



REEF-in-Brief

*The e-Newsletter of the
Reef Environmental Education Foundation*

July 2005

1. **The 2005 REEF Sustainers Event** - This year's Annual REEF Sustainers Event took place at the beautiful home of Rosemary Duke in Key Largo, FL on July 23rd. The event allows us to thank major donors in person for their generous contributions to REEF over the previous year as well as to acknowledge the critical support we receive from every individual donor. It also allows donors, REEF partners, staff, and board members the opportunity to get together in a social atmosphere and look back on what REEF's been up to and look forward to where we are going.

REEF would like to thank all those that attended the event and especially Ms. Rosemary Duke for her gracious hospitality in hosting the 2005 REEF Annual Sustainers Event. Due in large part to the contributions of individuals, REEF is able to offer free membership. This funding also supports other REEF programs such as The Fish Survey Project, The Grouper Moon Project, Education, The REEF Marine Conservation Internship Program, and more. To learn more about contributing to REEF, please [visit our website](#).



REEF interns, Nia Cherrett, Skyler Sagarese, and Jackie Bowie, enjoy the festivities.



Former REEF intern, Steve Prutzman, and former REEF Volunteer of the Year, Audrey Smith take in the band and enjoy a drink.

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Thanks to Rosemary Duke, long-time REEF supporter, for hosting the event at her beautiful home. A view of the waterfront.

2. **The 14th Great Annual Fish Count** - The GAFC, the premier citizen science marine conservation event in the Western Hemisphere, is winding down for another year. We here at REEF will be working to tabulate the data and participation for 2005. We will report the results in a "REEF-in-Brief" in the near future.

The event has continued to grow and spread since its inception in California in the early 90's. More and more people become involved in REEF by making a meaningful contribution to marine conservation by conducting REEF Fish Surveys. Last year's event generated over 2,000 such surveys in the month of July. This year's GAFC has featured several new locations hosting their first ever events - Guanacaste, Costa Rica; Utila, Honduras; Veracruz, Mexico; Akumal, Mexico; and Charlotte, North Carolina to name a few. Other events were tremendously successful - the Stellwagen Banks National Marine Sanctuary/New England Aquarium Dive Club event on the 16th boasted some 100 divers!



The GAFC is REEF's biggest annual event that mobilizes local volunteers throughout much of REEF's survey regions to organize their own local events. These wonderful local partners make the overall event possible by offering free REEF Fish ID courses, organizing survey dives/snorkels, and other fun events. The GAFC draws local, national (US), and international media attention each year. It reengages veteran REEF volunteers and also serves as a terrific mechanism to expose new ones to what REEF is all about. Though the GAFC takes place each July, it highlights nothing more than what we do year-round - engaging individuals to become active stewards of the marine environment. Volunteers learn by taking REEF Fish ID courses and conducting fish surveys as part of The Fish Survey Project.

We look forward to the 15th GAFC next year. If you haven't gotten involved in a GAFC yet, the next one is less than a year away!

The Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) is winding for 2005. The 14th installment of this event was a great success - we look forward to the 15th GAFC in 2006!

3. **REEF Field Station of the Month** - REEF is proud to feature the [Little Cayman Beach Resort](#) as its Field Station of the Month (FSOM) for July. The resort and their dive operator, Reef Divers, offer premier service and some of the best diving in the world. Little Cayman is renowned for its great viz, abundance of fish life, and its spectacular wall diving. The resort delivers this top-notch diving in style with comfortable dive boats and a knowledgeable staff, as well as excellent accommodations, food, and amenities.

Additionally, Little Cayman Beach Resort has been an active supporter of REEF on various levels. They engage in REEF Fish ID activities and just this past May hosted a "REEF Week" for its customers. Guests were treated to "a naturalist on board" with terrific REEF volunteer, Judie Clee, brought down for the week to give daily talks and generally be available on the dive trips to interact with people and answer their marine life questions. The event was a terrific success.

Also, Little Cayman Beach Resort has been an active supporter of [REEF's Grouper Moon Project](#) by providing diving and logistical support for this critical ongoing study of Nassau grouper spawning aggregations.

For more, please visit: <http://www.littlecayman.com/>

For a complete listing of REEF's Field Stations please visit:

<http://www.reef.org/member/fieldstations.htm>

4. **Take A Volunteer Vacation That Counts (Fish!)** - REEF just completed two very successful Field Surveys in July - Paul Humann's REEF Discovery Tour in Key Largo and a trip to Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras, led by Bryan Dias, REEF's Director of Outreach and Education. These trips present a terrific opportunity for both beginning and experienced REEF surveyors to count and learn about fish populations in great locations. Each REEF Field Survey is led by a REEF staff member, Board of Trustees member, or expert volunteer. They feature regular fish talks as well as the opportunity to both dive or snorkel and have fun. REEF Field Surveys are "volunteer vacations that count (fish!)" Check out this fantastic trip opportunity:

Southern Gulf of California/Sea of Cortez • [Don Jose](#) • October 2-9, 2005 - 14 Divers Maximum - 8 days/7 nights - \$1,567, this trip will feature a custom itinerary of locations in the western Gulf, includes lodging, food, and unlimited diving, aboard an 80 foot long liveaboard dive boat the [Don Jose](#)



REEF's Field Station of the Month is the Little Cayman Beach Resort. LCBR is an active REEF supporter recently hosting a "REEF Week" and lending diving support to The Grouper Moon Project in Little Cayman.



REEF Field Surveys are a great way to experience first-rate dive

50 foot long liveaboard dive boat, the DON JOSE.

There are several other trips that still have openings in 2005. Look for our 2006 schedule with a lot of great locations on tap coming soon. Complete trip listings for 2005 and details on price, booking, accommodations, and diving are available on our website. For more information please visit our Field Survey page at:

<http://www.reef.org/fieldsurv/index.htm>

5. **Featured Product of the Month** - These snazzy new tools for your Fish ID needs are great for those who want underwater info at your fingertips, but just can't seem to hold on to anything underwater! Fish-Flips™ are "the snorkeling guide to what's swimming around you." They work for diving, too. They are a wearable, waterproof fish identification book for snorkelers and divers with versions for the Hawaiian Islands, the Caribbean Sea and the newest edition for Baja California. Each book is printed on synthetic UV coated paper and contains 84 beautiful, 2x3-inch full color photos bound to a coil that loops comfortably around anyone's wrist. The fish names are printed in large text and are easy to read underwater. They are great for kids!

Fish-Flips™ are available from REEF - please visit our online store at www.reef.org to place an order. REEF's online store has all kinds of things for the Fish ID and marine conservation enthusiast, including Fish ID books - such as the Paul Humann/Ned DeLoach series, computer-based learning tools - such as ReefNet's Fishes of the Caribbean, 3rd Edition, many other educational resources, and fun stuff like REEF t-shirts. We've also got a full-load of REEF Fish ID survey materials for all your fish counting dives or snorkels - underwater survey paper, REEF starter kits, survey slates, and more...

Check out www.reef.org for more and get some Fish ID help around your wrist with Fish-Flips™ or have some fish fun with anything else we have for you!

travel while contributing to marine conservation. REEF co-founder and noted marine life author and photographer, Paul Humann, explains the nuances of Fish ID to an enthusiastic Discovery Tour participant.



REEF now has Fish-Flips™ available for Hawaii, the Caribbean, and Baja California.

See You Next Month!

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<http://www.reef.org/enews/enews.htm>

To learn more about REEF, visit www.reef.org

