

Jeff Goodman Blog for Oonas April 2011
OONASDIVERS help out on World Earth Day



Unusually for me, being in the Red Sea means I am at **Marsa Shagra** doing the video and editing courses with **Oonasdivers** and **Red Sea Diving Safaris**. Instead I am here with 'The Changing Oceans Expedition' which is campaigning for an improved network of marine protected areas to help preserve our oceans. The expedition was launched in 2009 on board Fleur de Passion, a 33 meter sailing boat.

The objective is to visit 100 of the worlds most important marine Eco-regions in 10 years, measuring the pace of change in our Oceans and providing a point of reference for future generations. Scientific projects are carried out onboard in collaboration with universities around the globe, as well as an awareness program with documentaries, multimedia, educational tools and Internet. In addition the expedition supports socio educative projects and invites members of the public to join the adventure to help preserving our oceans.

Our sail boat journey has taken us into Marsa Shagra. The reason we are here is because Marsa Shagra as well as being an amazingly friendly place to visit, boasts some of the best accessible reef diving in the Red Sea. The eco management ethos they have heard and at their other two sites of Marsa Nakari and Wadi Lackmi is helping secure these reefs for the future as well as giving us wonderful wildlife interaction now on a daily basis.



We are also here as part of 'World Earth Day' and as a element of this, a team of holiday divers from Oonasdivers and Changing Oceans as well as Red Sea diving Safaris staff are giving up a day to clean surrounding reefs, and beaches of any garbage. I have joined a team going out to Shaab Samadai or 'Dolphin House' reef to film the continued clearing up of the remains of a ship that hit the reef some years ago. The bulk of the wreck has now been taken away but there still remain heavy timbers, plastic and metal parts of the ship.

