

# THE DECEMBER 05 BULLETIN

## FSDA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: JOHN SCHMIDT 727-536-1457 .  
VICE PRES: RICH TAYLOR 727-867-2552  
SECRETARY: LISA TATRO 813-854-3630  
TREASURER: KEN SMITH 727-522-8276

## COMMITTEES

COMPETITION CHAIR: JASON DELACRUZ 727-639-6565  
COMPETITION CO-CHAIR: CHRIS HUDGENS 727-937-7822  
LEGISLATIVE: DENNIS O'HERN 727-391-3969  
PHOTOGRAPHY: LISA TATRO 813-854-3630  
FREE DIVING/ SUTHN OPEN: DAVE SHELTON 727-847-5479  
FREE DIVING/ SUTHN OPEN: TOM MORRIS 727-787-5569

## DIRECTORS

SEA BUNNIES	LISA TATRO	813-854-3630
CLEARWATER SEA SALTS	JOHN MOLDT	727-536-1457
SUNCOAST REEF ROWDIES	KEN SMITH	727-522-8276
SUNCOAST SEALS	SKIP LONG	727-736-8179
SUNSHINE FINS	MARK MAZNEC	
ST PETE UNDERWATER	RICH TAYLOR	727-867-2552
TAMPA BAY SPEARFISHING	BILL HARDMAN	727- 560-0757



FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Is You Ready Kangfish!? Lets it happ'n, Cap'n!

The FSDA team has been busy planning and preparing another great dive year for 2005. Here is some of what is coming up:

- The season kicks off with the 2005 FSDA State Freedive Championship on April 16. Entry forms, rules, and details are freshly posted at [http://www.divefsda.com/Free\\_Diving.htm](http://www.divefsda.com/Free_Diving.htm). David Shelton has done another great job in planning this event.
- The West Coast Council Series begins April 30 with the Pasco Tournament hosted by the Suncoast Seals. The rules and details will be posted soon.
- The 3rd [Annual Spearboard Open](#) is May 21 in Port Richey, FL. This is a cant-miss event!
- The [Southern Open State Championship](#) photography begins June 18, and spearfishing will be on June 25. The event will have longer dive hours this year, and we are back at Ballyhoo Grill in Tarpon Springs. Do Not Miss this one!

- Members can now sell personal items on the brand new [FSDA Marketplace!](#) There is a button to it on the upper left of the front page of the site.
- We are working on setting up the web site so that you can sign up and pay for events online.

That is just a few of the things planned or underway. A great list of all the events, with links to the sites, is on the [FSDA Calendar](#), which also has a button on the front page of the site.

Editorial: As far as [Diver's Rights](#) go, the challenges keep coming, and we keep fighting them back to the best extent of our resources. Most of you do not realize the entire undue burden that divers bear in this area. Did you know that the daily commercial bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico, that is fish that are discarded, is somewhere in the area of the entire annual harvest taken by spearfishing, which has the lowest discard mortality?

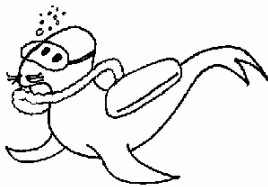
Those of us who do not spearfish might ask: "Why do I care about this?" The answer is that if you enjoy seafood at all, you should support spearfishing, since of all methods, it has the lowest bycatch and effect on the habitat of all methods of harvest. It is the environmentally preferred method, but is thrown under the bus by some other groups as a sacrificial distraction.

I do not want to bore you with more detail, but I do want to say this to you: FSDA membership dues have been \$15 for ages. For this reason, and the fact that as a non-profit enterprise our ability to exert political influence is restricted, our most substantial efforts have been to support the [Fishing Rights Alliance](#), which seeks "[Fairness in Fisheries Management](#)". They are doing everything that their slim budget will allow to get the fisheries managers to control fishing methods like longlining and trawling, which ruin the habitat and kill many, many fish unnecessarily. I urge you to do your part. Spend 35 bucks to support the sport we love, and join the [FRA](#). After you do that.....

Let's go Diving!

Thanks, John Schmidt and the great FSDA team.

PS: Thanks to all the great members who have already joined!



## SUNCOAST SEALS

The Seals banquet was held in Tarpon Springs at Ballyhoo's back in January with 43 or so members and quests talking shop with Ray Odor and some other special friends. A couple works of art were auctioned to benefit the Fishing Rights Alliance and the awards for 2004 were handed out.

Mark Huffman and David Shelton took top honors for scuba and free diving respectively with David also taking the Captain of the Year award. Bill Harshman had the catch of the year with his 95.08 lb Amber Jack. Tom Morris harvested a 24.04 lb Middle Grounds Hog Snapper and Bret Walley brought the top Grouper, a hefty 49.08 lber, home.

The past year was one to remember, but 2005 is lining up just fine for the Seals. We'll be hosting the first WCC Shoot on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Tarpon Springs and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at all

of the FSDA functions in '05. Keep your ear to the ground and stay informed. Join the FRA and introduce more friends to our wonderful sport.

Safe diving to all and we'll see you at the ramp!

Dan Addison "Shooter Dan"  
Suncoast Seals, President



## SUNCOAST REEF ROWDIES

Awards! Awards! Awards! Rowdies award two special traveling trophies each year in memory of deceased past club members, one for Bunnie Louser was established in 1982 in recognition of service contributions to our club. Congratulations go to Lori Smith who was honored with the Bunny Louser trophy as past president of the club for several years, among other services. We thank her for all she has done. Lori was also awarded "Best of Show" with her contest photograph entered in the "fresh water" category. Way to go, Lori!. Pat Friedette garnered top 2004 competition points in all categories and was awarded the club's second traveling trophy which was established in memory of Len Favel. Pat's photography and shell entries were outstanding. (Pat also won the raffle award this past year – double your pleasure!) Other great awards were given for the winners of other levels of our competition. Pat, how do you manage to find such unique awards every year? Special thanks to Steve Kisco, our competition chairman. (You too Ruth!) What a great way for all of the Rowdies to celebrate the holidays!

Digital! The Rowdies have embraced the cutting edge of new technology in photography, both in above ground and underwater, by merging digital in with the 35 mm and fixed focus categories in our competition rules for the 2005 season. New challenges keep us on our toes! (Sorry, couldn't help using an OLD saying.)

In that light – the "Three Musketeers" – no, the "Three Grannies" descended (literally) on Ginnie Springs in February. Yes, we were on the cutting edge using our digital underwater cameras. But, I have to remember to check my settings more frequently, I seem to move dials and not realize it ending up with a surprise video! Let's see – how can I use that "negative space" creatively ????

We Grannies know how to do a trip though – dive the caverns and then go shopping, of course! Pat and Eileen are quite the treasure hunters in the antique shops – ask Pat about her own new shop!! We were sorry that one of our favorite restaurants in High Springs has closed but we found a new one in Alachua. Always look forward to good food on these trips too. Alachua has a lot going for such a small town.

Keep it interesting! Use a different camera focus – see beyond color into the world of black and white. Finding the contrasts and shadows that make great black and white pictures takes a whole new perspective. Bobbie Jo Roe and I had the opportunity to hear the world renowned photographer Clyde Butcher give a slide show and seminar at Weedon Island's Nature Center, St. Pete (what a great building) on his fantastic black and white photographs. He is inspiring! I purchased one of his books and I am willing to share. Ernie Sigmon encouraged the Rowdies to add a category for black and white photographs several years ago. Let's all give it a real try!

Have you all been swimming with the manatee this year? Six of us had a great time in January, as usual. Ed always does a good job making the arrangements and he makes a great captain driving the boat too. Like that hot cocoa too! Bobbie Jo went back during the week and found even more manatee

without all the congestion of other swimmers. Then Bobbie Jo, two friends and I tried something new – donned our wet suits, stashed the flippers, masks and hot chocolate in the hatches and kayaked out to Three Sisters spring to swim with them. It worked great!

When not diving – go Kayaking! Steve and Ruth have new kayaks with foot peddals – great for those windy days. Fort Desoto was our destination to see a beautiful flock of white pelicans. I hear Steve got some good photos and Lori's turned out great too. Kayaking the Hillsborough River will be the trip March 13<sup>th</sup>. Let Bobbie Jo know if you would like to join us – bring your camera!

The following Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we will slog around in the cold water of the Peace River to find that elusive fossil – the Megledon Shark tooth! Who knows, we might find a great fossil arrowhead point like Pat found several years ago. April 9<sup>th</sup> we will join Scuba West to scuba Venice for those great fossils. If you need a new wetsuit you might consider as semi-wet suit – Steve Kisco loves his, especially in the cold winter water.

If you have missed our business meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, you are missing some good programs. The Rowdies were the judges of the Florida district Ocean Pals Poster contest in January, I showed my Hawaii slides in January and Bobbie Jo's great slides of Alaska were shown in March. "Bringing Back the Bay" and "Living Waters" videos will be future programs. We love to get together to eat the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of the month. Check our website to see where we will be meeting:  
[www.knology.net/~bgedz/rowdies/](http://www.knology.net/~bgedz/rowdies/)

Keep it wet, Sonia



## SEABUNNIES

### Seabunnies – Just Trying to Stay Warm!!

It's winter and the water's cold! So the Seabunnies have been out and about, having fun! But we did have a few brave souls jump in the water the beginning of this year.

Tom and Eileen were diving on Denny and Peggy's boat January 2nd and had a warm, calm day with plenty of fish. There was some strange dark water for the first 30 feet, then good visibility at the bottom. A standard wetsuit was plenty and diving was great.

Mary T was diving in the gulf recently. She reports viz was excellent. Air temp was good. Seas calm. Water temp was do-able in a 5 mil wet suit with hooded vest. Hogs, and Snapper were scarce and small. Lot's of tropicals. She wishes she had her camera. The captain of the boat went all over the place, from 85ft to 125ft, looking for fish. AJs were the only fish in abundance, so she shot her first fish for the 2005 competition. What few Grouper she did see were solitary and big. True point of interest: she free shafted a 30+ pound Gag, (no exaggeration on the size), but failed to get a kill shot. He took off with her shaft, then wedged the shaft horizontally between two rocks, and escaped in an instant by breaking the shaft into two pieces!! Gotta have respect for the mighty grouper!

Leslie got wet – but not from diving! The only water worthy adventure she did was kayaking the Little Manatee River. The upper end was like an obstacle course with downed trees - it was beautiful and challenging but not much wildlife to be seen. It was a cool day and they ended up pretty wet - but it was great!

Even colder activities included snow skiing! Lisa S and John along with Eileen and Tom just got back from skiing in Montana for a week. They had a fabulous time in Whitefish Montana, Big Mountain. Mary T went snow skiing in the Lake Tahoe in January, and I think some of the other Bunnies found a ski diversion to compensate for no diving in mid-winter.

On the warmer side of things: In September Sally and Giovanni Recchia joined Deb and Terry Holtz, on a tour of Italy, celebrating their 25th anniversary. It was new itinerary for Trafalgar Tours, and was chosen because it started in Rome, finished near Milan, and went down to the Amalfi coast and Pompeii. Florence was another main stop with day trips to many varied locations. It was a great tour...busy, superb guides for the Vatican, the Iuffizi Gallery and most other special stops. The great vistas, the medieval fortifications on nearly every mountain prominence, all the history, and the varied terrain and colors throughout the country made for an incredible trip. And the food and wine! Anyone considering a tour of Italy would be pleased with the itinerary of this trip! After the tour D&T and S&G met up with Giovanni's brother, his wife, and their 85 year old Mom. The seven of them visited the 3 major lakes regions, Venice, and the Italian Alps region. What a trip! Deb shot nearly 700 photos and Giovanni another 800. Where to next?

Rita would like to mention that we all need to keep planning our dive trips! This past year, the world has experienced some of the most severe disasters of our lifetime, from the intense destructive hurricanes in this hemisphere, to the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean. But we divers still must get out and support these areas. After the four hurricanes hit Florida this summer, surveys showed that 60% of travelers were going to "rethink" their Florida vacation plans. Say what you will about tourists, but if this is true, our economy would be hard hit. Rita has been in contact with her dive buddies in the Caribbean and the Andaman Sea (Phuket Island) and she was assured that the major reefs have been spared. In fact, in the Caribbean, the reefs were "dusted off" and wiped clean of damaging algae. And, underwater off the coast of India, the force of the tsunami uncovered what is believed to be an ancient city and parts of a temple of a centuries-old pilgrimage town. Click on: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-tsunami-sea-temple,0,7531491,print.story?coll=sns-ap-nationworld-headlines> for info. Phuket is welcoming visitors and that is a beautiful island with wonderful diving just a boat ride away. So don't change vacation plans, call your travel agent and support these areas. You will be glad you did.

Locally, our Artists, Connie and Patti have had a busy season. Their upcoming art shows are the French Market, being held at Julies Cottage on Indian Rocks Road in Largo, March 18 & 19 (Fri and Sat). If the weather is good, they will have the torch set up to do glass bead making demos during the show. Their next show is a juried show, the weekend of May 14 & 15. This is the "Out of the Blue" indoor show which is held at the Harborview Center in Downtown Clearwater. They will also probably be doing the "Cool Art Show" which will be the middle of July, down at the Coliseum in St. Petersburg.

The Seabunnies are looking forward to some good diving this year. We already have our first gulf dive set for the Main Squeeze on May 7th. Contact Lisa B if interested. Deb H is planning two east coast weekend trips later on, dates TBA. Lisa S is planning more diving too, because hubby, John, bought a fountain boat and he is getting it "tournament ready"!

Many thanks to Debbie and Frank for hosting the Judging Party. Her kitchen remodeling is gorgeous – now we all want new kitchens! We once again had great food and fun. The preliminary judging results are attached, but you'll have to come to the Banquet for the final tally!

Once again, we have our Annual Bunny Banquet (it's our 33<sup>rd</sup>!!). We will be "Stepping Out" at the Wine Cellar, Reddington Beach on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Be there 6:15pm for Social Hour with Dinner at 7:00p. We have entertainment, a silent auction and awards. The "Stepping Out" theme means glamour!! We want to see your best!!

## **Congratulations:**

Mary B was just accepted to an "intensive care" program at Morton Plant Hospital. Congratulations to Mary -- she will be missed at Countryside.

Eileen & Tom were blessed with their 4th grandchild, a beautiful healthy baby boy named Braedan in January.

Paula Argyros plays with the City of Dunedin Pipe Band, and has been traveling around Florida participating in Celtic festivals and Highland Games. This summer the Band will be traveling to Scotland and Ireland to compete in the Irish Championships and European championships for Pipe Bands.

## **Sea Bunny Judging Party Winners**

### **Shells—Novice**

<b>Best Collection</b>		
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sea Bunny</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Rita Fitzpatrick #8</b>	<b>5</b>

### **Shells**

<b>Best Collection</b>		
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sea Bunny</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Mary Taylor #17</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Betty Tucker #19</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Pat Fredette #7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mary Bergin #6</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>Best Shell</b>			
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sea Bunny</b>	<b>Shell</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Mary Taylor #17</b>	<b>(Chrysanthemum)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mary Bergin #6</b>	<b>(Flame Helmet)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Betty Tucker #4</b>	<b>(King Helmet)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pat Fredette #7</b>	<b>(Atlantic Wing Shell)</b>	<b>2</b>

### **Artifacts**

<b>Man-made</b>			
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sea Bunny</b>	<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Rita Fitzpatrick #8</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mary Bergin #6</b>		<b>4</b>

<b>Natural</b>			
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sea Bunny</b>	<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Pat Fredette#7</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mary Taylor #17</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Mary Bergin #6</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lisa Boing #23</b>	<b>(Turtle Scute)</b>	<b>2</b>

### **Photography**

<b>Topside Prints and Slides</b>			
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sea Bunny</b>	<b>Title/Subject</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Peggy Logan #14A</b>	<b>(Great Blue Heron)</b>	<b>5</b>

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Debbie Holtz #2B	(Seaside)	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Paula Twaits #16B	(Sunset Boats)	3

Fixed Focus			
Place	Sea Bunny	Title/Subject	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Debbie Holtz #2C	(Turtle)	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Taylor #17A	(Black Bar Solider)	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rita Fitzpatrick #8B	(Clownfish)	3

Creative/Digital			
Place	Sea Bunny	Title/Subject	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lisa Tatro #5B	(Diamond Blenny)	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peggy Logan #14	(Red Grouper)	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pat Fredette #7C	(Goby)	3

Standard 35 mm/Wide-Angle Prints			
Place	Sea Bunny	Title/Subject	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lisa Tatro #5	(Silversides)	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pat Fredette #7A	(Angel in soft Corals)	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peggy Logan #14A	(Eel)	3

Standard 35mm Macro			
Place	Sea Bunny	Title/Subject	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Peggy Logan #14A	(Starfish/Crab)	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lisa Tatro #5	(Crab)	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pat Fredette #7C	(Conch Eyes)	3

Slides Standard			
Place	Sea Bunny		Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lisa Tatro #5	(Lobster)	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pat Fredette #7B	(Sponge In Coral)	4

Slides—Macro			
Place	Sea Bunny	Title/Subject	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Pat Fredette #7	(Feather)	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lisa Tatro #5	(Crab)	4

### Food Awards—No points toward banquet

Hors d'oeuvres			
Place	Sea Bunny	Dish	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lisa Tatro	apple brie	

Main Entrée			
Place	Sea Bunny	Dish	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Debbie Pernicano	Tilapia	

Dessert			
Place	Sea Bunny	Dish	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Betty Tucker	Mud Pie	



The SPUC Superbowl party lived up to it's billing as the finest place in the state to catch the game. This unqualified success was due entirely to the hard work of the volunteers such as Leon Vasquez setting up the big screen, Terry England for making the gambling boards, Bill Hardman for running them, GR Tarr, Paul Kerr, and Matt Joswig for cooking and those who brought the bountiful array of spectacular side-dish delicacies to the event. We ate 'till we couldn't move, and washed it all down with a bottomless supply of beer and Bahama mamas. Next year's Superbowl party will occur on February 6th, 2006, and we've got a standing reservation at Minnreg hall. Spuc's get in free, and guest admittance is only \$10, why stay home and wreck your own place?

Our "Outstanding Spearfisherman" and "Outstanding Freediver" for 2004 awards were given at the Superbowl party. Outstanding Spearfisherman was won by Ken Jones, who shot a tournament record 55.4 pound Cubera snapper in the St. Pete Open, and Outstanding Freediver was won by Jerry Guerra jr. who's aggregate included a 272 pound Yellofin Tuna!

Once again, I'd like to mention that the 2005 St. PETE OPEN will be held on August 19th, 20th and 21st at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, 6800 Sunshine Skyway Lane, St. Petersburg. [www.holiday-inn.com/marinacove-ss](http://www.holiday-inn.com/marinacove-ss). This year's venue will be much more accommodating to our tournament, with many more rooms available, and at a lower rate. Access by boat or car is far easier, docking is much better, food and beverage are readily available, make plans to stay overnight after the weigh-in/party! Lounge on the beach, enjoy an excellent breakfast, and wander in to collect your trophies and prizes at the awards ceremony. To get there by water, simply come in from the Gulf via Egmont (the shipping) channel, Bunces pass, or North (Tierra Verde) channel. Turn North on the Skyway channel (you know, the one that runs alongside the Skyway bridge), and turn East under the Dick Misner bridge. Immediately after you've gone under the Dick Misner bridge, turn due North again and run 'till you see the Sunspree beach on your port side, and the entry channel (stay to the left side, due to sandbar) to the Sunspree harbor dead ahead. Charts with waypoints will be handed out at the captain's meeting.

Don't forget to support the FRA. They are working hard to protect your fishing rights!!

Scott Hooker