



Quote:

“When people look at my pictures I want them to feel the way they do when they want to read a line of a poem twice.”

— Robert Frank

## May's Program Life in a Pyramid

Greg Whittaker – Animal Husbandry Manager – Moody Gardens

*Submitted by Dennis Deavenport and Greg Whittaker*

Greg Whittaker has been a remarkable friend to HUPS ever since we became involved with the Moody Gardens Aquarium back in 2010. He carries the title of Animal Husbandry Manager which just begins tell the story of his many contributions around the US over the years since leaving upstate New York. He has been a Galveston resident since 1985 which was the beginning of his association with Texas A&M Galveston.

His program will concentrate on most of the current features of the aquarium, future developments, and the associated activities around the globe. Greg has provided us with his own write-up on his involvement with Moody Gardens and what he plans to cover in his program.

We encourage all members to attend this very important presentation by one of HUPS' best friends.



I have personally been associated with Moody Gardens' animal care programs since 1986 when I served as a stable attendant in the Seaside Safari facility that is currently our formal education building, the Leaning Place. In 1988, while working at Sea Arama Marineworld, we would make trips to do maintenance work on a large aquarium in the Seaside Safari building. I took a full time animal care position as Aquarium Supervisor in 1993 immediately after the Rainforest opened to the public, and progressed to Assistant Curator through early 1999. I took a 3 year leave to work on marine mammal and aquarium design projects in Japan, China and the Philippines before returning to Galveston as Moody Gardens Animal Husbandry Manager in late 2002. Since then we have grown the animal collection to over 600 species totally well over 12,000 individuals ranging from marine invertebrates through marine mammals. The animal care team consists of more than 40 biologists and 8 managers operating under a \$2.5M annual budget with nearly 200 individual aquarium systems totaling more than 2 million gallons of water.

“Moody Gardens began as an animal assisted therapy facility in 1985 and has progressed through several phases of development into a 242 acre education and entertainment complex including several theatres, a hotel, convention center and two zoological exhibits showcasing the world's oceans and rainforests of the tropics. We elevated our animal care program to surpass the stringent standards set forth by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in 1995 and have successfully gone through 4 subsequent accreditation cycles.”

Our conservation efforts have only recently been elevated to a level of formal importance within our department. We have always participated in field conservation projects involving species within our collections, but in the last 4 years we have made attempts to create a much more formal research and conservation focus. During the last fiscal year we generated over \$60,000 in direct and indirect conservation project support solely through the animal care departments' efforts. We are on track to pass this for the current fiscal year. Some of the longer term projects include support for South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) for penguin and oceanic bird rehabilitation, SE-CORE – international partnerships between aquarium professionals, researchers and academia for global coral conservation work, and an ongoing partnership in establishing a coral conservation field project at the Ocean Adventure marine park facility in Subic Bay, Philippines. We have also been increasingly more active in local sea turtle conservation work including a partnership with NMFS to assist in rehabilitation and release of stranded turtles.



# Too Much Fun & Too Many Critters

## HUPS Club Trip – Anilao, The Philippines

Dennis Deavenport & Jesse Cancelmo



Thanks to Island Dreams, trip leader Jesse Cancelmo, and a great staff at Crystal Blue Resort in Anilao, the small group of HUPS members enjoyed a remarkable time diving. The time spent between before, after, and between dives was also special due to the layout of the resort which made it very easy and comfortable to hang out down in the restaurant area sipping coffee or adult beverages and checking in with the rest of the world with a user-friendly internet. The rooms were spacious, comfortable, and pretty convenient if you don't mind climbing 60-90 steps from the dive deck and camera room. Hour-long massages for next to nothing made the après-diving time a lot more enjoyable.

Anilao is a semi-mountainous, hilly resort area along the southwest coastline of the big island of Luzon. Getting there is not that difficult since Manila, just 3 hours north by bus, is a major airline hub for that part of the world. Connections from Houston for the group were pretty varied. Jesse went the middle-eastern route on Emirates through Dubai and reported excellent service and connections. Others went through Tokyo (Narita Airport) which is pretty simple considering that it only takes two legs to get there from Houston. Four of us (Bess Bright, John Scheldt, Russell Ramsey, and I) took United through Hawaii and Guam but ended up being delayed both directions by airplane maintenance issues. As a result, we spent free nights in Honolulu (outbound) and Guam (inbound) compliments of United. It was frustrating. We lost a day of diving and it was

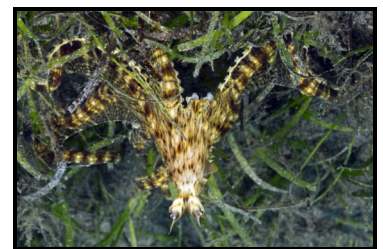
really hectic trying to get reorganized mid-route but eventually we all got where we were supposed to be. On the return, four of us had time in Manila to visit the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, a sobering reminder of the sacrifices our two countries made during WWII.

So, we all got there. The weather was good, the water got clearer every day, and the critters continued to make cameo appearances every dive. That meant that all we had to do was show up, keep our equipment dry, and shoot the way we've learned to do through HUPS' mentoring. All that happened. No floods, plenty of great shots by everyone, and enough good times in the restaurant and bar to fill a couple of novels.

To put it in Jesse's words:

My job was easy because everyone got along so swimmingly, had so much fun capturing images, and were all so experienced and self-sufficient. Other than the hyper-productivity for image capture and the long, long list of critters to photograph, positives about the trip that were pointed out our trip survey:

- \* Top flight dive masters/critter spotters. I noticed that every boat felt they had the top guy. That's good!
- \* The hotel staff were at beck and call at all times and bent over backwards to please. A+ rating!
- \* Camera room was as good as I've ever seen. Well organized, air conditioned, and enough room for everything.
- \* Dip tanks sparkling clear water at all times.
- \* Rooms clean and comfy.
- \* Dining room also served nicely for a place to gather before and after meals and for morning coffee.



## Too Much Fun & Too Many Critters Continued

Before the last wayward group arrived in Anilao, Jan Baughman, her brother Joe, and Don (a friend from over by Beaumont) had arrived in Manila for some early tours of the WWII battlefield at Bataan and Corregidor before enjoying the sights and bars in Manila. Jesse arrived and roomed with long-time friend and ski buddy, Bill Julian. When Bill wasn't diving, he was entertaining everyone with stories and lots of joking around. Several of Jesse's long-time dive buddies from around the country (Mark, Carl, and Karen) also showed up and added to the fun. Even the divers at the resort who weren't part of the Island Dreams party got with the program and had a great time sharing stories and experiences.



When we had the time, we worked on our pictures and camera gear or shared experiences and advice on how to do things better or in some other way. There was plenty of time to work things out underwater. Diving conditions weren't difficult and almost every dive lasted an hour or more. As Jesse said above, we all felt that our dive master was the best one. He somehow managed to know where we were (well, most of the time) even though that's a bit like herding cats. He was a great spotter, tirelessly calling us over from what we were doing to see an even better critter. Another nice touch was when



Mike Bartick, the resort's photo-pro, took some time after lunch to give an impromptu seminar on underwater photography including some very interesting thoughts on strobe placement when working macro subjects against bad/distracting backgrounds.

I've dived a lot over in that part of the world and I have to rate it very high on the quality scale for underwater photography. Things weren't perfect but we were having too much time to worry too much about the minor glitches. Would I do it again? In a heartbeat.

Contest Results		
Novice		
1st	Joe Holden	275
2nd	Martin Daniels	220
3rd	David McCracken	215
4th	Joe Scheldt	214
5th	Berta Lerman	116
Intermediate		
1st	Bess Bright	273
2nd	Debbie Mensay	272
3rd	Lance Glowacki	259
4th	Jan Baughman	190
Advanced		
1st	Dennis Deavenport	304
2nd	Mike Greuter	263
3rd	Jim Mensay	235
4th	Ken Bean	181

## French Indochina Vietnam

*Submitted by Old Salt John Anderson*

In all wars, innocent people on both sides of the war are hurt or killed. Some wars are not popular meaning that the nation in its action 100%. The war that I would like to talk about is Vietnam. I will tell you about what I saw and was happening there in 1954 when my ship, the USS Calvert APA 32 and a few other US ships, went then to French Indochina to help the French evacuate thousands of Vietnamese that wanted to leave the north because of the persecution being put to them by the Communist there. The North did not want any educated individual that could think by them selves and make their own decisions such as doctors, lawyers and teachers. I need to set the stage as to where I was and what I was doing then.

I want to say something before I start my story in that I am no hero of any sort but I had a job and I did that job to the best of my abilities.

I need to set the stage as to where I was and what I was doing in 1954. I was Assault Boat Coxswain aboard the USS Calvert APA-32 which was operating in Korean waters, which was our second tour of that area. Once prior to 1953 during the so called UN

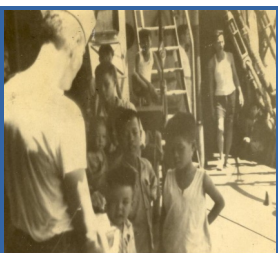
Police Action where we made a landing at the famous Inchon Harbor with its claim to fame as the second highest tidal action in the world. In 1954 my ship received orders to proceed to French Indo-

china after replenishing our supplies for the long trip to FIC which later became a familiar name of Vietnam and then as "Nam". This operation was called "Passage to Freedom" which did not make any sense to me at that time but it really did become true. I

asked the question where is French Indochina and the answer I received was that it was a place that has a warm climate, which I said great.

Korean winters are extremely cold and the US Navy, as far as I could tell did not have any decent cold weather clothing. It was almost ridiculous that our cold weather gear was so pathetic. Our cold weather footwear gear consisted of rubber goulashes and our foul weather jackets were almost just as bad. These items was what we used Stateside in a moderate cold climate but not in Korea for the winters are severe. I used pounds of newspaper throughout my clothing in trying to keep warm. I was always watchful for any of the troops that we carried from time to time would leave any cold weather gear. I got lucky just before we departed from Korea when a soldier forgot a nice cold weather jacket that was far superior to what we had & I only wish that I had gotten this jacket sooner.

From Korea we traveled in Sasebo, Japan to replenish our supplies & when we left Japan we hit a torturous typhoon. The sea was so rough during our steaming that on his day our eating food trays would actually slide from time to time while we were eating. Every once in a while we would grab the tray and pull it back to continue our eating. I remember that this event like it was yesterday. For breakfast I had cold cereal, milk, corn-beef hash, hard boiled egg toast and coffee cracking my hard boiled egg



I became tired of watching the weevils, dog paddling back & forth across my cereal bowl, so I was glad when I had finally finished my cereal. I remember taking a bite of my corn-beef hash, when I thought a small bite of my hard boiled egg would taste good so I proceeded in cracking my hard boiled egg but out of the corner of my eye I saw a small feathered baby chick that was in its shell. I immediately took my empty cereal bowl & placed it over the egg with the chick. At that moment our ships bow drove into a giant wave pushing the ships bow almost straight up causing my food tray to slide to my right, directly in front of a soldier that was setting to my right. The soldier must have seen the unborn chick in my egg that I had just discovered because he immediately upchucked his entire breakfast on to my tray with all the noises that normally go along with this activity. Almost magically the tray slide back in front of me when the ship righted itself, but I felt at that moment that my break fast had ended. I do not know if this is true but my old Navy buddy Calvin Towler was working in the area that made salads in the spud locker and saw an egg shipping crate that with dates indicating that our eggs were more than eight years old. (The eggs we used were stored in cold storage, and dated 1946 - Cal)

After the bad weather, we arrived near Haiphong in North Vietnam to take our first load of men, women and children who sought to escape the Red Terror that was in their homeland by migrating to the free south. The sight of these terribly oppressed people, the aged and the poor, the unclothed young, and the broken and the wretched brought a wave of compassion to every ones heart. Abandoning all but the meager possessions that they carried on their backs as these were their treasures be it a young child or an old relative. When the French were badly beaten at Dien Bien Phu they agreed according to the Geneva Accord, to temperately divide the country at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel; this created a window of opportunity for the people that wanted to leave the north. Because of security we had to remove many old swords & guns from the people we brought aboard because many of them were fighting the Communist just days before. The Communist told the evacuees that once at sea the large mouths of the American ships would pour them into the ocean so the refugees we brought aboard in the beginning were very scared and watchful. After a day aboard, their fears disappeared because of the help and the obvious concern the Americans exhibited every minute to them.

Because of damaged to my left knee I was assigned a security job on the ship which I was able to mingle and talk to many just by a smile or a gesture. English was actually taught in some of the schools which helped a lot. I actually was told by some young boys about 10 that they belonged to the Boy Scouts, but I do not know if that was true but they and I could converse somewhat with their schooling English education. The French language was also taught in the schools so any one that could speak French helped in many cases like of a few people that were from Louisiana that knew some French. We had other people come aboard also assisting that spoke French or Vietnamese that made the trip even better for them & us. Once aboard our ship, the people immediately knew the value of a tin can and raiser blades. The small tin cans became a cup & the large cans became a small pot, and the raiser blade became a small sharp cutting tool. Many things were foreign to them especially in our bathroom heads. They thought our urinals with running water awesome and our gift of a bar of soap was at first food which they could not understand, why we would eat something that tasted so bad. when you get hundreds of people together in a small confined space it became an experience in its self. The French did most of the transporting these



could float because there was a period of time that was allotted for the evacuation from the North. The Calvert boats also assisted but to a lesser amount than the French. The trip to Saigon was a 2 day trip. We had extra medical people come aboard our ship to help us but it was the Calvert's own ships Doctor Flores and his tireless corpsmen, and our cooks in preparing the strange foods for over two thousand extra meals a day was awesome both by what they did and who they became.

We had both births and deaths occur during our trips. One of my duties as a security guard allowed me to see the problems that these people were having, such as births and deaths. I asked a Catholic Priest that was also a Medical Doctor what a certain man was dying from? The Doctor answered this man has Leprosy, Tb, and also extreme Intestinal problems that any one of those ailments might be the reason.

The Calvert crew really went into action for we had deaths and also births aboard during our 2 day cruises (From Hai Phong Bay in the north, to Saigon in the south). The crew helped in caring for babies assisting the ancient and handling the cumbersome bundles that each of the evacuees carried. Heroes in this humanitarian undertaking arose from every corner of the ship continually. I can say this without reservation that every American would be proud of our service men & women helping these poor people. We were completely doing a humanitarian service during that period in 1954.

In closing I need to say that every man women & child should thank God for having the US to help those poor souls that were without a country and trying to start a new life. Regardless of any political activity going on at that time with the US involvement there and what later happened but what the Calvert's crew & other ships and their crews were able to help those people during their trying times.

The Vietnamese people are a very hard working industrious race of people that I and other members of the Calvert were proud in being able to assist them during those trying times.

After my tour in Vietnam my ship the Calvert returned to Japan and then to the US where I was assigned to a highly classified Naval operation working with a submersible unit until my enlistment was up the year later.

I joined the US Navy Reserves and was sent to Advanced Amphibious Warfare School which was very interesting. At the Reserve Center I taught Boatswain Mate Classes which covered all forms of seamanship in preparing the candidates to become Boatswain Mate Petty Officers.

While in the Navy I was assigned to different jobs that caused me to be in areas that many men became hero's. I was in those areas but I never had any heroic ideas or notions , and what I am saying is I just happened to be there doing my job because it was my duty.

My story is true to my best of recollection, and I wish to thank the men of the Calvert who wrote The Calvert Cruise Book that helped me to write this story and especially Calvin Towler who has been my friend from the Calvert all of these 61 years.

The Old Salt  
John Anderson





# 2014

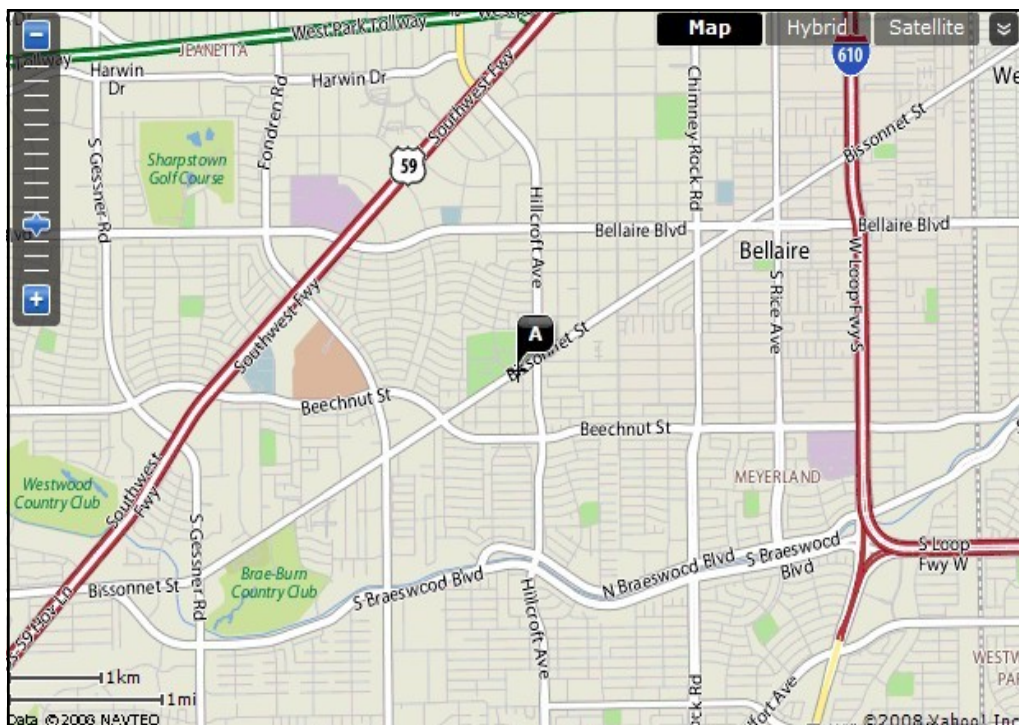
## Meetings

# Meetings & Presentations

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	6th	Jim and Kandace Heimer & Jim and Debbie Mensay	A Night in Alaska	Something that has Spots
February	3rd	HUPS Members	Bonaire Club Trip Extravaganza	Shoot the Face
March	3rd	Tom Collier, Mike Greuter, Dennis Deavenport	Exploring the Wrecks of Truk Lagoon	Things in the sand
April	7th	Tom Collier	HUPS & Moody Gardens—The Perfect Marriage	Large swimmers (> 4 feet) - not people
May	5th	Greg Whittaker	“ L ife in a Pyramid ”	Banded/Stripes
June	2nd	Beata Lerman	Coast to Coast with Berta Lerman	Big eyes,Tangs, Triggerfish,Boxfish
July	7th	Ken Knezick	“ From the Reef Scenes to Whale Sharks – Simple Steps to Successful Wide – Angle Underwater Photography ”	Reef scenes without diver
August	4th	HUPS Videographers	A Night at the Movies	Scorpion fish, Gurnards, Lionfish
September	1st	Mike Greuter	Saba & Dominica on the Half-Shell	Pairs or buddies
October	6th	Monica Losey	TBA	Anemones and relatives, Hydroids, Jellyfish
November	3rd	Anilao Trip Participants	Anilao, The Philippines Club Trip	Single Color focus (Blue,Red,Green,Yellow)
December	1st	None	Food, festivities and Best of HUPS	Best of HUPS and Creative

*The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets at  
the Bayland Community Center starting at 7:00 PM.  
(Social time begins at 6:45)*

*(6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection)  
Visitors are always welcome.*



## **2014 HUPS Officers**

### **President:**

Russell Ramsey

### **Vice President:**

Dennis Deavenport

### **Secretary:**

Tammy Allyn

### **Treasurer:**

Tom Collier

### **Membership/ Newsletter:**

Alicia Grimes

### **Photo Contest:**

Dennis Deavenport

### **TGCC Rep:**

Frank Burek /

Debbie Mensay

### **Web Master:**

James Heimer

### **Workshops:**

Greg Grimes

### **Trip Coordinator:**

Jim Mensay

### **Historian:**

Frank Burek

### **Special Events:**

Jan Baughman

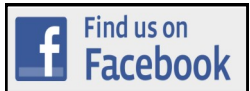
## ***HUPS on the Web***



<http://www.hups.org/>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG>



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?%23!group.php?gid=174168478778>

## **HUPS**

P.O. Box 270056

Houston, TX 77277-0056

## **Board of Directors**

Jan Baughman

Bess Bright

Frank Burek

Martin Daniels

Dennis Deavenport

Lance Glowacki

Alicia Grimes

Mike Greuter

Gary Harris

Ken Knezick

Jim Mensay

Henry Ragland

Russell Ramsey

