



# OCTOPUS

The Official Publication of the  
Cleveland Saltwater Enthusiasts Association  
Volume 32, Issue 3  
November 2004



Member

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **C-Sea October Meeting - Member's Roundtable**

Friday November 19th @ 7:30 pm, Cleveland Zoo Education Building  
A great opportunity to meet your fellow fish keepers and reefers while getting "expert" advice on any of the issues facing you and your tank. Always a Club favorite.

### **Akron Area Frag Swap**

Sunday, November 28th - Club Reef is hosting an Akron area frag swap from 1:00 - 5:00, at the Mogadore Community-Senior Center, 3857 Mogadore Rd., Mogadore, OH 44260. Admission is free and includes door prizes and a presentation by Steven Pro, "Selecting Healthy and Appropriate Marine Fishes" Visit the C-SEA message board or call (866) 332-6725 for more details

### **NEOMAC 2004**





Saturday December 4th @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Stow High School. Speakers include Steve Tyree, Joe Yaiullo, Michael Janes and Steven Pro. There will be vendors and a huge raffle. If you missed last year, you won't want to miss this one. See info on page 8.

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

## **CLEVELAND SALTWATER ENTHUSIASTS ASSOCIATION**

November 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.
-  Opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily represent those of **C-SEA** or its membership.
-  We reserve the right to edit submitted articles.
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## **Editor's Notes**

Thanks to Connie Smith for volunteering to have her tanks featured as the "Tanks of the Month" for November. Connie's tanks were awesome. I really enjoyed visiting with her and getting to see her set-ups. I know you will enjoy it. If you want your tank featured in an upcoming issue, please contact me at the e-mail address below.

NEOMAC 2004 is right around the corner. It will be December 4th at the Stow High School. Mark your calendars today. We have some exciting speakers, and great lineup of vendors. Don't miss it!

November is shaping up to be a busy time, better get those lists into Santa soon!

John Fay, Editor

Want to receive the full-color version of the Octopus via e-mail? Send me an e-mail ([rjsfay@cs.com](mailto:rjsfay@cs.com)) and let me know!

## 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 new members *Joseph Sagi and Family* of Independence to the club!**

**Also, thanks to *Jackie Kehnie* who recently renewed her membership.**

### 2004 - 2005 C-Sea Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	John Janda	(440) 237-8749
Vice President	Alan Harrell	(216) 291-4157
Program Chairman	Peter Chefalo	(216) 371-8344
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Newsletter Editor	John Fay	(330) 653-5343
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Membership Chair	Stan Dannemiller	(440) 449-6233
Webmaster	Brad Bellomo	(440) 725-7775
Librarian	Carole McLaren	(440) 209-9969
MASNA Rep	Dave Adkins	(216) 898-9966
Frag Swap Liaison	Steve Seal	(330) 688-5086

## **Being a Responsible Aquarist**

*(and how you can force the industry to be more responsible)*

by Aquariumpros.com staff

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<http://www.aquariumpros.com/company>

Aquarticles

**Here's our list of things to do** that will help make you a more responsible hobbyist. By following these guidelines, you'll also be doing your part to force all sectors of the aquarium industry to engage in more responsible and environmentally-sound practices.

### **Educate Thyself!**

This is the number one reason for failure! If keeping an aquarium was as easy as filling a container with water and throwing in some fish, everyone would be successful. The truth is, eight out of ten new hobbyists give up within a year. Most of those unfortunates never bothered to read even one book! The most important thing you can do is to educate yourself about the hobby you have chosen.

By learning as much as you can about the fish you keep, you will not only keep them alive longer, but you'll also gain a better understanding of how the ecology of an aquarium works. This will pay off in greater success and fewer lost fish. You'll also get far more pleasure from your aquarium. Buy books and read them. Buy videos and watch them. Surf the Web. Join fish forums and become a forum moderator. Go to the library. Volunteer at your local public aquarium (most operate with 80% volunteers). Join aquarium clubs or societies. The possibilities and resources for self-education in this hobby are endless.

### **Exercise Self-Control!**

OK, you've read some books, and gotten some education. Now the question is: What will you do with it? You now know when your aquarium is full, so why are you buying another fish? You know that Undulated Triggerfish probably won't get along with your Clown Trigger. Why tempt fate? Trying to get lucky?

When this author worked in a large aquarium retail store, I was fortunate that the store I worked in, sold with a conscience. We were trained to ask questions about the aquarium our fish were going into, and to advise against, discourage, or outright refuse bad purchases. Yet no matter how hard we tried to do the right thing, there were always a number of customers who either refused good advice, or lied about their tanks, so we would sell them a fish that was doomed the moment it left the store. You would never guess how many times we heard "I'll buy it anyway," or "I know, but I want to try it, it could work." If it's a risk, and you take it, you'll probably fail.

### **Learn about the aquatic animals you want before you buy!**

What is their natural habitat like? What foods do they require? Are they too aggressive or too peaceful? Will they be compatible with the fish I already own? How large do they get and is my aquarium large enough? Does it have a good record for living in aquaria, or is it classified as difficult to keep?

These are all good questions to ask oneself when buying any aquatic animal for an aquarium. Don't just take the aquarium store's word for it. They want to sell fish! Read up on what you want to buy before you buy it!

### **Find a Good Store and Support Them!**

You may buy a lot of your aquarium supplies through mail-order or on the Internet. Other than Aquariumpros.com, there are few online and NO mail-order stores that will take the time to learn about your aquarium, discuss problems with you, and help you when you need it most. If they did that, they would have to hire good knowledgeable help, which would increase their cost of doing business. Then their prices would be nearly as high as those in a good retail store. That in fact, is the one reason our prices are sometimes a little higher than other online aquarium suppliers. We do answer questions and provide advice, and that costs money! Support us too!

If you find a good store that is willing to spend time with you, answer all your questions, and help you out, spend some money in that store! Don't just buy fish there, as nowadays, fish are lower profit items. Fish sales alone will not keep an aquarium store in business. If all you do is get advice from a store, two things may happen. The store staff may realize you aren't supporting them and will grow reluctant to help you. If enough customers do this, the store will go out of business. Then where will you go when you need help?

### **Boycott Bad Stores!**

If you have many bad experiences with a store; find a store that is continually giving bad advice; or a store that is so profit-motivated, they just don't care, don't shop there! Urge all you know not to shop there either. The aquarium retail business is not a high-profit business, and those that get into the trade just to make money, do not deserve to stay in business. A good store will build a loyal and profitable following by trying their best to sell high quality equipment, healthy livestock, and provide good advice.

### **Avoid Advice and Livestock from "Super" Department Pet Stores!**

We don't begrudge any business from trying to make money, but when it comes to the sale of live animals, there are moral and ethical issues to consider. People selling animals, and giving advice on their care, should at least have a good working

# TANK OF THE MONTH



Connie Smith's 180 Gallon Reef



At one point over the summer, there were some discussions on Reef Central regarding having a tank tour in the Akron area. Connie was one of those looking to participate. Let me tell you, it is a shame the tour didn't come to fruition. Connie's tank(s) and set-up are something every reefer in the area should see! Connie and I talked about doing a tour one day. We need to start at my tank, and end up viewing Connie's. I don't want people having to see her set-up then mine. Oh well, some day. It is hard to pick out the best

part of Connie's tank since there is so much to look at.

**How long has the tank been up and running?** Connie has had saltwater tanks since 1992, and the 180 has been setup for 5 1/2 years.

**What equipment do you use?** 180 gallon tank with dual internal overflows plumbed to a 125 gallon sump. There are 2X400W metal halides, 4X2 foot VHO's and PC lighting in the center of the tank. There is a RO unit plumbed to an auto-top off, a kalkwasser drip and Connie doses daily with B-Ionic. She rarely does water changes!





**What about livestock?** The first fish you notice in Connie's tank is the Sohal Tang. It is beautiful and very active. Connie also has a Coris Wrasse, Midas Blennie, Purple Tang, Psuedochromis diadema, 6-line Wrasse, Maroon Clown, and a number of Green Chromis and Yellow Tail Damsels. There are cleaner shrimp, serpent stars (including a really cool orange serpent star),

snails, hermit crabs and urchins that also add activity and interest to the tank.

Then there are the clams. There are 5 in total, including a huge Derasa that must be a foot long and half a foot wide. It is awesome! I won't do justice to the list of corals, but one of my favorites was the blue tipped staghorn. It's coloring and growth is impressive. Connie has a long tentacle anemone that she says has split 5 times, most recently last week. The maroon clown and LTA are well suited for each other. She has a great unidentified hairy leather that she got from Ron Srsa, numerous toadstools, hammer corals, frogspawn, lobophyllia, sinularia, mushrooms, a Brasica leather, Bali green slimer, encrusting gorgonian, Rasta leather and numerous polyp colonies and zooanthids of all colors.



**Any other tanks?** In the basement, Connie has a "fish room". All of her equipment including ballasts, pumps and sumps are there. The 125 sump for the 180 rivals many peoples fish tanks. There are numerous soft corals including a huge leather, a Lemon Peel and a Potter's Angelfish, a Mandarin and 3 Green Citron Gobies. Then there is a 75 gallon SPS tank in the basement. The tank was her original "reef" tank that she started as a winter project

during a particularly long NE Ohio winter. The lava rock and strip lighting didn't quite make it. She re-started this tank as a result of all of the frags she got from fellow reefers. Although the lights were not on when I made my visit, you could see the tank was awesome with impressive specimens. Below the 75 is a 33 gallon sump with various Caulerpa species. The interesting thing with this set-up is that it is done without a skimmer.

knowledge about the livestock they sell. People like this command high rates of pay, and rightly so. They earned college degrees or devoted many hours of personal study to the animals they love. Most "super" department pet stores are paying minimum wage to the employees that wait on you. That is why their prices are so low. These employees have completed short courses, sponsored by their employers, that barely give them enough knowledge to do their jobs.

We have hundreds of documented cases of bad sales and bad advice from these stores. Sick fish sales, incompatible fish sales, poor filtration sales, bad medication advice, and bad advice on many other issues, are just some of the examples we've collected. Each week, through our free email advice program, we get several more to add to our collection.

### **See or Hear Something Wrong? Speak up!**

You're in an aquarium store and hear a customer or employee say something that is inaccurate. You read something on the Internet that is wrong (even on our web site, we too make mistakes) or inaccurate. Be polite and don't be loud or crude, but do something! In a store, you might pull the offending person aside and whisper in their ear. On the Internet, let your email do the talking. Doing nothing only serves to perpetuate bad information. One thing to always remember. If you question or correct information, ALWAYS be prepared to quote the source of the corrected information. Personal experience should be portrayed as just that: personal experience, and not known fact.

### **Made a New Discovery? Let Others Know!**

Bred a fish that's never been bred in captivity? Discovered a new behavior that you've never read about? Found a way to improve a piece of aquarium equipment? Document everything in detail, and find a way to get that information to the public. Many aquarium-related web sites will publish your information online, including us. By writing to aquarium magazine editors or aquarium book authors, you may even get your name in print.

If you really think the information is valuable, and want to try to earn some money, write a report and get a copyright. It's fairly easy to do, but you'll have to prove the information is unique, and that's not so easy. Many have obtained copyrights on what they thought was a new discovery, only to get laughed at when they approached an author or publisher. If you give out the information, free-of-charge, there's no chance of ridicule, and you just might make a big name for yourself in the aquarium industry. That's how folks like Julian Sprung, Albert Theil, and Marc Weiss got their start.

**C-SEA presents**  
**NEOMAC 2004**

Saturday December 4, 2004  
Stow High School  
3227 Graham Road,  
Kent/Stow, Ohio  
Events 9am-5pm



Nationally featured speakers, huge raffle, livestock and dry goods vendors

Speakers

Steve Tyree, Joe Yaiullo (sponsored by Marineland), Michael Janes and Steven Pro

Vendors (so far!):

Club Reef, Coral Dynamics, Evolution Aquatics, and MDM Aquatics

Raffle Donations (so far!):

Seachem, Oceans Blend, Premium Aquatics, Caribsea, URI, Aquarium Lighting & Supply, Two Little Fishies

\$45 pre-registered  
\$55 at the door

Admission includes lunch and refreshments

For more info visit  
[www.c-sea.org](http://www.c-sea.org)

***See reverse for registration form***



# NEOMAC 2004 Registration Form

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail:

\$ amount enclosed:

Registration must be received no later than 11/26/04 for pre-registration deadline.

Mail to: C-SEA, 634 Augdon Dr, Elyria, OH 44035

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