

Cover Shot by March Featured Photographer Marsha Stamatakis



Featured Contents

2015 Board of Directors & Sponsors	2
SFUPS President's Message	3
April Featured Photographer	4
April Guest Speaker	5
SFUPS Events and Programs	6
Announcements	7
April Events Calendar	8
Club Members in the News	9
March Masters Winners	10
March Challengers Winners	11
SFUPS On The Scene	12
Global Underwater Photography Contest Calendar	13
Club Travel Exchange	13
Classifieds	14, 15
Parting Shot	16



2015 SFUPS Board of Directors

President – Sam Hodge

president@sfups.org

Vice President – Phil Rudin

vicepresident@sfups.org

Treasurer – Judy Townsend

treasurer@sfups.org

Event & Programs – Angela Smith

events@sfups.org

Newsletter Editor – Ana Zangroniz

newsletter@sfups.org

Membership – Linda Ianniello

membership@sfups.org

Webmaster – Susan Mears

webmaster@sfups.org

Audio/Visual – Jim Mears

audiovisual@sfups.org

Merchandising – Suzan Meldonian

merchandise@sfups.org

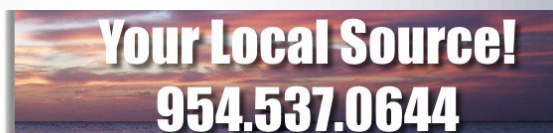
2015 SFUPS Committee Chairs

Welcome Committee – Carol Schurtz

Club Historian – William Lipscomb

Website Support – Patrice Marker

2015 SFUPS Sponsors



April President's Message



Spring is in the air, lots of diving around our shores, and hopes for warmer water is on the minds of many. Indeed it's also turtle season here in South Florida. Sea turtles are prominent in our waters year round but at this time, we start to prepare for their annual mating and nesting behavior. The annual black tip species' migration has also been quite a scene, and the lemon shark count has been going strong all winter season long. Inland, while the manatee populations at the Three Sister Springs exploded in record numbers they also dispersed earlier than anticipated with very few hanging around even into the early weeks of March. So what's ahead of us for the rest of the year?

The ocean conditions in the South Pacific may be a good indicator. Earlier this year, the US National Weather Service already proclaimed the warming ocean is projected to start 2015 with El Niño like conditions. These conditions typically have a greater impact to the Pacific with more numbered tropical storms or hurricanes but predictably fewer in the Atlantic where we reside. That said, ocean temperatures continue to rise and the threat of coral bleaching remains a threat to many of our reefs. While no forecast is ever intended to be 100% accurate it does appear that we'll have another active diving season, hopefully graced with clear waters throughout your favorite dive locations. I'll be looking to get more diving in and you'll likely see more and more trips from our sponsors advertised for a variety of specialty dives. Please get out and join them.

In other news from the organization, we enjoyed a tremendous turnout for Cristian Dimitrius' March presentation. His adventures are worth seeing over and over again. If you missed it, not to worry. Jim Mears will soon be posting the evening's event at our members only section. We're also extremely excited to have Jim Abernethy as our featured speaker for April. His presentation bridging underwater photography with conservation efforts is certain to intrigue. Jim is masterful in his ability to bring hearts and minds together in raising the awareness of the perils to our ocean ecosystem. His projects are global and are intent in giving the creatures of the sea a voice through his imagery and alliances. Jim will bring to us some powerful case studies that prove without a doubt that the power of your imagery has the most potential to spark change and action to "right the wrong's" and enrich the quality of life in our seas. Please make it a point to join us on April 14 as we hear more from Jim on initiatives that we too can partake in.

Sam Hodge

President – South Florida Underwater Photography Society

www.sfups.org (*Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence in Underwater Photography*)

April Featured Photographer Marsha Stamatakis



I received my dive certification in 1999 and immediately fell in love with the ocean. Wanting to preserve the awesome sights I was experiencing, I began taking photographs with a Sea & Sea camera. I have since upgraded my equipment a couple times and am currently using a Nikon D800. I recently retired from education administration, so my husband and I now spend the majority of the year in Florida allowing us to dive whenever we want to (rather than the four or so weeks a year that we did previously).

I love to travel and have been to Malaysia, Indonesia, Micronesia, and the Caribbean. One of my favorite destinations is Bonaire, and a newly found favorite has become the Blue Heron Bridge.

I believe it's important for all of us to do our part to raise awareness about climate change, conservation, pollution and the critical importance of our oceans. Photography is such a moving media, and can be a valuable tool to help us communicate these messages. I look forward to becoming more active in SFUPS, improving my photography skills, and learning from everyone.

April Guest Speaker

Jim Abernathy

Jim Abernathy, award-winning underwater photographer, filmmaker and conservationist is a pioneer in shark encounters with some of the most notorious sharks, without a cage. Scuba diving since his youth, inspired his life's mission to spread the word about the importance of worldwide ocean conservation.

For decades, Abernathy has been running photography/video expeditions to guide encounters with the world's largest predatory sharks—he pioneered shark encounters without a cage (day and night) with tiger sharks, great hammerheads, oceanic white tips, bulls, and lemon sharks. It should be noted that Jim is best known as a passionate crusader for their protection.

His award-winning marine life images are represented in galleries and often featured in top photography

magazines. Raising awareness about the need for conservation, and generating funds to support those efforts, remains Abernathy's primary focus when aiming his camera at wildlife subjects. Additionally, he has launched two separate series of books, in collaboration with award-winning author Jennifer R. Nolan, that seek to educate and empower others to join in key conservation efforts.

Abernathy has hosted many of the world's top nature filmmakers and magazines such as Imax, National Geographic, BBC Wildlife, Animal Planet, and the Discovery Channel. His images are available at National Geographic Image Library. He owns the "Marine Life Art Gallery" in West Palm Beach, FL, where his captivating images and unique books are available as well. When he's not below sea level, Jim is often seen piloting his flying inflatable boat (ultra-light), "Oversear," in order to capture nature at sea with his lens from an aerial perspective.

While Abernathy is well known as a world-class photographer and passionate conservationist, it's his unique ability to bring divers up close to some of the largest predatory sharks, in turn inspiring them to become vocal, passionate ambassadors to save them. His unique combination of skills as a shark expert, filmmaker/nature photographer, author and ultra-light pilot that set him apart from all others. Abernathy is best known for the relentless pursuit of his life's mission: to save the planet's ocean creatures, starting with sharks, through his photography, books, films, and presentations. His colleagues have recognized Abernathy with three lifetime achievement awards for his tireless dedication to ocean conservation and the protection of sharks. He was the recipient of the *Eleanor Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award* at the Go Blue Event in 2011, the Crest Award from Gumbo Limbo in 2013 and was honored with *The Wyland Icon award* in 2011.

Jim is the founder of two ocean conservation based non-profits Operation Blue Pride and WildlifeVOICE. Operation Blue Pride helps veterans remove the pain they are in while forming an army of veterans to take on ocean issues. WildlifeVOICE works with many entities giving a voice for those who cannot speak. Presently WildlifeVOICE is working with the local community (Project Seahorse) as well as a group of autistic kids (Rising Tide – Shark Pride) teaching and empowering them to take on ocean issues, especially sharks!

Jim lives primarily at sea, in the Bahamas, running shark expeditions and wild dolphin encounters year round on his boat, "Shear Water." He can also be found in Mexico running eco-tourism expeditions for whale sharks and sailfish. His dive business, Jim Abernathy's Scuba Adventures Inc., is based in West Palm Beach, FL. For more information you are invited to visit: www.scuba-adventures.com





SFUPS Events and Programs

Angela Smith

April brings lots of Earth Month events to South Florida, many of them focus on marine conservation and ecology. Everything culminates on April 22nd which is officially Earth Day!

On Earth Day, events are held worldwide to show support for environmental protection. The day was first celebrated in 1970, and brought 20 million Americans out for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform. It is now observed in 192 countries and coordinated globally by Earth Day Network.



The first Earth Day in 1970 was fueled by the energy of the anti-war protest movement. This is about the era that I was drawing those green and white ecology flags on notebooks and running around with peace sign necklaces. I wrote my first article about pollution titled "Pollution Concerns a 4th Grader". Oh if only the world could have fully gotten on the ecology bandwagon back in those days, think of the years of unregulated pollution we could have avoided and what better state our coral reefs would be in.

There are a couple of versions of how Earth Day started, one with peace activist John McConnell and one with U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson after he witnessed an oil spill. Regardless of who thought of it, we love it and it's a great chance to get out there and do your part for conservation of our Earth and its oceans!

So, go out and do something nice for the Earth this month. Although Earth Day should be every day, let Earth Day 2015 inspire you to do that one amazing thing for the environment that you haven't quite gotten around to yet.

A sampling of some upcoming events that your fellow SFUPS members and I are involved in which you may find interesting are:

- April 8 at 6:00pm: SFUPS "Our Oceans: In Perspective" exhibit and DIVE IN Lecture Series at NSU Oceanographic Center (free)
- April 11 & 12 between 10:00am - 6:00pm: "Conservation Village" at Tortuga Music Festival on Ft. Lauderdale Beach (must purchase tickets). Visit Sea Turtle Oversight Protection (STOP), Florida DEP Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative, Bimini-SharkLab booth and many other local conservation organizations
- April 22 at 1:00pm: Earth Day "Shark Conservation and Expeditions with Angela Smith and Shark Team One" Lecture at Broward County Main Library, downtown Ft. Lauderdale (free)

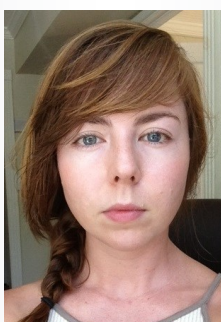
The special photo in this article is a great symbol for Earth Month as April also kicks off sea turtle nesting season in South Florida! Sea turtle conservationists snorkel off the coast of Florida watching the beginning of the precious 2015 sea turtle aggregation.

Announcements

- SFUPS gives a warm welcome to the members who joined us in March 2015:



Bobbi Dickinson



Katy Danca Galli



EJ Morales

New member not pictured: Tatyana Serafimovich

- SFUPS would like to welcome Good Karma Productions as a new SFUPS sponsor! Stay tuned for more information about their services.
- April is Wreck Month at Force-E Divers! See event calendar for details.
- Force-E is now carrying Fantasea Photo products and accessories at the Force-E Riviera Beach location.
- REEF Photo & Video will be hosting several trips later in 2015 and in early 2016:
 1. "FOCUS Grand Cayman," August 29-September 5, 2015. See [here](#) for more information.
 2. "Fiji, Beyond the Bligh," September 2-12, 2015. Information on the trip [here](#).
 3. Anilao, Philippines, April 9-16, 2016. Contact [Reef Photo & Video](#) for more information.
 4. Galapagos, July 25-August 1, 2016. More information available [here](#).
- REEF Photo & Video will be offering several workshops:
 1. Lightroom, \$149. August 25-26. More information [here](#).
 2. Blue Heron Bridge. \$450. April 7-10, May 7-10, June 18-21. More information [here](#).
- Pompano Dive Center will now be offering shark tagging excursions in collaboration with the Guy Harvey Research Institute and Nova Southeastern University. For more information, see the [video](#) or visit PDC's [Facebook page](#).



April 2015 event calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.) Pura Vida Divers Endangered Species Photo Contest	2.) 6pm Pura Vida Divers Blue Heron Bridge Night Dive 7pm Force-E Divers Blue Heron Bridge Night Dive	3.)	4.) 10am Pompano Dive Center Mystery Barge Shipwreck Cleanup and Easter Egg Hunt
5.) Force-E Divers Sunday Fun Day Wreck Diving Trip	6.)	7.) 7pm Force-E Divers Underwater Wreck Photography Workshop	8.) 6pm NSU "Dive in" lecture series	9.)	10.)	11.) 9am Force-E Pompano Go Pro class
12.)	13.)	14.) 6pm SFUPS social 7:20pm SFUPS April meeting	15.)	16.) 6pm RSMAS Sea Serpents lecture series 7pm Force-E Divers presentation: Diving on Wrecks	17.) 6pm Pura Vida Divers Blue Heron Bridge Night Dive 7pm Force-E Divers Blue Heron Bridge Night Dive	18.) 7am Force-E Divers Trip to the Castor 9am Pura Vida Divers Great American Cleanup 11am Pompano Dive Center "Coral Reef" workshop
19.)	20.)	21.)	22.) 10am Pura Vida Divers Earth Day Splash For Trash	23.) 6:30pm Force-E Divers Wreck Diving Workshop with John Chatterton	24.) 6:15pm Pura Vida Divers Social Night: Go Pro Night Force-E Divers PADI Wreck Diver Course	25.) 7:30am Anglins Pier Cleanup-Team PDC
26.)	27.)	28.)	29.)	30.) 7pm Force-E Divers: The Wrecks on Palm Beach County with Walt Stearns		



Club Members in the News

- Lee Burghard won first place in the 2015 Our Word Underwater Photo & Video Competition for his film "My Sanctuary." See Lee's film [here](#).
- Lee's film "My Sanctuary" was also an official selection for the 2015 [Beneath the Waves Festival](#).
- Suzan Meldonian had an article about photography at the Blue Heron Bridge published in [Underwater Photography Guide](#).
- Shana Phelan of Pura Vida Divers was appointed to the Artificial Reef & Estuarine Enhancement Committee by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.
- Richard Ladisky presented three seminars at Beneath the Sea, in NJ, the weekend of March 28-29. It marked the first time that they have accepted a Part 1 and a Part 2 to the same show. The titles were "Tubbataha Reef Part 1, Part 2, and the third was Adventure to Malapascua Island.

2015 SFUPS Contest Categories

<https://sfups.org/2015-contest-subjects/>

*entries due April 12

April MASTERS

"LIP LOCKED" – (Macro) – Any marine creatures locked in battle or mating, except nudibranchs.

April CHALLENGERS

"THINGS THAT SLITHER" – (ANY LENS) – Avoid "down shots." These can be anything from an eel free swimming to a Bobbitt worm close up.

March Masters – Manatee madness



1st Place — Wayne MacWilliams



4th Place — Nikole Ordway



3rd Place— Rick Lazenko



2nd Place — Suzan Meldonian



5th Place — Wilfredo Hernandez

March Challengers – Beautiful anemones



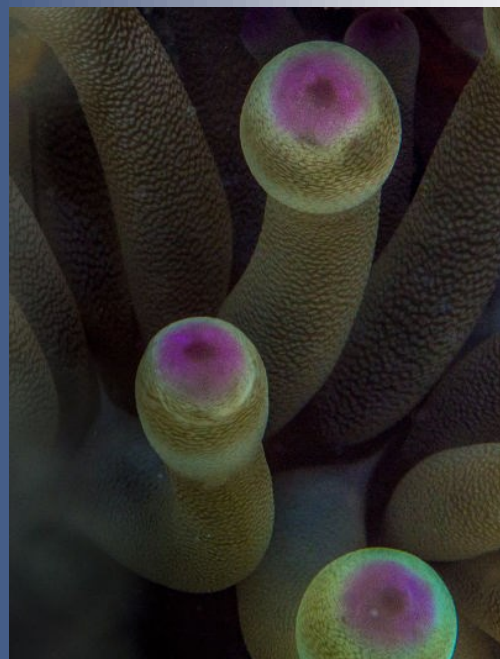
1st Place— Kelly Casey



2nd Place — Michael Schmale



3rd Place — Bernd Meier



5th Place — Luz Hayward



4th Place — Rick Lazenko

SFUPS On The Scene

SFUPS members with March guest speaker Cristian Dimitrius.



Join SFUPS for the next meeting
April 14 at 6:00 pm
for social hour, drinks & dinner
Meeting will start at 7:20 pm



SFUPS Meeting Location
[Courtyard Marriot Ft Lauderdale North](#)

2440 W. Cypress Creek Road
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309



Global Underwater Photography Contest Calendar

[Environmental Photographer of the Year 2015](#)

(Entries due by April 7, 2015)

[Photo Club Arizona-Balkan DREAM Grand Exhibition 2015](#)

(Entries due by April 11, 2015)

[Pura Vida Divers Endangered Species Photo Contest](#)

(Entries due by April 23, 2015)

[Facebook Bluewater Photo contest month's contests](#)

(Monthly)

[Monthly Dive Photo Guide Contest](#)

(Monthly)

[GUY HARVEY OUTPOST PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

(Weekly, Monthly)

Club Travel Exchange

Want like-minded company on your next trip? Send your travel plans to newsletter@sfups.org. The trip details will be published in the newsletter for other members to see. Any members interested in a trip can send an email to newsletter@sfups.org and the groups will be connected.

- Carol Schurtz is attending Mexican Diver's Digital Fiesta in April 2015. Carol will also be booking a house in Key Largo for coral spawning this August. For more information on either trip, contact Carol at photomermaid@gmail.com.
- Nils Jacobsen, Ronnie Farr and Carol Schurtz will be going on Belize Aggressor, June 6-13 and up into the Jungle, duPlooy's, for 3 days after that (only one single female spot remains). — Contact [Nils Jacobsen](#) to join.
- Join Larry Townsend at Mayan Princess, Rotan, July 11-18. The flight is American Airlines direct from Miami, two spots are left and need to be filled by April 9! — Contact [Larry Townsend](#) to join.
- Nils Jacobsen, Kathi McCutcheon and Ryan Goheen will be going to Fiji: Aggressor liveaboard and Wai-droka (diving Beqa Lagoon), Oct 31- Nov 14. — Contact [Nils Jacobsen](#) to join, openings are available including one that needs to be filled immediately.



Classifieds

- One wet close up diopter Nexus CL 100. Approx. 4" in diameter. Has black rubber skirt to fit over lens port. Has been used on Seatool ports, may fit others as well. Tripod Mount Ring for Canon 70-200mm F4 L lens, in original box in new condition, model A II (W). One Canon 100 mm f/2.8 Macro USM lens, like new, in original box and instruction booklet, EF mount lens, Aperture range f/2.8-f/32, Macro focus at 1;1 reproduction ratio, manual focus override, minimum focus distance 1" \$395.
Contact Bernd Meier at meierb@bellsouth.net
- Schneider 6X Platinum \$250 new \$75, Gagne Porta Trace Light box \$25, Nikon 16mm Fisheye 2.8 Excellent \$550, Nikon 55-200 Zoom 5/11 refurb. Excellent \$75, Zeagle Scout BC w/ Air 2 Good cond. \$100. You will need hose Air2 to reg. Contact: Wayne MacWilliams at shutterthethought@comcast.net
- Subal ND 30 Housing for Nikon D300, \$3500. complete overhaul, all parts/O-rings replaced; pressure tested Aug 2013 by Reef Photo, Subal Flat Port FP-75/4 (for 60mm lens) \$200, Subal EXR-40/4 Extension Ring (for 105mm lens) \$100, Subal GS-180 Magnifying Viewfinder (installed) \$950, Subal Zoom Gear for Tokina AF 10-17 FE \$50, Zen Underwater DP-100 100mm Fisheye Dome \$750, Port for Subal type 4, Sea & Sea Nikonos Style Synch Cord 2@ \$90 = \$180, D300 User Manual and Simon Stafford's Magic \$10, Lantern Guide Nikon MH-18a Charger \$25, Nikon Li-on Battery Pack EN-EL3a 2@ \$25=\$50, Compact Flash Cards: \$25: 2@16 GB, 1@ 4 GB, 1@ 2 GB, 1@ 1 GB.
Contact Jacqui Eisenberg at acquarelle@mac.com
- IKELITE DS-160 STROBE. Used - excellent condition (serial #12676, NiMH battery date 11/2011) \$500 - I'll throw in the Ikelite NiMH Quick Charger with all international tips for no charge (part # 4066.1 - \$100 MSRP)
VIDEO LIGHT - IKELITE PRO2800 LED PACKAGE. Includes NiMH Battery Pack, Quick Charger for NiMH battery pack, power cord, and flex arm. I'll also throw in the pouch and cord for using dual batteries for no charge in case you choose to further upgrade it, even though we lost the 2nd battery. Everything is used, but in great condition. MSRP is \$850, so lets do it for \$350.
Call the Gug Underwater Gallery at 954-579-8096 or email Gug@GugUnderwater.com
- ORIGINAL CANON XT REBEL BODY (6.3 MEGAPIXELS), IKELITE HOUSING, CHARGER, TWO BATTERIES, PORT COVER AND CAMERA BODY COVER. ALL IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. \$700.
Contact amaurycruz@yahoo.com
- NIKON COOLPIX 5000, IKELITE HOUSING, UNDERWATER WIDE ANGLE CONVERTER, ABOVE WATER WIDE ANGLE CONVERTER, CHARGER, THREE BATTERIES, AND SLIDE COPIER. EXCELLENT CONDITION. \$300.
Contact amaurycruz@yahoo.com



Classifieds

- For Sale: Seacam housing body for Nikon D700 D-SLR. This housing has been modified to allow the user significantly better access to the capabilities of the Nikon D-700. These modifications include a triple function control that provides use of both the preview and function buttons on the front of the D700 body and provides a port lock, none of which capabilities normal Seacam housings have. Additionally there is a clutch mechanism which automatically engages or disengages a manual focus gear when you switch the normal M-S-C control between Manual and the two auto-focus modes. I also have non-Seacam handgrips on this housing, attached to the front half of the housing. Included with the housing body is a Nikon D700 camera body with two camera batteries, two battery chargers and other bits. Price for the housing is \$4500. Also available is a Seacam 45-degree viewfinder which is \$850 if purchased separately, or \$500 if purchased with the housing body. I also have a wide port (6" glass dome port) and some extension tubes and some lens gears available. Contact Fred Bavendam fbavendam@hotmail.com or 941-953-7623
- Nikon D7000 body in excellent condition (includes 2 batteries and GGS protective glass on rear display) \$700, Nikon 105mm f/2.8 VR macro (includes \$70 Hoya HD UV 62mm filter) \$900 OBO, this lens is barely used and like new. Contact Steve Velazquez @ stevev23@gmail.com
- For sale: Sola 600 red/white spotting light - 2 years old, great condition , \$200 comes with charger. Sola 1200 red/white spotting light - 1 year old, great condition - \$300 comes with charger. Selling all together, would be willing to sell individual parts at a higher price - \$1,600. It's a great starter DSLR camera. I'd be more than happy to share some images I took with it, if anyone would like to see them. Sea & Sea RDX 500D Housing for Canon Rebel t1i or t2i. Sea & Sea port for 18-55 kit lens. Sea & Sea RDX Port Base L expansion ring. Extra o-ring and silicone gel. Dual arm strobe mount bracket. Canon Rebel t1i with 18-55 kit lens and 2 batteries and battery charger. Internal gear ring to adjust the 18-55 lens while in the housing. Contact Lureen Feretti via text: 954-328-0050 or reenyb@comcast.net.
- I have the following items available. All items are in good to excellent condition. Ikelite 8" dome port w/ shade, port body for Canon 10-22 wide angle lens, and neoprene sleeve - \$150. Ikelite flat port for 100mm macro lens - \$70. Ultralight 1/4 20 ball mount (unused) - \$15. Reefnet Subsee magnifier (+10 diopter) (used only 2 months) - \$200. Reefnet Subsee adapter for Ikelite flat port (used only 2 months) - \$170. Compact Flash memory cards 2@4GB and 2@8GB - \$20. Contact Bill Utterback at bkutterback@gmail.com

Parting Shot by Cristian Dimitrius



School of angelfish, Galapagos.

SFUPS Member Benefits

Yearly dues are \$40 for individuals and \$55 for families; we've made it effortless to join online and pay via credit card.

For complete instructions, go to [Click here to go to Join SFUPS page](#)

Membership benefits include:

- Access to the industry's most talented insight, experience, and knowledge
- Networking with members with the same interests and opportunities to enjoy underwater photography
- Receive accolades and peer recognition by participating in and potentially placing in Intra-Club contests
- Opportunity to showcase your images in the SFUPS monthly newsletter
- Free Member Gallery on the SFUPS web site - Get seen and publish your work
- Learn from your peers and cut down on the underwater photography learning curve
- Receive insight into global photographic expeditions and exotic locations from member presentations
- Special Club dives specific to underwater photography
- Eligibility for special raffle prizes with your participation at monthly Club events
- Advertise pre-owned gear for sale
- Sponsor benefits w/membership: Discount air-fills, access to 2-tank \$55 discounted dives throughout South Florida