

Volunteers Make Things Happen Everyday

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary recognizes seven outstanding volunteers for their service to the sanctuary during 2005:

Maritime Heritage: **J.J. Kennedy** served as the volunteer point-of-contact for the Anglo Danish Maritime Archaeological Team on the Button Wreck archaeological project. In this capacity, he provided many hours of vessel and dive support.

Operations: **Alan Muse** has worked side-by-side for years with the upper region mooring buoy team, splicing line, cleaning buoys and providing vessel support.

Reef Medic: **Nancy Karas Perez** contributed not only her time, but her ideas for making a better program. Thanks to Nancy, Reef Medic volunteers now collect debris and trap line as part of their mission. Nancy has also made contributions to the FKNMS Maritime Heritage Program.

Sanctuary Advisory Council: **Martin Moe** is a great spokesperson for the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) and spends time on almost every SAC working group. He also worked on the *Diadema* (long-spined urchin) Restoration project, designed to increase the numbers of this important herbivore on Keys coral reefs.

Special Projects: **Chrissie Fernandez**, a recent Coral Shores High School graduate, provided many hours of office support in organizing and digitizing slide images for preservation purposes.

Special Projects: **Emily Ritchie**, a recent high school graduate, helped to develop Ocean Voices, a new sanctuary volunteer program. As part of Ocean Voices, Emily recorded Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about boat grounding prevention. These can be heard on local radio stations in her hometown of Sarasota, Florida.

Team OCEAN: **Jan Blackmon** has used her excellent communication skills to teach other Team OCEAN volunteers about proper boating etiquette and the wise use of sanctuary resources.



Volunteers of the Year were recognized at an annual banquet. Pictured from left to right: J.J. Kennedy, Carmen Powers (*Bleach Watch Volunteer of the Year for Mote Marine Lab*), Jan Blackmon, Martin "Skip" Moe. Photo credit: Nick Tagliareni



During her senior year at Coral Shores High School, Chrissie Fernandez spent many hours digitizing the education slide library housed in the Upper Keys office.



Team O.C.E.A.N.'s Jan Blackmon is shown here with a boat-load of trash collected from Keys' waters. Many sanctuary volunteers and staff have participated in cleaning up the coastlines and underwater areas of the Keys.