

News, Travel & Events

North Sea Film Festival

November 6-8th 2009



The third edition of the North Sea Film Festival is definitely on! The one and only Dutch underwater film festival will take place on November 6, 7 & 8 at Studio/K in Amsterdam.

We have changed the festival location and moved to Amsterdam. We will still be screening high quality films on surprising topics, will organise workshops and an information market. This year we also focus on other artforms and will set up exhibitions as well as a video installation.

Q&A sessions will take place after screening of each movie so visitors and filmmakers can easily get in touch with each other. Studio/K's bar with its great atmosphere will provide drinks and food to make the festival complete.



We invite all underwater filmmakers to participate, there are no costs involved! You'll find all information and details on our website.

www.northseafilmfestival.com

DPG monthly photo competition

We are proud to announce the guidelines for the monthly Underwater Photography Contest Series. The contests are free to enter and each month we will be giving away a valuable prize - because you deserve it...and that's how we roll!

Here's how it works...

Each month we will be announcing a contest theme. You can easily enter by uploading up to three images into your DPG gallery. The editorial staff of DivePhotoGuide will select a first, second and third place winner. While only first place winners will receive the monthly prize, all three monthly winners will receive an award certificate and will be entered into an annual contest for a chance at the grand prize, which will be awarded based on votes from the DivePhotoGuide community. Monthly prizes will include underwater photo equipment, scuba diving equipment, apparel, and of course dive trips!

At all times we will post six months' worth of themes or subjects. So the next time you go underwater, you can challenge yourself to shoot a specific personal assignment - let's see what you got!

You can add images to one of your existing galleries on DPG or



create a new gallery just for your contest entries.

In either case your images will be entered into the monthly contest as long as it includes a specific tag that we will provide for each month's contest theme. The tag is easy to add to the image while uploading. Please be sure to copy the tag exactly as instructed for each contest.

The DPG community is comprised of the best underwater photographers from all corners of the world. The level of talent never ceases to impress us. The DPG contest series is intended to promote friendly competition, to push your skills, and to give you specific themes or subjects to focus on for your next dive trip. The deadline for each month is always the last day of the month.

www.divephotoguide.com

FUJIFILM

SCUBASNAP09

In association with Looe Divers, Fujifilm are proud to announce a brand new Underwater Photographic Competition to be held over the weekend of the 12th & 13th of September 2009 - this is open to any standard of diver the only rule is that you use a COMPACT digital camera and housing. Shore diving only from two great sights in Looe, Cornwall - fabulous surroundings for a great weekend of diving, fun and education.

Seminars and Advice Great Prizes

Experts from the like of Mat Trim LBIPP from Fujifilm, Maria Munn from Ocean Visions, Charles Hood from Dive Magazine and BSQUP will be on hand to give advice. There will be seminars and exhibitions to help you improve your technique plus a barbeque on the Saturday night - great fun for all. Any standard of diver can join in the fun - even snorkelers can enter! The competition is a shore dive from two locations in Looe, Cornwall. The dive sights have a variety of habitats and even boast a wreck. Come and have a go - who knows you may even win. The winning entry will be also published in the Dive magazine.



PADI

To Apply
Please email your details to:
photocomp@looe Divers.com

There will be various categories each with great prizes and the opportunity to improve your photography with critiques, there will be loan cameras for those who forget their gear and loads of fun.

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DIVERS

Marine Biology One Day Course

Saturday, 12 September, 2009,
Action Underwater Studios,
Essex

Jamie Watts' day of marine life presentations and workshops is intended as an introduction to marine life worldwide. The objective is to inform, to build an understanding of the living marine environment and to inspire an ongoing fascination with, and understanding of, the world we dive in.

The day aims to provide a brief overview of every group of animal and plant life, then put them in the context of the global 'big picture'. It is based around five presentations and two group sessions. It is a one day course, but be warned - it is a long day! The scope of what we cover is vast - a lot to squeeze into one day, and interest and enthusiasm often take us into the evening. For this reason we plan to keep timings under control during the day, then for those who wish to stay and discuss things further, we will retire to a local eatery and talk marine life as late as we like.



Jamie is a marine ecologist and fisheries biologist, and an old friend to Ocean Optics. He has a particular interest in high-productivity zones and the scope and scale of marine food webs. Jamie splits his time between fisheries research, consultancy and guiding trips to remote high-productivity regions, most recently polar regions. He has researched just about everything that lives under the sea, from coral reefs to copepods to leopard seals to king crabs to colossal squid, and in a former life worked on liveaboard and land-based dive boats all over the world.

After two years on the Antarctic island of South Georgia and then two seasons in the Antarctic Peninsula area, Jamie has just returned from a second season in the Arctic, acting as a naturalist, lecturer and guide.

www.oceanoptics.co.uk

Manatee Lovers



Manateelovers Association was established in 2009 by Averyl Chow, graphic artist and a passionate about manatees. The association was created in order to let the public aware of this gentle and harmless mammal – the manatee. Our goal is to inform and educate the public to protect our environment, thus, create a cleaner marine life for the manatees so as the other living species in the ocean. Manateelovers Association is a nonprofit organization. Funds from our donation program go to public awareness and educational campaigns, manatee research, and voices to ensure better protection for manatees and their environment.

www.manateelovers.com

www.uwpmag.com



DivePhotoGuide & Wetpixel 5 Year Anniversary Underwater Photo & Video Competition

This year DivePhotoGuide and Wetpixel celebrate the 5th anniversary of a unique series of international underwater photo and video competitions. The Our World Underwater and DEEP Indonesia competition series has become one of the most prestigious and well participated. Each year thousands of entries are received from all corners of the globe - the competition boasts a combined prize pool of over \$80,000. Judging the competition are world photographers and magazine editors from the US, Europe and Asia. New for this year will be a separate category for professional photographers to compete for both editorial and advertising work.

The competition details will be posted online on September 15th.

www.underwatercompetition.com



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Raja Ampat | Triton Bay | Banda Sea | Komodo

2010 Raja Ampat Entrance Tag Design Contest



Wetpixel.com is proud to again host the annual Raja Ampat marine park tag design contest. If you have the perfect photo that captures the excitement and beauty of scuba diving in Raja Ampat, Indonesia, enter this contest for a chance to have your image printed on the 4,000 park tags that will be attached to BCDs of visiting divers.

The grand prize winner will have his/her design printed on the 2010 park tag and will receive an all-inclusive 7-day dive trip to Raja Ampat!

The 2010 Raja Ampat Entrance Tag Design Contest is sponsored by Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy. The deadline for submission was midnight (PST) August 28, 2009, but public voting will commence on August 30 and end on September 25, 2009.

www.wetpixel.com/raja

Deadline 6th September!

Due to the phenomenal success in 2007 the Sharks in Focus photography competition is back! This year's competition has five new categories including a video shark showreel! As always there is huge variety of fantastic dive prizes to be won, so to be in with a chance enter your best photos and videos now!

www.sharktrust.org/photo

Fujifilm Scubasnap

12/13th September 2009

Fujifilm UK Ltd. is pleased to announce their first ever underwater photo festival; ScubaSnap Weekend 2009.

The festival will take place in Looe, Cornwall, England on the 12th and 13th September in the wonderful surroundings of the Cornish coast and countryside.

In association with local dive operators Looe Divers, the weekend will include shore diving, photographic tuition and seminars from industry experts such as Mat

Trim of Fujifilm and Maria Munn of Ocean Visions, photo competitions, with some fabulous prizes to be won, and a dinner dive and BBQ in the evening.

ScubaSnap Weekend 2009 is open to divers of all levels. The only rule is that all photos taken and entered in the competitions must be taken on a compact camera. As well as photography education, goers will have the opportunity to critique their images with industry experts over the course of the two days.

www.looedivers.com
www.fujifilm.co.uk



They come in **breath-catching colours**; in **shifting shapes**; in **astounding disguises**; **tinchy tiny** or really **rather grand...** and always there is more to **dive** and to **enchant**



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www.ECO-DIVERS.com



Visions in the Sea

7&8th November 2009

**The City Inn, Aquatics Centre, The Palace
Manchester, England**

Visions in the Sea is a festival of underwater photography being held in Manchester in November. There is a fantastic line-up of presentations, in-water tuition, a competition, exhibition and gala dinner. The whole event is in aid of the Shark Trust. This exciting weekend is being hosted by Frogfish Photography and Ocean Optics.

There will be presentation by internationally renowned underwater photographers on both days with the guest speakers including: Cathy Church, Paul "Duxy" Duxfield, Martin Edge, Charlie Hood, Maria Munn, Alex Mustard, Jukka Nurminen, Tom Peschak, Peter Scoones and Steve Warren.

On Sunday afternoon delegates will have the opportunity to get some in-water tuition in the Manchester Aquatics Centre from some of these experts. This 5m deep pool will be transformed into an underwater world with reef, wreck, marine life of all sorts and model divers for the participants to practice their newly learnt photographic skills.

The festival is being sponsored by Cameras Underwater, Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, Dive Quest and Emperor Divers. Their support has enabled Visions in the Sea to offer all divers and underwater photographers the chance to improve their underwater photography, attend an

event that will raise money for an important charity, raise awareness of the underwater environment, participate in educational presentations and attend a wonderful visual feast.

On Friday 6th November the Shark Trust (along with the Frogfish team and Ocean Optics) will be visiting a school and inviting other school children in the area to join in on an education day. This will give local children the opportunity to learn more about sharks and their habitat and for them to take part in art projects, talks and workshops throughout the day.

Saturday evening is time for everyone to let their hair down at the Visions Gala Dinner in aid of the Shark Trust. This will coincide with the 5th anniversary of Orca Divers who have organized an auction of prints from some of the world's best underwater photographers, followed by an after dinner speaker and live music.

Visions in the Sea will host a free exhibition open to the public with stands by Ocean Optics, Frogfish Photography, BSOUP, NUPG, Shark Trust, our sponsors and guest speakers. The public will be able to view the finalists from the Visions in the Sea International Underwater Photography Competition. The total value of prizes exceeding £9000! The competition will be judged by our guest speakers over the festival weekend. Best in Show will win a Worldwide Dive and Sail live-aboard trip. Other classes include Suunto British Open and Mares Young Photographer of the Year. Additional prizes have been generously offered by: Apeks, Beaver, Blandford Sub-Aqua, Inon, Lumb Brothers, O'Neill, Sea&Sea, Sport Diver and Typhoon.

Lankayan The Borneo Photoquest

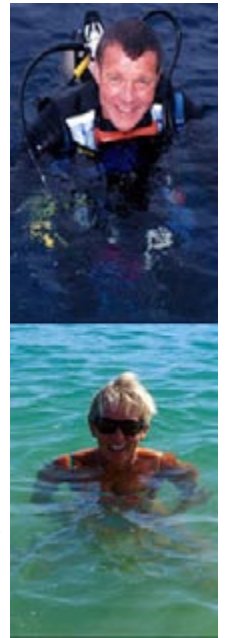
**23 January - 7 February 2010
with Martin and Sylvia Edge**

Lankayan Island has been chosen by Martin and Sylvia because it offers something new.

Considered frontier diving in the Sulu Sea, the combination of super macro diving, shallow and quality wrecks and reefs along with the possibility of encounters with larger fish, including the Whale Shark.

The usually calm conditions and the opportunity for shore diving are an added attraction for any underwater photography enthusiast. There are a number of wrecks in the area and there is the possibility of wreck penetration as well as the chance to work with marine life on the exterior of the hull. Jetty Wreck was created by scuttling a small fishing boat just in front of the jetty and you can follow the guide rope from the Jetty at any time of the day or night! In a few minutes you will be there, along with the batfish, a couple of frogfish and some Blue-spotted Stingrays.

Combine the quality of the teaching and photo support, the dive management, the ease of diving (day and night) and the relaxing island environment and you have the ideal ingredients for a great Photoquest.



www.visionsinthesea.com

www.divequest.co.uk

BSoUP/DIVER Print Exhibition London Aquarium

The best prints from this year's BSoUP/DIVER Print Competition are now on display at the Sealife London Aquarium until mid-October.

The original competition organised by the British Society of Underwater Photographers (BsoUP) in association with Diver magazine attracted 160 entries. The top 80 prints were displayed at the London International Dive Show held at ExCel, over the weekend of 28th-29th March 2009. Visitors to the show were invited to vote for their favourite prints in four categories and nearly 1,000 did so. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the winners. An independent panel of judges choose the overall winner to receive a week's diving in the Red Sea donated by Oonasdivers. In addition The Wildlife Trusts awarded prizes for the best British prints.

The competition was sponsored by Oonasdivers, Diver, Sealife London Aquarium, Mike's Dive Stores, Ocean Optics Ltd, Cameras Underwater, Oceanic and Alison Hodge Publishing.

www.bsoup.org



DOMEPORT.COM

DomePort is the “new kid” on the underwater imaging web block!

At DomePort we are responding to the urgent need for the underwater photographers to have their own place on the Internet, where they can share their work with the rest of the community.

DomePort focuses on the image content providing its users with opportunity to create endless personal portfolios, rate each other's photos and participate in competitions. That is because DomePort is loaded with functionalities!

You will also find at DomePort the latest news about underwater imaging equipment, gear reviews, information on events and much more.

Please, feel free to join our ranks by filling the registration form – it's free and simple.

www.domeport.com

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www.wetpixelquarterly.com

**Florida - Manatees
with Mustard**
5th - 11th February 2010
with Alex Mustard

This short trip includes four full days with the manatees at Crystal River, with boat trips each morning and afternoon.

The manatees are a popular tourist attraction in Florida and seeing them is not the challenge. On this trip we will have our own very spacious boat dedicated to giving us the encounters we crave. We have hired the biggest boat available for our sole use, with the best operation, so there will be plenty of room for everyone and plenty room for your equipment too. Time usually rewards us with the chance to photograph a variety of natural behaviours.

On two afternoons, we will leave Crystal River and travel to Rainbow River, which is one of the clearest springs in the area and a real haven for wildlife. The beautiful river does not contain any manatees, but is a great location to photograph much of Florida's native aquatic wildlife, including several species of freshwater turtles, Sunfish and the prehistoric Spotted Garpike. It is also a very beautiful shallow water wide angle site. Rainbow River can be enjoyed both as a snorkeler and



as a Scuba diver, but all Manatee encounters will be snorkeling only.

Photographically, this is a wide angle trip. The best all-round lens for the manatees is the Tokina 10-17mm fisheye zoom. The manatees can be photographed either with or without strobes. Alex will be happy to advise you on underwater photography throughout.

This trip is suitable to both certified divers and non-divers. The trip is also highly suitable for terrestrial wildlife photographers keen to expand their portfolio with some underwater images.

www.divequest.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com

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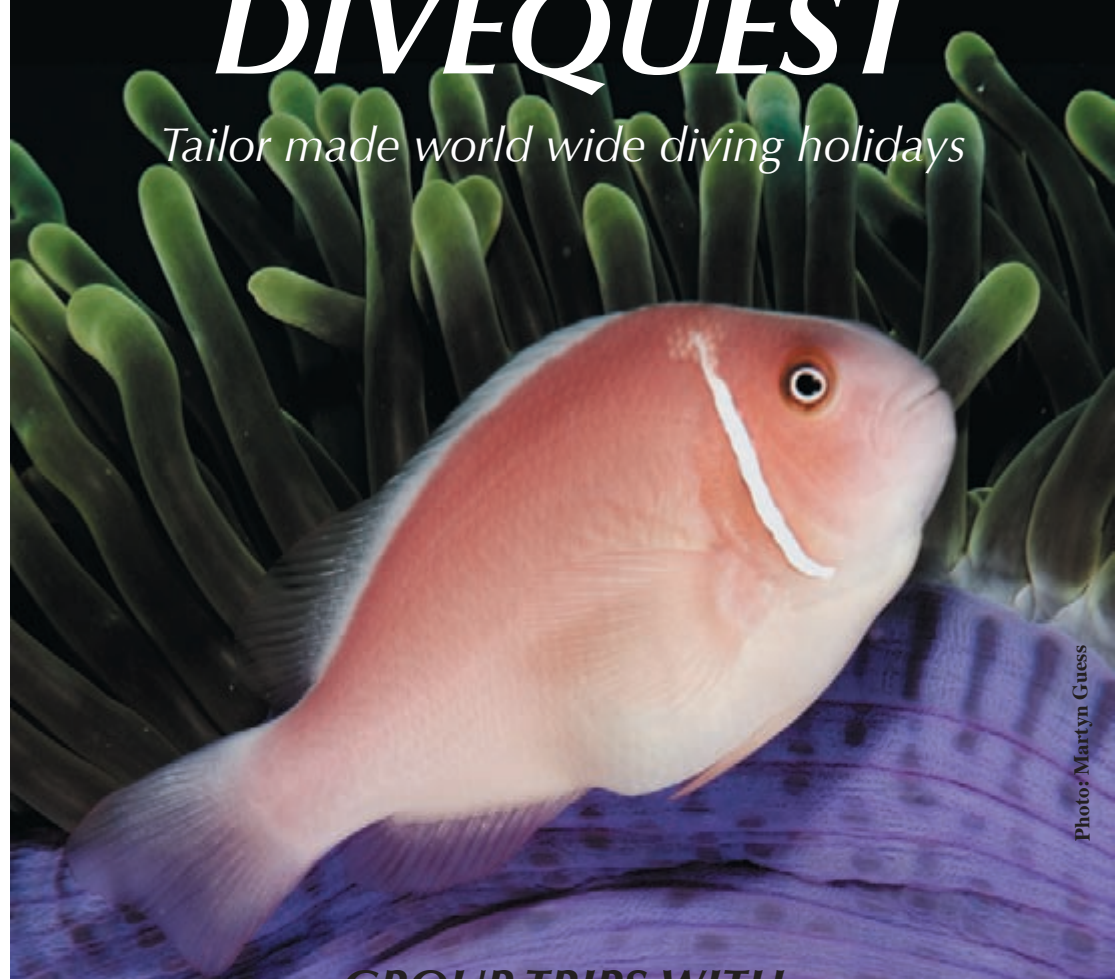


Photo: Martyn Guess

**GROUP TRIPS WITH
MARTIN EDGE & ALEX MUSTARD**

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WWW.DIVEQUEST.CO.UK

The BSoUP Splash-in results 2009

This year's event took place on Saturday 4th July at the Mount Batten Centre and the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth. All underwater photographers were invited to participate 'On the Day' to compete for trophies, some fantastic prizes and personal awards. A total of 52 underwater photographers participated in the 'On the Day' competition.

The presentation of entries, the judging and announcement of the winners took place in the National Marine Aquarium's Atlantic tank room, following a BBQ in the grounds.

The winners were as follows:

Close-up category

Anemone by Rick Ayrton



(As Rick is a beginner, this shot also won the Beginners category)



Wide-angle category

Anemones on wreck by Neil Skilling

BSoUP extends its thanks to Scuba Travel, the National Marine Aquarium, Olympus UK, A.P Valves, Constable & Robinson, Ocean Visions, Sport Diver, Ultimate Sports and Focal Press. BSoUP is the largest underwater photographic society in Britain, catering for both film and digital photographers.



Animal portraits category

Jellyfish by Jim Garland

BSoUP is a not-for-profit organisation, run entirely by volunteers with a passion for underwater photography.

www.bsoup.org

www.uwpmag.com



Humourous category: Jackson Four by Martin Davies
Overall: Plaice by Cathy Lewis



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