

**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** GSAF 1992.08.17

**DATE:** Monday August 17, 1992

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Manalapan, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Ron Duguid

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 26-year-old male from Lantana.



**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, August 13, 1992. Third Quarter, August 21, 1992

**NARRATIVE:** Ron Duguid was snorkeling with a friend, Brian Blakney, when the two spotted a steel fishing leader. “Ron picked it up and a shark was on the other end,” said Brian. “As he pulled on the leader, the shark came up, bumped his chest and grabbed hold of his arm.” Brian grabbed the shark’s tail to prevent it from shaking its head and possibly removing tissue from Ron’s arm. When Officer Pat Encinosa, a former zookeeper, arrived at the beach, Ron was in waist-deep water calling for help. Ron dragged the shark, still attached to his arm, onto the beach and Encinosa shot it.

**INJURY:** A portion of the Duguid’s left bicep may have been removed by the shark.

**TREATMENT:** He was treated at J.F.K. Medical Center and released.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** A three-foot nurse shark.

**NOTE:** This is considered a provoked incident.

**SOURCES:** Judy A. Plunkett, Miami Herald, August 19, 1992, page 1B; Palm Beach Post, August 19, 1992 , 1B; St. Petersburg Times, August 19, 1992, page 19

# Stubborn little shark clings to diver's arm

■ Nurse sharks usually are not considered a threat to people, but it took three shots from a police officer's gun to stop this 3-footer.

Associated Press

LANTANA — Nurse sharks usually are not considered a threat and some people even feed them, but a stubborn little 3-footer sank its teeth in a diver's arm and wouldn't let go even after it was dragged ashore.

It took three shots from a police officer's gun to stop the shark, which weighed only 20 pounds. "One shot to get him off and two to kill it," Lantana Fire-Rescue worker Dave Donohue said.

Diver Rod Duguid was hospitalized Tuesday after surgery.

Duguid, 26, was diving off Lantana's beach Monday when he saw a length of fishing line at a depth of about 15 feet. He thought it might lead to some lost fishing gear.

"He pulled on it and the shark came up, bumped off his chest and grabbed ahold of his arm," said

Duguid's snorkeling buddy, Brian Blakney.

Blakney fired his speargun at the shark. But the spear bounced off the fish's tough, sandpaper-like skin and the shark thrashed harder than ever.

"I grabbed Rod's good arm and the shark's tail and began dragging them back to shore," Blakney said.

At the shoreline, police officers, paramedics and bystanders tried to get the shark off Duguid's arm. They couldn't even pry its jaws apart with a knife.

The shark didn't release Duguid's arm until officer Pat Encinosa shot it once in the head. It took two more shots to kill it.

Blakney and Duguid have been diving together around Lantana for about three years and didn't consider nurse sharks particularly dangerous, Blakney said.

"We feed the nurse sharks all the time," Blakney said. "We'd spear bait fish and then go down and feed them. I don't know if I'll be playing that game anymore."

Doctors at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis said Duguid needed surgery to stitch his bicep together. He was expected to remain in the hospital until Wednesday, a nursing supervisor said.

St. Petersburg Times, August 19, 1992, page 19