

sand. We always see new species of unusual fish and critters for us. He and his dive masters, Callie, DJ, and Larry, know their fish and critters and know how to find them. They'll give you as little or as much guidance as you request. The service is top notch with gear washing and storage provided. The diving is awesome for the little fish and critters not abundant elsewhere.

**Dive St. Vincent, Young Island Resort, June 2006, Timothy A. Kolakowski (tkolakowski@choiceonemail.com), Erie, PA.** Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 75 Feet. Water: 82 to 84 F, calm. See the small stuff you've seen only in the Reef Guide books — sea-horses, frogfish, blennies, pipefish, flying gurnards, gobies, jawfish, even things you can't name ... or see, for that matter. Bill carries a set of magnifying glasses with him and finds things as tiny as a pipefish smaller than my thumbnail! Then he writes it on his marker board for all the divers to read. His enthusiasm, wit, and knowledge, undiminished at age 65, complete the experience. And there doesn't have to be a full boat to go — our "crowded" day had 5 divers. The other days had 2 or 3, and the first day they took me out by myself! Treat yourself and stay at Young Island and get treated like royalty. Begin your diving day at breakfast with the "Breadboard" — fresh baked white, whole wheat, banana, cinnamon raisin, or coconut bread. Have any kind of omelet you can imagine, pancakes or one of the above breads made as French toast. Add some homemade yogurt. Then go find seahorses and get back in time for the gourmet lunch. Dinner is 5 courses, with main course including filet mignon, fresh fish, and roast duck. On land, check out the movie sets and landmarks used in the 3 (yes, 3 — you'll see P/C III in 2008) Pirates of the

Caribbean movies and visit the western hemisphere's oldest botanical gardens. Ride on a minibus packed full of locals screeching around the hilly hairpin turns for \$.37 US.

## Union Island

**Grenadines Dive, December 2005, Francis and Deb Bollag, New Rochelle, NY. (debbollag@earthlink.net)** Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 15 to 30 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm. Glenroy Adams, DM and owner, did a fantastic job keeping our group of seven sailors — with every level of dive (in)experience — together and happy on some speedy drifts. He saw that the two of us were relaxed and experienced drift divers and let us hang back from the less experienced group, pick our depth and linger when we found something interesting. Glenroy explored and named most of the dive sites, so he knows whom to take where and when. With seven plus two crew, the small boat was cramped. Runs were short so it didn't matter. Equipment was set up by the crew and taken back to their shop for care between dives. The hard corals were banged up by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and, after an unusually rainy autumn, runoff from the Orinoco River severely limited visibility. Glenroy said that viz is much greater in summer. There's some big litter (empty paint cans, tires, etc.) on the bottom. There were plenty of accessible nurse sharks, turtles, rays, eels, small tropical fish and macro critters to entertain us. We tried but, due to swirling current, failed to dive the Purini wreck.

## TOBAGO

**Frontier Divers, Sandy Point Resort RCI, October 2005, Kris and Mark**

**Ritchie (mcrkam@msn.com), Littleton, CO.** Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 40 to 75 Feet. Water: 80 to 84 F, choppy, no currents. We had a wonderful time. We were surprised at the laid back island time and late starts — you didn't meet at the dive shop til 9 am. Therefore most dive days are 2 dives not 3. To get to Speyside which is the more pristine diving it is 40 minutes by car, then you go with a partner captain and your own DM. Diving on our side was interesting, larger seas, not so much coral, more drift, lower vis, haloclines. Divers Thirst and Dream would have been more fun with a current, but it was relaxed with lots of time to look at things. We heard stories of killer current, but experienced none all week. We loved Big Dougie, who trains most all of the DMs and Instructors and Lifeguards on the island. His wife Kerry is pleasant. They take care of your gear and were surprised by our helping with gear and loading. Alvin Douglas did take us for a local dive so we could check our gear and get acclimated. Vis was awful but we made an hour and ten minutes which was great fun. No nitrox. Lodging was a beautiful 3 bedroom full kitchen on the beach next to the bar. We also did the land tour into the rainforest. No shopping, some restaurants, not too much nightlife. Frontier boat is open and small, but they gave me a bucket to keep my camera in and rinse. Mostly I just packed it in a towel and had the captain keep it under the driving console in a safe place. They handed it to me after backroll. No way to change film/batts until you go to beach for lunch, so shooting digital saves that step between dive 1 and 2. Dives were not deep so I shot every dive. If the waves are high and current is kicking it can be a challenge to get back to the boat for your camera, I did

wave off the captain one dive because it was too hard for me. I had fun shooting in Speyside especially. Very little current so could stop and DM went slow and stop speed! No marathons, but no current to help you catch up the group either. The DM understands photographer needs to go slow, but we were a small group of 4.

**World of Watersports, Hilton, May 2006, William Westman (wwestman@hotmail.com), St. Thomas, VI.** Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 30 to 70 Feet. Water: 79 to 81 F, choppy, currents. The diving on the south end of the island was hampered by poor visibility. Diving in Speyside, which advertised bigger fish and better vis required a one hour drive (which never left on time). And the dives cost \$25 extra. Had I known that I would have used a dive shop in Speyside or Charlottesville, rented a car and done more dives on the north end of the island. Neither dive boat had adequate safety equipment. There was no oxygen or adequate first aid kits. There was no rinse tanks or fresh water available. The first boat has an igloo for drinking water that had dirt and sand in the water. The second boat had no ladder and no easy or comfortable way to re-board the boat. The staff was friendly and DM Marvin was patient, informative and helpful. But Marvin really needs a new wetsuit. The Hilton hotel shows the lack of maintenance everywhere. Rusting fixtures, no working ice machines on our floor. Elevators that are out of order. But the staff was friendly and helpful. They brought us ice without being asked.

## TURKS AND CAICOS

This island group, south of the