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be viewed by visitors. Artifacts such as these paint a unique picture of everyday maritime life in the early 1500s and help define the age of exploration and discovery.

Dotted with old-style Bermudan houses dressed in bright pinks and yellows, Grand Turk feels like a step back in Caribbean history. The island is lucky to have an offshore wall and an abundance of wrecks which are easily accessible to both divers and snorkelers. A condensed wreck listing is as follows: the *French Wreck* — depth 18 feet, near Pillory Beach; *Capstan Wreck* — depth 8 feet, near Finbar's dive site; *Slave Ship Wreck* — depth 10 feet, off the Sitting Pretty Hotel; *Salt Ship Wreck* — depth 10 feet, near Coral Gardens; *Iron Ship Wreck* — depth 3-20 feet, located on northwest reef; *Bahia del Mark Wreck* — depth 8 feet, northwest of the town dock. Slightly deeper and a site common for second tank dives is that of Anchor Wall. This heavily encrusted early sailing ship's anchor, ten feet long and six feet across the flukes, sits upright in the sand at 40 feet. Its heavy anchor chain travels from its eye downward toward the adjacent slope and ledge to a depth of 130 feet.

With the growing popularity of many of these historical wreck sites, the government of the Turks & Caicos in 1992 set aside 40 percent of its territory as parkland, protecting both marine life and historical artifacts. A unique example of the national trust's protection of this terrestrial resources is that of Water Cay and its native population of rock iguanas. With over 325 square miles of protected parks and sanctuaries, the more than 60 species of hard and soft corals and over 350 species of fish now have a distinct advantage on future survival and proliferation.

Not far from Water Cay, along a hillside at Sapidilla Bay, are remnants of pirate lore. Here one can find stone tablets with pirate symbols etched upon them, possibly an ancient reminder of where a pirate stashed his booty. ■

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Dale Sanders, a writer/photographer from Tampa, Florida, has contributed numerous articles for Scuba Times.