

NOV/DEC 2012

nau**ique**

lifestyles@rafflesmarina

ASEANAREAN BLUEWATER ALLIANCE

RM's 18th Anniversary
and Mid-Autumn Festival

MYANMAR'S MUSE

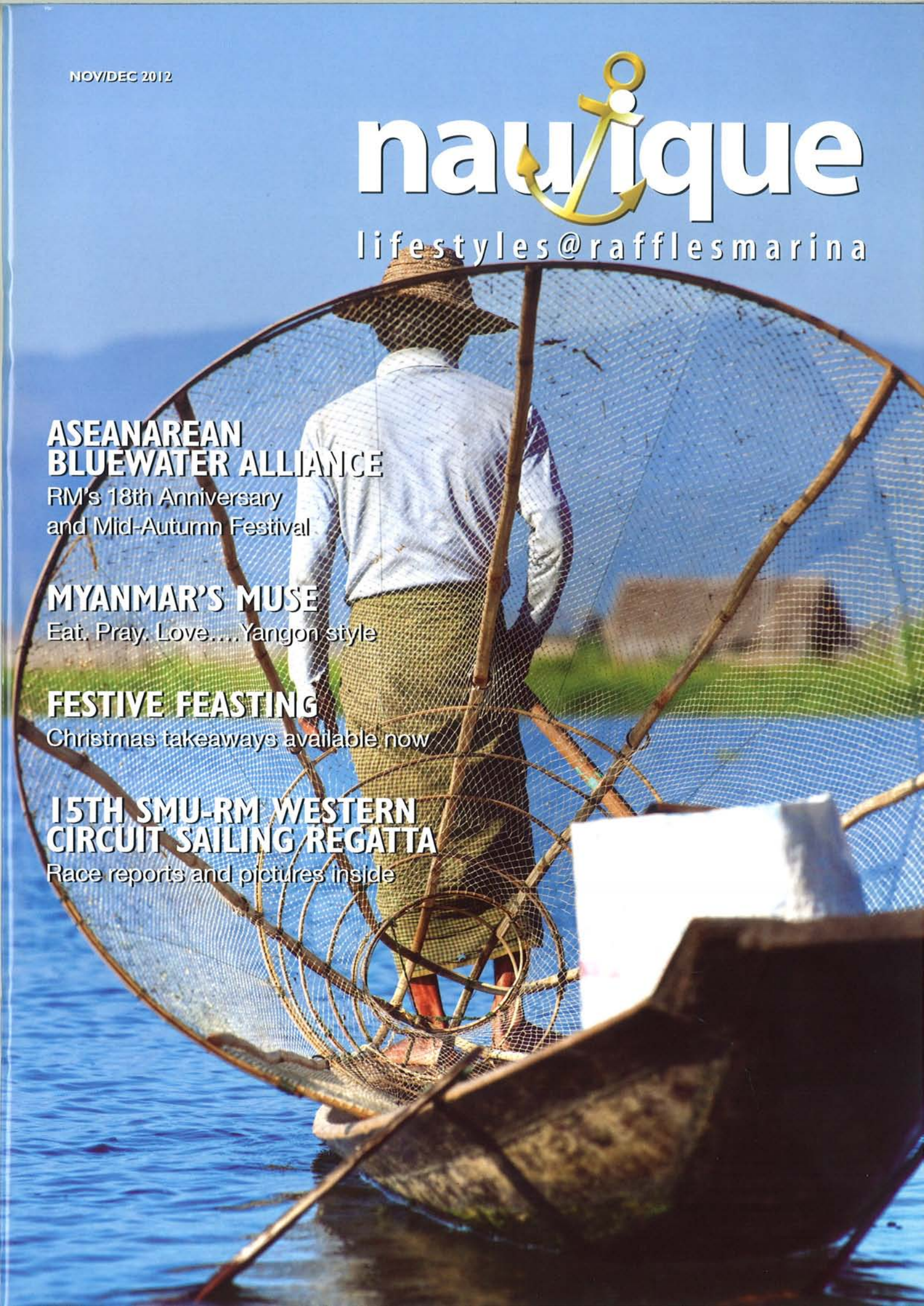
Eat. Pray. Love....Yangon style

FESTIVE FEASTING

Christmas takeaways available now

15TH SMU-RM WESTERN CIRCUIT SAILING REGATTA

Race reports and pictures inside





Students pat down the dirt around the planted tree

Facing the Future

Preparing the next generation for environmental challenges is something everyone should be a part of
By Charley Hildt

As the end of my first year in college came to completion, I found myself yearning for an experience that would allow me to travel the world. This need was fulfilled when I connected with the **Biosphere Foundation**. For six weeks, I lived aboard the sailing yacht *Mir* as a crew member for the most part in Bali, Indonesia. The focus of my stay, however, was towards documenting and participating in a revolutionary new environmental programme that the Biosphere Foundation was creating. It takes place within Bali Barat National Park at its Scientific Education and Research Center.

Biosphere Stewardship Programme

July 2012 marked the first Biosphere Stewardship Programme (BSP). Its goal is to provide an opportunity for young people from around the world to meet and discuss current global environmental challenges. The international student body, composed of teens aged 14 to 19, was created to simulate how future environmental challenges must be addressed by all stakeholders who may or may not

be from the same place (as with the case of climate change for example).

The students, who come from Bali, the United States and Singapore, focused on all biomes present in Bali Barat National Park, which include a savannah, rain forest, coral reef, mangrove, and monsoon forest. Participants in the programme were taken to different biomes within Bali Barat National Park to experience their beauty first-hand. Once students appreciated the importance of each biome, they were educated about the difficult issues that were presenting themselves, such as large amounts of trash on beaches, pollution, climate change and overexploitation of natural resources.

International Agents For Positive Change

After students learnt about environmental threats in Bali, which in many cases were not markedly different from the problems faced by the international students at home, the group set about to formulate

strategies to become international agents for positive environmental change.

The possibility of expansion for the Biosphere Stewardship Programme (BSP) is great. The programme is planning to increase its international student body and there are already teens from Bali and Singapore who are willing to participate next year.

BSP not only gave me the opportunity to voice my environmental concerns and solutions, but also allowed me to interact with a culturally diverse community with whom I have made many friends. It was an honour to take part in such an innovative programme. I can happily say that I will be returning to college in the United States soon with my desire for exploration, at least temporarily, fulfilled.

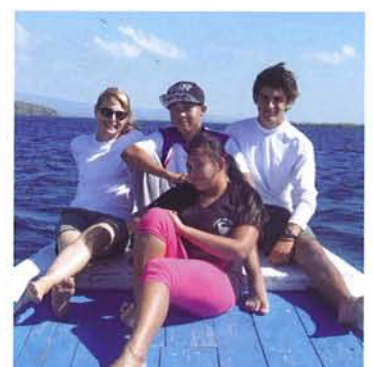
To find out more about Biosphere Foundation's Conservation & Education Programmes, visit biosfirindonesia.org



Group shot while exploring the local monsoon forest



Planting a tree at the Scientific Education and Research Center



Returning from 'A Day At The Reef' off the sacred island of Menjangan (author is on the far right)