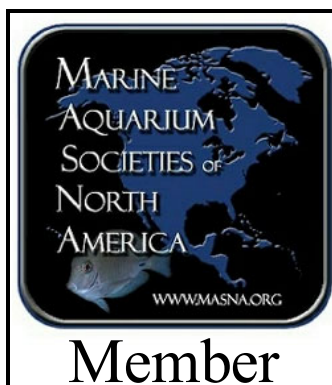


# OCTOPUS

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[www.c-sea.org](http://www.c-sea.org)



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## CLEVELAND SALTWATER ENTHUSIASTS ASSOCIATION

March 2004

The **Cleveland Saltwater Enthusiasts Association (C-SEA)** is a non-profit, educational organization to promote the art and science of marine aquarology. General meetings are held on the third Friday (usually) of each month at 7:30 pm. The official publication is the **OCTOPUS**.

- ✦ Advertisers help the club by defraying the cost of printing and mailing. **C-SEA** believes in supporting the local saltwater shops and the companies who support us with advertisements, discounts and donations.
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## Editor's Notes

This month's speaker is John Walch. He will be talking to us about artificial reefs and is affiliated with the Reef Ball Foundation. I checked out their website [www.artificialreefs.org](http://www.artificialreefs.org). They are doing some pretty cool stuff. It should be an interesting talk. A word to the wise, if you are surfing the web at work don't click on the link for the Long Beach Pier. My companies screening software did not like the reference to "big reef balls". Oops!

In this month's *Octopus*, Dan McMonigle is back with an article on DIY stands (with lots of pics), there is info on Eric Borneman's Elegance Coral Project that you can get involved with and plenty of other tidbits and fun filled facts.

You will see in the Calendar of Events, I have included info on some of the local Frag Swaps. They are all the rage right now and we are lucky to have a great selection of events with awesome frags to choose from right here in Northeast Ohio. If you haven't been to one, they are great, even if you don't have anything to trade (most people accept cash or will even give stuff away if you look sad enough!)

Last month I tried something different and sent an electronic (Adobe pdf file) version the *Octopus* to all of you who have provided us with an e-mail address with your membership. Receiving the newsletter via e-mail allows you to get the *Octopus* quicker, in full, glorious color. It also, in the long run, will save the Club the cost of printing and mailing. During the 1st go round 18 of you said you wanted the e-mail version only and 10 of you said you wanted it both via e-mail and U.S. mail. Hopefully, the e-mail only number will climb as you see the benefit of an electronic *Octopus*. Send me an e-mail at [CSEAOctopus@cs.com](mailto:CSEAOctopus@cs.com) if you would like to sign up for the electronic version.

John Fay, Editor

## **March Meeting**

7:30 pm Friday, March 19, 2004

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Administration and Education Building

**John Walch will present: "Large Artificial Reef Construction with Coral Transplantation in Antigua"**

As always, refreshments will be served. Bring some extra money for the Livestock Raffle!



### **Calendar of Events**

March 20th - **North Central Ohio Frag Trade** - 4:30 pm, Carrousel Aquatics, 930A Ashland Rd, Mansfield, Ohio, 44905

April 10th - **Frag Swap** - 2 pm, The Reef, 7 North State Street, Girard, Ohio (330) 545-1370 – \$5.00 at the door gets you pop, snacks and a chance in the door prize drawing.

April 16th - Tentative - **Sanjay Joshi** - "Lighting Guru" and Curator HUB-Robesin Aquarium at Penn State

April 24th - **4th Pittsburgh Area Frag Trade** - April 24th, Noon, hosted by Rob of East Coast Clams, 748 Nordeen Dr., West Mifflin, PA 15122

May 21st - **Annual Elections - Spring Raffle**  
**Tentative - Members Garage Sale!**

June 18th - John Janda - **Working with Acrylics**



## Wood Stand For Large Tanks

By Dan McMonigle

Many people build their own custom wood stands for their tanks. There are any number of plans for home made aquarium stands on the internet, but some of them start off with, "I've never actually built this" or they don't say it, but if you know a little about carpentry, after a few paragraphs, you realize they haven't actually built anything, or if they have, it scares you to imagine a tank filled with water on a poorly built stand. Wood has great compression strength, but it is not so effective at shear strength. That is, the wood is strong when it is stacked on top of



each other, but not very strong when it hangs onto other pieces of wood. Here you see a stand design that takes advantage of wood's best qualities. For ease of assembly, the stand is tipped over on its back here. Under my right thumb, there is a half inch spacer. This makes it easy to screw the "bridge" half

an inch below the top of the leg. All the legs were assembled first. The carpenter's triangle helps keep things square.

This shows some of the internal detail of the stand. Half an inch below the outer rails, are two more rails and two bridges (the front to back shorter boards). This affords support for a 1/2" thick plywood shelf to be screwed and glued in place. Plywood strips sandwiched between the rails help prevent the wood from warping and add strength, more than necessary even for a stand designed to hold a 90 and a 75 gallon tank.





Now set upright and viewing a top front corner, you see how the front (and back) rails set into the 2 X 6 front leg. You may also notice the detail of how the plywood is set into the leg, screwed and glued all the way down, into a 1" by 1/2" notch, which is mirrored on the back leg. The plywood inserts on the legs and on the top and bottom shelves add a lot of rigidity to the stand.

My 275 pounds is not as much as the tank will weigh. I could have been a feather for all the effect I had. We built five of these this time since it's easier to do a little mass production.



Final touches are the decorative pieces in the front corners to hide screws, the large triangles bracing the back legs, (you can see one of the four best on the lower left hand behind the 45 gallon tank), and the staining and painting.



We stained the fronts, and urethaned them, but painted the rest of the stand black. There is lots of room on the shelf below for a 75 gallon tank, or a smaller sump tank and a pump. You might not want the extra height we gave the legs under the bottom shelf, but this allowed us to use storage drawers underneath the stands.

## The Elegance Coral Project

By Eric Borneman

From the February 2004 Reefkeeping Online magazine  
(www.reefkeeping.com)

For many years, elegance corals (*Catalaphyllia jardinei*) were among the easiest corals to keep in aquaria. Over the past five years, most entering the trade are doomed because of a condition for which there is no known cause or cure. In this condition, the coral adopts a relatively swollen oral disk with a fringe of unextended tentacles. The coral tissue eventually shrinks, and the coral dies despite all manner of experimental intervention.



Most of the *Catalaphyllia* in this photo display a normal healthy appearance, with the exception of the one showing characteristic shrunken tentacles and (usually) abnormal coloration. (Photo by Eric Borneman)

In some cases, a white opaque mucus-like web may be present. I am not sure if this is an entirely separate condition, somehow related, secondary to the primary condition, or part of the same condition.

There has been much speculation as to why this condition now occurs, and various sources have suggested causes and even cures. But I stress that no research to my knowledge

has been done on this condition, and to date none of the potential causes, solutions, or cures seems to have much validity.

These corals are extremely beautiful and desirable. Unfortunately today, their poor survival rate in captivity puts them in a similar class with *Goniopora stokesi* where survival rates are too low to justify the large-scale collection of them from the wild. In fact, *Catalaphyllia* appear to be relatively rare species and may be highly over collected so that populations in some collection areas are threatened or even locally extinct. To continue to collect rare species that have extremely low survival is bad for everyone - it is an economic loss, a resource waste, and a source of great frustration for all those who purchase and attempt to keep them alive.

Not all *Catalaphyllia* shows signs of this condition. Occasionally, I see them in stores with a normal healthy appearance. During surveys of coral collection areas, I never saw one with this condition in the wild, and of hundreds being held in tanks for export, only a single specimen showed the signs of the pathology. To be sure, *Catalaphyllia* are being collected from dramatically different types of habitats, and may be collected from

very different places from where they were collected years ago when they were easy-to-maintain. I could speculate logically as to many potential reasons for their current conditions and demise, but unfortunately this speculation would be no better than the complete lack of understanding of this condition that currently exists.

Because of the desirability and immense popularity of *Catalaphyllia*, as well as to learn more about this highly unstudied species, and to help ensure the populations of wild elegance corals and their success in captivity, I propose to conduct a formal study of the condition to attempt to determine its cause and any possible solutions so that, once again, we can enjoy healthy elegance corals in our tanks.

My research field is the investigation of coral diseases with currently unknown etiologies. I would like to volunteer my services to help provide answers to the elegance coral condition. Together with collaborative work from some of my colleagues, I believe we can determine the cause of high mortality resulting from this condition. I will attempt to do this in the most economical and efficacious manner possible, and will provide results to all applicable forums upon its completion.

I propose to collect funding and material to conduct this work, and to do so in phases so as not to require more funding or material than is necessary.

*Catalaphyllia* will need to be acquired from various sources, both healthy and affected with the condition. In some cases, special shipping arrangements might be required to avoid delays or exposures that might confound any pre-existing conditions from the wild. Corals will be sent either live, or dead and preserved for analyses. Generally, a type of formalin or alcohol fixative will be used, and not everyone will have access to some of the fixative material. I will then examine the corals working from the most obvious to the less obvious. External and gross changes will be documented in live samples with a clear description of the signs, changes, time frames and fate of the coral over which the condition occurs. I will look at the colonization of the surface flora and fauna by using sterile swabs and take samples for live material and freeze them for any future molecular work that might be required. I will prepare histoslides to examine microstructure and look for obvious abnormalities in tissue or zooxanthellae and the presence or absence of intracellular parasites or pathogens. At this point, something may or may not make itself apparent. I will prepare a report, offer my best suggestions for the next phase if the cause is still unknown, and outline the next funding and materials request.

**For more information on this project or how you can participate in this endeavor, please visit Eric's Author Forum on ReefCentral.com (<http://reefcentral.com/vbulletin/forumdisplay.php?s=&forumid=120>)**

# PRESS RELEASE

By John Brandt  
Legislation Representative  
Marine Aquarium Societies of North America

(Submitted by David Adkins, C-SEA MASNA Representative)

WASHINGTON, DC – The United States Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) presented a preliminary report today at the meeting of The United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) announcing that the Commission will recommend to Congress that the International trade in marine ornamental species be regulated.

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy will publish its report in two stages. Notification of the release of the draft report will appear in the Federal Register <http://www.access.gpo.gov> , as well as the USCOP website <http://www.oceancommission.gov> . This report will be made available to Governors and interested stakeholders early in 2004 for review and public comment. After the deadline for comment the report will be finalized by USCOP and presented to the President and Congress for the purpose of creating public policy.

Dr. Paul Sandifer, Commissioner for USCOP, revealed a list of recommended actions to be presented to Congress to preserve and protect oceans and coral reefs. One recommendation is to adopt legislation ensuring that any marine food and ornamental species imported to the United States be collected only by sustainable means. No further details were available at the time.

As mandated by the Oceans Act 2000 (P.L. 106-256), the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy will establish findings and make final recommendations to the President and Congress for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. The new policy will address a broad range of issues, from ocean governance to the stewardship of marine resources and pollution prevention to enhancing and supporting marine science, commerce and transportation.

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## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

Hey C-SEA Members (or those who think they are!):  
Please check the mailing label of your *Octopus* to see if your membership in C-SEA is current. If you wish to re-join, please mail a check for \$15.00 with your name, address, phone and e-mail to:

*Stan Dannemiller  
C-SEA Membership  
441 Locklie Dr.  
Highland Hts., OH 44143*

**Welcome to Eric and Brenda Bowers of Parma who joined the Club in February. Make sure you say "Hi" when you see them!**

Thanks to the following members who updated their memberships in February:

**Carole McLaren  
William Nannfeldt  
Keith and Kim Schrode  
Harry Stuimer**

### **2003 - 2004 C-Sea Officers**

<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>
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Webmaster	Brad Bellomo	(440) 725-7775
Librarian	Ron Lloyd	(216) 267-2569
MASNA Rep	Dave Adkins	(216) 898-9966
Frag Swap Liaison	Steve Seal	(330) 688-5086

**IMAC 2004**  
**From Reefs.org**  
**(Submitted by John Janda)**

The International Marine Aquarium Conference (IMAC) will be held near Chicago on June 4, 5 and 6. It's already shaping up to be a great conference with some of the best speakers in the hobby.

Eric Borneman, Dr. Ron Shimek, Carol Cozzi-Schmarr, Mark Schick, Dr. Charlie Mazel, Jeff Mitchell, Dr. Tim Hovanec, Marc Lamont, Dr. Sanjay Joshi, Scott Michael, Steve Robinson, Anthony Calfo, Beth Ann Panocha, Walt Smith, Bob Fenner, Tullio Dell Aquilla, Adam Blundell and Allen LaPointe.

The theme of the conference is "Aquaculture, Captive Breeding, and Responsible Collecting: The Right Way to Go!", and the conference will include a Frag Swap, a huge Raffle, a big Banquet, a Speakers Reception and more exhibitors than we had last year, including:

Marineland, Perfecto Mfg., All Glass Aquarium, Aquatic Eco Systems, Harbor Aquatics, Clams Direct, Palmetto Reefs, Fancy Publications, A Splash of Life, DT's Phytoplankton, Reed Mariculture, Phishy Business, Seahorse Breeders Network, Hikari Foods, Aquatic Research and Development, Aquarium Hobbyist, Chicagoland Marine Aquarium Society, Tropical Fish Hobbyist, Reef Central, Reefs.org, Seahorse.org, Premium Aquatics, Syngnathid.org, Reef Fanatic, Dirk's Reef, Coral Reef Aquarium, Aquarium Obsessed

These have already signed up and with more to come (lots of livestock dealers and you know they don't want to take stuff home with them).

There are still a few spaces left for the Shedd Aquarium "behind-the-scenes" tour of their new Wild Reef wing. Full Registration for the conference is only \$150 and we have a hotel rate of just \$93/night.

So hurry over to <http://www.theimac.org> and check it out! Reef Central will have a booth so stop by and say hello.

**C-SEA Article Submission**

Submit articles detailing your experiences, ideas, or innovations. Anyone who has two regular articles published in the Octopus in a two year period will receive a free year's membership. Send submissions to John Fay:

E-mail address: [CSEAOctopus@cs.com](mailto:CSEAOctopus@cs.com)

Mailing address: 5462 Weeping Willow Drive, Hudson, Ohio 44236

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