

Photo Competition

ROATAN MARINE PARK



Selections

- Popular Choice
- Judge's Choice

Categories

- Macro
- Invertebrates
- Reef Scene/wide angle
- Divers
- Black & White/Artistic
- Eco Project

Deadline for Submission June 1st, 2019

Winning images will be showcased in the 2019 RMP Calendar

Enter your photos at photoamp@roatanmarinepark.org

01 Celebrating Meso American Reef Day

02 RMP launches Coral Restoration Project

03 Launch of Protect Our Pride East Side



RMP is a nonprofit conservation organization on the Bay Islands

COMMUNITY FOR CONSERVATION

March

2019

Roatan Marine Park, protecting Roatan's marine ecosystems since 2006.

RMP launches Weekly Meetups and Vacation Raffle



meetings are a way for sponsors, community members, divers and tourist alike to take part in preserving Roatan's delicate ecosystem. We will discuss our programs, upcoming events and recommendations on how to conduct a dive briefing. We highly encourage dive masters from all dive shops to attend.

If you would like to request a meeting in your area please contact us at info@roatanmarinepark.org.

RMP's 2019 Vacation Getaway Raffle is underway! For just \$100, you can purchase a raffle ticket at WWW.ROATAN-MARINEPARK.ORG/DONATE via PayPal or stopping by the RMP Ecstore.

By purchasing a raffle ticket, you have a one in five chance of winning a one week stay at 5

luxury properties in Roatan. All proceeds go directly toward our marine patrol programs to deter poaching activities and to protect endangered species and the coral reef systems of Roatan. For more information contact us: info@roatanmarinepark.org

WIN THE HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

RMP is raffling a week stay at these 5 luxury properties

 <p>Monkey La La 3 bed 2 bath - Sleeps 6 West Bay Beach</p>	 <p>Mangrove Dock 3 bed 2 bath - Sleeps 6 Mangrove Bluff, west End</p>
 <p>Annabel 3 bed 2 bath - Sleeps 6 South Shore, West Bay</p>	 <p>The Views Penthouse 2 bed 2 bath - Sleeps 5 South Shore, west End</p>
 <p>Casa Cascada 4 bed 4 bath Sleeps 10 South Shore, West Bay</p>	

**100 TICKETS TO BE SOLD
5 WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN
ONLY \$100 A TICKET**

Tickets may be purchased via email at info@roatanmarinepark.org or at the RMP office.

All funds raised will go towards protecting Roatan's coral reefs.



Community Spotlight

Celebrating Meso American Reef Day 2019

RMP and other organizations hosted beach clean-ups in commemoration of Meso American Reef Day in communities of Roatan and Jose Santos Guardiola, ending with the 2019 Triathlon Beach Regatta at Sundowners for an evening of friendly competition amongst Roatan's dive shops!

We teamed up with organizations, businesses and volunteers to support a massive beach cleanup in several locations around Roatan. Organizers included Roatán Volunteers, Roatán Wolves Bikers, BICCU, Fuerza Naval de Honduras, MAR Alliance, BICA, Coral Reef Alliance, Go Blue, zolitur, West End Patronato and more! With a turn out of more than 150 participants, it was inspiring to see the communities showing up to clean the island! Clean-ups took place in communities such as West End, Punta Gorda, Santa Elena, Sandy Bay, Flowers Bay, French Harbour, and Los Fuertes.



The events ended with the Triathlon Beach Regatta at Sundowners thanks to the support from Ty Rothschild and other business sponsors. The winning team had record times in the kayaking, snorkeling and swimming events. All proceeds from the event went directly toward RMP's education programs. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or getting involved in RMP initiatives contact us at education@roatanmarinepark.org



Eco Meetings at Splash Inn

26

Join us for a night of trivia with special guest Tripp Funderburk

Tripp will share his work in coral restoration around Roatan

Grand Roatan Resort Annual Reef Clean-up

27

Abundant Life Foundation Annual Reef Clean-up at Grand Roatan Resort from 8 am to 2 pm. More information roataninfo@abundantlifefoundation.org

Sustainable Livelihood

Since the launch of the Cultural and Touristic Center SATUYE in Punta Gorda, much progress has been made. Since January, our community development program has been hard at work with the communities of Punta Gorda and Santa Elena.

In February, RMP held its first working group conference with partner organizations and institutions to assess the results of the evaluation conducted with the communities of Punta Gorda and Santa Elena. These results were shared with partner groups in an effort to evaluate social and economic opportunities. This community development project, funded by Fondo para el Manejo de Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (FAPVS) aims to invest in sustainability of local economies. Participants included key partners such as BICA, MAR Alliance, Coral Reef Alliance, municipal government representatives from Roatan and Santos Guardiola, Cámara de Comercios e Industrias of Roatan, Honduran Institute of Forest Conservation and others. The results have demonstrated that the communities of Santa Elena and Punta Gorda are dedicated to moving forward by investing in sustainable tourism alternatives to alleviate pressure on our natural resources. Contact our Community Development Coordinator yuri.rivera@roatanmarinepark.org for more information.



RMP Coral Restoration Project

We are pleased to announce the launch of a coral nursery and coral restoration project in West Bay/West End.

The "Roatan Marine Park Coral Restoration" project will be funded by the Meso American Reef Fund (MAR-Fund) through its small grant program. In collaboration with Mayan Divers and other RMP sponsors, we have been awarded a grant to initiate a coral restoration project in the West End/West Bay area. The grant will fund the installation of 20 additional coral nursery trees at a selected location. Coral reefs provide habitat for marine life, protect us from storms and provide livelihoods in tourism and fishing. Unfortunately, they have declined due to climate change, pollution, diseases, and other stressors. Staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) and Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*), the building blocks of Caribbean reefs, have become threatened species. Staghorn and Elkhorn are the fastest growing Caribbean corals that provide the three-dimensional framework vital for reef life. To help restore Roatan's reefs, we will begin growing Staghorn and Elkhorn coral in offshore coral nurseries. The RMP Coral Restoration Program will bring the dive community together to ensure we are following protocols regarding coral collections, genotype naming, coral data management, outplant monitoring and mapping, and information sharing.



We need your help! We are asking for support from the diving community of Roatan to participate. For more information please contact Tripp Funderburk at coralrestoration@roatanmarinepark.org or info@roatanmarinepark.org



Mangrove Reforestation Sandy Bay

30

We will be celebrating Tree Day in collaboration with Grand Roatan Resort and volunteers by planting mangroves in Sandy Bay

PADI Dive Against Debris

31

PADI will be hosting a dive against debris event in Roatan to raise awareness of plastic pollution and encourage local community clean-ups



Education & Outreach

During the first months of this year, RMP Education Program hosted environmental lectures across the island in commemoration of World Wetlands Day, Mesoamerican Reef Day, World Wildlife Day and World Water Day. Mangrove clean-ups and replantations were held in the communities of Sandy Bay and El Berrinche. The Back to School the Plastic Challenge is being held at schools across the island to encourage students' decrease in plastic consumption.

The "Green Schools, Blue Future" program is being implemented at schools to promote sustainable environmental practices in their school environments.

Coral Reef Alliance is funding the RMP East Side "Protect Our Pride" program in the municipality of Jose Santos Guardiola, to support community member in becoming professional divers. Thank you to Chrissie Bowen, PADI, Subway Water Sports, Dive Pangea and Buck Beasley for making this possible!



Updated RMP Video Available Soon!

We appreciate our sponsors who have long supported us financially! The Roatan Travel Network is one of them and this month they are doing their part for local conservation by filming a new promotional video for the Roatan Marine Park. The video shares information about all the conservation work the RMP does and informs island visitors about how they can help assist and support RMP when visiting Roatan. Watch our video on Roatan Travel Network channel 117 in Roatan or online at www.roatantravelnetwork.com or on our website www.roatanmarinepark.org. Support us by sharing our video on social media or adding it to your website!



Marine Patrols & Infrastructure

The Park Rangers have been very busy these past few months. After receiving numerous reports of people poaching at night, we have been focusing on monitoring the water between 5pm - 6am and have confiscated illegal products of more than five poachers. Since January, we have confiscated over 100 dead lobster and over 100 live conch. Any live product such as conch is always returned to the water, while anything dead is returned to the ecosystem where other organisms will eat them. In the past we had donated product to charities but ran into conflict so it was decided that all dead product be returned to the sea. The Rangers are instructed to film the release of the product to disprove inappropriate accusations.

There were 7 new dive sites installed around the island purchased by RMP supporters. To the west of the island



Kimberly Gow named her site "John Gow's Gallows" in West Bay. Eric Blatt donated his site in support of RMP's work naming his site "Blatt's Bank" near Blue Channel. Kammie and James Farm dedicated "Diane's Delight", near Overheat Reef, to their mother. "Dylan's Spot" by Spooky Channel, was named in memory of a loved one by the Krings. Katie Bellingham surprised her fiancé-to-be and by naming her site the "Big Surprise". New sites on the south side are "Patty's Point" close to Shark bait deep and purchased by Rudy Gerlich and "D2T" near Litass Hole, named by Deb and Doug for the divers in their family. If you want to find out more about how to dedicate a site to a loved one, please visit <https://www.roatanmarinepark.org/name-a-divesite>



RMP 2019 Photo Competition

Deadline for photo submissions in the 2019 RMP Photo Competition. Check out our fb page @Roatan Marine Park for more info on guidelines. Winning photos will be featured in our RMP 2020 calendar.

World Ocean's Day

RMP will be celebrating World Ocean's Day by taking local students snorkeling around Half Moon Bay for an experiential learning opportunity

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Platinum

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Anthony's Key Resort
Splash Inn Dive Resort
Aqua Adventures
Sun Divers
Bottom Time Scuba

Tobri's Divers
Richardson Serenity Villas
Mariposa Lodge
Ginger Caribbean Grill
Tortuga Digital

Sponsor Spotlight

As we are a nonprofit organization, our conservation, education and community development efforts rely on our support from our donors, members and business sponsors. Learn more about how to be an individual or business donor or sponsor at www.roatanmarinepark.org/donate. Donations are tax-deductible in the US and Honduras.

"We support Roatan Marine Park because they provide essential oversight of the reef. Our business relies on the health of the coral reefs systems of Roatan. We want to contribute as a local business and organization to invest in the natural resources of this beautiful island we all enjoy!"

- West Bay Divers

Contact RMP

FRANCIS LEAN
Executive Director
director@roatanmarinepark.org

NIC BACH
Marine Infrastructure & Patrols
info@roatanmarinepark.org

Any other inquiries [+504 2445 4206](tel:+50424454206)
info@roatanmarinepark.org

TIMNA VARELA
Education
[+504 9435 4945](tel:+50494354945)
education@roatanmarinepark.net

ELIANA OLAIS
Marketing & Fundraising
[+504 9917 4790](tel:+50499174790)
donate@roatanmarinepark.org

