

Garfield's book: required reading for all Cove dwellers

By **DAVE GUILFORD**
Village News

Judith Garfield, a La Jolla biologist and underwater photographer, has published the second book in her award-winning series on the La Jolla Underwater Park. Entitled "The San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park Ecological Reserve: La Jolla Shores and Canyon," Volume 2, the book includes a wide variety of information on the shores and the La Jolla Canyon, all with vivid color photographs.

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— Judith Garfield

"The real reason that I wrote this book is that nobody has ever done anything like this before, and it's a really important and really valuable area," Garfield explained. "It's obviously valuable because it has been protected. It is the first underwater park on the West Coast."

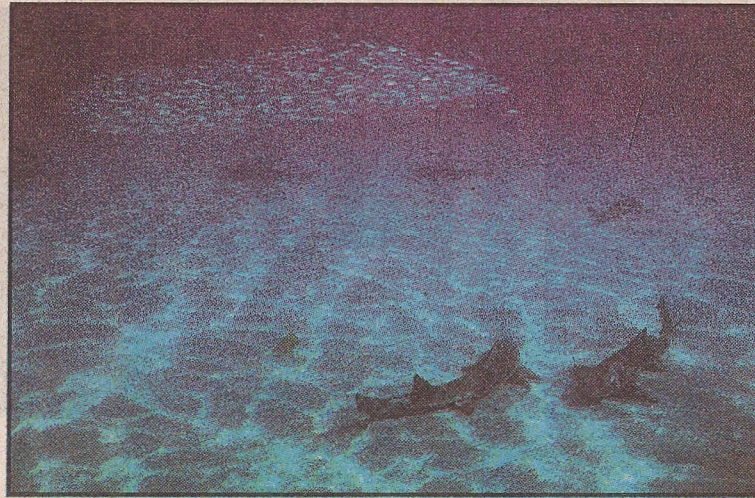
The book begins by explaining how the park was created in 1970, and how the ecological reserve was created within the park as a

"look but don't touch" aquarium one year later. The reserve covers a little more than 1.5 miles of coastline, and is marked off with large yellow buoys that extend to the deepest part of La Jolla Canyon, approximately 1,000 feet. This reserve has become San Diego's most popular dive spot.

"It's a place of not only great beauty, but a tremendous diversity of marine life in places that you wouldn't see in other parts of our coast," according to Garfield.

That diversity in marine life is catalogued throughout the book in evolutionary order, from most primitive to most sophisticated. Each species is portrayed in vibrant color, with a description and the unique characteristics of that particular variety.

The book also describes the underwater archaeological site, home to the first La Jollans thousands of years ago. The site is located just offshore from the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, and



photos by Judith Garfield

Leopard sharks circle beneath a school of sardines (above) along the sandy bottom off the Marine Room. Biologist and underwater photographer Judith Garfield (right) wades ashore at La Jolla Shores.

divers can see many tools and artifacts near the edge of the canyon. However, divers are reminded not to touch any of the artifacts, as they are protected by the state.

"This has been a very important area that goes back thousands of years, because it was a big fishing spot," Garfield said. "There's been all kinds of things that have been mined from this area, like mortars and points."

When asked about some of the

most amazing things she has come across in the cove, Garfield said, "I've had an encounter with a baby gray whale that came and turned within one foot of me, right off of the Marine Room. It just came in and I thought to myself, 'Gosh, this is the biggest sea lion I've ever seen.' When the whale turned, the force of the water pushed me over, and then suddenly the fluke went by and I thought, 'Oh my goodness, this is



really a whale!"

One of the biggest challenges to the Cove environment that Garfield sees is pollution, with storm drain problems being close to the top of the list. The water was green for much of this summer, and Garfield suspects the cause could be as simple as lawn fertilizer washing into storm

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