

The Reef Report

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Special points of interest:

- Dana Riddle
- Sea Stars

Dana Riddle to Visit Boise March 2, 2007

Mark your calendars Dana Riddle of Riddle labs is coming to Boise to speak to the Idaho Marine Aquarium Society. He will be in town on Friday March 2, and will be speaking at 7:00 PM.

This meeting will be held at the ICRMP building on the corner of Vista and Sunrise Rim in the basement classroom. Just drive around to the back of the building.

Dana Riddle will be speaking to use on "Neat Toys for Reef Aquarists and Researchers!"

A marine aquarist since childhood, and a reef hobbyist since the mid-1980's,

Dana Riddle strives to bring cutting-edge information to reef keepers. He lives in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii and is able to study coral reefs year round. His small laboratory has equipment necessary to examine corals in their natural environment and relate their requirements to artificially-created conditions.

Dana is the author of the book "The Captive Reef" and has

over 110 articles published in American and European hobby literature. He has made presentations in at many local, regional and national conferences over the last 8 years.



Ramblings from the editor

I can't believe it is a new year again already. As you should know we had elections a little while ago and believe it or not Scott is our President again. Scott did such a great job last year I guess everybody wanted him to do it again.

You will notice a few changes in the forums. Now paid club members are labeled as such and we have a forum just for paid members. We have also

changed the dues. Rather than \$20 a year, they are now \$2 a month, so if you sign up in January for the full year they are \$24.00, in Feb \$22 and so on. This makes it much easier to prorate membership dues. Plus we have the web site setup to allow paypal payments for membership so it is very easy to become a paid member. With membership you can also setup an online photo gallery

on our website.
WWW.IDAHOREEFS.ORG.

This year looks to be a great year. We already have one speaker lined up for this year. Dana Riddle will be here on March 2.

Here is my regular begging. If you have any articles for a newsletter please email them to me. kgross@jensalt.com

Holiday Party 2006

The 2006 Christmas party was a huge success. We grossed over \$750 dollars on the event. There was some very nice prizes won by many different people including live corals, SEIO powerheads Metal Halide lights and reflectors, fish food, Python water change hoses, smart canopy fans, UV sterilizers, phosphate reactor with media, and lots of other items. If you missed this party you missed a great one. Make sure you mark your calendars for next year it should be on December 11, 2007

I think one of the best items we had this year was an Iwaki pump that sold for I believe \$65 in silent auction. Talk about a great price.

The food was great and there was plenty for everybody. I just want to say Thank you to everybody that donated and helped to put on such a great party.

Kim Gross



IMAS Live Sand Swap

The "*Sand Exchange*" is an awesome way to increase the bio diversity of your Reef and/or Marine aquarium. The way it works is, each participant brings an 8 oz cup of live sand to the IMAS meeting. At the meeting, all the sand will be gently mixed together. Once mixed, the sand is divided back up and you take home a cup of sand that has a some of the sand and life from each sample in it. This is an awesome way to increase the bio diversity in your sand bed. Currently just plan on bringing sugar sized sand like is used in shallow and deep sand beds. Now this is not without risk, just like all trading of live goods there is a risk you could introduce flat worms, aiptasia, saltwater ich, or any other bad thing into your tank with the sand swap. But other than the aiptasia most bad things in that could be in the swap will not harm a healthy tank. If there is enough interest, we can start a coarse sand exchange. If you are interested in

participating in the sand exchange, just bring a cup to the next IMAS meeting.



Star Fish

Sea stars are commonly called starfish, however they are not fish at all. They are invertebrates that belong to the class Asterozoan in the Phylum Echinoderm. Their bodies are a common oral disk, where their mouths are located, with five to forty-four legs that are radially attached to the disk.

Some sea stars that are not reef safe can eat clams, corals, sponges, oysters and any fish slow enough not to evade attack. However most sea stars that are reef safe are scavengers of detritus and dead or dying materials, and will make great additions to your clean up crew.

Some of the sea stars that are commonly available for aquarium trade are not reef safe at all, these non reef safe stars include the chocolate chip star and most other bumpy stars like it. Some reef safe stars are the brittle Stars and serpent Stars, which you need to be careful with also, for not all of those are safe either. One of the most well known reef safe sea stars of the Tiger-Stripped Serpent Stars, and

easily one of the best choices for part of your clean up crew.

Tabethia Stone



February Meeting

For those of you that were unable to make it to the February meeting you missed a great meeting. The wonderful Scott "VHO Rocks" Morell spoke on building aquarium canopies. He had lots of slides of different canopies and discussed what made a good canopy and what made a bad one. I believe that main point that Scott was trying to

bring up was to make sure that you have good access to the aquarium. If your canopy is not designed correctly you could have to remove it from the aquarium to do most maintenance or even to add a new coral to your tank. With proper design you can access your tank with the canopy on which will make it much easier to maintain your tank and a lot less

work. It was a very informative meeting. This meeting also happened to be our first at Muggsy's in Meridian.

Just as a Reminder the March meeting will be held at Muggsy's on March 13 at 7:00pm where we will be talking about protein skimmers the good the bad and the ugly.

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Local Fish Stores In The Treasure Valley

Fish, Aquariums and Stuff - 3023 N Cole Road, Boise.

208-377-1119

Hours – Monday – Friday 10-7 Saturday 10-5

A fresh and saltwater aquatics store carrying a large selection of marine fish, corals, inverts, frozen and dry foods and equipment. Special orders welcome.

Garden Center West – 11500 W Fairview Ave, Boise.

208-376-3322

Hours – Monday – Saturday 9-6 Sunday 10-6

A fresh and saltwater aquatics department of a garden center carrying a large selection of marine fish, corals, inverts, frozen and dry foods and equipment. Special orders welcome.

Rocky Mountain Reef and Aquaria - 3425 N. Cole Road, Boise

208-377-1561 www.rockymountainreefandaquaria.com

Hours – Tuesday – Thursday 11-8 Friday – Saturday 11-6 Sunday 12-5

A saltwater specialty store carrying marine fish, corals, inverts, frozen and dry foods and equipment. Special orders welcome. Custom design, construction and installation of tanks, sumps, refugiums, lighting systems and related equipment as well as complete systems. Full service tank maintenance service available.

Zamzows – 136 E Watertower Lane Meridian

208-884-8616 www.zamzows.com

Hours – Monday – Friday 9-7 Saturday 9-6 Sunday 10-5

Local chain of full line pet, garden and feed stores. Marine fish and bulk seawater by the gallon **at this store only**. Special orders welcome. Good selection of aquariums and supplies at all of the several stores throughout the Treasure Valley.

Pets and Company – Karcher Mall, Nampa 208-467-3231

Hours – Monday – Monday – Saturday 10-9 Sunday 12-6

Full line pet store. Aquariums and supplies, limited selection of marine fish. Special orders welcome.

Petco – 179 N. Milwaukee, Boise 208-375-7971

3548 S. Findley, Boise 208-344-1651 www.petco.com

Hours – Monday – Saturday 9-9 Sunday 10-7

Large national chain of full line pet stores. Aquariums and supplies, limited selection of marine fish. Dry and frozen foods.

Petsmart – 8501 W. Franklin Rd 208-323-0385

1220 N Eagle Rd 208-884-0611 www.petsmart.com

Hours – Monday – Saturday 9-9 Sunday 10-6

Large national chain of full line pet stores. Aquariums and supplies, Dry and frozen foods. **No marine livestock.**

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