

# YOUTH



In 2014, a sophomore student at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts went with friends for a birthday celebration to Beijing Zoo.

Little did he know that a chance encounter at the aquarium there would ignite a lifelong passion. As Xu Yitang gazed upon clusters of vibrantly hued corals of intricate shapes basking in the glow of the tank's light, a sense of wonder washed over him. Lost in the beauty and mystery of the creatures, he spent the entire afternoon in front of it.

Fast-forward to today, Xu, a Beijing native, has relocated to the tropical island of South China's Hainan province, where he serves as a coral conservationist for a Sanya-based tropical biological laboratory affiliated to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Each day, he spends several hours diving deep under the waves to observe and document the growth and development of the creatures that captured his heart all those years ago.

Xu, who goes by the moniker "coral man", is actively engaged on such social media platforms as Sina Weibo, where he regularly shares visually stunning photos and entertaining videos of corals. He aims to encourage individuals to take action in protecting coral reefs and the oceans as a whole from the destructive impact of climate change and human activities.

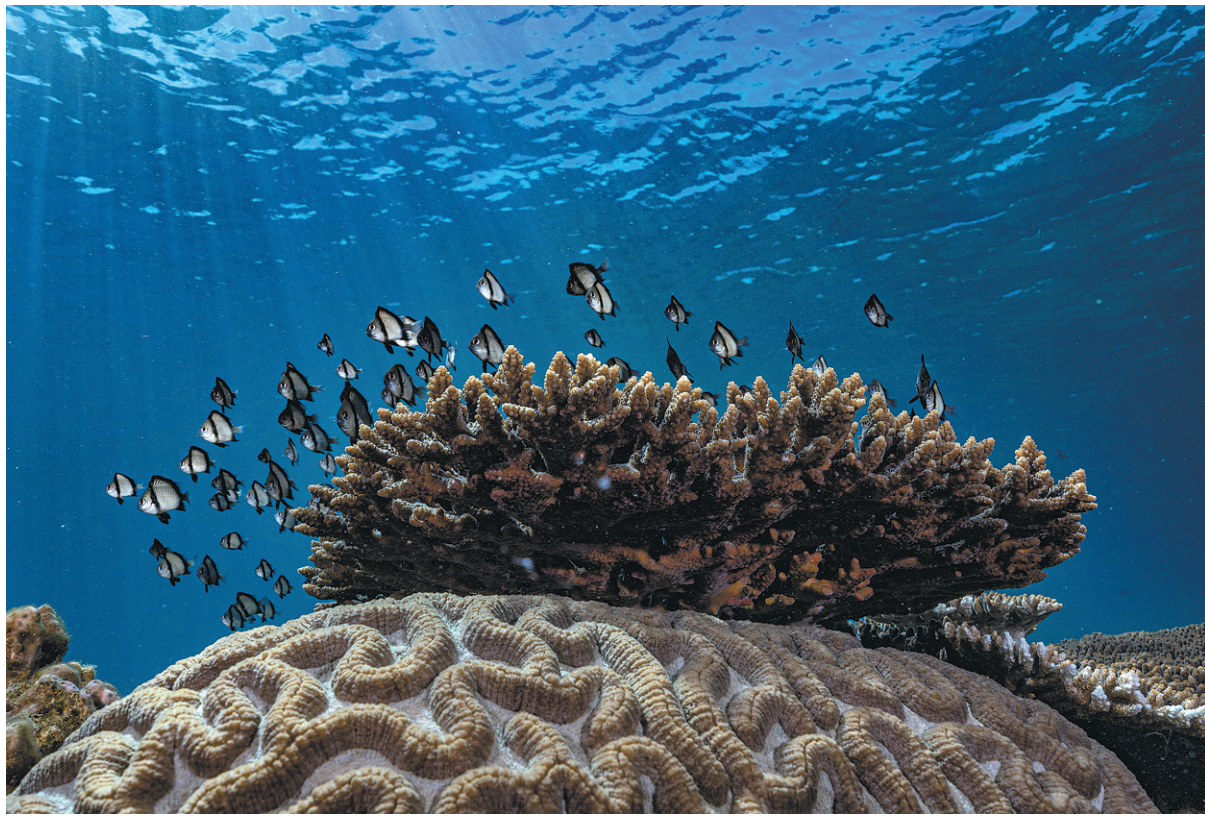
For Xu, who had been studying Peking Opera since childhood, becoming a coral conservationist was an unexpected turn of events.

After he first saw corals at the aquarium, he began to frequent the local market to learn about coral farming from merchants who sell ornamental plants, fish and corals. He also searched for information on relevant forums online. Before long, he had set up a small fish tank at home and started cultivating a coral.

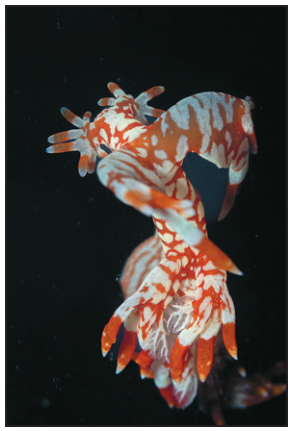
"The coral organism is quite fragile and has extremely high requirements for water quality," recalls Xu. "When I started growing coral, its state was not good."

As Xu gained knowledge about coral, including how to regulate factors like water temperature, pH levels and trace element concentrations during the cultivation process, his coral gradually started to flourish. As he delved deeper into the creature, he learned that coral reefs are known as "tropical rainforests" and "underwater gardens" of the ocean, providing a home for a quarter of all marine life.

Unfortunately, with the strengthening of the greenhouse effect, rising sea temperatures have led to



A prancing sea horse, majestic coral reef and a captivating sea slug are some of the images taken by Xu Yitang. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



and reefs. His goal was to raise awareness and knowledge about corals, so that people can learn how to protect them effectively.

"Understanding the species is the first step toward effective conservation," he says.

He also learned diving and underwater photography to get a closer look at corals for research purposes.

While pursuing his passion to protect corals, he met his life partner, Liu Xiwen, through their shared hobby of diving in Hainan.

"Unlike many young people who care about their outfit and appearance, he is solely focused on protecting corals," says Liu about Xu. "Despite his skin peeling from spending long hours in the seawater, his attitude is different from what I've seen in most young people in Beijing, and it's attractive to me."

The couple have been invited to share their stories in the recently premiered online program *Burning Youth* that aims to use documentary shorts and in-depth studio interviews to present the inspiring stories of young Chinese people from various walks of life.

Apart from Xu, its first episode, which was released on May 4, also spotlights young panda keepers and bomb-disposal experts. The program aims to showcase less well-known professions and the diverse lifestyles of young people. Eventually, 21 stories were selected to make up eight episodes.

The program invites young guests to visit each protagonist and experience their daily lives together, documenting their stories through short films. These protagonists would also be invited to the studio to share how they decided on career paths and discuss the obstacles and difficulties they have faced.

"There are different colors and choices in youth," says Wang Ning, the program's chief director.

"We don't want to approach different perspectives on youth with an authoritative attitude or lecture the younger generation. Instead, we want to recognize and embrace every unique shade of youth."

Yin Hong, a professor with the School of Journalism and Communication at Tsinghua University, comments that the program utilizes relatively unfamiliar subjects to evoke audience's emotional resonance, showing ordinary young people pursuing valuable things.

"The content can convey positive energy and mainstream values."

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## PROTECTING UNDERSEA BEAUTY

An online program on young people's career choices spotlights a coral conservationist, **Xing Wen** reports.



Xu, originally from Beijing, has relocated to Hainan to be a professional conservationist and he and his colleague often dive to monitor corals. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



coral bleaching and decay. A coral reef's beautiful colors come from the symbiotic algae zooxanthellae that provide more than 90 percent of the energy through photosynthesis. Coral bleaching occurs when coral expels the algae and dies due to the lack of nutrients.

"The clusters of dead coral covered with algae look just like a forest after a big fire, and all is ruin," he says.

"We don't want to approach different perspectives on youth with an authoritative attitude or lecture the younger generation."

Wang Ning, chief director of online program *Burning Youth*

Xu felt an increasing sense of urgency and responsibility to protect them. After graduation, he seized the opportunity to become a coral conservationist and officially joined the CAS research team in Hainan.

In the laboratory, he would film educational videos of the artificial coral breeding system to explain the relationship between coral polyps

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**项目亮点**

- 超豪华的教授阵容：由多大罗特曼商学院 (Rotman Business School) 教授亲自授课，授课中结合商业实战案例，深入浅出，让学员领略具有前瞻性的商业思维模式
- 超高含金量的课程设置：为青少年量身定制课程，内容丰富而精炼，涉及经济、金融、商业、战略和领导力，帮助年轻学员获得对国际商业管理领域的广泛视野，从而及早确定准确的专业方向
- 课程新增财测入门小测验：帮助学生更好地了解自己的兴趣，探索自我
- 多大优秀学子全程带领指导商业实战演练：每周都会安排一个小时的导师时间 (Tutorial Hour)，全程由多大商学院优秀学长学姐带领商业方面实战演练，在实践中获得真知
- 表现优秀学子可获得多大教授推荐信：成绩前 10% 优秀学员将获得多大罗特曼商学院教授推荐信，助力商学院本科或硕士申请，完成课程的学生可获得多大商学院颁发的课程结业证书，同时成为罗特曼青年社区 (Rotman Youth Community) 一员

**课程时间安排**

为期五周，每周5个课时，2小时正课+2小时正课+1小时项目辅导 (1小时项目辅导课时由多大罗特曼商学院 (Rotman Business School) 院长和学院全程带领参与学生做商业案例相关的课程项目)

**聚焦五大核心课程**

- 财测入门小测验
- 宏观与微观经济学
- 财务分析
- 金融与投资
- 市场营销
- 战略与领导力

北京时间  
\* 2023年7月11日起 每周二、周四上午8-10点，每周六上午9-10点  
多伦多时间  
\* 2023年7月10日起 每周一、周三晚上8-10点，每周五晚上9-10点  
温哥华时间  
\* 2023年7月10日起 每周二、周四下午5-7点，每周五下午6-7点



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