

My backyard

Bryant Turffs' excellent article about Blue Heron Bridge may look and read like just another UwP location report but it is more than that and I hope it will lead to a regular UwP feature.

As the title implies Bryant is fortunate to live a short drive away from Blue Heron Bridge and that's the whole point. He didn't need to take a flight and in today's uncertain times that is perhaps something that we should all consider doing more.

OK I accept that cars pollute too but nowhere near the extent of a 747 especially on a longhaul flight.

Bryant is indeed lucky to live in Florida generally as it has world class and incredibly varied underwater habitats to dive and photograph.

In addition BHB is a shore dive so no diesel driven boats are involved.

Living as I do in the southwest of the UK I may not have the clearest or warmest water but I am not short of subjects from wrecks to reefs and plenty of colourful macro subjects.

As a result I hope that 'My backyard' will become a regular feature and that it will encourage you to submit such articles to celebrate what's on your doorstep.

There can be no doubt that our presence on this planet is highly detrimental and if we do not

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change our ways there is the distinct possibility that a domino-like chain of natural collapses which could threaten our ability to survive.

I know no one wants to give up what they enjoy but maybe cut out one overseas trip and replace it with a local one.

I fully accept that it's (pun intended) a drop in the ocean but success by the inch is a cinch. Success by the yard is hard except when it's Your Backyard :-)

Trends in underwater images

There can be no doubt that blackwater underwater photography has produced an amazing genre of images but, in terms of competitions, I think it's fair to say that the novelty is starting to wear off.

That doesn't mean the images are any less amazing, it's just that, after a while, they can start to look a bit one dimensional and it is only the truly exceptional images that will impress competition judges.

That's just the way of the underwater photography competition world.

UPY 2020 entrants

2020 was another record breaker for UPY with entries rising to 5500, and the number of photographers also jumping up to 500!

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, and I thought the same the year before and the year before that, you have produced images that have left me, quite literally, lost for words. You've gone and done it again; raised the bar, hit new heights and created a set of images that we, the underwater photography community, should be justifiably proud.

I think I would be right in assuming that the vast majority of this year's images were shot within the past 12 months and, if I'm right, it shows that we are in a very good place.

The lengths you go to, to envisage, plan and execute such world class images and then grace us, the judges, with your talents is the highlight of my calendar.

I stand, applaud and salute you and am looking forward to 2021 already.

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D-200

Guide Number **20**
220 lumen Focus Light
Underwater **110** degree coverage



INON

Made in Japan