Bonus Photos for "My Underwater Photo Journey"
By Cathy Church

These bonus photos are offered to help you understand more about the image that you are viewing in your book. There are more to come.

Optical Illusion, End sheets

If the sponge on the inside of the book cover looked like it was made like mounds, you were being fooled. The sponge is made of ridges around valleys. Does this photo or the next photo help you to see the ridges?
Here is the eye close up. To help them hide, crocodile fish even have a pattern of tissue that covers the eyeball to break up the pattern of the eye.
Plate 4, French Angel in Porthole

This is a scene from the other side of the hole in the stern section of the wreck of the Balboa. A diver is looking through the hole that is in the photo in plate 4. This photo was taken after a storm and before the purple feather dusters grew up. The feather dusters (also called Social feather dusters) are fragile and their clusters grow and disappear and grow back in a season depending on the water conditions.
Plate 5, Trumpet Fish Mouth

Here is a photo of an entire yellow trumpet fish, and a photo of the more normal colored trumpet fish. The adults are about two feet long.

Here is a photo of his eye that I took right before I photographed his/her (?) mouth.
Plate 6, Yellow Tail Snapper

I couldn't decide which of these two photos to put into the book, so here is the other one.
Plate 10, Soft Sea Plumes

These plumes, like all of the gorgonians, are composed of a colony of polyps. This photo is not the same species as the one in the book, but it gives you a closer look at what is meant by a polyp.

Each polyp in this group of corals has eight tentacles, hence the name “Octocorals.”
Plate 11, Shy Grouper

Many groupers around the world have become accustomed to divers. The older, bolder ones readily accept food and keep the younger ones away. At some point in their lives, the younger one kicks the big guy out and the new grouper buddies up with the divers. We enjoyed the company of this big grouper for many years until he was displaced. I would see him on occasion out on the further reef, away from where the divers were playing with the new groupers.

Several years ago, however, the grouper population in the Cayman Islands plummeted due to over-fishing and illegal spear fishing. There are no tame ones to my knowledge in Grand Cayman, but hopefully their numbers will come back. In the meantime, if you would stop ordering grouper in island restaurants, these friendly fish will have a better chance of surviving.
Plate 13, Stingray covered photographer

I thought you might enjoy seeing a photo that I took not long before the one in the book.
Plate 15 Lettuce slug face

This shows what the whole animal looks like. The ruffles act like gills as the lettuce slug moves along the bottom looking for algae to eat.
Plate 20, Crinoid

The crinoid swam several times so Herb was able to photograph me during his second lift-off. I do not know why they choose to swim, but I can only assume that they want a better feeding vantage point.
Angelfish do not have strong teeth and jaws and cannot break through the tough outer coat of many of the sponges that they like to eat. Turtles use their strong beaks to bite into a sponge, and angelfish join in on the feast. In this case it is a French angel with the turtle, while the Queen angel is eating another sponge after the turtle has gone. The turtle does not eat the entire sponge—it is left to heal and grow back and the turtle works his way along the reef to a new spot each day.
Plate 37, Spotted cleaning shrimp
Here is a cleaning shrimp working inside a grouper mouth.

I don’t have any photos of the shrimp on my hand, but I do have a photo of a lot of cleaning gobies on Jennifer Witham’s hand.
Plate 39, Squid
This squid was seen during the day. It stayed within this gorgonian for several hours so I was able to get close with a Nikon F5 and 60mm lens.
Plate 45, Waldo and me

After I pushed the eel away with my mask, he kept on coming. I had to get my body away from him without my fishy hands getting in front of me near Waldo’s mouth. I did not want him to find the rest of the food in the pocket of the BC under my chin. I pushed up off the bottom and he saw the shiny regulator and made a dash for that. I then swam faster toward the surface and he went back to his home and waited until I got out another piece of food. He never tried to bite me. Working with eels can be dangerous and I have been bitten—not by Waldo but by a different eel. Eels are unpredictable and can do a lot of harm, so don’t play with eels whose behavior you cannot control.

(These scans are made from very old duplicate slides that have faded over the years.)
Plate 47, Sergeant Major

These damsel fish clean off an area on a hard surface such as this piece of wreckage. They court and lay their eggs. The male continues to guard the eggs by keeping predatory fish away. He removes debris that may settle on the eggs and fans them with his tail. The entire purple/gray area is the egg layer, surrounded by a cleaned area.
Manatees love to have their bellies scratched and will stay near you and beg for more.
Plate 51, Pink feather duster worms

Here is an entire colony, about six inches across.
Plate 56, Anemone fish on a tire

This is a natural light photo of the anemone with his anemone fish on the tire.
Plate 64, Drill press

The entire tool room of this old wreck is in remarkably good shape and quite interesting. Here is a saw on the left and a grinder below.
Plate 68, Lionfish row

The ship is on its port side. I am beneath the gun turret looking straight up toward the surface. The lionfish are lined up, the school of minnows is hiding in the shadow and a coral grouper, the reddish brown fish, is dashing in to capture one for a meal.
Plate 75, Blue and gold

The eyes of the imperial angel are masked with black and here is a photo of more parasites.
Plate 76, Squirreelfish geometric

Here is the rest of the squirreelfish.
The crown-of-thorns starfish eats coral. It digests the living tissue of the coral right out of the skeletal support leaving behind just the bright white remains. The thorns are quite painful, but the trumpet snail eats them anyway.
Plate 88, Blue on Blue

Here is the entire starfish. The photo in the book is taken from the underside. After taking the photo, if I had not turned the starfish back to its original position it would have quickly turned itself over without me.
Plate 89 Yellow Christmas tree

Christmas tree worms come in virtually every different color combination that I can imagine. Here is a photo of a typical group.
Plate 90, Fan worm abstract

Here is an entire worm; this one is white but otherwise it looks just like the red one in the book.
Plate 91, Mug shot

Can you find the fish in the first photo below? I changed the photo in photo shop to make him stand out better in the photo on the right. The fellow in the book is red when my flash lights him up, but without the flash, he would look dark brown or black just like his surroundings.
Plate 92, Courtship?

Here they are from another view. The second one is only partway buried in the sand.

With strobe lighting from an angle, you can see the poisonous dorsal spines of this single “Devil” fish.
Plate 95, Eight-armed love

In this long shot you can see the male’s tentacles reaching the female during mating. He is just peeking out through the rocks behind her.
Plate 102, Frog Fish
Here he is from the front. Look at the way he uses his fins like feet to settle among the sponges.
Here are three more pygmy seahorses. The orange one is TINY—about the size of a grain of rice, the red and white one is normal, about a quarter inch long, and the third one is HUGE--about a half inch long.

Plate 105, Pygmy Seahorse
Here is a photo of the entire colony, and a closer view of just the stalks.
Plate 113, Cuttlefish
Can you find the cuttlefish in this photo? They are sometimes hard to see underwater even when another diver is pointing at them.
The cuttlefish is directly above my lens, even though you may have a lot of trouble seeing him.

**Plate 115** After taking my picture, Herb swam above him so that I could photograph him with the cuttlefish.
Plate 114 Laying an egg

Here is another view of the egg laying.
Plate 117 Golden Soft Coral

Here Herb had time to take a photo of me as we were finishing our dive with these incredibly beautiful soft corals.
Plate 125, Pipefish

Here is a photo of an entire pipefish. It is a different species, but you can see how long and thin they are. The black one is wonderfully disguised like a stick, and the second one is actually swimming through the feeding tentacles of a fan worm. It surprised me that the usually skittish fan worm did not retract into its tube.

I hope that you have enjoyed these extra photos as much as I have enjoyed adding them.