

DFW Scuba News

September / October 2011

We have lots of great things coming up so we wanted to send out a special newsletter this month. We hope you like the new format. If you have any problems viewing this, please let me know.



Since the first Project AWARE International Cleanup Day events in 1993, AWARE divers organized thousands of cleanups to protect underwater habitats and marine species. Cleanup dives from the past 18 years have been a true inspiration, placing scuba divers in the spotlight, key to addressing debris issues on a global scale.

But cleanups alone are not the answer. Now, AWARE is moving beyond International Cleanup Day, introducing Dive Against Debris, a year-round data and debris collection effort to reduce the devastating impacts of debris each time we dive. But in order to be successful, we need your help in testing and providing [feedback](#) about the new program!

If we're going to help change waste management policies, we need underwater data that paints a true picture of debris issues beneath the surface. We hope you - the dive leaders, volunteers and citizen scientists - will join a growing movement of scuba divers in 180 countries collecting and reporting the underwater trash you find to help protect the ocean/lakes against the onslaught of marine debris.

5 Steps to Dive Against Debris:

- Begin with the [Dive Against Debris Self Study Guide](#) – it provides all the info you need to successfully complete your data and debris collection dives. You may also like to browse the [FAQs](#).
- Download a [Dive Against Debris Data Card](#) and other resources to support your debris collection efforts.
- Already organizing a group Dive Against Debris event? Put your activity on the [AWARE Action Map](#). Invite and manage volunteers by creating a My Ocean profile.
- Go diving and [report your data](#)! Your local actions will contribute to a better future for the ocean.
- Help improve the new Dive Against Debris by sharing your [feedback](#) with us.

Our September Divers Day Out is Saturday September 24, 2011. We will be heading up to Lake Murray to clean up around Marietta Landing. Jimmy will have a few prizes again this year to make it interesting. This is our first time going up to Lake Murray this year. I'm sure there will be lots for us to pick up since school started and it is close to the end of the season. We hope you will join us in doing a little something in cleaning up our dive area.

If you cannot join us up at Lake Murray, maybe you can join us for Trashfest 2011.



TrashFest: The Party with a Purpose

TrashFest is the nation's oldest underwater cleanup campaign bringing together scuba divers to improve the quality of the Comal River in New Braunfels, Texas. The Comal River became famous when Ripley's Believe It or Not featured it as the shortest river in the world. The 2.5-mile Comal River is one of the largest springs in Texas with 8 million gallons of water flowing through every hour. The water is pure, clear, about 73° - 85°F year round, and attracts thousands of tubers and tourists each year. After the tubing season winds down, divers from all over Texas and beyond gather to pull cans, shoes, sunglasses and other assorted trash and debris out of the river.

Since the first clean up in 1974*, more than 10,800 volunteers have removed more than:

- 205,000 pounds of trash
- 353,400 pop-tops and bottle caps
- 310,000 cans and bottles
- 7,200 sunglasses and shoes

**The above numbers include data from 1980-2010. No records available prior to 1980.*

This year, TrashFest will be held on Saturday on October 1, 2011. Registration will be held at the Comal County Fairgrounds, and the trash weigh-in and collection will be at Prince Solms Park in New Braunfels, TX. Please let me know prior to September 23 if you would like to join one of our teams. Divers and non-Divers are WELCOME! We have 14 people that have signed up and we only need two more to fill team 2.

Schedule of Activities, October 1, 2011

June 20 thru Sept 23 Pre-registration!

08:00 AM - 10:00 AM Registration at Comal County Fairgrounds. All team members must be present (with C-Cards) at time of check in and sign the Trashfest Waiver

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Diving in assigned areas of the Comal River

12:00 PM - 03:00 PM Diving in any part of the Comal River

12:00 PM - 04:00 PM Air fills by the New Braunfels Fire Dept at 169 S. Hill Ave (*In the event of emergency, air fills will not be available*)

03:00 PM All Trash Due at Check-In Site (Prince Solms Park)

05:00 PM - 08:00 PM BBQ followed by Awards and Door Prizes

3RD ANNUAL UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST



Clear Springs Scuba Park on Sunday, October 16 will be our 3rd Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Divers Day Out. The last two years winners have been female (Jena and Nickie) so this year it's time for the men to show their carving abilities. We have new prizes this year.

- 1st Prize is an Aeris Laptop Computer Backpack
- 2nd Prize is a Dive Around Texas T-shirt
- 3rd Prize is an Aeris Baseball Cap

We also have a few rules this year:

- 🎃 Pumpkin carving will be from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM (with food to follow)
- 🎃 Divers must provide their own pumpkins
- 🎃 Every diver must have a buddy to dive and carve with
- 🎃 No marks on pumpkins prior to contest beginning
- 🎃 All seeds and fibrous strands must be removed on shore before entering the water
- 🎃 A time limit of 45 minutes after entering the water
- 🎃 All pumpkin parts must be removed from the water
- 🎃 Judging will take place when all divers are back on shore

This is a fun day for divers and non-divers alike. As a matter of fact, we need judges! So if you are not a diver or don't feel like diving, come out for the food and fun!

Happy Birthday

Make sure I have your birth date for our Birthday Newsletter. Email me at dive@dfwscuba.net