

# You Get Back What You Put In

by Jim Peterson

**T**begin. I want to thank Jon Schweikert, our LIAS Vice-President for setting up our salt water collecting trip with Steve Abrams and Frank Greco. I know it involved a great many phone calls and e-mails to set-up a date and time as the tide would not wait for us, but boy was it worth it!

I was very upset by the poor turnout. Many said they were interested but few bothered to come. I was feeling bad for Jon that the turnout was poor; however, those of you who didn't come were the unfortunate ones. Jon brought his lovely wife Lillian and his beautiful, well-behaved twins, Donald and Lillian, who even seined by themselves. Lillian even took advantage of the perfect weather conditions and had her charges running back and forth along the beach so that each time ashore with a net in hand, the children were there to greet them and return any unwanted creatures to the sea.

The air temperature and the water temperature were close to each other making it comfortable in the water and not too hot out of the water. There were some girlish screams of, "It's cold," from someone without a shirt on going in the deeper water to catch better fish. Excitement filled the air as everyone saw something unusual, rare, tropicals or natives. Even our guides were very excited about some of our catches. My favorite was a Short Bigeye, something I've never seen before and I'm sure pictures can't do it justice as it was incredible in the bright sunlight. The twins even caught a rare tropical crab, which was marked liked a Huma Huma Trigger Fish.

After all was said and done, I don't know who had the most fun, Jon's twins or Jon and me, but I know at the end of the day Jon's wife's Lillian was sitting in the sand by herself looking out at the water, and all the beauty surrounding it, and she looked like a model, posed by a famous photographer.

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She looked peaceful and contented and in tune with the world. (Maybe she was just a bit tired), but it looked like she too had to be entered into the contest of who had the most fun as well.

Arie Gilbert, our LIAS President, took off from work and recorded it all in a pictorial. He didn't get his feet wet but he had a good time as well. I'm ready to go back again. (I would have gone the very next day I had such a good time). I got home and the first thing my wife asked was did you get me a sea horse? Sadly, I told her, "No, but look in the bucket."

There was a shriek from her because there were 6 sea horses, 5 butterflies and a shiner that someone had thrown in my bucket to bring home. Even he survived the trip, although he had slime missing in spots from being manhandled, but he can always be used for bait if he succumbs.

So even though we lacked members in numbers, we caught more than enough fish to go around. What would we have caught if we had enough people to man all the nets? We'll never know.....



Jim & Jon going in seine