

# Nemo's News

## Inside this issue:

Mcmac	1
Whats in a Name	1
August meeting	2
Frag swap	2
Tips and Tricks	2
Upscales	3

## Special points of interest:

- New Name
- Whats new
- Reducing the chance of overflows
- Hypo Salinty

## Mid Columbia Marine Aquarium Conference

By Kim Gross

We just got back from the Mid Columbia Marine Aquarium Conference held in the Tri Cites. This conference was a two day extravaganza with events being held on Friday night and all day Saturday.

The Conference started out with an informal BBQ being held at the Club Presidents house, luckily he had a very large back yard so it would hold everybody. The BBQ was a general gab session to start, with a great talk by Dr. Adelaide Rhodes of <http://www.essentiallivefeeds.com/>. Dr Rhodes spoke to us about Copepods.

The talk started out with a discussion of the different families of copepods, which could be found in your aquarium including some of the parasitic ones. After the overviews Dr Rhodes spoke to us about harpacticoid copepods, which are very common in our aquariums. They are the little specks that you can see swimming in a jerky fashion in your refugium. They are a great food for small fish and larva and are the only food many mandrian gobes eat. There was a lot of great information in this talk. Dr Rhodes also sells cultured copepods which can be used to start your own cul-

tures for feeding your fish/larva, or just to kick start



Nice Xenia from Ed Hahns tank

your pod population. These cultures can be purchased directly from Dr. Rhodes via her web site, or at your local fish stores. The bottles of pods are neat to just watch. 1000 little specks swimming around in a little I believe 4 oz bottle.

Continued page 3

## New Name for the newsletter

There have been a few people that have expressed concern over the name of the newsletter. I tend to agree with them and would like to change the name. For this issue I have used the name Nemo's News, but I would

like more feedback before we settle on a new name. What I would like to do is come up with around 5 names and then setup a poll on the website and allow everybody to vote on the new name. If you have any suggesting for a catchy

name please email them to the listserve, post them on the website, or email them to me. [Kgross@jensalt.com](mailto:Kgross@jensalt.com). If you do not have email access you can give me a call with your suggestions 461-8183 Thanks

## August Meeting

For the August meeting we are planning on informal discussion on tips and tricks and gadgets to help with your marine aquarium. The August meeting will be held at the Moxie Java and More on the corner of 5 mile and overland. Please plan on attending

One such gadget that I will be bringing is a Dawn Spin Brush. The Spin Brush is available on the dishwashing detergent aisles of most stores for less than \$10 bucks. The

spin brush is a water proof battery powered spinning brush that actually has enough power to clean coralline algae off of the glass of a glass tank (haven't tried it on acrylic to see if it will scratch) The brush works great for cleaning on the glass as well as scrubbing algae off of the rocks. You can also use it when



**Dawn Spin brush is a great little cleaning tool**

cleaning other items like your skimmer. It is not very large and will reach into the neck of many protein skimmers and works great for rubbing off the sludge that normally builds up inside of them.

Kim Gross

## Maintenance tips and tricks

### Regular maintenance tips

One thing that you need to make sure that you are doing as part of your regular maintenance of your tank is to check your antisiphon devices if you have a sump. Most people either use a one way check valve or an antisiphon hole in the return plumbing. If you use a check valve you will need to clean out all of the organics that will build up inside of it. If you do not clean the check valve out, the valve will stick open slightly and allow water to leak past it in the

event of a pump failure or power outage. The other main antisiphon device is the antisiphon hole that is drilled into the return pipe right around the top of the water level. If you have one or more of these holes you need to make sure that they are not plugged and are allowing water to flow through them. Take a toothpick or other small item and keep the hole clean or it will not break siphon when you need it to.

**The Locals called Les's 400 gallon tank the hot tub because of the size and the massive amount of water movement the tank has.**

## July Frag Swap BBQ/Raft trip

### BBQ Frag Swap

Just wanted to give a little info on the BBQ/ Frag Swap/ Raft trip that we had last month. The event was a lot of fun, first time for me in a white water raft. I believe everybody



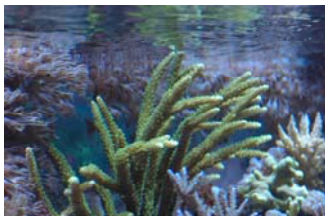
**A picture of one of the corals in the Upscales display tank**

on the raft had fun. After we all got cleaned back up we were back to ICRMP building for the frag swap and BBQ, the food was great, my hats off to the chef (Scott), there was plenty of food for everybody. On the frag swap side

of things there was not as many swappers there as I was hoping for, but I believe that everybody involved in the swap left happy, which is the most important. Just as an FYI there is a large frag swap in Seattle coming up in Sept I believe. If you would like more info let me know I can put you in

## MCMAC continued

Just as an aside while the rest of us were on the tank tour Dr. Rhodes was busy working she went to Soap lake and collected local copepods from the lake. These are the same pods as are in cyclopeeze. It was great to see a jar full of live swimming cyclopeeze.



A coral from the reef tour

Saturday morning we meet as a group for the tank tour. We visited 5 different houses on this tour which scattered from one end of the tricities to the other. I will be putting photos of these tanks online within the next few days. You will be able to find them at [www.jensalt.com/gallery](http://www.jensalt.com/gallery). All of the tanks were great. One of them was a 400 gallon acrylic tank that was made by its owner. This tank had multiple closed loops on the system with a total flow of over 10,000 gph if all of the closed loops were on at the same time. This system was setup with an X-10 controller controlling the pumps and the one one of the 3 closed loops were on at any one time. For a show Les turned them all on for us and the tank looked like a hot tub running with water boiling all over the surface from the amount of water movement.

After the tank tour and lunch we meet at the auditorium for a talk on Delayed fish mortality by Terry Bartelme.

According to Terry's research the stress of shipping fish is compounded by the PH and temperature shock when the fish is added to your tank. He suggested that when you add a new fish to your quarantine tank you should try to make the PH and temp of your quarantine tank as close to the shipping water as possible and then move the fish as quickly as possible out of the shipping water and into your tank. The other big suggestion he had was hyposalinity. Keep the Fish in a low salinity environment for a week before you bring it back up to normal salt levels. This is good for two reasons first the fish does not have to work as hard on osmoregulation, plus it will help to kill off most parasites on the fish. To do the hyposalinty, put your salinity at aprox 12 ppt, or a SG of 1.010 to 1.009. You can move the fish into this low salinity without any problems straight out of the shipping bag. After a week or two at this low salinity you can slowly bring it back up to the level you keep in your display tank before moving the fish over.

According to Terry he has seen no problems with an immediate drop in salinity, but a rise needs to be slow. Just make sure that you move the fish into a setup that has the same PH and temp as the shipping bag as quickly as possible with the low salinity to maximize the health of the fish. He also suggests feeding some Beta Glucan to help improve the immune system when you first receive the fish and any time you notice any problems.

After Terry gave his great talk Anthony Calfo spoke to us about Coral Farming for Profit and fun. Anthony would like to see many more small coral farming collectives/cooperatives so that we can come closer to being self sustaining. The biggest points that he made were first the need for more coral farms, and second if you plan on being a coral farmer you need to do a financial plan before you get started. If you have to use artificial lights you will not be able to make money, if you have to use chillers you will not be able to make money, plus the biggest money could be made off of fast growing cheap soft corals not fancy SPS corals. If you decide to try coral farming you really need to look at how many corals you can actually produce in a set time frame. If you work out a deal with a lfs,

## Upscales in Portland LFS review

Upscales

While we were in Portland we tried to visit a few different lfs, well we only ended up being able to actually get into one, the other two were must have found out we were one our way because they decided to close early before we got there.

Anyway Upscales is located just south of Portland in Tualitin just off of the Tualitin exit on I-5.

As soon as I walked in the door we saw a beautiful show tank that was full of bright SPS corals and a large clam. The tank was a 4 foot cube of about 20 inches in height. Just a few feet farther into the store was another show tank, this I believe was a 125. I was very impressed with the store itself also, they had many tanks for locally grown frags for sale, some as low as \$15 each or \$12.5 if you purchase 5 or more. The lesser expensive frags where not as colorful as

some of the corals in the display tanks, but there were frags of these available also for \$50-75 each. One wall of the store had wild caught corals with a second wall having saltwater fish for sale. The store also carries different herps. Overall I would suggest a visit to at least see the display tanks.

## Idaho Marine Aquarium Society

The Idaho Marine Aquarium Society meets the at 7:00 PM on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at the ICRMP building on the Corner of Vista Ave and Sunrise rim, just off of the freeway. The meetings are in the basement with the entrance at the back of the building.

[Http://www.idahoreefs.org](http://www.idahoreefs.org)

## Responsibility through education

We're on the Web!  
[WWW.IDAHOREEFS.ORG](http://WWW.IDAHOREEFS.ORG)

The Idaho Marine Aquarium Society is a Non-profit group dedicated to responsible aquarium keeping through education. All of our meetings are open to the general public. Our goal is to help you have a successful aquarium. For more info on the club please visit our web site at [WWW.IDAHOREEFS.ORG](http://WWW.IDAHOREEFS.ORG)

If you have any article suggestions or submissions please feel free to contact me at [kgross@jensalt.com](mailto:kgross@jensalt.com) or 461-8183. We are always looking for more articles from other hobbyists. Please contact me for reprint permission also.

## Mid Columbia cont.

local wholesaler, regional or national wholesaler, you need to make sure that you can fill there orders when your customers place them. If you are unable to fill the orders you will make yourself and all other small coral farmers look bad. With some of the soft corals you can double the corals in 30 days time. So if you have 100 corals available you can split them all, and in 30 days you will have 100 ready to sell, and another 100 corals ready to split so that next month you will have 100 corals ready to sell again.

After the talks we all went back to Ricks house for a very nice dinner, the raffle, a silent auction for some very nice corals and clams, frag trading and a fragging demo by Anthony Calfo. There were some very nice coral colonies up for auction, depending on your point of view the auction either went very well (purchaser) or very poorly (fund raiser). The prices varied from a low of \$20 to a high of I believe \$65. Clams went from \$25 to \$65 also. The raffle even

included a 400 watt MH ballast from reef fanatic and a new becket skimmer from IAP. The raffle and auctions were a great success. I did not do very good in the raffle, I won a bottle of purple up, a bottle of phos buster and a calcium test kit, which I guess for the \$5 the ticket cost I did do OK. On the frag auction, out of 10 tickets that I purchased I won 4 frags so that made me very happy.

After the raffles were over we setup a table for Anthony to do some slicing and dicing. One thing that really amazed me was that Anthony claims to be able to frag most anemones. He took a small bubble tip and just cut it in two just like you would with a mushroom, the next morning both pieces are still alive and looked pretty good. I will hopefully be able to get enough nerve to try this myself.

Overall this conference was a lot of fun and very informative. I would like to take this time to thank Rick and Ed personally for helping us to make sure things went well,

Rick Berg, the club president took time out of his busy schedule to meet me in Umitilla to take our frags since we where going to Portland for a couple of days first, plus when we were leaving Rick allowed us to do water changes in the livestock that we purchased in Portland out of his tank, which I think really helped keep everything alive.