



SEPTEMBER 2006 Thanks to Tim Brashares for this month's title art!! VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

In This Issue:

Page 1

SEASL'S September Meeting

PVC for Your Pistol Shrimp and Goby

By Bill McAlister (Cont'd Page 5)

Page 2

If Hans and Frans Were Reef Keepers...

By Jim Craig

Welcome New Members

Who We Are

Page 3

August Outing Recap (Marine Solutions)

The Wave Title Art

The SEASL Squad (Contact Us)

Page 4

Aquatic Treasures is Moving!

By Del Brashares (Cont'd Page 5)

Page 6

SEASL Seeks Website Content

Publisher

Show Us Your Baby!

Tips & Tricks

SEASL Takes a Look at Captive Propagation in the Reef Keeping Hobby

SEASL's September meeting will be an open discussion focused on captive breeding and propagation. This meeting is open to everyone and we encourage your participation. Whether you are a newbie or a veteran, you can add to the discussion by asking questions or providing answers. After all, that's what makes an open discussion great!

To get the conversation started, a few of our members have agreed to share their knowledge with us. Kathy Leahy will give us a presentation about clownfish breeding. Nick Jansen will share his knowledge of coral propagation, and Roy Brown has agreed to share his experience with breeding seahorses.

The meeting will be held:
Saturday, Sep 9 at 11:00am
St. Louis County Library Headquarters
1640 S Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63131

Feel free to bring a list of questions with you. We will all do our best to answer your questions and share our knowledge.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to share their experiences and learn about a topic that is very important to the future of our hobby. We hope to see you there.

PVC for Your Pistol Shrimp and Goby

By: Bill McAlister

Everyone loves the symbiotic relationship between a Pistol Shrimp and a Shrimp Goby, but most everyone dislikes the constant construction that accompanies these reef characters. Corals are covered by sand, flipped over, or even incorporated into burrows. Aquascaping that was painstakingly constructed is toppled, rearranged, buried, and otherwise obscured. Surely there must be a solution!

I decided to try pre-constructing burrows for my pistol shrimp and yellow watchman goby. In my 24 gallon Nano-Cube, I created a burrow using 1-inch PVC pipe, a T-union, and three 45-degree elbows. I chose not to glue the pieces together in case I wanted to remove them later. (Continued on Page 5)

If Hans and Frans Were Reef Keepers....

By: Jim Craig

Their corals would be “pumped,” with little polyp muscles bulging out of the tank. But hey, isn’t that what we all want? So, how do you pump up the growth rate in your corals? Well, you could increase lighting and circulation. Both are proven growth enhancers for some corals, but not all. And, that could certainly be a very expensive option. Or, you could increase your feeding, from which nearly all corals will benefit. So, the question becomes, what do you feed?

Here are the two methods where I get the most bang for the minimum buck.

Once a day, if I remember, I use a turkey-baster to agitate a small part of the sand bed. In my old systems, that serves two purposes. It puts the detritus in suspension so my skimmer and mechanical filter can remove it. But, it also stirs up bacteria and micro critters. When done on a regular basis, I get a definite growth spurt in my SPS corals and especially my leathers. My leather corals have never thrived for me, and this method has been my crutch.

If you have just a little room in your budget, my favorite food additive is golden pearls from Brineshrimpdirect.com. In the morning, while the tanks are dark, I feed the 5-50 micron size golden pearls. I dose it using a simple fish food feeding timer—so I never forget—that drops the golden pearls into to the sump in front of the return pump.

Both methods are cheap, easy, and “will (clap) pump them up.”



**Welcome
New Members!**

Bruce & Jennifer Thompson

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!

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.

August Outing Recap

Marine Solutions Store Visit

By: Becky McAlister

Marine Solutions in St. Charles, MO hosted a terrific pizza party for SEASL on August 22. This special event was held exclusively for SEASL club members, and included many generous offers. Everyone in attendance was able to take advantage of special discounts, and the shop handed out many door prizes, including a \$50.00 gift certificate.



Approximately 60 people attended the event, and those who did were rewarded with plenty of free pizza and great deals on fish, corals, and other reef-related goodies. There was even a counter full of free products for interested takers.

Additionally, Marine Solutions made a surprise announcement; all card-carrying SEASL members will receive a 10% in-store discount!

Hats off to Marine Solutions for hosting this event. We appreciate your support for the club and we're sure you'll be seeing more of us in the months to come.

The Wave Title Art

Thanks to **Tim Brashares**, for submitting this month's masthead.

We're still searching for some great title art to grace the cover of *The Wave*.

We'll be featuring guest artists for the next few months. Send us your title idea and we'll print it in an upcoming issue.

If you have anything you'd like to contribute, feel free to send it to Becky McAlister at becks@socket.net or McBeck on Reef Central.

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>

Aquatic Treasures is Moving!

By: Del Brashares

The first of September marks the beginning of a new era for Aquatic Treasures as it moves to a new location – 712 Lincoln Highway in Fairview Heights. August has been a particularly challenging, frustrating, and exhilarating month for the crew. The team was split between conducting operations in its to-be-closed location while making preparations to open the new location. On the weekend before the grand opening, the new store had no signage, shelves were being finished, tanks were being moved, and plumbing completed. Take a look at the signs in the picture below. Just 4 U Wholesale / Retail? Handbag & Jewelry Warehouse? What gives??



There'll be an aquatics store here in six days? The sawhorses and power saw are going to have to work overtime

Velko well remembers the lessons he learned when opening up his first Fairview Heights location a few years ago. After finding a good location, he told the landlord what he envisioned. He mentioned that he needed a wall in a particular location. Well, the landlord had a wall built. Unfortunately, when the inspector came and did not see all the appropriate paperwork, he ordered the wall opened up so he could examine the electrical work. Later, along the same wall, one electrical inspector stated that the wiring looked good for one wall of aquariums. When it came time for the final inspection, a different inspector showed up and had a different view. Much to Velko's chagrin, the wall of

aquariums had to be rewired.

Now, fast forward to a few weeks before the opening of the new store. A vaguely familiar face walks in and recognizes Velko. Imagine Velko's surprise when the inspector says, "Didn't we have problems with a wall in your other store?" It took some work, but Velko convinced the inspector that the landlord was responsible for the wall in question. Now let's see, there's the building permit, the plumbing permit, the electrical permit, the fire permit, and yes, the sign permit. Velko definitely knows where City Hall is.

So why did he go through all this trouble and relocate? After all, most of us have somewhat of an idea of how much work it was to get Gateway Aquatics up and running this year as well as the major overhaul of Beldt's that occurred last year. It was a combination of things. He believes in the adage: location, location, location. The new location is right on Lincoln Highway whereas the former store was barely visible from Lincoln Highway. Velko believes the new location will be easier for aquatic enthusiasts to reach and the parking situation is improved. Slightly cheaper rent didn't hurt either. His neon sign and the distinctive glow of his display tank will now be visible from Lincoln Highway.

While the new location is just a bit smaller, Velko believes he will be able to use the space much more efficiently. New carpet and new paint will help as well. Remember the mural in the previous location? The same gal is on tap to do another mural at the new store. Aquatic Treasures will have more fish, inverts, and more space devoted to coral frags.

One of the first things set up was the display tank. The crew installed the lights, got the aquarium moved, and added new saltwater. Next came the live rock, the coral, and the livestock. So far, so good – everything survived the move. For the past week or so, the early evening hours served as the new store's only form of advertisement – the telltale sign of metal halides clearly visible from the front window. The neon sign that the first Fairview Heights store had was taken down and reset on a frame so it could be mounted on the angled roof of the new location.

Aquatic Treasures is Moving! Continued from Page 4



The first tank set up was the main display tank from the previous store. The glow from the metal halides is visible from Lincoln Highway in the early evening.

When was the last time you worked a do-it-yourself project? It seems that no matter how thoroughly you plan and work your plan, something is bound to be overlooked. Velko has been planning the relocation for months. As he was nearing completion of a plumbing project, he looked all around and realized he was missing an inexpensive one-inch elbow to finish the task. You guessed it, an unscheduled trip to Lowe's. As this goes to press, among the last things to do before the grand opening are setting up the reverse osmosis unit and getting the telephone / modem / fax / credit card lines set up.

The old store closed after business on August 27. The final inspection at the new store is due on August 30 and the following day is reserved for taking care of any last-minute hitches.

By the time the September edition of *The Wave* hits the SEASL website, Velko and crew will be welcoming their first customers at their new storefront. Velko gives special greetings to all his SEASL friends and looks forward to showing off his new store. Next month's issue will have photos of the new store in operation, i.e., don't expect to come and purchase handbags or jewelry. And by the way, if anyone is interesting in opening a business in Fairview Heights, Velko stands by to assure you that the old adage is true: you can't fight City Hall.

PVC For Your Pistol Shrimp and Goby Continued from Page 1

I placed the PVC tunnels on the bottom of my empty tank, and partially covered them with sand. I then arranged my rock on top of the PVC to make sure it had a sturdy foundation. This ensured the shrimp and goby wouldn't crush themselves by excavating too much substrate from under a rock. After I was satisfied with the rockwork, I scooped the remainder of the sand in and around my PVC and rock creation, and then slowly filled the tank with saltwater.

I adopted my shrimp and goby from fellow reefer Lisa Brown. When the pair arrived, I released the shrimp first. I held the bag so he would drop near one of the "tunnel" openings, and he went right in. Next I released the goby, who quickly found the shrimp and joined him in the tunnel.

The pair has three openings to their home, and they rarely keep all three open at the same time. It is interesting to find one door shut and a different one open each day, but I regret having an opening that is too far toward the back of the tank. It isn't as easy for me to see them when they use the back door.

I have noticed that the pair will dig outside of their tunnel, but they do not move nearly as much substrate as I think they would without their PVC home. They have not toppled any rocks or created any sand mountains, which is a plus. Occasionally they expose the PVC, but they usually cover it back up in a day or so. Additionally, their digging seems to be slowing down as they become more comfortable in their new surroundings.

If you are considering a shrimp and goby pair, I highly recommend using PVC to pre-construct their burrows. It's easy, cheap, and makes for great entertainment.

SEASL Seeks Website Content Publisher

SEASL is searching for an individual who is interested in helping with the SEASL website. Specifically, our Events page needs someone to maintain it. This includes meeting announcements, minutes, and photos.

Responsibilities include:

- Adding new SEASL meetings to system
- Updating any changes in a timely manner
- Modifying photos to fit size allowed as well as sharpening and adjusting colors properly

Skills necessary:

- Top-notch Photo manipulation skills (i.e. Photoshop)
- HTML, Javascript, CSS, DHTML skills (hand-coding)

You must have a computer readily available with a broadband connection. All updates should be completed soon after request so the site stays as current as possible.

We'll provide some photos so you can show off your skills!

This is a volunteer position that will hopefully be filled by an active member of SEASL. Our members fuel our growth and our success, and this is just another way for you to shine!

If interested, please contact Darrin Trager at admin@reefwerkes.com.

Tips & Tricks

When I do water changes, it is usually upwards of 80 gallons. In order to keep track of how many buckets of water I have vacuumed out, I make tick marks on the tank with a crayon. This is an easy way to keep track and it wipes off very easily when the water change is done.

George Rissmann

Show Us Your Baby!!

John Legate shows us he can do more than keep a reef tank!



Thanks to photographer John Henrion and PhotoShopper Eddie Pelikan