

Sea Scholar Log

Day Three

06 August, 2006

Ahoy and Aloha
from the USNS Pathfinder



Photo 1: One of the many varieties of Heliconia seen at the Foster Botanical Gardens.



Photo 2: Many Sea Scholars spent the morning at Shark's Cove, HI.

Today was the first day that Sea Scholars took different paths. After a tasty breakfast, one group headed toward the *North Shore* for a day of ocean adventures while a second group returned to *Waikiki* to explore the aquarium and botanical gardens. What a day it was!

The North Shore group dropped Greg Graeber off in *Hale'wa* for his long anticipated shark adventure! He sailed two hours on the high seas photographing Galapagos sharks (while in a shark cage). Those six to ten foot specimens are featured in over 100 pictures. We'll share a few here.



Photos 3-7: Greg Graeber is on his life long dream.

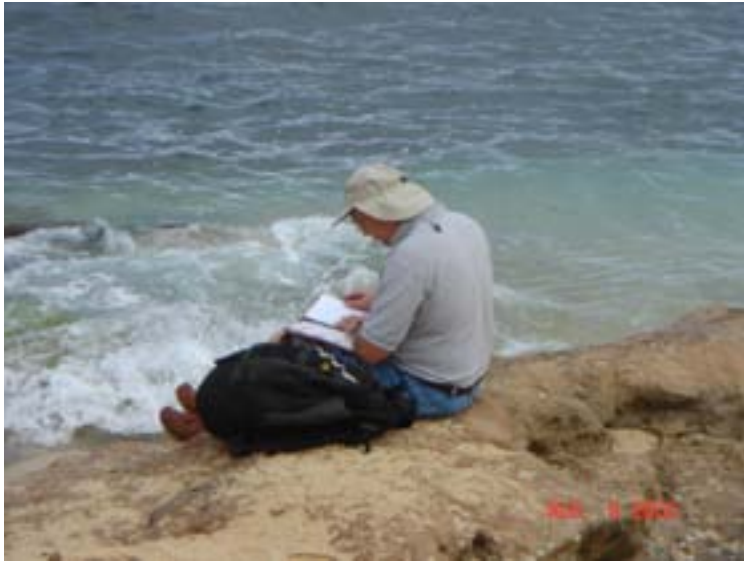


Photo 8: Mark Jarrett is hard at work.

It was on to *Shark's Cove* for the rest of the group where a morning of sea, surf and sun was enjoyed by all. All right, it did rain a bit, but that didn't dampen our spirits at all. While the Sea Scholars frolicked and played, Mark Jarrett used the time to finalize the schedule for work teams when at sea.



Photo 9: Rita Kaplan studies the shore.



Photo 10: There were many tide pools to explore.



Photos 11 and 12: Regina Sumner, Misty Savell, and Joan Turner are enjoying the beach at Shark Cove.



Photo 13: This sign welcomed the Sea Scholars to *Pupukea Beach Park*.

Pupukea Beach Park was the next stop as we walked along the coast. The ropy lava, or PaHoaHoa, held tidal pools that were inhabited by many forms of sea life.



Photo 14-15: Mary Ruch and other Sea Scholars explore tidal pools.

The Sea Scholars headed back to *Hale'iwa* to pick up "Shark Boy" and have lunch at the local favorite, The Grass Skirt Grill where they heard all about his adventures.



Photos 16-19: Sea Scholars are enjoying lunch in *Haleiwa*.



Photo 20: This is a Blue Torch Ginger found in the *Waimea Valley Audubon Center*.

The rest of the afternoon was spent at the *Waimea Valley Audubon Center*. The center was a combination of an archeological exploration, history lesson, and botany class. Sea Scholars enjoyed hiking through the lush growth while identifying the specimens.



Photo 21: Greg Graeber signs in at the center.



Photo 22: Logan, our volunteer tour guide, explained the archeological areas of the center..



Photo 23: Penta flowers attracted a honey bee.



Photo 24: Sea Scholars listen to Logan explain how the native Hawaiians thatched their houses.



The Alae 'Ula, or the common Moorhen, can be found in the Gardens. This endangered bird is one of less than 500 that can be found on the islands of *O'ahu* and *Kaua'i*.

Photo 25: The Sea Scholars were lucky to spot this Alae Ula.

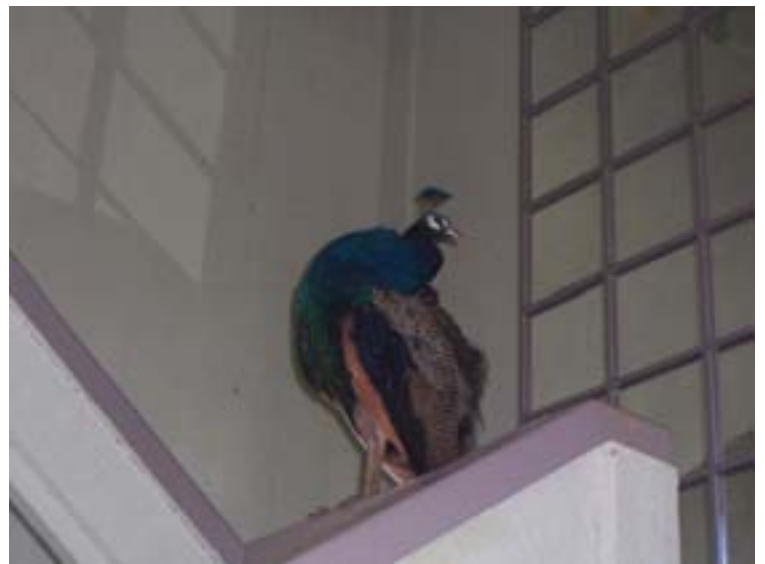


Photo 26: Numerous peacocks were seen all through the park.



Photo 27: The tropical trees located throughout the park were beautiful and fascinating.



Photo 28: Mary Ruch and Rita Kaplan at the falls.



Photo 29: Waimea Creek is engorged with rainfall.



Photo 30: Waimea Falls is closed for swimming.



Photo 31: Sea Scholars pose before they are evacuated.

The Sea Scholar's goal was to hike to the pool at the bottom of the *Waimea Falls* (*trickling water* in Hawaiian) and jump in for a swim. Much to their surprise, the afternoon rains engorged the falls so it was necessary to evacuate the pool area, not a good feeling for those from the Gulf states...

Then it was "back to the van" to head home to the *Pathfinder* for the sailors.

Waikiki was the destination of our second group of Sea Scholars. They began at the Waikiki Aquarium and saw many examples of Pacific sea life.



Photo 32: Various coral with a sea cucumber are on display.



Photo 33: A cold-water leafy sea dragon blends in with seaweed and kelp.



Photo 34: This Australian jelly fish can grow to over 40 pounds.

On their way to the *Foster Botanical Gardens*, the Sea Scholars took a wrong turn and stumbled into a Buddhist Temple.



Photo 35: This statue of Buddha graces the garden in Waikiki.



Photo 36: Sheila Brown at the Foster Botanical Gardens.



Photo 37: Sharon Walker and Jay Walmark enjoy the view.



Photo 38: One of the many varieties of Heliconia seen at the gardens.



Photo 39: The rainbow over Pearl City welcomed the Sea Scholars home to the *Pathfinder*.

We welcomed our last Sea Scholar arrival, Carol Ann Drane, to our family tonight. The end of this rainbow will lead us all to adventures yet to come.

Aloha from Mary Lee Ruch and Rita Kaplan