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Thanks to Tim Brashares for this month's title art!!

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## SEASL's October Meeting Announcement Tank Tour in West County

The October meeting will be organized as a tank tour. We will visit two reef tanks in O'Fallon, MO on **Saturday Oct 14 at 10:00am**. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Feel free to bring a friend along!

The meeting will begin at John Legate's (Fade32 on RC) home. John's address is [1 Crazy Horse Court, O'Fallon, MO 63366](#). As many of you are aware, John has a custom-made 450 gallon acrylic tank in his basement. It has been running since about February of this year and it is a great mixed-reef display.

We will then move to the home of John's parents, Gary and Sally Legate, and his brother Kenny, who live just around the corner. Their address is [32 Treaty Court, O'Fallon, MO 63366](#). The Legate's currently have 3 tanks, including a 58 gallon SPS/LPS tank, a 180 gallon softy tank, and a 300 gallon holding tank that is temporary housing until their 375 setup is complete.

Brother Kenny also has a 200 gallon fish only with live rock and a 75 gallon "miscellaneous" tank. This family certainly loves reefing in economy sizes!

Come on out and join us for this tank tour. You are sure to see some interesting aquariums, meet some fun people, and have a great time with your fellow hobbyists.

Remember, SEASL meetings are a great time for trading fish, corals, & equipment. So post your buy or sell desires on the SEASL Frag/Item Swap Page and make your exchange at the meeting!

As an added bonus, our tank tour is just a few miles west of [Marine Solutions](#). We've included a [map](#) from the Legate's home to Marine Solutions for anyone wishing to stop by after the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

## Congratulations New MASNA Officers!

### SEASL's own Del Brashares and Becky McAlister join the MASNA Board of Directors

The annual MASNA meeting was held at the beginning of this year's MACNA in Houston. SEASL's Del Brashares and Becky McAlister were elected to the MASNA Board of Directors. Del fills the position of Newsletter Editor and Becky will serve as Director at Large. Both will participate in the monthly MASNA Board of Directors call and will have a vote in which city will host MACNA XX in 2008. The board acts much like the site selection committee for the Olympics. Do we hear St. Louis as a potential nominee for 2009? Del served as the SEASL delegate at the MASNA meeting.

The 2007 MASNA calendar was released with 12 great pictures selected by a distinguished panel that included Anthony Calfo, Eric Borneman, and Daniel Knop. Del has 18 calendars for sale at \$6 each. Proceeds will go to MASNA. Calendars will be brought to the SEASL Reef Tours on October 14, 2006.

## September Meeting Recap Captive Propagation Discussion

SEASL's September 9, 2006 meeting was a cozy gathering focused on an important topic in this hobby: captive breeding and propagation.

Before we got to the keynote presentations, Del Brashares provided background on the Marine Aquarium Societies of North America and proposed that SEASL join MASNA. MASNA's goal is to ensure a sustainable future for marine environments and the marine aquarium hobby. After a few questions, attendees agreed that SEASL should become a member. More information about MASNA may be found at [www.masna.org](http://www.masna.org).

Kathy Leahy gave a wonderful presentation about her experience breeding *A. ocellaris*. Her presentation was loaded with superb pictures and video and gave the attendees an excellent idea of what it takes to breed *A. ocellaris*.



*Kathy shows us a mass of eggs and a group of 5-month-old ocellaris.*

After a lengthy Q&A session, Kathy turned the floor over to Nick Jansen who provided insights on his experiences with coral propagation. Nick provided advice on mounting his frags, types of adhesives to use, and on their placement in the tank. He also recounted his experiences at the Doctors Foster and Smith Coral Frag Conference in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, where he was honored to be able to sell a frag to Julian Sprung.

If anyone is interested in captive breeding and/or propagation but missed this meeting, keep an eye on *The Wave* for a recap of Kathy's presentation.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The discussion was a welcome addition to the SEASL meeting roster and we will definitely organize more discussion-based meetings in the future.

## November Meeting Previews:

### Tank Chemistry Discussion

#### November 11

SEASL will host a round-table discussion focusing on water chemistry in captive reef aquaria. If you have questions about pH, Calcium, or anything related to water quality, you'll want to mark this one on your calendar!

### Eric Borneman visits SEASL

#### November 18

Eric will speak to SEASL on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to have him here. This is a "don't miss" event!

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.



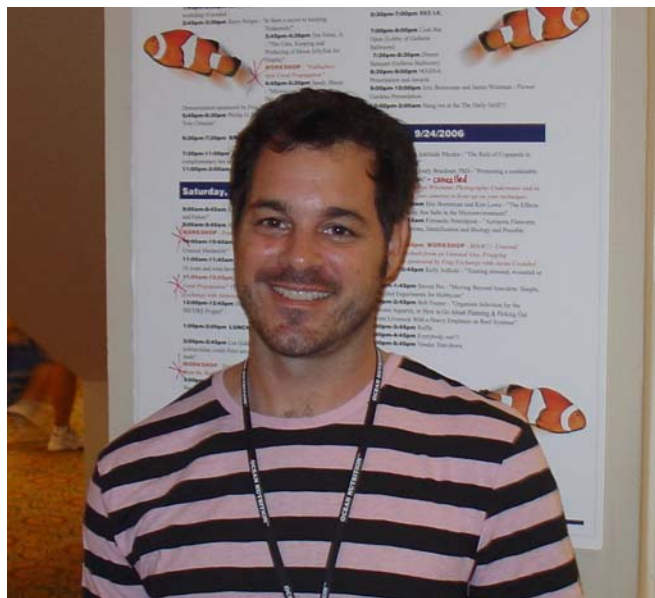
# MACNA XVIII

Houston, Texas, September 22-24, 2006

By: Del Brashares

In the early 1990s, James Wiseman (scuba diver, marine aquarist, and marine photographer) arrived in Houston and visited his friend Eric Borneman. James asked to visit some of the local marine clubs and was surprised to learn there were none. They decided to start a club and created a flyer to distribute to local fish stores. The response most often heard was that it's been tried before and it won't work. Well, not only does Houston have a super club, MARSH (The Marine and Aquarium Reef Society of Houston), but they served as host to a super show – MACNA XIII (The Marine Aquarium Conference of North America).

On the first day, I was informed that at least 600 had registered and 121 vendors were present. At the banquet, MARSH club members stated that 1,200 had attended the conference. As usual, lots of superb speakers, a variety of interesting products, lots of coral and some livestock, and opportunities for interaction with fellow hobbyists.



*Eric Borneman moments after releasing preliminary results of his synthetic sea salt research at MACNA XVIII. Photo by Del Brashares.*

While interest in nanocubes continues to grow in the U.S., many hobbyists have had them for years. Julian Sprung gave a presentation entitled “Nano Aquariums: Past, Present, and Future.” It was fascinating seeing pictures of a youthful Julian with shoulder-length hair next to his various aquariums over the years with lots of home-made equipment including skimmers. As a 5-year-old (1971), Julian had a small tank with angel fish and bleached coral. While he had a strong interest in bare-bottom tanks, he'll admit that you really couldn't see the bottom of his tanks because they were typically covered by zoanths and soft corals. He chuckled a bit when he mentioned his 15-gallon

aquarium from around 1995 that was so stuffed that it didn't seem to have much water. Julian stated that while his European audiences are respectful when he talks about nanocubes across the Atlantic, he says that some tell him in private that it is not responsible behavior to promote nanocubes.

Speaking of nanocubes, Red Sea introduced a new nanocube that should be available shortly. It has 29 gallons in the main compartment and 5 gallons in the back with room for a chiller, a protein skimmer, and other accoutrements. The hood can be held up (much like a hood on a car) for access to whatever is needed. The glass is thicker as well. Expect the nanocube to cost more than other comparable-sized aquariums. The goal was to create a fair-sized nanocube that addressed issues expressed by other nanocube owners.

Charles Delbeek, co-author with Julian Sprung of the Reef Aquarium series stated that MACNA seems to be the one time a year when he gets to see Julian, his co-author in the Reef Aquarium Series. Charles transplanted from Toronto to the Waikiki Aquarium in 1995. The aquarium, the third oldest in the U.S., is affiliated with the University of Hawaii and was the first to house black-tipped sharks. He related that he set up an aquarium with hundreds of pounds of live rock to house some rare fish such as a Rosewater Fairy Wrasse as I recall. A number of months later, some fish started disappearing. Turns out they discovered a moray eel that must have entered the tank amongst the rock.

Charles ended the presentation by showing dozens of pictures of rare fish from locales such as the Pitcairn Islands and Johnston Island as well as locations hundreds of feet down that no other aquarium houses. Sometimes, there's a decision to make: should we keep the fish alive and in the aquarium or should we pickle a specimen for others to study. On a side note, Charles states that if you are interested in keeping a leafy sea dragon, be prepared to pay at least \$5,000 from a wholesaler and add to that \$200 a week for live juvenile tiger shrimp. If you're lucky, you just might be able to wean the sea dragon off the exotic live food. Finally, how about photosynthetic coral at a depth of 400 feet? Hard to “fathom.”

One of the really fascinating presentations was from Sandy Shoup, entitled “Microscope Safari through the Desert Reef.” Over the past few years, Sandy (an accountant) took Eric Borneman's online coral biology class and was one of eight graduates. She also took Dr. Shimek's online invertebrate zoology class. In one of her sessions, she was supposed to take a census of the critters in her 220-gallon tank. A quarter-sized sample in a petrie dish yielded hundreds of inhabitants. After a number of samples and many hours of counting, she estimated that she had about one million creatures in her tank. She has a compound microscope, two dissecting microscopes, along with digital cameras and video cameras. It was really amazing seeing pictures and video of copepods and other creatures up close and personal. Literally a dog-eat-dog world. Speaking of which, one evening at supper time, she was relaying some of the results of her microscopic fauna research. Somewhat tongue in cheek, her husband interrupted and asked whether this topic was appropriate for dinner conversation.

Another fascinating recent product of note is the Spacearium from Aquarium ASP. The company displayed a 55-gallon, elliptical, hanging acrylic aquarium. It is 6 feet long x 28½ inches tall x 12 inches wide at the center. The aquarium can effectively serve as a room divider. It can hang from the ceiling by aviation-grade steel suspension cables. The aquarium retails for close about \$5,950 and includes mounting hardware, filtration system, and the lighting fixture.



*The Spacearium (photo courtesy of Aquarium ASP)*

At the banquet, the MASNA “Aquarist of the Year” was awarded to Sanjay Joshi, a professor at Penn State University. In addition to keeping three reef aquariums at home, Sanjay co-manages the 500-gallon aquarium at Penn State. Sanjay’s recent focus has been on lighting systems for reef aquariums.

I’ve only barely sampled the highlights of this superb conference. While it does cost a fair bit for travel, lodging, fees, and any requisite aquatic purchases, it almost always seems to be well worth the cost. Hopefully we’ll have a stronger SEASL presence at future MACNAs.

As I was helping to tear down the MASNA booth, a vendor came up and stated that this was his fourth MACNA and that he had never had such a memorable experience on all accounts. So how did I like it? Well, I was among the 50+ who pre-registered at the show for MACNA XIX in Pittsburgh.

## 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](#) or McBeck on Reef Central.

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## Welcome New Members!

Jeff Waller  
Edward & Kellie Holderman  
Matt Bunch

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!

# Do You Love Tridacnids??

By: Del Brashares

So you love clams? Perhaps you even have some Tridacnids in your aquarium? For better or worse, too many people like to eat these clams and in some areas of the tropical Pacific, Gigas have been harvested to the point of being wiped out. If you were at MACNA in September, you would have likely heard a fine presentation by Barry Neigut, founder of ClamsDirect.com. His presentation was entitled "Is There a Secret to Keeping Tridacnids?"

When procuring Tridacnids, Barry states it is critical to examine the byssal opening as well as inspecting for pyramidal snails and bleaching. Remember that many wholesalers keep the salinity at 1.020 to 1.022. Some use the color scale of ultra, electric, and first grade. Tridacnids grading ultra could easily bring twice the amount of those grading first grade.

Some Tridacnid owners keep them in aquariums that have a front angled at 45 degrees. Most of you are aware that the true colors of the Tridacnid can best be seen from the top. Barry relates the story of a customer looking down at a Tridacnid in the store and loving the purple color. The next day, the customer calls and asks if there is something wrong with the clam because it looked more green. As you guessed, the customer was looking at the clam from the front of the tank.



*T. crocea* as viewed from above. Photo by Becky McAlister

Beware of the copperband butterfly. If the Tridacnid was in the tank first, it might be able to coexist with the butterfly. If the copperband was there first, look for another tank for your Tridacnid. Barry added that Americans typically don't get the first pick of the best specimens as the Japanese and Europeans are willing to pay much higher prices.

He related a story of a customer who spent about \$800 for nine Tridacnids. The next morning, the customer calls Barry and asks,

"What's the warranty on the clams?" Of course, this raised a red flag with Barry. He asked, "What's the problem?" The customer explained that all the clam shells are empty. Barry asked what else was in the tank. Among other items, the customer replied, "Four puffers." No, the customer did not get a refund.

For those of you thinking about procuring a Tridacnid, here's Barry's list of five species of Tridacnids in ascending order of toughness:

1. T. Derasa
2. T. Squamosa
3. T. Gigas
4. T. Crocea
5. T. Maxima

Here's an interesting trick to use to get your Tridacnid to spawn. Barry related the time he and a friend were preparing to go to lunch in the Marshall Islands. His friend put a Tridacnid on the shelf before they left for lunch. Upon returning about 40 minutes later, his friend put the Tridacnid back in the water, and guess what? Yes, spawning commenced. Due diligence is required before trying this at home.

At the end of his presentation, Barry mentioned that a new book was unveiled at MACNA. Three hundred copies of James Fatherree's book, *Giant Clams in the Sea and the Aquarium*, arrived at MACNA literally just of the press. The book is loaded with many gorgeous pictures. Topics include biology basics; nutrition; the various species; collecting, farming, and shipping; acquisition and care; and Tridacnid troubles. The 227-page book is published by Liquid Medium (ISBN 0-9786194-0-4) and retails for \$40. If you want a Cliff's Notes version of information found in the book, take a look at James' article, "Tridacna Gigas: The Killer Clam (Which Isn't Really a Killer)" in the October 2006 issue of *Tropical Fish Hobbyist*.

## 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>

## 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](mailto:admin@reefwerkes.com).

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## 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*.

## Show Us Your Baby!!

Matt Trotter shares pics of two of his corals:

