

PROJECT A.W.A.R.E. NOTEBOOK

Worldwide Cleanup News

Divers Clean Up in Cedar Creek, New Jersey, U.S.A.

On May 15, 1994, Ocean Wreck Divers, in support of PADI's Project AWARE program, conducted a beach and underwater cleanup of Cedar Creek in Bayville, New Jersey. More than 30 divers and caregivers split up into groups to clean the creek. Items picked up included a 55 gallon drum, bottles, cans and some clothes.

Divers Clean Acaja Bay, New Zealand

On April 10, 1994, Sea Conquest International, in support of PADI's Project AWARE Program, organized an underwater cleanup at Lake Taupo in Acaja Bay. Eleven divers participated in the cleanup, some gathering bottles that dated back more than 20 years.

Underwater Naturalist Boat Trip

On June 11, 1994, 20 divers participated in a PADI Underwater Naturalist Specialty course conducted on a boat in Monterey, California. PADI Members Larry Rice (OWSI-45953), Mike Cardino (OWSI-61163), Phil Sammet (OWSI-25228), and Bob Glass (OWSI-25478) conducted the course. The goal was to learn more about the fragile marine life at Aumentas Reef at Monterey Bay. Divers viewed a slide presentation that included information on plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates within the area. Additionally, the group received a detailed presentation on their kingdoms, phyla and species, along with insight to animal behavior. Video footage was taken of all divers and viewed during the surface interval so that the divers could improve their buoyancy control and eliminate any fin contact with the reef. All proceeds from the trip were donated to the Project AWARE Foundation to help fund continued marine conservation projects.

Reef Balls Around the Nation Program

In July of 1994, The Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd., launched its "Reef Balls Around the Nation" program in an effort to place 100 or more Reef Balls at every government reef building program in the United States. "Reef

Balls Around the Nation" provides U.S. states with a practical approach to building reefs, with the help of environmentally active companies, groups or individuals. Private sponsors provide the states with the patented artificial reef building mold system that creates Reef Balls (artificial reef).

U.S. Government reef builders have agreed to participate in Reef Balls Around the Nation in the following areas: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and New York. Furthermore, Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd. is currently working on adding other states to this list. If you are interested in obtaining additional information on Reef Ball artificial reefs, please call (404) 840-8383 or fax (404) 242-9033.

Project AWARE Foundation Update:

The following individuals and/or organizations are the most recent funding recipients of the Project AWARE Foundation:

Underwater Sports, Inc. (S-039), of St. Cloud, Minnesota, U.S.A., which will conduct underwater cleanups at local quarry sites located within Stearns County Quarry Park, Minnesota.

Arturo A. Delfin (OWSI-31705), of Isla Mujeres, Mexico, who will place mooring buoys at Manchones Reef, a popular dive site threatened by boat anchors. Mooring buoys will help ensure protection of the reef from further damage.

Urge to Submerge (PADI 5 Star Center S-2074), of Pembroke Pines, Florida, which will conduct underwater cleanups at reefs located off Miami Beach. The cleanups will be conducted in conjunction with the Center for Marine Conservation's Reef Rescue Days. The event will not only clean the reefs of all debris, but will educate those involved about the importance of marine conservation.

City of Santa Monica Volunteer Program, which will conduct a beach and underwater cleanup of Santa Monica, California beaches. The cleanup will be done in conjunction with the Center for Marine Conservation and the California Coastal Commission's cleanup day. The purpose of the event is to give individuals

the opportunity to do something positive for the environment and to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting the aquatic world.

Dave Carlton, from the University of New Hampshire, U.S.A., who will videotape the mass spawning of important reef building species on St. Croix, U.S.V.I. The project will focus on understanding a process that is vital to replenishing coral populations worldwide so that reefs can be preserved for future divers to enjoy. The video will be used as an educational tool at high schools and libraries to show the biology of coral reef organisms, and will be used to provide data at professional meetings and in publication on the lunar timing of spawning events and potential natural predators that eat coral gametes.

Marine Conservation Network, in Danville, California, which will create an educational video for use by recreational divers who want to participate in fish counting activities. The program will expand knowledge of marine biology and fish species identification. It may be used in educational programs and activities provided by the Marine Conservation Network; PADI Project AWARE and other environmental organizations.

Washington Scuba Alliance, which will install educational signs at marine parks in the Puget Sound region from Olympia, Washington to the San Juan Islands in the U.S. The sign will be used to educate the public about Washington State's marine environment, the existing marine life in the area, and the importance of preserving the aquatic world.

Harbour Island Reef Relief, which will install mooring buoys around Harbour Island in the Bahamas.

Marines at the Port of Oakland, which will conduct a cleanup of Oakland's shoreline in central California. In conjunction with the California Coastal Commission, the Port of Oakland will clean a 10 mile stretch of shoreline for the purpose of picking up debris before it flows to the bay. Another aspect of the cleanup is to bring the community together by working as a whole towards a central goal — a cleaner, safer environment.