

Transcript for Cordell Expeditions Clip from Cordell Bank Blue Water Oasis film

Narrator: IT was not until 1978 more than 100 years after its discovery that the first humans actually saw Cordell Bank for themselves.

Bob Schmieder. – “After talking with quite a few people and finding out that this place was really unknown, I made a personal decision to try and go there and learn something about it, so I pulled a team together a group of people that also wanted to do this... we worked for over a year before we succeeded in making our first dive.

We didn't have any good survey data, so we had trouble even finding Cordell Bank, we were guided there as Edward Cordell was guided there by birds sitting on the water”

Narrator: Along with Schmieder, was veteran diver Jack Marshall.

Jack Marshall. “Having never dove there before, I had no clue what was beneath me, there's no landmarks anywhere and I'm wondering is this boat going to be here, when I get back from underwater and uh, swam in over to the buoy, grab a hold of the line and I put my mask on and poke my head underwater to take a look and all I see is this yellow rope going down about 100 feet, that's all I could see was it just disappearing into the blue..... bubbles.....

And we get down and there are just fish all over the place, millions of fish, it was kind of like being in a mosquito hoard”

Bob Schmieder. –“And suddenly they parted and we could see almost horizon to horizon this beautiful landscape and the thing that struck us were the red colors at these great depths 120-130-140 feet.”

Jack Marshall. “Every rock was covered with marine creatures in all kinds of different colors in yellows and reds, the fish were darting in and out of rocks, it was just amazing, it's almost indescribable, to do a dive on what has to be one of the most beautiful dive sites in the world, unbelievable!, unbelievable!, I just fell in love with this place absolutely fell in love with it, still love it, I'd go back in a heartbeat

Narrator In recognition of its unique qualities, Cordell Bank became a National Marine Sanctuary in 1989.....

End clip