

NOTE FROM EDITORS

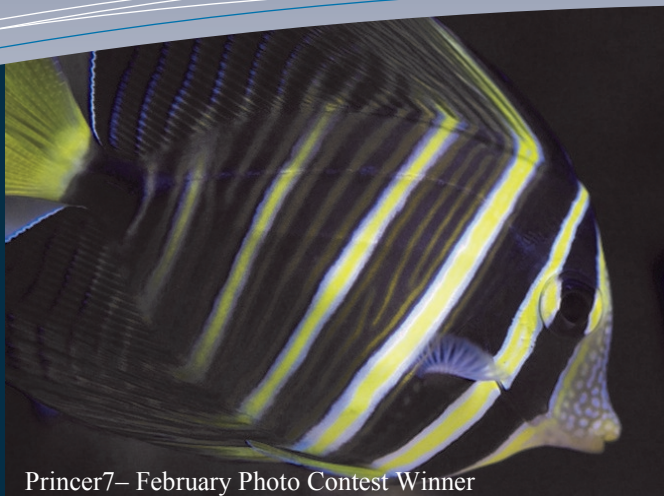
Reefers,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for reading the premier issue of The Maastard Monthly Newsletter. It is my goal to have plenty of tips, discount coupons from LFS's & up to date news such as POTM, Newest Sponsors, BOD & general meeting updates and so much more for you to enjoy. A special thanks goes out to Alex (Aggman) for his help in making this newsletter possible. My ambition for this newsletter is that you will adore this project as much as I have in creating it. In the event that you want to submit information in regards to upcoming newsletters please feel free contact me via PM on the Maast website.

- Eve-
(Pennies2Cents)

NEW BOARD ELECTED

A new Board of Directors has been elected for 2009. This new roster is full of members ready to take this association to the next level. First, Steve Byrd is returning as our President. Sean Hall returns as our new Vice-President. Sheri Ancira returns as our Treasurer. Anthony Pedroza, David Villarreal, and Mark Wilson return as Board Members. Eve Vialpando, Alex Garza., Gary Rodriguez, John Roescher, and Ruben Guerrero join as new Board Members. We would also like to thank Cheri Byrd for continuing her hard work as Events Coordinator.



Princer7- February Photo Contest Winner

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MAAST CELEBRATES PREMIER OF NEWSLETTER!

The President's Pen:

By: Steve Byrd

Now that the Holidays have passed, and a New Year has now begun, I would like to wish all members, a year of good health, happiness and well wishes.

I also wish to thank the 2008 B.O.D. Members for all of their hard work that has created such a dynamic outreach to each and every member. I am proud to be a part of such a great organization. There where many new incentives brought to fruition this past year, and I plan to lead the new B.O.D. to continue in the same direction.

To the incoming B.O.D., I want to thank you for your time and commitment to MAAST. There is and will be a lot of work for us to complete, but I know we as a team, will get it accomplished.

The year of 2009, will be an eventful year for MAAST Members, with Expert Speakers, Tank Tours, TMAC, Zoo outings, and much more to follow. We at MAAST will strive to continue the education of responsible reef keeping and also

enjoying the hobby.

I also wish to thank all of our Sponsors, who help support MAAST, and have helped in the continued growth and success of this organization.

My last note of appreciation goes to both Pennies2cents and Aggman for their dedication in making this Newsletter a reality for the members to enjoy. I know that Eve and Alex have many ideas for the upcoming issues.

I hope to see you all, through out the year at Meetings, LFS's and other scheduled events. If there is something that I or we can do for the betterment of MAAST, please feel free to contact me, by PM, or at maastpresident@gmail.com.

Happy Reefing,

Steve Byrd [BigBird123]
MAAST President



Pay It Forward Frag Program:

The MAAST Donor Program allows members to receive frags donated by fellow members for propagation within their own home aquaria. Implemented by (Hobogato) Ace Shed this program is made possible through the generosity of MAAST members. The goal of the MAAST Donor Program is to encourage education, responsible reef keeping, and sound husbandry techniques through aquaculture.

We want to thank Rob (MrCob) for graciously accepting his new role as mentor & teacher for this great program. We look forward to making this program a great success in 2009.



Deep Sand Bed Technology By: Peter Kordelski

We asked Ping to try and give us an explanation on the basics of DSB's and how we can make use of them in our setups.

Questions arise on the use of sand in our marine aquarium systems almost daily. "Should sand be used, if sand is used, how much, and what are the benefits?" First, the correct depth of a sand bed must be calculated. Second, what goal are you trying to achieve with your sand bed? The benefits of a sand bed are only achieved when the proper type and size of substrate are used in relation to the depth of the sand bed. A working knowledge of these concepts will help prevent future water quality problems, as well as help provide the micro-minerals that are required for the successful marine aquarium.

There are two options that exist in sand bed depth that will allow for long term, problem free water conditions. The two types are a deep sand bed (DSB) and a shallow sand bed. The basic principle of a DSB is that by maintaining a sand depth of at least four inches, an anaerobic layer will be produced at the lowest level providing natural nitrate reduction (NNR). It should be noted that this anaerobic layer is developed at four inches with the use of sugar fine sand. So as the sand grade increases, so should the depth. If aragonite sand is the substrate of choice, a secondary benefit is realized. At this anaerobic level the chemistry causes the pH to become low enough to

dissolve the aragonite sand thereby releasing the natural compounds of the sand back into the water column. Although minor in quantity, these bio-minerals contribute to the buffering capacity of synthetic saltwater as well as provide minute quantities of the important minor trace elements needed for the aquarium.



A shallow sand bed is a sand bed of one inch or less. This depth allows for the micro life benefits achieved with a DSB, however, the entire sand bed will be aerobic and as with a DSB, pH will become stable with time.

The problems that many aquarists have experienced with sand beds occur with sand beds from one to three inches in depth, or when the sand grade is not consistent with the depth of the sand bed causing its anaerobic state to fluctuate. It is these partial anaerobic states that cause

pH fluctuations which can be catastrophic for an aquarium.

The pH in natural seawater is 8.2, so this is the value that aquarists' should aim to achieve. It is possible to keep inhabitants at a pH between 7.8 to 8.5, so it is the stability of pH that is critical. A constantly fluctuating pH will lead to health problems and fatalities of the aquarium inhabitants and there are many documented cases of complete tank crashes due to intense pH swings.

The well being of the inhabitants of the marine aquarium depend on the aquarist's ability to keep all the water parameters within acceptable ranges. The use of a proper sand bed is an easy method to help provide this stability. If the depth of the sand bed is within an acceptable range, one large factor in the proper health of your marine system will be ensured. Large sums of money have been spent to keep the expensive fish and corals alive, yet very little time is spent researching and understanding the basics of these costly chemistry sets called marine aquariums. Take care of your sand bed and the sand bed will take care of your reef.

-Peter Kordelski [Ping]



Upcoming Events:

March 21st

TMAC

San Marcos

Convention Center

9am-5pm

April 26

April Meeting

Make your own Fish Zoo Event

Food

Bass Pro Shop

San Antonio, Tx

May 30th

May Meeting

June 20th

Annual Frag Swap

Location: TBA

Store Hours:

Mon-Sat

10am-8pm

Sun:

12-7pm

10% off any
regular priced
item



10% Off Coupon

5418 Glen Ridge Drive, San Antonio, Tx 78229

Valid Until March 31, 2009

Phone:

210-290-9376

Charter Members—15%
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EYE ON IT

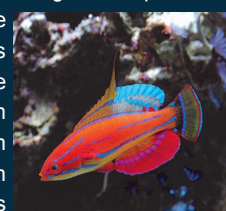
Species Spotlight

The McCorsker's Flasher Wrasse is an attractive reef-safe wrasse sure to be the star of your aquarium. This hardy wrasse species adapts well to established home aquaria making it an active, beautiful addition. The male with its vibrant colors is primarily red/orange with blue, horizontal stripes that complement



its yellow stomach. The orange dorsal fin is accented with red, yellow, and blue and features a single elongated ray. A gorgeous, red band across the orange anal fin creates an impressive and bold color palette. The female coloration and her overall appearance is more subdued. Females also do not feature the large dorsal and anal fins.

The McCorsker's Flasher Wrasse requires a 30 gallon aquarium (or larger) with a tight-fitting lid since it is known to jump. Often found along reef slopes and rubble zones, the McCorsker's Flasher Wrasse will often swim near the bottom and tends to form small groups where a male



swims back and forth between groups of females. The colors of an adult male intensifies during courtship and he may flare or "flash" his fins to attract the females in his harem. It is recommended to only keep one male per aquarium.

Information/Photos were compiled with permission from www.liveaquaria.com.

This Month's Aquaria Q&A ...

Q: What is the simplest, most effective way to remove nitrates from my tank.

A: In marine aquariums the use of live rock, mud filters/refugiums and/or protein skimmers can help reduce nitrates. Mud filters and refugiums remove nitrates while Protein Skimmers remove nitrogenous wastes (proteins) before they enter the nitrogen cycle. The more natural use of live rock and mud filters/refugiums as well as mangrove plants and

caulerpa algae in the marine aquarium have also kept very low nitrate levels. Good deep sand beds of over 2" also are helpful as these allow anaerobic bacteria to form and remove nitrates.



PHOTO CREDITS

P1 - Feb Photo Contest Winner

Princer 7- Salfin Tang

P2 - Crazy4Acros-Reef Central

Full Tank Shot

P3 - Lt1z28

Side Tank Shot

P3 - Live Aquaria

McCorsker's Flasher

P4 - Fj_wertheimber

Harlequin Shrimp

Helpful Tips:

Optimum Levels

pH 8.1 - 8.3

Specific Gravity 1.026

Alkalinity 8 dKH

Calcium 450 ppm

Magnesium 1350 ppm

Nitrate 0

Phosphate 0 - .01 ppm

Membership

Dues are \$25 for the calendar year. These dues quickly pay for themselves by the discounts given that many local stores honor to MAAST members.

We are trying to make our club better, bringing more educational topics, more door prizes and raffle items, and guest speakers. We also have the routine maintenance items like the website, food for meetings, membership dues to national marine organizations, and print/publication fee's. Membership dues allow our club to keep afloat and make all of this possible. As always, the website portion of the club will remain free.

Why collect dues?

1. Keeps MAAST afloat.
2. Funds club meetings so host does not have to pay for all out of pocket.
3. Allows for an image gallery on MAAST website.
4. Extra funds go into pool for "expert" speakers at the meetings.
5. Higher quality raffles, higher quality meetings, higher quality club!
6. Eligibility to run for a club office or be appointed to a committee.
7. Eligibility to VOTE!
8. Discounts at participating LFS's and online vendors.
9. A membership card
10. A voice to represent aquarists' interest.

For more information concerning Charter status, please read our By-Laws.

The membership dues are \$25.00. Payment can be made either at the meetings, online via PayPal, or with a check mailed to our PO Box below.

PayPal fee's can be sent to treasurer@maast.org

or via snail mail to:

MAAST

P. O. Box 780582

San Antonio, TX 78278

Please include name, sign-in name, e-mail, home address, and phone!

Thanks for everyones help and support with this great organization!

