



The Living Reef *September 2003*

Editorial....

One of the crucial parts of MASWA's objectives is to encourage the captive propagation of marine aquarium fish and invertebrate species. To implement this objective the committee is nutting out an idea we are calling the "Frag Fest". The "Frag Fest" will occur four times a year and will entail members bringing in coral frags and propagated fish for trading or giving away to other members. Points will be earned for each trade and at the end of the year the people with the most points for breeding corals and fish will each receive a trophy. The idea of encouraging captive propagation is a good environmental measure that MASWA is proud to support. More information on this can be found in the MASWA Message Board section of the newsletter.

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings....

September 24th – Tom Devilee
55 Wanneroo Road, Greenwood

October 29th – Tony Fiorentino

November 26th – Glenn Fletcher

December 17th – Nathan Cope

January 28th 2004 – ?

February 25th 2004 – David Bloch

March 31st 2004 – ?

April 28th 2004 – ?

Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm!

The Marine Aquarists Society of WA is a name that we, as a group of friends with like interests have applied to ourselves for the purpose of information exchange. No one person, nor the group as a whole, can be held responsible for liabilities, injuries or other that may result either directly or indirectly as a result of our gatherings or the information exchange therein. The same applies to the information contained in this newsletter.

MASWA Contact Information....

Committee

President – General Enquiries

Nathan Cope - 0416 092 000

maswa@ingeniousresources.com.au

Vice President

Currently Vacant

Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries

Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264

paul@pmtco.com.au

Secretary

Currently Vacant

Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions and Membership Enquiries

David Bloch – 9304 1274

fishnut@optusnet.com.au

Webmaster – Web Page Enquiries

Jason Booth - 0416 056 380

jason@habber.net

Social Coordinator – Meeting Venue Availability and Enquiries

Tony Fiorentino - 0412 467 519

fioren@iinet.net.au

Science Officer – Literature Research and Scientific Information

Paul Groves – 0421 803 288

paul@nw.com.au

Web Address

www.masa.asn.au/maswa/

Membership Payments

Make cheques payable to:

Paul Tayler (MASWA Treasurer)

PO Box 7185

Shenton Park WA 6008

Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please don't hesitate to contact the Newsletter Editor, David Bloch on the phone number or email address listed above. Contributions to the newsletter need to be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting date.

AQUARIUM ANTICS

Controlling undesirable algae growth in the aquarium can be a nightmare.

Sometimes despite frequent water changes, careful feeding and low stocking levels algae will persist in a few places in the aquarium. There are many ways to get rid of these troublesome tufts of algae growth.

Some methods include:

- **REMOVAL** of the offending rock or breaking off the piece of rock that has the algae growth on it.
- **SCRUBBING** and scrubbing and scrubbing and scrubbing etc.
- **BIOLOGICAL CONTROL** of the algae by placement of critters such as snails and hermit crabs directly on it.
- **COVER-UP** of the site of algal growth with epoxy putty.
- **REPLANTING** area of undesirable algae growth with a more desirable algae (seaweed).
- **CHEMICAL WARFARE** the algae growth zone with small amount of acid or sodium hydroxide delivered through a needle tipped syringe!

July Meeting Rundown....

By: Nathan Cope

Last month's meeting was at the home of Jan Anderson, the winner of the 2002 MASWA "I Did It My Way" Trophy. Last time we saw Jan's aquarium, he had set up an empty aquarium

behind it to give the illusion of the main tank extending back into a natural chasm or canyon. This time the empty aquarium had been filled and now houses some soft corals to further add to the illusion of a real life reef canyon right in Jan's household. Jan says that it is a real pain keeping the glass clean on what is effectively both sides of the back pane of his main tank, but those who attended the meeting would say that it is worth it. The two tanks are run on the same system and together comprise approximately 1000 litres.

Jan's main tank houses two very large Sarcophytos which nicely frame the rest of the bay-window style tank. There are also several colonies of a fast-growing species of Xenia throughout the two aquariums. This is the mother colony of the multitude of frags of this species that are now found in the aquariums of many MASWA members.

August Meeting Information....

If anyone out there in the world of MASWA is interested in breeding their fish or fragging their corals then this is the meeting for you! We are heading back to the northern suburbs to see the aquarium and breeding setup of Tom Devilee. Tom is a pretty cluey guy when it comes to breeding and growing fish. He has bred all sorts of freshwater fish and has now begun his long quest to breed marines.

Some of Tom's breeding success stories to date have been his clownfish, some local blennies and his secretive redish coloured dottybacks (can't remember what species? Ed.).

Nathan Cope will also be demonstrating how to frag hard corals and will talk about the new MASWA "Frag Fest" (see MASWA Message board for more details) program that will be implemented soon.

If there is anyone coming who is experienced with Red Sea Berlin protein skimmer then Tom needs your advice!

Hope to see you all there, drive safe if the weather is bad, do the environment a favour and car pool!

MASWA Message Board....

Get Ready for the AGM in January!

Time is getting closer to the most important event in the MASWA calendar, the AGM. The AGM will be run in January at the first general meeting of the year. This year we have run MASWA without a full committee. Missing were the positions of Secretary and Vice President. Next year we want to fill all the positions so that we can do a better job at organising and running MASWA.

The Positions in the MASWA committee are:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Webmaster

Social Coordinator

Science Officer

What does it mean to be a MASWA committee member? For six days a year (every second month) you get to take an active role in the running of MASWA. You also get to sample the delights of Marilyn's cooking (Paul Taylor's wife). The pay is crap - \$0.0 however the social interaction and "stories" you hear are very entertaining!

To be in the committee you need to be nominated either by yourself or someone else, and if no one else is nominated for that position you are elected to that position. If there are other nominees then a vote is taken by the members for the successful candidate for the position.

If you think you have what it takes and are keen to help out then please talk to a committee member at the upcoming meeting and make your intentions known

Meeting Venues WANTED!

The thought of hosting a MASWA meeting for some is quite daunting. It is nothing to be nervous or worried about. You don't need to have the biggest or best aquarium either. In fact the whole idea behind hosting a meeting is to get helpful advice and ideas to improve or solve any problems you may have.

If you have an algae problem, fish disease problem, your corals keep dying, you can't get your protein skimmer to foam then this is your chance to get some good wholesome advice! We are all here to help, not to criticise or condemn.

Come and put your name down for a meeting, next year is wide open. It's a great experience and it's great at forcing you to clean your glass and give the old aquarium a good going over!

If you would like to host a meeting please contact our Social Coordinator, Tony to book your spot.

MASWA Raffle News....

September has arrived and guess what that means? It's the super duper bumper extra special raffle! This month we will have a two marine ID books, a crustacean and a fish book. We will also have the usual aquarium shop vouchers plus some *Pocilopora damicornis* and *Xenia sp.* frags up for grabs. Both coral frag species are cuttings from long term captive aquarium corals.

MASWA FRAG FEST!

One of the Objects of Association of MASWA is to encourage the captive breeding or propagating of marine organisms and facilitate their exchange. With this aim in mind, last month the MASWA Committee announced that a register will be held to record the number of propagated animals brought to MASWA meetings. In fact, a register for two separate categories will be held - one for invert propagation (mostly coral frags are expected, but other inverts are also eligible) and the other for fish breeding. A point will be awarded for each separate animal or colony brought to MASWA meetings for the purpose of trading or raffling them to other members (points will not be awarded to members for animals that are sold to other members). The person who has the most points in each category at the end of the year will be awarded a prize. At this stage, it is likely (although not definite) that the results of these registers will also determine the winner of this year's "Fecund Fishy" and "Slice and Dice" Trophies.

Please note, frags made on the day of the meeting will already be stressed and moving them to a new aquarium will only stress them more, potentially killing the frag. This may give people the indication that fragging corals is not very reliable or successful. As we are trying to encourage propagation, it is preferable that frags are made a week or two prior to the meeting you intend to bring them to in order to ensure that they have stabilised. We will be setting up a holding tank at the "Frag Fest" meetings to hold the frags in so that they can be seen properly and kept in healthy condition prior to trading.

Likewise, if you would like to trade or raffle fish you have bred, please ensure they are old enough to no longer require a special diet before bringing them to a meeting.

Fishy Links and News....

ATTACK OF THE CRAZED CARP!

ST. LOUIS (Aug. 28) - Crazy carp have invaded Missouri's rivers. Two species of non native carp have been jumping into boats, injuring occupants and damaging the watercraft. A state fisheries biologist motoring near Columbia had a filling knocked out of his tooth by a high-flying fish that struck him on the side of the head. Another state biologist in the St. Charles area was seriously hurt when he was hit by a giant carp.

Brian Todd of the Missouri Department of Conservation said the big head carp and silver carp were brought to private fish hatcheries from Asia by the aquaculture industry. They were intended to eat excess algae and waste in aquaculture ponds - which grow fish for food as well as bait and tropical fish. But they escaped in floodwaters in 1993, 1995 and 2002.

"This could be an indefinite problem," Todd said. "They are safe to eat, but ecologically they could damage the mussel population and are competing with native fish for food. We are going to hear more and more over the next few years about the problems these fish are causing, especially injuries to boaters and anglers."

Todd said the carp have been spotted in many of Missouri's rivers, including throughout the Missouri River.

"The sound of a propeller under water makes these fish go crazy," Todd said. "The fish don't jump if you're sitting there without the motor on, but the higher the RPMs, the greater the noise, the higher these fish jump."

Buy, Sell and Swap....

REEF AQUARIUM AND CABINET

122cm X 75cm X 61cm black silicon aquarium with 2X overflow and 2X inlet holes on pine cabinet. Includes all plumbing, powerheads, glass sump, downdraft protein skimmer (no pump), gravity feed water top up valve and hanging light hood (not including lights!). **\$800 ONO.**

Contact David on:

email: fishnut@optusnet.com.au

mobile: 0411 066 095