



# The WAVE

Your LINK to SEASL Events

February, 2007

VOLUME I NUMBER X

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## February Meeting Announcement

### Do-It-Yourself Discussion

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday February 10th at the [Weber Road Library Branch, 4444 Weber Road, St. Louis 63123](#). The topic is Do-It-Yourself and we invite all DIYers & DIY-wannabes to join us! We'll learn how to bond acrylic and a host of other modification and build techniques and ideas.

If you have a DIY project you would like to share, please contact [Tom Gibbons](#). Everyone is welcome to participate with a demonstration, pictures, or just a brief description. We're looking for all types of projects, from sump building to maxijet mods to calcium reactors and woodworking. Jim Craig, Barry Pearlman, Nick Jansen, and Ryan Snodgrass have all volunteered to demonstrate and explain several DIY projects for us, and we have room for more!

As is our custom, this event is open to everyone who would like to attend. Membership is encouraged but not required. **SEASL Members will have the opportunity to win a new MaxiJet with Mod kit for FREE!!**

Our annual trip to Inland Aquatics, which has been held in January for several years, has been scheduled for March 24 to help us accommodate all of our programs. This year we'll be treated to a special presentation by Inland's owner, Morgan Lidster, on algal turf scrubbers and post-traumatic shipping disorder. We appreciate Inland's hospitality to SEASL and we're sure they'll give us as warm of a reception in March as they have always given us in January.

Keep an eye on [www.seasl.org](http://www.seasl.org) for more details!

## Vote on Proposed SEASL Bylaw Amendment

### Cast Your Ballot for Electronic Officer Nominations and Election Votes

SEASL currently has a bylaw amendment before the membership for a vote. The proposed amendment would allow club members to electronically nominate candidates for officer positions. It would also enable members to cast their election votes electronically.

The amendment will affect Article VI, Section 1, Paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 as follows:

*Paragraph 2: All officers of the Association are to be elected by the membership of the Association. The results of the election will be announced at the regular monthly membership meeting to be held in April of each year, except as provided in Article V, Section 2, Paragraph 1. Members may vote in person at the April meeting or electronically at the SEASL website for seven days prior to the date of the March meeting. The opening of the*

## Bylaw Amendment Vote, continued

*electronic voting period will be announced at the March meeting as well as via email and on the SEASL website.*

*Paragraph 4: Before the election of officers, nominations for each position shall be announced at the previous monthly meeting in March. Nominations may be made in person at the March meeting. Electronic nominations may be made at the SEASL website for seven days prior to the date of the March meeting. The opening of the electronic nomination period will be announced at the February meeting as well as via email and on the SEASL website. Members need not be present to be nominated or elected.*

*Paragraph 5: All members of the Association shall have the right to nominate candidates from the floor at the monthly meeting preceding the yearly elections in April, or electronically at the SEASL website for seven days prior to the date of the March meeting. The opening of the electronic nomination period will be announced at the February meeting as well as via email and on the SEASL website.*

In accordance with Article IX of the By-laws, we will accept Electronic Ballots for this amendment.

**Electronic ballots will be accepted beginning Saturday, February 3, 2007 until 11:59pm Thursday, February 8, 2007.**

To cast your electronic ballot via email, please login to [www.seasl.org](http://www.seasl.org), Click Access, Account Access, and choose My Electronic Voting. If you have not yet created an account on SEASL.org, you may do so at [http://www.seasl.org/NA\\_newAccount.php](http://www.seasl.org/NA_newAccount.php). Only paid members will be able to cast a ballot. If you experience any technical difficulty, please contact Jim Craig.

Alternatively, you may send an email with your full name and your choice, either Aye (for the amendment) or Nay (against the amendment), to [seaslbylawvote@charter.net](mailto:seaslbylawvote@charter.net). Please choose one voting method. Duplicate votes will be discarded. If we receive both an email and a website ballot from a single member, the website ballot will take precedence over the email ballot.

**In-person voting will take place at the DIY Meeting on February 10, 2007.** Votes will then be tallied and results announced.

## Meeting Previews:

### 50/50 Auction

#### March 10

The annual 50/50 auction will be held on Saturday, March 10. This is your chance to sell your unused equipment or pickup some new gear. We will have many items (mostly NEW) donated from local stores and manufacturers, but we always welcome your used and new goodies as well!

### SEASL Visits Inland Aquatics

#### March 24

SEASL will be treated to “backstage access” to the warehouse facility where we’ll be able to choose fish and corals from the main tanks in addition to hearing a special presentation.

Keep an eye on [www.seasl.org](http://www.seasl.org) for more details about these exciting events!

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## Who We Are

### SEASL - Saltwater Enthusiasts Association of St. Louis

We are a group of enthusiasts who come together to share our knowledge and learn from others about our saltwater aquarium hobby. The purpose of SEASL is to promote responsible ornamental marine fish and reef-keeping husbandry practices among hobbyists in the St. Louis area. To achieve this goal, we meet to share our knowledge, host local and nationally known guest speakers, organize field trips, and engage in group discussions. We welcome guests and encourage new members. Please join us for our next meeting.

## January Meeting Recaps

Unfortunately, an ice storm in January forced us to cancel the regular January meeting. We have rescheduled that event for February 10. Luckily, the ice didn't stop us from visiting Nashville for a Frag Swap.

On January 20, 2007, a group of SEASL members joined over 200 others in the small town of Goodlettsville, TN (just north of Nashville) for the annual Middle Tennessee Reef Club frag swap.

Lots of folks left with some really nice frags. Check out this [RC thread](#) to get an idea of what some of the SEASL folks brought home. John Henrion brought back a beautiful pair of captive-bred Black Clowns. Check this [RC thread](#) to see pictures and more. Also mentioned in the thread are fish transport bags that let oxygen in and carbon dioxide out.



Nick Jansen and Angie Neal were there with some beautiful frags for sale. They had a steady stream of customers throughout the day and definitely had a worthwhile trip.



Becky and Del had an unexpected opportunity when they stumbled upon one of their fellow MASNA BoD members, Bob Lemke of the Atlanta Reef Club, manning a booth and telling attendees about his club's annual [SaltwaterU](#) which will be held in Atlanta the weekend of May 4-6, 2007.

And speaking of MASNA BoD members, count John Henrion as a new member who has accepted the challenge of being the Membership Director. Congratulations, John!

Jim Craig was seen expanding his coral collection with some beautiful SPS specimens. Ruth Brashares was also there and helped with photographic duties.



Some interesting vendors were there as well. PFO Aquatics was demonstrating LED lighting. Interestingly enough, Joy Meadows, the sales rep, volunteered to come to SEASL's lighting discussion meeting, if her schedule allows, to demonstrate and discuss LED lighting for reef tanks. [Glasscages.com](#) was also represented and at least one customer was seen loading a custom glass aquarium into his van.



While there, some of the SEASL members toured Aquatic Critters (a very nice local fish store) and had dinner at Nashville's Aquarium Restaurant. Over all, a super field trip for all who attended. The consensus among SEASL attendees is that this is a worthwhile field trip to be placed on next year's calendar. See you there.

## Looking for a Road Trip?

### Mark those Calendars!

By: Del Brashares, SEASL roving reporter

One good thing about the cold snaps we've been experiencing in Metro St. Louis recently is some of us have spent more time tending to routine maintenance on our aquariums. It also gives us an impetus to think about some warm-weather traveling opportunities. Here are a few for your consideration, all within a reasonable driving distance.

**May 4-6, 2007**

**Saltwater U 3 Conference, hosted by the Atlanta Reef Club**



The third edition of this educational forum will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, not far from the new Georgia Aquarium. Their motto is "Preservation through Education." Scheduling is being finalized but is sure to include many of the well-known speakers in the hobby. There will be separate educational tracks for teens and other youngsters. The Atlanta Reef Club is seeking sponsorships to allow 20 underserved teens to have an opportunity to participate in a three-day educational trip to the coast of Georgia to learn about coastal ecosystems. Pre-event discount registration prices (\$49 for individual and \$95 for couple) are available through April 5, 2007. For more information, go to [www.saltwateru.com](http://www.saltwateru.com).

**June 1-3, 2007**

**International Marine Aquarium Conference (IMAC)  
Rosemont, IL (Chicago)**



This superb conference, to be held at the Rosemont Crowne Plaza, has been hosted by Dennis Gallagher and his team since 2003. This year's IMAC theme is "The Future of Reefkeeping." The registration price during February and March is \$149. In the past, these prices have included a guest but you'll need to verify. Price includes all speakers and the banquet. A side trip is available on Thursday (the day before the conference begins) for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Shedd Aquarium. One reason for registering early is the earlier you register, the more raffle tickets you receive. For example, those who registered last September and earlier receive 25 raffle tickets. February registrants will receive 6 tickets. If you wait until May, you receive 1 ticket. Among the raffle items will be an Aqua FX RO/DI unit valued at about \$800. At least 6 SEASL members were in attendance last year and all had a super time. Expect to learn a lot from the superb lineup of speakers. And each session ends with a Q&A period. For a report on last year's conference, see the May 2006 issue of *The Wave*. For more info on this year's conference, as well as videos and video segments from past IMACs, go to [www.theimac.org](http://www.theimac.org).

**June 29 –July 1, 2007**

**Doctors Foster and Smith Coral Frag Conference  
Rhineland, Wisconsin**



The third edition of this growing conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Express with side trips to the Doctors Foster and Smith retail store, warehouse, and coral frag facility. You may recall that the 2006 conference is where SEASL members Nick Jansen (AN-SPS) and Angie Neal sold a frag to Julian Sprung. Due to strong hobbyist interest, this conference may significantly increase in size compared with last year's conference. Six speakers have been lined up: Ike Eigenbrode, Dr. Timothy Hovanec, Gary Jones, Dr. Sanjay Joshi, Scott Michael, and Julian Sprung. For more information on this year's event, [click here](#). For a report on last year's conference, see the July 2006 issue of *The Wave*. Expect a superb weekend in the northlands of Wisconsin.

**September 14-16, 2007**

**Marine Aquarium Conference of North America (MACNA)  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



MACNA XIX will be hosted by the Pittsburgh Marine Aquarium Society, Inc. Yes, that's the home club of Anthony Calfo and Stephen Pro. The conference, which is owned by the Marine Aquarium Societies of North America, will be held in the Radisson Hotel in Pittsburgh. Expect over 100 vendors / exhibitors and many top-notch speakers. At least 16 are on the schedule as this issue went to press. Also expect a huge raffle at the end of the conference. Registration price now through the end of May is \$125 per person for the complete package. For more information on this year's conference, visit <http://www.macnaxix.com/>. Is there a MACNA in St. Louis' future? Well, with 3 SEASL members on the MASNA Board of Directors, you never know. The years 2009 and 2010 are some potential candidates. For recaps of last year's MACNA in Houston, see the October 2006 issue of *The Wave*.

## If You Have a Chance to Sit Down for a Spell By Del Brashares

With us deep into the winter season and perhaps venturing outside just a bit less frequently, perhaps it's time to catch up on your hobby periodicals.

### FAMA magazine Online

Maybe you didn't know this, but you can find a recent issue of *Fresh and Marine Aquarium* magazine online at [www.famamagazine.com](http://www.famamagazine.com). As this issue of *The Wave* goes to press, I have the April issue of *Freshwater and Marine Aquarium* in hand; meanwhile, the web site has the January edition. It appears that only one issue is available at a time online and it certainly lags the print version, giving some protection to subscribers and newsstand purchasers. You can easily download the issue in PDF format in a minute or so. Interestingly enough, the format is like having a print publication in hand. All ads are shown and the center of the digital version shows the shadow, or coming together, of the two pages. A real plus is that the digital version is searchable. In addition, you can go to the table of contents, click on the article listed, and immediately start reading the article in question. You can also click on the text of the article and increase the print size.

### Tanks Killers?

Some of you have seen the mantis shrimp in the small aquarium by the cash register at Gateway Aquatics. Some of you have them in your homes. It is said that mantis shrimp likely have the most complex set of eyes among all animals. Can you believe they can see in ultraviolet and infrared light as well as 16 visual pigments? Compare that with humans that can see only red, blue, and yellow. See Tom Bowling's article, "Tank Killers?", in the April 2007 issue of *Freshwater and Marine Aquarium* magazine for a fascinating overview of stomatopods. My favorite part of the article tells the story of a video team from Germany coming to the author's home (then in Townsville, Australia) to film the behavior and hunting skills of the author's prized male. The author withheld the usual food rations for the mantis shrimp but saved a large, live crab for a special meal once the camera crew was in place.

Well, as soon as the camera crew had its equipment in place, the crab was placed in the aquarium and as the author puts it, his mantis shrimp "put on the most elaborate and violent show of biological destruction I'd ever seen." Bowling continues, "In front of the camera, the mantis ripped off the crab's claws while grabbing all its legs at once. The crab even got hold of the

stomatopod for a second, but was quickly unarmed by the powerful blow of the mantis' artillery. We then, in amazement, watched as the stomatopod backed off to assess the larger-than-average prey and then attacked again with pinpoint accuracy and smashed the second functioning claw right at the point of leverage. The crab, now completely powerless, tried to get away but was pretty much dismantled within a few seconds."

Needless to say, the cameraman and director were extremely excited with the just-completed demonstration of nature and couldn't believe their good fortune to have it on tape. And then, the groan. At that moment, the crew noticed that the light indicator on the camera was not lit, meaning . . . . The director was so mad, he drove back to the hotel without the cameraman.

### The Seahorse that Could

In a recent *Aquarium Fish International* magazine in a Q&A section (somehow disappeared from my grasp), a lady tells the story of a seahorse that she thought had died. She takes it out of the tank and puts it in the trash. About 20 minutes later, she walks through the kitchen and hears a sound coming from the trash. Startled, she opens the trash and sees some movement in the seahorse. She puts it back in the tank and sure enough, it survives.

### Blennies and Brain Corals

For those interested in blennies and brain corals, the March 2007 issue of *Aquarium Fish International* features two fine articles: "Send in the Clown Blennies!" by Scott W Michael and "Understanding Brain Corals" by Eric Borneman. Although no anecdotes like those of the mantis shrimp and seahorse, a lot of insights and details in each article.

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## Welcome New Members!



**George Ganter**  
**Laura Gurgens**  
**Joe Weibert**

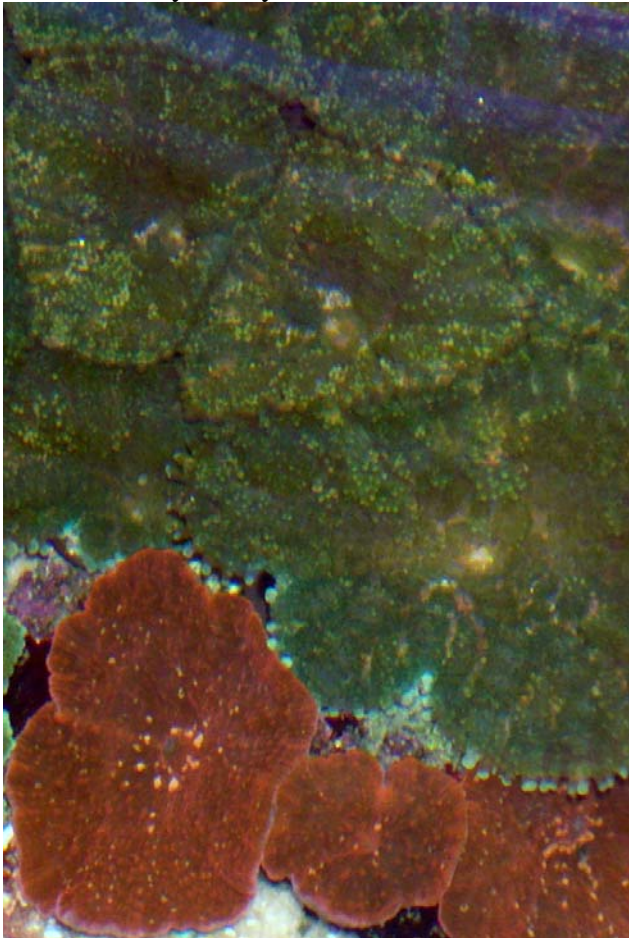
**We're glad you've joined us and we're sure you'll enjoy our meetings, event, and of course, getting to know our members!**

## Show Us Your Baby!!

Orange Ocellaris peeking from orange E. quadricolor anemone  
by Becky McAlister



Stoplight 'shrooms by Becky McAlister



## Get Your Name Published Here!

If you have an article, tip, picture, or other hobby-related item you would like to share, please contact [Becky McAlister](#) and we'll be sure to publish it in an upcoming edition of *The Wave*.

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## The SEASL Squad

### Executive Officers

Brad Witte, Becky McAlister, Tom Gibbons

### Secretary

Del Brashares

### Membership Chairman

Jim Craig

### Treasurer

Barry Pearlman

### Webmaster

Darrin Trager

How to Reach Us:

<http://www.seasl.org/contactPage.php>