



Guam students “Adopt A Reef”



GCCRMP science coordinator, Val, recaps reef ecology with marine biology students during classroom training at GW

This spring, ocean-loving students from George Washington High School’s Marine Mania and St. Johns completed coral reef monitoring training. Since then, Marine Mania has “adopted” a reef monitoring site within Pago Bay. So what exactly does it mean to “adopt a reef?” By adopting a reef, groups are responsible for conducting coral reef monitoring surveys. Pago Bay was selected as the focus for Marine Mania’s coral reef monitoring efforts because of it is close to GW. They will collect data to examine changes in the bay over time. St. John’s students adopted a site in Tumon Bay and are interested in examining the effects of fresh water seeps and development activities in Tumon Bay.



St. Johns marine biology students set up transects in Tumon

GCCRMP is looking for other community groups to “adopt a reef,” so the program can help support a larger network of monitoring sites around the island. By collecting data from different parts of the island, residents can understand the health of Guam’s reefs. Most importantly, school groups like Marine Mania and St. Johns School are now active stewards of Guam’s marine environment. We are excited to help more groups “adopt a reef” that is important to them, such as a favorite fishing spot or family beach. If your organization or community group wants to adopt-a-reef or get involved, please contact us at 646-1905 or email gureefmonitoring@gmail.com.

GCC Students participate in Data Workshop

The spring 2014 marine biology class at Guam Community College (GCC) took their data collection a step further. For their service learning project, GCC students compared benthic cover (i.e. corals, algae) and macroinvertebrates, such as sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and more, in sea grass habitats in a protected area, Achang Reef Flat Marine Preserve versus a non-protected area, Pago Bay.



GCC students conduct benthic monitoring survey in Achang Marine Reef Flat Marine Preserve

GCC students completed Classroom and In-Water Training late February and conducted monitoring surveys at two locations in April. Some students brought along family members interested in exploring Guam’s marine life and help collect data. Students enjoyed “treasure-hunting” for macroinvertebrates and using program field guides to complete benthic surveys. After collecting data from Pago Bay and Achang Marine Preserve, students attended a Data Workshop at GCC to learn how to input data they collected and compare quantitative results. During the workshop, students discussed field observations and connected them with their calculated results. This Data Workshop reinforced GCC students’ working knowledge of coral reefs by connecting their field experience of data collection to scientific results generated by inputting survey data into a database. Visit our website’s media gallery to see photos taken by GCC students!



Elmarie enters benthic data into database from Pago Bay and Achang Reef Flat Marine Preserve

GCCRMP Members attend Learning Exchange



Learning exchange participants and Maui partners pose after planting trees in Honokawai Valley

In late April, GCCRMP members participated in a learning exchange that took place in Hawaii. Participants visited communities in Oahu and Maui to see how they are working together to help restore and protect their coral reefs and watersheds. Guam and Saipan participants were able to experience Hawaii’s natural environment and culture first-hand through snorkeling, hiking, and visiting conservation project sites. Participants also *talked story* with community leaders, government representatives, and project coordinators from Hawaii and discovered that they shared similar challenges. More importantly, Guam and Hawaii participants acknowledged that strong partnerships, recognition of volunteers’ efforts and time are keys for success to empower communities to get involved and be stewards of our islands’ natural and cultural resources. *Dangkalu’ na Si Yu’os Ma’ase* (a very big thank you!) to our Guam and Saipan participants as well as our Hawaii partners for making this Learning Exchange a great experience for all! GCCRMP will continue to support their community activities that help take care of our environment here on Guam. Check out videos about the Learning Exchange at guamreefmonitoring.wordpress.com.



Xavier Quinata, a Umatac Coral Reef Ambassador Mentor, pauses for a photo in Kahekili Beach Park

Si Yu’os Ma’ase to our Partners!



and Humatak Community Foundation, Inc.

MEMBER FEATURE: Patrick Pence

Meet Patrick! He joined GCCRMP in April 2013 and has been one of our most dedicated members. Patrick has helped collect data in Piti and Fouha Bay. He also participated in our monitoring efforts to document coral bleaching in September last year.



“It’s wonderful to explore places that I would normally not have access to, such as Fouha Bay,” he said of his favorite experiences as a GCCRMP member. As a member, Patrick appreciated the opportunity “to ask a knowledgeable scientist in the field about new marine animals, knowing this will touch on life and culture [of Guam], and learning how ecology can alter reef regimes.” Patrick has since relocated to the mainland U.S. Thank you, Patrick, for your help and caring for Guam’s reefs!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Classroom Training

June 11, 2014 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
NOAA Fisheries Office, Tiyan

In-Water Training

June 14, 2014 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Tepungan Beach Park, Piti

Science Sunday

June 15, 2014 at 2:00 PM
T. Stell Newman Visitor Center

STAY CONNECTED

- [facebook.com/gureefmonitoring](https://www.facebook.com/gureefmonitoring)
- guamreefmonitoring.wordpress.com
- gureefmonitoring@gmail.com | (671)646-1905

