

PRESS RELEASE:

April 25, 2008

**Underwater Images 2008
Photo/Video Competition-Final Results**

BEST OF SHOW

Sponsored by The Walindi Plantation, and The *MV FeBrina*, PNG
Cor Bosman, Amsterdam, Netherland- Trust

CONSERVATION CATEGORY

First: Drew Wohl, Congers, NY- Akumal...In Decline (video)
Second: Barb Anthony, Flower Mound, TX- 30 Days Means Life
Third: John Scarlett, Austin, TX- My Home
Honorable Mention: Jose Alvarez, Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic- Crystal River 2

VIDEO CATEGORY

First: Walter Marti, Santa Ana, CA- A Year Under the Pier
Second: Mike Boom, Oakland, CA- Komodo Beneath the Waves
Third: Anastasia Laity, Glendale, CA- Just Goofing Around
Honorable Mention: Karen Doody, Morehead City, NC- Magical Cenotes

WIDE ANGLE NOVICE CATEGORY

First Place: Kris Chmielewski, Gdansk, Poland-Green Turtle
Second Place: Gary Brennand, Brinsmead, Australia- Oh My!
Third Place: Doug Klug, Santa Barbara, CA- Kelp Forest Glider
Honorable Mention: Ann Beisser, Scottsdale, AZ- Moon Jellyfish Swarm
Gary Brennand, Brinsmead, Australia- All Arms
Csaba Tokolyi, Budapest, Hungary- Reflection

WIDE ANGLE OPEN CATEGORY

First Place: Jose Alvarez, Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic- Manatee Resting
Second Place: Petr Vaverka, Zitenice, Czech Republic- Noble Opal Mine
Third Place: Mark Thomas, Cheshire, UK- Compass Jellyfish
Honorable Mention: Judy Johnson, Irving, TX-Kelp Flag
John Scarlett, Austin, TX- Open Wide
Mark Thomas, Cheshire, UK- Swimming in the Rain

MACRO/CLOSE-UP NOVICE CATEGORY

First Place: Csaba Tokolyi, Budapest, Hungary- Murena
Second Place: Bruce Yates, Medina, WA- Pipefish Brain Coral
Third Place: Csaba Tokolyi, Budapest, Hungary- Reluctance
Honorable Mention: Donna Goodwin, Birmingham, AL- Brain Colors
Kevin Lee, Fullerton, CA- Lion Nudibranch
Lasse Iverson, Oslo, Norway- Batman

MACRO/CLOSE-UP OPEN CATEGORY

First Place: Patrick Weir, Georgetown, Grand Cayman- Grouper Clean
Second Place: Brian Francisco, Dili, East Timor- Spiny Seahorse
Third Place: Paul Papadopoulos, Monaco, France- Fireworks
Honorable Mention: Judy Johnson, Irving, TX- Grumpy
Adriano Morettin, Trieste, Italy- Big Brother
Alessio Viora, Borgomanero, Italy- Rainbow Turtle
Keri Wilk, Mississauga, Ontario- Coral Mouth

MAJESTIC CATEGORY

First Place: Ralph Oberlander, Dover, NH- Squadron

Second: Marchione Giacomo, La Loggia, Italy- Carousel

Third: John van Lent, Geldermalsen, Netherland- Thresher Shark Passing By

Honorable Mention: Rand McMeins, Lynwood, WA- Sea Lion

Cor Bosman, Amsterdam, Netherland- Tornado

Alexey Stoyda, Moscow, Russia- Magic Entrance

John van Lent, Geldermalsen, Netherland- Lionfish Showing Off

TOGETHERNESS CATEGORY

First: Steven Kovacs, Clewiston, FL- Good Friends

Second: Jim Chambers, Tucker, GA- Flamingo Tongues

Third: Victor Zucker, Granada Hills, CA-The Pack

Honorable Mention: Patrick Weir, Georgetown, Grand Cayman- Indigo Hamlets Spawn

Patrick Weir, Georgetown, Grand Cayman- Mud Crab & Red Clingfish

Steven Kovacs, Clewiston, FL- Fish Fight

DIVERS & MARINE LIFE

First: Marina Kochetova, Moscow, Russia- An Unexpected Meeting

Second: Marco Caraceni, Chirti, Italy- Lightness

Third: Jose Alvarez, Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic- Inside the School

Honorable Mention: Jean-Louis Danan, Palaiseau, France- Uncommon Meeting

Donna Goodwin, Birmingham, AL- Eye to Eye

Mark Thomas, Cheshire, UK- Dirk & Gray Seal Pup

OHIO COMPETITION

First: George Tierney, Columbus, OH- Diving the Inner Passage (video)

Second: Bernie Atkins, Elyria, OH- Common Lionfish

Third: Bernie Atkins, Elyria, OH- Spottfin Lionfish

From the Director:

Thanks to all entrants, judges, and sponsors. Your participation is an integral part of this competition, and is greatly appreciated. We received entries from 20 different states in the United States and 25 different countries. Competitions of this type share divers' own visions of the underwater world, and serve to promote good conservation practices. They also highlight some of the world's best diving destinations.

Prizes were set before the judging according to their values and the number of entries in the respective categories. Proceeds go to marine educational and scholarship purposes. This past year we again sponsored former sea turtle fishermen from Baja, Mexico to attend the National and International Sea Turtle Symposiums through ProPeninsula www.ProPeninsula.org where they learned about the conservation of this endangered animal and took that information home to spread the word with their neighbors.

We are also continuing to support Mahonia Na Dari, a Nature Conservancy program for students in Papua New Guinea, where they learn true conservation and preservation principles with hands-on experiences. www.Mahonia.org Some former Mahonia students have since become scientists who are still diligently working to conserve the world's natural resources.

This year we have added Diveheart to our list of beneficiaries whose purpose is to provide and support educational SCUBA diving and snorkeling experience programs that are open to any physically impaired child or adult in the hope of providing both physical and psychological therapeutic value to that person.

www.Diveheart.com

As we are all volunteers in these contests and they are just for fun, we hope everyone enjoyed our friendly competition this year. I'll be looking forward to your entries next year. Safe Diving and Shooting.

Sea Ya!

Roger Roth, Founder/ Director