at 10:00am and coffee and brownies were awaiting us along with orange juice and grape juice. We then went into the chamber were David Baylor from the chamber unit gave us a tour of the inside workings of a chamber. We then had a power point presentation give also by David along with Dr. Renie Guillind M.D. from Venezuela who is on a 1 year assignment to the Chamber unit. The group had many questions and gathered a lot of information. We finished up at around 12 noon and a few of us went to Fuddruckers for lunch. The group all said they had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed it.

## BAD AFTER MEETING GATHERING

by Beverly Cutler



How about we gather at **Boondoggles** in Seabrook for snacks and more socializing??? It is located on NASA Rd. 1, near highway 146. Plan to have even more fun and socializing. **See you there!**



**Any Member of the Bay Area Dive Club can run an add for as long as you would like.**

**Business Card size would be \$10.00 a month  
Double Business card size would be \$20.00 a month.**

**Please contact Editor: [aladyfish@verizon.net](mailto:aladyfish@verizon.net)**



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