

PRESS RELEASE:

June 15, 2010

**Underwater Images 2010
Photo/Video Competition-Final Results**

BEST OF SHOW

Sponsored by The Walindi Plantation, and The *MV FeBrina*, PNG
Gianni Pecchiar, Trieste, Italy- Star & Ray

CONSERVATION CATEGORY

First: Drew Wohl, Congers, NY- Have You Saved a Reef Today? (video)
Second: Karel Bernard, Harjumaa, Estonia- Great Cormorant
Third: Thomas Haider, Vienna, Austria- Shark Lining
Honorable Mention: Jeffrey deGuzman, Manilla, Philippines- Octopus in Coke
Alessio Viora, Fontaneto d'Agogna, Italy- Dying Sunfish

VIDEO CATEGORY

First: Tobias Meinken, Girona, Spain- Meet Rooky
Second: Walter Marti, Mission Viejo, CA- Octopoda
Third: Steve Cohen, Annandale, VA- Whale Trails II

SHIPWRECKS CATEGORY

First: Uwe Schmolke, Hessen, Germany- Inside Umbria
Second: Jim Garland, Merseyside, UK- Emily
Third: Csaba Tokolyi, Budapest, Hungary- Poseidonia
Honorable Mention: Jim Garland, Merseyside, UK- Giannis D
Frederik Ehrenstrom, Gunnilse, Sweden- Ghost Ship & Diver

WIDE ANGLE NOVICE CATEGORY

First Place: Alison Vitsky, San Diego, CA- Monterey Afternoon
Second Place: Claudio Gazzaroli, Ascona, Switzerland- Shark Smile
Third Place: Phil Sokol, San Diego, CA- Sailfish Attack
Honorable Mention: George Vincent, Lewisville, TX- Brown Seasnake
Claudio Gazzaroli, Ascona, Switzerland- Under Ice

WIDE ANGLE OPEN CATEGORY

First Place: Esteban Tore, Malaga, Spain- Light at the End of the Tunnel
Second Place: Keri Wilk, Mississauga, Canada- Lily
Third Place: Eduardo Acevedo Fernandez, Los Realejos, Spain- Tortuga-Turtle Ocean
Honorable Mention: Michele Davino, Udine, Italy- Verzasca
Alessio Viora, Fontaneto d'Agogna, Italy- On the Move

MACRO/CLOSE-UP NOVICE CATEGORY

First Place: William Goodwin, Birmingham, AL- Peppermint Shrimp & Cardinalfish
Second Place: Debi Henshaw, Menorca, Spain- Cardinalfish
Third Place: Claudio Gazzaroli, Ascona, Switzerland- Coleman Shrimps
Honorable Mention: Paolo Isgro, Belluno, Italy- Shrimp on Snake Eel
Luc Rومان, Kieldrecht, Belgium- Ghost Lobster

MACRO/CLOSE-UP OPEN CATEGORY

First Place: Michele Davino, Udine, Italy- Girino

Second Place: Michele Davino, Udine, Italy- Pesce Volante

Third Place: Eduardo Acevedo Fernandez, Los Reaelejos, Spain- Multitude

Honorable Mention: Keri Wilk, Mississauga, Canada- Mantis

Nicholas Samaras, Thessaloniki, Greece- Jellyfish

MAJESTIC CATEGORY

First Place: George Vincent, Lewisville, TX- Manta Trifecta

Second: Phil Sokol, San Diego, CA- Celestial Jellies

Third: Dany Weinberg, Eilat, Israel- Red Army

Honorable Mention: Eduardo Acevedo Fernandez, Los Reaelejos, Spain- Sky

Debi Henshaw, Menorca, Spain- Reef Squid

TOGETHERNESS CATEGORY

First: Eduardo Acevedo Fernandez, Los Reaelejos, Spain- Face to Face

Second: Dany Weinberg, Eilat, Israel- Hitchhikers

Third: Alessio Viora, Fontaneto d'Agnogna, Italy- First Flight

Honorable Mention: Todd Mintz, Regina, Canada- Room with a View

Joao Paulo Krajewski, Sao Paulo, Brazil- Fish Tripod

DIVERS & MARINE LIFE

First: Esteban Tore, Malaga, Spain-Fragile Realm

Second: Rockford Draper, Plano, TX- Manta Workshop

Third: Steffen Binke, Mooroolbool, Australia- Weedy Sea Dragon & Diver

Honorable Mention: Eduardo Acevedo Fernandez, Los Reaelejos, Spain- Model

Bruce Yates, Medina, WA- Sharks Converging

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 17 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 conservation, preservation, and scholarship purposes. This past year we again sponsored former sea turtle fishermen from Baja, Mexico to attend the National and International Sea Turtle Symposia 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.

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