

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Maui 's Volunteer Newsletter



Volunteer Refresher Meeting

The attendance was very good with 46 members attending the Volunteer Refresher Meeting on November 13, 2013. We all introduced ourselves and got to meet some of the newer volunteers. Robyn Walters, chairperson of the Volunteer Council, did a great job leading the meeting and also participated in the opening chant with Ka`au Abraham and Bo Petty. Ed Lyman updated us and gave some information about the Whale Disentanglement program he runs for the Sanctuary. Malia Chow, Sanctuary Superintendent, came over from the Oahu office and gave us an update on the Sanctuary Management Plan which is in the process of being revised. Lynette Poncin gave us the latest information about the Foundation. The meeting was captured and put on a DVD that can be viewed by those that were not able to attend. Check with Nancy Daschbach to get a copy of the DVD if you would like to view it.



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SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Volunteers On Lana`i for Turkey Give Away

By Liz Stahl

Volunteers, Jeep Dunning, Larry Boysen and Liz Stahl along with staff member, Ka'au Abraham, attended the annual Turkey Give Away on Lanai the weekend of November 23. We had a great location for the Sanctuary Outreach, as everyone had to walk by our table. We set up our stamps, maps, turtles, puzzles, books and marine debris. The children were drawn to the puzzles, the adults to the maps showing where the Sanctuary boundaries are. It seemed to me that many folks did not realize that Lanai is surrounded by the Sanctuary. The kids stamped and the adults asked questions. It was a great day. The governor arrived, shook our hands and then helped hand out turkeys! It was great to see the folks of Lanai and to have an opportunity to share our knowledge of whales and the Sanctuary.



Volunteer, Liz Stahl and staff member, Ka`au Abraham, talk to visitors at the Sanctuary outreach table.



A young visitor enjoys stamping marine life onto her "Living in a Sanctuary" artwork.



Volunteer, Jeep Dunning, and staff member, Ka`au Abraham, assist visitors.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Peacock Grouper

By Serena Neff



Photo by Serena Neff from Captain Cook Memorial, Big Island

Peacock Grouper

Cephalophis argus (Blotch & Schneider, 1801
[Bluespotted Grouper])

Hawaiian: Roi (true origin: Tahitian)

Known throughout Hawaii because of the “Roi Round Up,” this fish was introduced in 1956 to fill a niche left by the over-fishing of Jacks. The peacock grouper is originally found in Moorea, French Polynesia where it is a popular food. Unfortunately, the latitude at which Hawaii is located encourages the growth of dinoflagellates (plankton), which cause the build up of the ciguatera toxin in some fish species. Consumption of fish containing the ciguatera toxin can cause abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and in extreme cases, neurological problems in which the senses for hot and cold temperatures are switched. To control the population in Hawaii’s waters—and protect the juvenile reef fish consumed readily by the Roi—there are periodic “roi round ups” throughout Hawaii where they are spear fished and removed. The scientific name comes from the mythical Greek monster, Argus, who had one hundred staring eyes. They have no natural predators. There is a way to test the peacock grouper to determine if it does in fact contain the ciguatera toxin; each test kit costs \$11 and can test only one fish.

Sanctuary Talks With Shopping Mall Staff

This week the sanctuary was invited to a popular West Maui mall to update nearly 200 shop employees about humpback whales. Our staff explained the purpose of the sanctuary, shared facts about humpback whales, and invited the employees to join in on upcoming ocean conservation events organized by community partners. Employees were encouraged to enhance the customer experience by taking the time to talk with clients about the uniqueness of the sanctuary and to share the opportunity to attend free sanctuary whale talks given six times each week at the mall’s popular whaling history museum. The seasonal arrival of the whales was confirmed with sightings and photos in the news early last month. Once the whales begin arriving, excitement builds throughout the islands as businesses supporting the substantial whale-watching industry ramp up for an influx of seasonal visitors and the public looks forward to enjoying sightings of the fascinating mammoths. For more information, please contact Bo.Petty@noaa.gov.



January Coming Events

January 22—Annual Volunteer Meeting
“First Sunday Speaker Series” at Whole Foods- January will be a talk by Ed Lyman, and February will be Kimokeo Kapahulehua.

January: Date TBD: Dr. Marsha Green will talk about humpback whales.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback
Whale National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road,
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

West Maui

*Whaler Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Parkway
Lahaina, HI 96761 (808) 661-4567*

December 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Blue`Aina	2 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali MOC Outreach	3 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	4 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	5 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	6 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	7
8	9 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali MOC Outreach	10 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	11 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	12 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	13 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	14 Bake Sale/ Craft Sale Kihei Site
15	16 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali MOC Outreach	17 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	18 * See note 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	19 * See note 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	20 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	21 Launch of Mo`okiha O Pi`ilani at Mala Ramp 8 AM
22 *See note Kerri Seger and Cynthia Matzke Talk 11AM and Blue`Aina 2 PM	23 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali MOC Outreach	24 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	25 Merry Christmas (No Whale Talk)	26 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	27 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali	28
29	30 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Ka`anapali MOC Outreach	31 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. 18 Ed Lyman-sanctuary lecture series, 6 pm at Kihei Site Dec.19 we are planning to host NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan . More info will follow once confirmed. Dec 22nd Blue`aina is a follow on Kerri Seger and Cynthia Matzke's 11 am talk about whale acoustics research followed by a beach cleanup in front of our Kihei site . Trilogy is NOT a reef clean but a hydrofoil deployment whale watch. The boat part will be at 2pm. 			