



REEF-in-Brief

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

September 2006

1. **Welcome** - Greetings everyone! Lots to read this month here in REEF-in-Brief. We're proud to announce that REEF Founder, Paul Humann, is being given a prestigious award at this year's DEMA show in Orlando. Also, we are just about to take bookings for our first scheduled Field Survey in 2007 - to the Turks and Caicos Islands in February. We're pleased to welcome our new fall interns and we even have a new REEF t-shirt for sale with our new tagline - "Diving That Counts." Read on - we hope you enjoy this month's edition!

- *Best Fishes* - Bryan Dias, REEF Director of Outreach & Education

2. **REEF Founder Paul Humann Wins DEMA Award** - We are pleased to announce that REEF co-Founder and Trustee Paul Humann has received the 18th Annual DEMA Reaching Out Award for significant contributions to the sport of SCUBA diving. The award will be presented at the 30th annual DEMA Show (Dive Equipment and Marketing Association) in Orlando, Florida from November 8-11, 2006, the world's largest dive trade show. This is Paul's third major recognition this year, including upcoming induction into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame and the Outstanding Public Awareness and Education Award from the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which he shares with REEF co-Founder and marine life author, Ned DeLoach.

Paul's passion for diving and underwater photography began in the early 1960s. He was one of PADI's earliest dive instructors and served as Vice President of Photography for the Underwater Society of America. In 1972, Paul started the Caribbean's first liveaboard dive business aboard the M/V Cayman Diver. After moving to South Florida, Paul became co-editor of Ocean Realm magazine with Ned DeLoach in 1986, which resulted in a strong friendship and business relationship that lasts to this day. Paul has written fourteen marine life identification books and published his underwater images in a variety of magazines, including Skin Diver, Audubon, and National Geographic. When Paul and Ned were working on the first fish identification book they began asking the question that would become the foundation for REEF's programs: "How can we get divers to contribute their first-hand knowledge to a better understanding of marine ecosystems?"

Paul's service to REEF is no less extraordinary than his service to the dive community. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Paul has devoted thirteen years to the vision and oversight of REEF. He was instrumental in securing start-up funding in the early 1990s as well as capital funding for the new REEF HQ building purchased in 2001. Paul is an active member of the Sustainers Club, members who donate \$1,000 or more to REEF on an annual basis. He provides ongoing guidance to staff and volunteers on marine life identification, including actively seeking input for updates to the Reef Fish/Creature/Coral Identification series, which, as he puts it, "is a work in progress." Paul continues to host quarterly Board meetings and annual REEF Sustainers Events at his home in Davie, Florida. "I feel lucky to be recognized for doing something I love," Paul told us. "The dive community and REEF both want the same thing: more people getting under water. If my work has contributed to more people diving and therefore more people caring about marine life, then I have been

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REEF Founder, Paul Humann (above & below), who is receiving the DEMA "Reaching Out Award" at this year's show in Orlando, assists REEF members with their Fish ID during the Key Largo Discovery Tour.



successful."

Paul shares the DEMA Reaching Out Award with the late John Nesbitt, a television personality and long-time ambassador for the dive industry. For full story, please visit www.DiveNewsWire.com. We invite you to join REEF in celebrating Paul's achievements at the DEMA Show this year-please see below for an opportunity to attend in Orlando.



3. **REEF Field Surveys 2007** - Our first Field Survey for 2007 is almost finalized! We will be venturing to Grand Turk in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Grand Turk offers some of the most pristine wall diving in the Caribbean and many off-the-beaten path dive sites. The Turks & Caicos Islands are located at the south tip of the Bahamas, 90 miles due north of Hispaniola, the islands are often sheltered from adverse winds, and offer ideal diving conditions year round. The wall diving is renowned for an amazing diversity of hard and soft corals. We will dive with Blue Water Divers and stay at the Salt Raker Inn, built over 150 years ago as the private home for a Bermudian shipwright. Salt Raker Inn remains one of the most popular choices on the Island for visitors seeking comfortable accommodation at an affordable price. You can read more about both the dive shop and accommodations at <http://www.grandturkscuba.com/>



REEF FIELD SURVEY - Turks and Caicos Islands, Grand Turk - Salt Raker Inn/Blue Water Divers - Dates: Feb 17-24 2007 - 8days/7 nights 10 participants Max - The boat only holds 10 divers - BOOK EARLY!!

Blue Water Divers will be hosting REEF's first 2007 Field Survey to the Turks and Caicos in February. Space is limited - so book early!

Full 2007 Trip Schedule - We have almost completed our much anticipated 2007 Field Survey schedule. Thanks to all of you for your patience as we have transitioned to a new travel service for our dive trip booking, Travel For You Inc., based in Texas. <http://travelforyouinc.com/> We're excited to be working with them and anticipate a very successful 2007 season. Please look to our website in the coming week to preview individual trips, as we finalize details, we will post each trip on the website. The telephone numbers for booking REEF Field Surveys are: 1-888-363-3345, and 1-866-287-3260. As in past years, we are offering trips to most of our survey regions and have included many wonderful areas and operators to offer a special "Diving That Counts" vacation for everyone.

4. **Invasive Tunicates Now Monitored by REEF Surveyors** - Earlier this year, REEF added three new species of invasive tunicates to our Pacific Northwest Invertebrate Monitoring Program, and REEF volunteers are already providing valuable information on the distribution and spread of these unwanted species. Thanks to funding from the Russell Family Foundation and support from Washington Sea Grant, the three species have been incorporated into the regional survey and training materials.

One of the three invasive species, *Ciona savignyi*, was initially thought to be isolated to an area in south Hood Canal in Washington. However, just a day after taking a REEF training class from REEF volunteer and trainer, Janna Nichols, Tim Renz and Lowell Thomson were conducting a survey dive at Redondo Beach in Des Moines, WA (Puget Sound) and discovered a previously unknown growth of *Ciona*. Their discovery triggered state biologists to verify the identification and track new locations of the invasive tunicate.

Invasion by non-native species has been ranked as one of the most devastating ecological impacts to affect marine and fresh waters. Early detection and aggressive control measures are the most efficient way to prevent wide spread ecosystem impacts from aquatic invasive species. Recreational divers are in a unique position to assist in this effort. In addition to the new tunicate program, REEF has assisted in the documentation of a hotspot of non-native fish species in South Florida and coordinated the removal of several non-native orbicular batfish from a reef in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. We are also currently working with scientists from National Marine Fisheries Service to better understand the



Ciona savignyi is one of

Indo-Pacific lionfish invasion along the East Coast of the US and the Bahamas.

Once established, non-native introductions are difficult to control and often impossible to eradicate. Examples from other regions demonstrate that a single invasion event can result in major shifts to ecosystems and the economies that depend on them; a prime example is the introduction of zebra mussels into the Great Lakes ecosystem in the late 1970s. By participating in a coordinated data collection program, divers can provide valuable data from a wide-geographic area and over a long time frame that would otherwise be unavailable. Outreach is also a critical component of any invasive species response plan and can easily be addressed through standardized training and public presentations tied to a monitoring program such as REEF.

To find out more, visit <http://www.reef.org/exotic/> and <http://www.pnwscuba.com/critterwatchers/invasive.htm>.

5. **Meet The New REEF Interns** - Meet our outstanding, newly arrived Marine Conservation Interns, Alecia Adamson and Ashley Apel. They will be with REEF through December.

From Ashley - Hello fellow REEF members! I grew up in the Pacific Northwest in Yakima, Washington and I just graduated from Whitman College last May with a degree in Environmental Studies/Sociology. I can usually be found spending my precious free time swimming, cooking, reading, and of course diving! Favorite underwater creature: Black Durgon.

From Alecia - Hi Everyone! I am from South Georgia and am excited to have the opportunity to work with REEF here in Key Largo. My educational background includes a Biology degree from the University of Georgia as well as a semester abroad in New Zealand and Australia. As a Cancer, my love for the water comes naturally. I especially enjoy wakeboarding, kayaking, and surfing in addition to SCUBA diving and doing fish surveys. Favorite underwater creature: Manta Ray.

Our interns play a vital role in the day-to-day REEF HQ operations, staffing the phones, answering emails, processing merchandise orders, and greeting visitors. But they also assist staff with programmatic projects including: teaching REEF Fish ID classes; language interpretations of curricula; data crunching; processing new members; quality control on our fish survey scanforms; and diving on our Advanced Assessment Team (AAT) projects.

They are also often our face in the community, working with other organizations during their time off such as the National Park Service, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Nature Conservancy, in addition to diving with our local Field Stations. It is fair to say that without the enthusiastic support of our interns, REEF could not function. They buffer the volume of communication we get daily with a member to staff ratio of 6,400 to 1, so that our staff can dedicate their time to working on the programs that you love and support.

6. **Featured Product - REEF T-Shirt** - What's the best way to let folks know that you support REEF and marine conservation? Perhaps, when underwater, it's having a slate in your hand and conducting a survey, right? But what about topside after your dive? When you are swapping stories about the day's activities? Why, a REEF t-shirt, of course!

REEF has updated t-shirts that feature our new tagline - "Diving That Counts." The shirt comes in white with the famous REEF logo on the front left breast and a big one on the back - perfect for letting people know what you are all about. We have various sizes, too.

T-shirts (US\$15 plus shipping and sales tax in Florida only), survey materials, ID books,

Several invasive tunicate whose presence is being monitored by REEF surveyors in the Puget Sound and wider Pacific Northwest. Photo by: Georgia Arrow.



Fall '06 interns Ashley Apel (left, above) and Alecia Adamson (right, above).



and more are available from our online store. It's safe, secure, and open 24/7!

[Visit our online store here...](#)

The new REEF t-shirts are here! Available in most sizes and complete with the new tagline "Diving That Counts."

7. REEF Parts - Things To Know - Here are a few notes and news bits we'd like you to know about:

- **Calling All Florida Volunteers** - Ever thought about attending DEMA? Volunteer with REEF and enjoy free entrance to the world's largest dive trade show, taking place November 8-11 in Orlando, Florida this year. The show is only open to dive professionals, exhibitors, and exhibitor volunteers-visit www.demashow.com for more information. Meet REEF staff (including award-winning co-Founders Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach), help us promote REEF programs to the dive industry, and make new friends! Please contact REEF intern Ashley Apel if you are interested: Intern@reef.org or (305) 852-0030, ext. 1.
- **Last Chance!** Looking for a great place to dive this winter? Join REEF for a week of great diving and learning on our Field Survey to Bequia in the Grenadine Islands November 11th-18th. The cost is \$750 per diver, [click here for more details...](#)

8. REEF Events - Here are some great things to get involved in with a few of our partners:

- **REEF Fish ID Training in San Diego** - On Sunday, December 10th, San Diego Oceans Foundation will be hosting a REEF Fish ID training. The class is open to snorkelers and divers of all levels and ages. By the end of the training session you will be able to identify local marine fish, collect information on populations, and report it to REEF for species and abundance tracking. The information will then be used by the National Marine Sanctuary Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, and The Nature Conservancy, along with others. For every 6 surveys completed, participants will earn a FREE dive trip on the Lois Ann (maximum of 5). If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by emailing courtney@sdoceas.org or by calling (619) 523-1903.
- **REEF Week with Deep Blue Utila** - During the week of October 21st-28th, [Deep Blue Utila](#) (a REEF Field Station) is hosting their "REEF Week." They will be bringing super REEF volunteer, Judie Clee, down from Bermuda to give nightly "critter" talks on REEF Fish ID, behavior, and lots of other interesting topics. This is a great opportunity to learn and have fun in a relaxed, but very nice environment. Utila boasts some of the best diving in the Caribbean (be sure to check out the north side walls - perhaps the best in the region!) For more information or to make a reservation for this all inclusive trip, please contact owner, Steve Fox, at waves2222@aol.com.

Contribute Now

Please consider supporting REEF and the critical work we do by donating generously.

See You Next Month!

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

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