

ALABAMA MAN NAMED UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

(Geneva, Switzerland)) The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has voted William Goodwin of Birmingham, Alabama, the Underwater Photographer of the Year. Goodwin, who operates Physical Therapy Solution in Birmingham, was ecstatic upon hearing the news... "I have been diving and creating underwater photographs for 50 years!"

As part of the IUCN 2011 Underwater Photographer of the Year Contest, IUCN received 132 photographs of exceptional quality and creativity. Goodwin was named overall winner for his photograph Grouper Peek-a-Boo. This award follows the top honors he received from The National Geographic Society in 2009 for an underwater photograph of a Peppermint Shrimp in a Vase Sponge.

Talent runs deep in the Goodwin family, as a photograph by his wife Donna, was selected for another award. The image of a young Hawksbill Turtle was selected to be the cover of the 2011 Ocean Conservancy Sealife calendar (the turtle will also be "Miss March"). The OC staff selected the 12 photos for each of the months from the 1000+ entries and then let the public vote for the cover shot. Donna's picture received 42% of the vote! In 2009, Donna received First Place in the Peter Hughes Diving Photo Contest for her photograph "Lovely Jellyfish," that was shot in Wallilabou Bay, located on the island of St Vincent in the Caribbean Sea.

In 2008, Goodwin and his wife created the Cayman Islands Underwater Image Bank for Students and Teachers. The image bank was developed to help increase understanding of and appreciation for the dwindling resources beneath the sea. "I have seen our mother ocean decline during my life and I long for my grandchildren to know it the way it was," explains Goodwin. "My reverence for the world's oceans has led me to write a book with contributions from six leading biologists about the amazing world of marine sponges, to be published by the University of Alabama Press in 2012 and entitled The First Animal!"

CONTACT:

For more information on all the awards granted to the Goodwins, you can visit his website at: <http://www.feraldiversmedia.com> Television, radio and print interviews are available at most times during the day and evening by contacting Bill Goodwin at (205) 266-6330.

To access additional information:

International Union for the Conservation of Nature
http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/photo_contest/

National Geographic Magazine Award
<http://www.feraldiversmedia.com/nationalgeo.html>

Physical Therapy Solutions - Birmingham, AL
<http://www.ptexcellence.org>