



*When one man, for whatever reason, has the opportunity to lead an extraordinary life, he has no right to keep it to himself.*

*Jacques Yves Cousteau*

# Underwater Images

## Jim and Kandace Heimer present Lembeh and Buyat Bay

Submitted by Greg Grimes



Our June 4th meeting will feature [Jim and Kandace Heimer](#) presenting information on Buyat Bay and Lembeh Resort in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Buyat Bay is a former Newmount Gold Mining Camp that has been leased by the owners of the Lembeh Resort to give visitors to this area a chance to dive the soft and hard corals that abound in this area. The facilities are basic, but the diving

operation is well run and provides a great compliment to the very different diving at Lembeh. The Lembeh Resort is renowned for its "muck" diving. The diving is for the most part in shallower waters with visibility that rarely exceeds 50 feet. The attraction at Lembeh is in the multitude of unusual marine organisms that inhabit the volcanic sand and mud on the bottom. While the

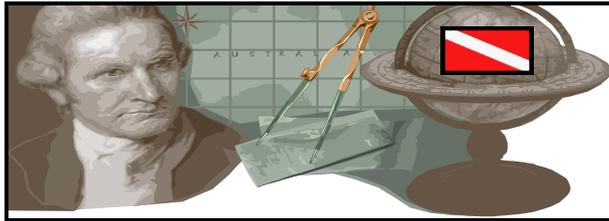
facilities at Buyat are rudimentary, those at the Lembeh Resort meet the highest standards for an all-inclusive dive resort. Join Jim and Kandace for an interesting meeting on these world famous diving destinations. In addition to photos of the resort, Kandace will showcase some of her underwater photography, while Jim will provide a video overview of what is to be found underwater.

As always, visitors are welcome. Our meetings take place [at Bayland Community Center](#) at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive early for set up and socialization and join us at the completion of the meeting for some Mexican food at [Don Carlos](#) located on the South West Freeway and Hillcroft intersection to share in some dive stories.





Debbie Mensay—Intermediate



Greg Grimes—Novice

## President's Message

# What Makes a Great HUPS Dive Trip and a Great Vacation?



Jim Mensay—Intermediate

Kasai Village in Moalboal, on the island of Cebu, in the Philippines is the perfect answer to that question.

The secret is their hospitality. These folks make you feel like a part of their family.

After almost 900 dives, and some 40+ trips to places in the Caribbean, South Pacific, Indo Pacific, Asia, South America, and other parts half way around the world, there is no simpler answer.

Now I know we also want warm water, visibility to eternity, and critters beyond anything that Jules Verne could have imagined.

Well 2 out of 3 is almost guaranteed at this destination....visibility was less than ideal at times due to a lot of plankton, but that made the whale sharks happy, so we couldn't complain that much!

Wow, So goes another HUPS group dive trip.

At Kasai Village, Michael Pettersson (one of the 3 owners, as well as the on-site manager), greeted our HUPS group warmly, and from that point all of his staff made us feel like one of the family. We had a group of nine, and they had 3 of their dive masters (Alex, Chris, and Tataia), dive master in training (Franzine), and a great group of boat crew accommodate all of our diving needs. They started by having our dive gear onboard every day, including hand carrying our 20+ pound camera rigs, and then escorted us on our dives and pointed out the various critters we would have probably never seen.

When we got back onshore, we were catered to with great meals, beautiful sunsets, and massages that made us forget any problems we had back home.

You'll get to see the fruits of our labor in a few months when we present a program on the Philippines, but suffice it to say, this diver is going back for a repeat visit.

Thanks to Alicia Grimes for coordinating all the many, many, many details of a group trip, and thanks to Tina at Island Dreams for making it all so easy. Kasai Village and Michael Pettersson did all the rest.

I enjoyed being under the boat on this trip as well as being onshore with the gang.

*Scuba Jim*



Mike Fernandez—Novice



Dennis Deavenport—Advanced



Mike Greuter—Intermediate



# Trip Report - Philippines Recap

Submitted by Alicia Grimes



Photo by John Petty

As many of you are aware, HUPS recently returned from our annual club trip. This year, we chose the exotic location of Cebu Island in the Philippines, specifically staying at [Kasai Village](#) resort in Moalboal. This location had been recommended to our group by the wonderful folks at Island Dreams Travel Agency for both of its wall diving opportunities and the chance to see the whale sharks. Both of those opportunities presented themselves, which I will go into further later in the article.

We had a total of 9 individuals who took the long flight from their homes in Houston to Cebu. Several different flight plans were accomplished to reach our destination. 3 of the 9 took the fantastic service of Singapore Airways via Moscow and then transferred to Silk Airways once in Singapore. If you happen to choose this option to get to Cebu you can check your luggage all the way through unless you have more than a 12 hour layover. If that is the case once you arrive in Singapore you will need to retrieve your luggage and transport it yourself to the Silk Airways counter in terminal 2 in Chang Airport. 2 of our members ( Tom and Kay Collier) happen to be in China on business so it was easy for them to catch a flight to Manila and then on to Cebu. The remainder of our group used their well earned miles and reach the meeting point through various gateways and carriers. As a travel note, if you use Singapore Airlines please keep in mind they have recently changed their schedule to depart Houston every other day instead of daily.

Upon arrival into Cebu several of us took the opportunity to get some well needed rest at the very modern Marriott Resort in Cebu City. The resort is well located and is approx. 20 minutes from the airport. Cabs are readily available in front of the airport. The resort is the perfect location for rest as well as stocking up for supplies for the remainder of the trip. The hotel is located via a walkway to a Western Style Mall. The mall has a large grocery store and two currency exchange houses to exchange your USD.

The next morning we made our way via 2 large vans to Kasai Village. As we all know when you travel with a HUPS group there is always a lot of gear with our clothes usually taking up the least amount of it. The transfers took approx. 3 hours and upon our arrival we were greeted warmly by the Kasai Village staff. Each guest was presented with a lovely floral lei along with a cool mango drink. After check in was completed, we where treated to a tour of the property along with lunch while we waited for our rooms to be prepared. After lunch we gathered up our dive gear and made our way to the dock for our check out dive on the house reef. The dive resort has a well thought out process to store your dive gear. Each diver is given a locker room outdoor area to store their gear with your name on it. For our group they had set up a temporary photo room for us while their new facility was in the process of being build. They also had in the locker room area rinse tanks as well as one separate for the camera gear. One of the nice features of the resort is that when you arrive at the dive boat each morning all of your gear was set up and ready to go. All you had to do is make your way to the boat with your camera gear and get ready for your giant stride. The boats that they use at the resort are the typical Philippines boat with a dry area in the center along with a toilet for your convenience. After each dive upon arriving back on the boat you received a towel and lovely tea and coffee service along with fruit and a snack.

The diving throughout the week took us to different wall areas as well as to Pescador Island which in years past had been known for it amazing sardine bait ball but it has unfortunately moved on, or so we think. The diving for the most part was easy with a few current episodes. The area presented plenty of macro, wide angel and video opportunities.

The highlight of the trip came about half way through thanks to our buddy Mike Fernandez. Mike had done some research prior to going and had found out about the town of [Oslob](#) and the whale shark opportunities there. Kasai Village sent up the entire day for us with 2 vans to Oslob which is approx. 2 1/2 hours away, lunch and the privilege to dive with the whale sharks for 2 tanks. Everyone agreed that this was the best part of the trip. The cost for the experience was \$150.00 for the transfer along with 2 shore dives.

The dive package at Kasai Village included 3 meals a day with snacks on the dive boat, 3 boat dives along with the option of doing a 4th as a night dive at the resort to scout our mandarin fish and the evasive blue ring octopus. If you would like to have nitrox it must be arranged prior to arrival at the resort. Each of our room overlooked the sea and was equipped with a a private patio and either a king or 2 twin beds., couch and of course and in room bathroom. The resort as Jim mentioned in his article was so warm and friendly and amazed us all by knowing a first names after day 1.

All in all it was a great trip. I would also like to extend my thanks to Tina at Island Dreams for all of her assistance and Kasai Village for their hospitality.

After a week of diving the majority of the group made their way home while 4 of us continued the adventure by traveling to [Malapascua Island](#) to scout out the amazing Thresher sharks. We spend the remaining days diving with the sharks, macro photography and continuing our pursuit of the mating dance of the mandarin fish. All of us where successful in the endeavor.

In October we will be presenting our recap of the Philippines and are currently looking for suggestions for our next adventure which we hope everyone can join us. We sure do have a wonderful time together as you can see from the photo.



Photo by John Petty



# Flower Gardens Breaking News

## Final Management Plan Released

*Submitted by Jesse Cancelmo*

It's here! The sanctuary's Final Management Plan is complete and the resulting regulatory changes have been posted to the Federal Register.

The result is a guiding document for sanctuary management over the next 5-10 years.

A lot of thought went into this, taking into consideration public input and the most current science information available. In fact, one entire chapter includes a listing of responses to public comments raised after the release of the Draft Management Plan.

You can download the plan from our website (in its entirety or by chapter), or contact our Management Plan Coordinator for a print copy.

Operations and Administration

The only new regulations agreed upon and put into place this year (effective May 29, 2012) are

1. Vessels moored at the sanctuary must display a dive flag, alpha or sport diver.
2. Clarifications/updates on discharges from vessels/operations.
3. Prohibiting killing, injuring, attracting, touching or disturbing whale sharks or rays.

Jesse Cancelmo FGBNMS SAC member - for Recreational Diving



## Whale Shark Survey

*Submitted by Jesse Cancelmo*

The following link was provided by Jesse Cancelmo concerning the research as well as survey currently going on concerning whale sharks. Please take a moment to give this a read on this most fascinating creature. The article is located page 4,5,6.

[http://www.vos.noaa.gov/MWL/201204/MWL\\_0412.pdf](http://www.vos.noaa.gov/MWL/201204/MWL_0412.pdf)



# Upcoming Workshop

## Post Processing Basics: LightRoom 4 & NIK plug-ins

### July 21, 2012

Submitted by Greg Grimes

On Saturday July 21st, 2012 HUPS will again host James Wiseman at the Bayland Community Center for beginners and advanced users alike in the photo post processing game. James, will give you an extensive review of all the new features in Lightroom 4, Photoshop and NIK plug-ins. He will show the participants how to get the most out of each piece of software during the workflow process.

In this workshop, learn tips and tricks, cool effects, and how to use the Photoshop tools more effectively. Come to the Photoshop workshop to find out how to post-process a raw file into a finished jpg in just a few easy steps. James will discuss the basics of the Adobe raw converter, white balancing, levels, sharpening, brightness, contrast, highlights and shadows. He'll also explore some of the basic tools, such as: cloning, healing and cropping. So, if you have Photoshop and/or Photoshop LightRoom, bring your laptop with the program already installed and we will get you pointed in the right direction. A 30-day free trial download of Photoshop products are available from [Adobe.com](http://Adobe.com).

Photoshop and Photoshop LightRoom are standard names in graphic design for web use, print layout, and more. Recognized world-wide as the industry-standard, the Photoshop products offers one of the most robust graphics editing experiences available. The new NIK plug-ins for both has won some recent awards for best plug-ins in the technology. James will cover these programs at this workshop so you don't want to miss it! Depending on the crowd he'll stay as basic as possible or go as advanced on lots of cool features now available in the newest version. *This workshop is scheduled to be in the Bayland ART ROOM right across from the restrooms.*

## Photo Contest Results for May 2012

Contest results through May 2012		
NOVICE		
1st	Mike Fernandez	315
2nd	Greg Grimes	304
3rd	Bess Bright	269
4th	Lance Glowacki	235
5th	John VanAtta	87
INTERMEDIATE		
1st	Jim Mensay	322
2nd	Debbie Mensay	281
3rd	Mike Greuter	275
4th	Monica Losey	103
5th	John Petty	50
ADVANCED		
1st	Tom Collier	339
1st	Dennis Deavenport	313
3rd	Ken Knezick	307
4th	Terry Moore	300
5th	Ken Bean	259



Tom Collier—Advanced



Ken Bean—Advanced



# 2012

Meetings

## Meetings & Presentations

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	9th	Terry Moore	Terry Moore presents Afghanistan to Bonaire	Turtles
February	6th	Jesse Cancelmo	Capturing & Publishing Cave Images of Texas: (Goodenough Springs)	Angelfish & Butterfly Fish
March	5th	Dennis Deavenport	Underwater Composition	Two or More of a Kind (but less than a dozen)
April	2nd	Dr. Brian Tulloch	Safari Serengeti—Tented camp safari	Nudibranchs & Worms
May	7th	Mike Greuter	How HUPS has Improved My Composition	Real Small Macro
June	4th	Kandace & Jim Heimer	Lembah Resort & Buyat Bay	Wide Angle
July	9th	Frank & Joyce Burek	TBA	Fish Portraits
August	6th	HUPS Members	Under Water Video Night	Leading Lines
September	10th	HUPS Members	All In Night	Gobies, Blennies, Jawfish, Triplefins
October	1st	HUPS Members	Philippines Trip Recap	Cute/Funny
November	5th	TBA	TBA	Divers & Snorkelers
December	3rd	HUPS Members	HUPS Christmas Party	Best of HUPS & Creative

## Workshops & Education

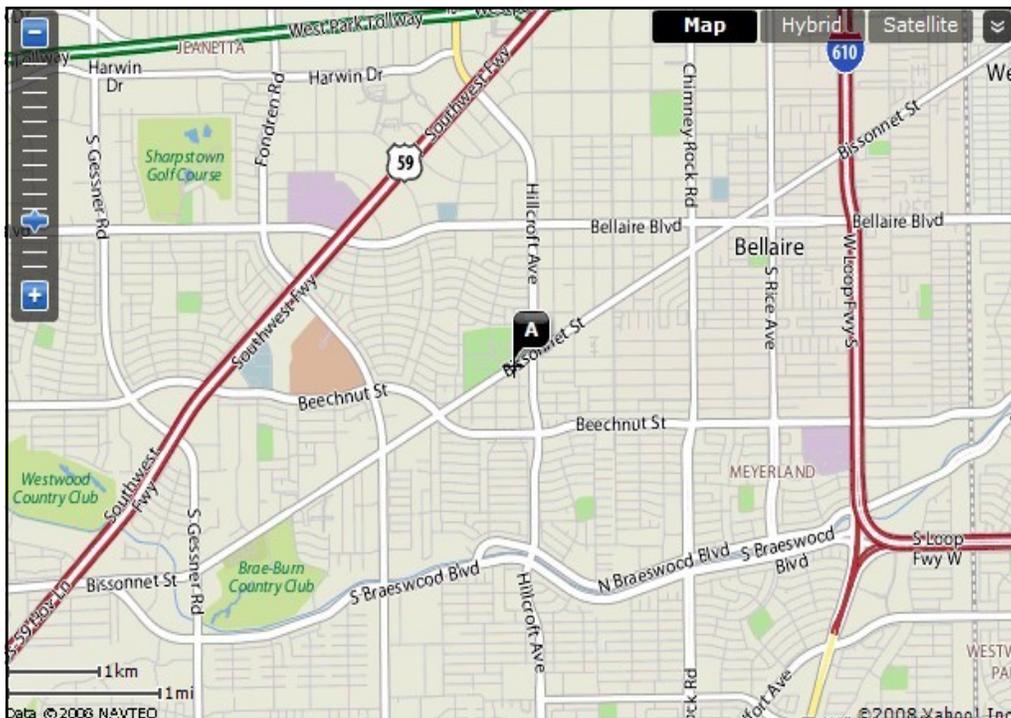
Event	Date	Instructor/Leader	Online Info
Photoshop, Lightroom 4 and Nik Software Plugin	July 21, 2012	James Wiseman	<a href="http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2012-Post_Processing_Basics.htm">http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2012-Post_Processing_Basics.htm</a>

Keep up to date with all workshops at <http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops.htm> and on the forum at <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?>



*The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets at the Bayland Community Center starting at 7:00 PM.  
(Social time begins at 6:45)*

*(6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection)  
Visitors are always welcome.*



## **2011 HUPS Officers**

### **President:**

Jim Mensay

### **Vice President:**

Greg Grimes

### **Secretary:**

Tammy Allyn

### **Treasurer:**

Tom Collier

### **Membership/ Newsletter:**

Alicia Grimes

### **Photo Contest:**

Dennis Deavenport

### **TGCC Rep:**

Frank Burek /  
Debbie Mensay

### **Web Master:**

James Heimer

### **Workshops:**

Greg Grimes

### **Trip Coordinator:**

Alicia Grimes

### **Historian:**

Frank Burek

### **Special Events:**

Jan Baughman

## **Board of Directors**

Mary McDonald

Jan Baughman

Frank Burek

Dennis Deavenport

Henry Ragland

Mike Greuter

Ken Knezick

Russell Ramsey

Mike Fernandez

Lance Glowacki

Bess Bright

## ***HUPS on the Web***



<http://www.hups.org/>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG>



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?%23!/group.php?gid=174168478778>

## **HUPS**

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