

SHARK RESEARCH INSTITUTE

October 30, 2014



Dear Paul

Here is SRI's October mini-newsletter just for you.

SHARK LADY TO BE HONORED



David Doubilet & Genie Clark

World-renowned marine scientist Dr. Eugenie "Genie" Clark will receive the Blue Ocean Legacy Award on November 9 in St. Petersburg, Florida, at the Blue Ocean Film Festival. Affectionately known as The Shark Lady, Genie celebrated her 92nd birthday earlier this year by diving in the Red Sea. During the past +60 years, she has shared her adventures and research in scientific journals, popular magazines, lectures, television specials and three books: *Lady with a Spear* (1951), describing her adventures in Micronesia and the Red Sea; *The Lady and the Sharks* (1969), in which she tells of founding the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory; and *The Desert Beneath the Sea* (1991), a children's book written with Ann McGovern that describes a

scientist researching the sandy bottom of the sea.

HAND-FEEDING SHARKS



The negative image of sharks has been greatly reduced in the past decade; today more people are aware that sharks play a critical role in the ocean, and that is due in large part to shark diving. SRI fully supports shark diving; the value of sharks to the tourism industry provides a powerful economic incentive for nations to protect them. In Palau, a dead reef shark is worth about US\$108. Alive, the same shark is worth roughly US\$1.9 million over its lifetime. In the past 20 years shark diving has generated US\$800 million to the Bahamas. Not only does shark diving create value for sharks as natural living resources, many of the divers become strong advocates for their protection.

But sharks are predators. We know the dangers of hand-feeding terrestrial predators such as bears and lions, and similar caution should apply to sharks. Back in the 1950s, lab experiments by Dr Genie Clark determined that sharks do indeed learn – and they **remember** what they've learned. At least two, possibly three of the shark attacks at Sharm el-Sheikh were made by a shark that had learned from a human to seek food from a human - it had learned to associate the human form with food. The shark attacks at Sharm indicated that it is not necessarily the person hand-feeding a shark that may be injured, it is the swimmer/snorkeler that the shark *subsequently encounters* who may be at greatest risk. To read the full journal article on the subject, go to http://www.sharks.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/OJAS_2014092913252380.pdf

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE . . . FOR A LIMITED TIME



Thanks to Bonfire Funds, SRI t-shirts are available, but only if your order is placed before midnight on November 12. To order a shirt, go to: <https://www.bonfirefunds.com/shark-research-institute>

To SRI Members in the Indianapolis area

We were recently contacted by a 6th grade student who has started a Shark Club at her school. She has asked for a mentor who might also be able to help arrange local field trips. For more information, contact marie@sharks.org

Shark Research Institute
PO Box 40
Princeton, NJ 08540
USA

www.sharks.org
Tel: (609) 921-3522
Fax: (609) 921-1505



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