

**Dusting Off the Sea Star**

By: Amy Newbold

One of the goals for the Presidency is to get the Sea Star as a monthly publication for members and non-members to read. What is the Sea Star? It's our club's newsletter. What are some of the issues of getting the newsletter up and going?



- **Articles.** What sparks people interests? Who will write the articles? And if we get articles from other sources, we'll need to get permission. We can run into copyright issues, same goes with images.
- **Continuity.** With the last issues of the Sea Star – there was so much time between the issues that any type of recurring theme is lost.
- **Fun.** Often times the Sea Star is too serious and jam packed with information.
- **Diversity.** The Sea Star has recurring writers but getting different people to submit articles is a tough challenge.



Here are the main articles that will be highlighted every month:

- Message from the Presidency.
- Tank of the Month
- Recap of Month's meeting
- Teaser of Next Month's meeting
- Coral of the Month
- Fish of the Month
- Algae of the Month
- Any other interesting topics or suggestions that might come from people.



Getting the Sea Star up and going will be a tough challenge, but with help from members and non-members it will be successful and fun.

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**\*\*\*Special Thanks to the folks above for putting the time and effort into each article.**

**Your hard work made this issue possible.\*\*\***

!!Please email me if you have article suggestions or if you would like to contribute:  
 sukier80@gmail.com!!

**Presidency Message:****Membership Has Its Privileges**

By: Shane Heil

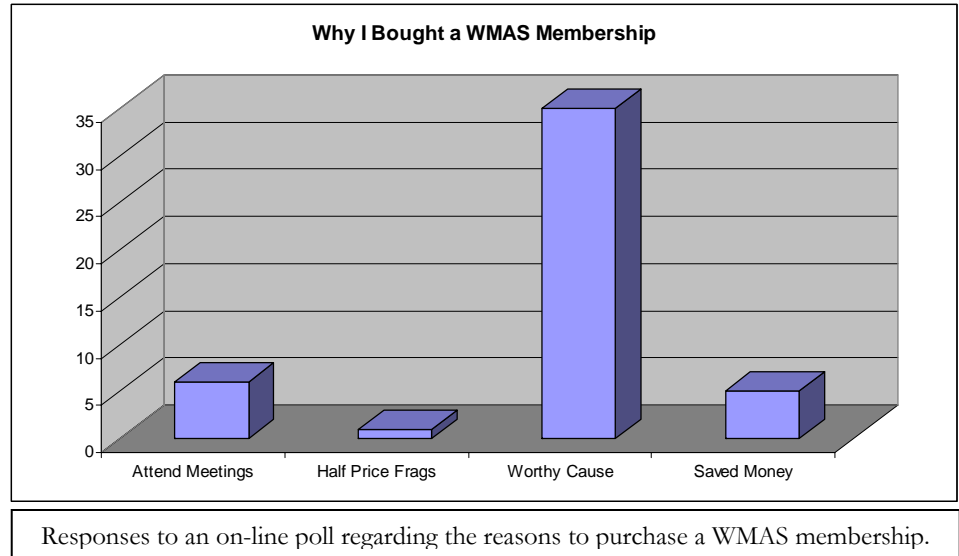
Last fall, there was a poll on our message board asking people what motivated them to pay for an official membership to the Wasatch Marine Aquarium Society. Although the responses were limited, the question inspired a healthy discussion about the why's and why not's of purchasing a membership. We welcome all to our monthly meetings, to participate on our message board, and to enjoy the community club has to offer – regardless of their membership status. However, since the time to renew our 2007 membership is here, I thought it worthwhile to explain how the club uses the money collected for dues.

All organizations need money to function. Our little fish club is no different. Membership dues (and any other funds the club collects) are used for the general administration of the club. All funds are spent at the discretion of the president and presidency council.

Some examples of club expenses include:

#### Hosting Guest Speakers

Guest speaker costs include airfare, hotel accommodations, meals, entertainment, etc.



#### Monthly Meetings

We do pay a monthly fee for the use of the Rose Garden House. We also have a small budget for refreshments served at meetings.

#### Coral Propagation Meetings

The club must purchase some corals and inverts to make these meetings possible. Additionally, there are costs such as salt, packaging, and materials.

#### Purchase of Club Assets

The WMAS currently owns a projector, sound system, power-strip, extension chord, reef tour signs, etc.

#### Administration costs

Although limited, the club does have some expenses related to postage, printing, PayPal fees, website related expenses, bank charges, etc.

#### Promotional Merchandise

The club carries a very small amount of inventory of promotional items.

Now, what about those privileges? Well, to be entirely honest, privileges are few and their overall significance is certainly questionable. There are some small perks including a members' only forum, a member's appreciation BBQ and small discounts offered by some stores. But most importantly, buying an annual membership funds the club experience we have all come to expect from the Wasatch Marine Aquarium Society. Your support is crucial to the on-going success of the club. And, hey – it's less than \$0.07 per day!

### Premier Banquet 2007

By: the 2007 Presidency



The 2007 Banquet night is a way of saying “thank you.” After winning the frags.org blog contest, the club was given a check for \$1,000. The presidency decided that the money would be divided in half. Five hundred dollars would be spent at the presidency's discretion and the remaining five hundred dollars would be spent using input and guidance from Adam Blundell (who spearheaded the club entry in the contest).

Adam decided the best thing to do with the money was to use it on an event that everyone could enjoy. Therefore the money will be used to pay for a special evening with a guest banquet speaker. This gathering is a “bring your spouse” type of event, as the program will focus on natural reef information, and not aquarium husbandry. Hopefully this will be entertaining and enjoyed by all participants.

(Continued page 3)

Adam recently made a commitment to help support the Reef Ball foundation. This organization works with efforts on coral reef development and re-growth. Their Coral Team Leader John Walch is a good friend of Adam's, and the two are planning to work together on several future projects. John has graciously agreed to visit with the Wasatch Marine Aquarium Society (he has done so several times in the past) and to speak at this banquet evening.

John will be sharing with us stories of the reefs, how Reef Ball is helping to save corals, and more importantly what we as hobbyists can do to be part of the solution. Prepare yourself for some amazing photos, stories, and information you'd expect from a nature show. This evening is surely one you wouldn't want to miss. Our special "thanks" to Adam Blundell for arranging this evening and in advance to our guest John Walch ([www.reefball.org](http://www.reefball.org)).



John Walch Explaining Reef Ball

## Frag Fest 2007 – recap of January's meeting

By: Amy Newbold

***"Not only will we be offering frags and hands on demonstrations of coral propagation, there will also be some surprise items to add to your aquarium!"*** This was not another gimmick to get folks to drive in the crazy snow to get common corals, this was the meeting to teach how to frag and propagation of a coral lead by Bruce Ewald.



Bruce Ewald is a long, upstanding member of the WMAS club. Here are some clips from his bio:

"I have been into aquariums my entire life. I have only been doing salt water for approximately four years now. Once I started salt water it began an obsession. Currently, I have two salt tanks and a frag tank project in progress."

"I am a mechanic at a car dealership. I have been doing this

for around 12 years."

"Some of my other interests include: First is my family. I have been married for almost 9 years to my wife, Jennifer. I also have a new baby boy, Jake. I love being a father. I like playing with computers, almost anything out doors like camping, hiking, fishing, etc. I also love music and am partial to stuff from the eighties era. I have an RX-7 project car, which I hope to finish one day."

Bruce started the lecture with the reasons for Coral Propagation:

1. It is the future of the hobby
2. Fun to watch the coral grow
3. And you can sell or trade the frag

The next topic was Safety:

1. Corals can be toxic
2. Work in a ventilated area



(Top) Frag (Bottom Left) Growth after a couple months (Bottom Right) Today



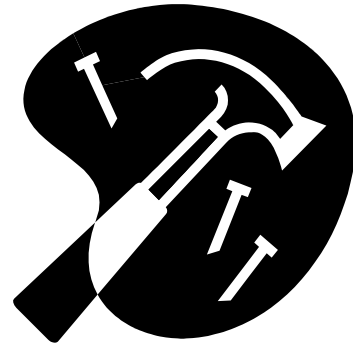
3. Use Gloves
4. Dispose of extra water and clean up

Guideline:

1. Frag only healthy corals
2. Some corals should be allowed to heal before relocation
3. Practice makes perfect
4. Avoid fragging many corals at once.

Tools:

1. Dikes
2. Scissors
3. Hammer and Chisel
4. Dremmel
5. Pliers and/or forceps
6. Super Glue
7. Epoxy



The last parts of the lecture Bruce went over how to frag types of corals.

Softies

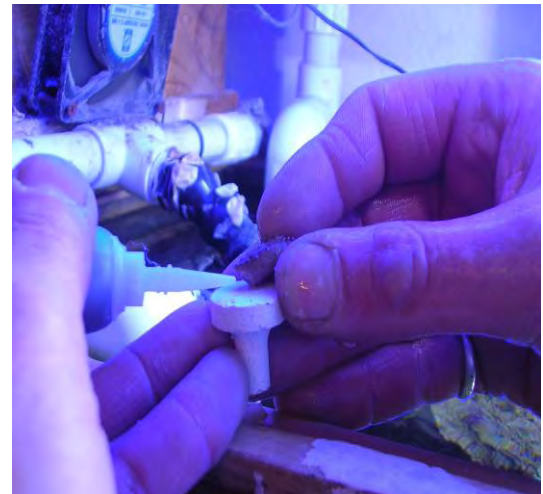
- Usually you can cut w/ scissors
- Carefully pulling from the rock(s)
- Encouraging to spread to other rocks
- Typically have to be tied down

LPS

- Careful cutting of the skeleton
- Some LPS can be broken w/ pliers
- Hammer and chisel method
- Typically will not attach to rock

SPS

- Usually easy to break by hands or pliers
- Super glue or epoxy to rock



Bruce gluing an SPS frag to cement plug

## January's Tank Of The Month: dadofrad (dad-of-rad)

By: Shawn Winterbottom & Amy Newbold

Tank of the Month for January is Galen Hutching's 120gallon glass tank that measures 2x4x2. Galen's been in the hobby for 15 months. He's been a member of WMAS for a year now. He stumbled on the Wasatch Marine Aquarium Society by researching the internet for answers to why snails die.

The tank's lighting system consists of six (6) T5s on IceCap™ 660s, each with individual reflectors. The first bank is 6500k and blue+ which come on at 7:30 a.m and go off at 10:00 p.m. The second bank is two (2) 10000k and blue+ which come on at 2:30 p.m. and go off at 9:00p.m. The lights



JANUARY 2007 TANK OF THE MONTH

give little to no heat. I was able to touch the reflectors during the day without burning myself. That's one of the main reasons Galen chose the T5s, during the summer he only has one (1) out of the four (4) fans on. Plus the extra bonus of lower electricity bill helps put the nail in the coffin that he has chosen a great lighting system.

The filtration consists of two (2) Seio™ Super Flow 820 pumps in the main tank. Each pump is rated at 820gph. Galen has two (2) 50 gallon refugiums that also have return pumps pushing water back into the main tank. The first tank holds a ASM G-3 protein skimmer and five (5) inches of live sand with medium to large size live rock. It also houses multiple species of algae.

The tank runs on reverse daylight with T5s and reflectors providing the light. It also has a UV sterilizer that is hardly used because of the smell it produces when it's on. The second refugium has the filter sock and five (5) inches of live sand with a great amount of rubble coral on top. Both tanks have Mag-7s as return pumps which rate at 700gph. Galen has a siphon tube between the two (2) aquariums to keep the water levels the same.



(Left) Front refuge

(Right) Side view of both refugiums

On average, Galen's maintenance schedule consists of daily top off and cleaning the glass when needed. He has good intentions of doing a weekly 10gallon water changes but it's usually 1-2 month for a water change. The only additives he adds to his tank is baking soda to keep his alkalinity up to the correct levels.

Currently, the tank consists mostly of softies corals with a splash of LPS & SPS here and there.

Softies (*there are probably more. . . but we couldn't name them all*)

- 3 Types of Xenia (Pink, Pom-Pom, & Silver-tip)
- Kenya Tree
- Toadstool
- Yellow Leather
- Spaghetti Leather
- Colt
- Fuzzy Mushrooms
- Green Devil's Hand & Devil Hand
- Purple Gorgonia
- Green Sinularia

LPS:

- Acanthastrea
- Favia
- Bubble coral
- Torch
- Frogspawn
- Hammer
- Fungias
- Sun Corals(3 types – yellow, orange, & black)



Some of the many species of corals in Gahlen's tank



## SPS

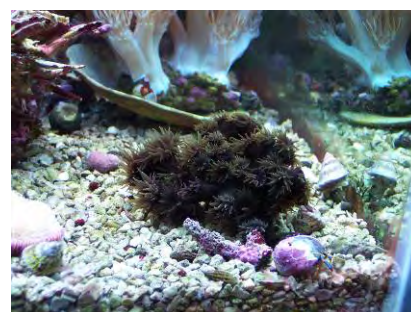
- Monti Orange
- Monti Tan w/ a Purple Rim



*(Left)* Green Devil's Hang



*(Center)* Yellow Sun Polyps



*(Right)* Black Sun Polyps

## Fish

- 6 Species of Tangs that were added all at once (Yellow, Hippo, Purple, Chevron, Desjardini, Sailfin, and a Soho)
- Trio of Chomis
- Duo of Perculas
- Royal Gramma

## Inverts

- 8 Species of Clams (Gigas, (2) Crocea, Derasa, (3) Maxima, and Squamosa)
- Thorny Oyster
- Linkia Star
- Bristle Star
- Skunk Shrimp
- Peppermint Shrimps
- Emerald Crabs
- Critters (Snails and Hermits)



Center – Zebra Tang swimming with other tang mates



Thorny Oyster with Clams

Galen feeds his crew all frozen foods and no flakes. Arcti-Pods™, Cyclop-eeze, Brine, Mysis, Rotifers, Phyto, and Liquid Life BioPlankton. I asked Galen why he thinks his tank has been so successful and he replied with one comment: “Because I need to start fragging. . . .”

If you know someone who should be Tank of the Month or if you want to be Tank of the Month – please contact Shawn Winterbottom (summertop).



## Coral of the Month – *Caulastrea*

By: Amber Vester (pictures: Shome Shibaji's candycane colony)



Candy canes are considered an lps (large polyp stony) coral and have a skeleton with the flesh forming the heads on the ends. If allowed to grow the *Caulastrea* will divide and grow until it forms a sphere on the sand. Because of its unique growing pattern it is also one of the easiest corals to frag and propagate. You simply have to snap off a branch and the frag is ready for a new home.

Like other lps corals, *Caulastrea* require medium light and flow. While they will grow with only the light and food it can gather suspended in the water, they will benefit from supplemental feedings. The heads will also extend their polyps at night to feed and will grow and divide faster if fed small meaty foods. I have also noticed that mine have adapted to feedings during the day and will extend their polyps quickly if they get a squirt with the turkey baster.

Overall I think these are a wonderful coral that make a great addition to any tank.



In reef keeping many people strive to have a tank filled with bright and unusual corals. This often has the effect of overlooking corals that are regarded as common. One coral that is sometimes passed over are of the genus *Caulastrea*, commonly known as candy cane.

This family of corals comes in many varieties of colors. If you are trying to achieve a tank filled with bright colors be on the lookout for the fluorescent green, and burgundy with green (occasionally with white stripes) variety. The more commonly seen colors of white (can range from light pink to light blue depending on the lights) and pale green also add different colors and textures then are seen in many corals.

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## Fish of the Month: The Midas Touch

By: Mike Savage

Want a little more gold in your life? Invest in a Midas Blenny; you may profit in more ways than one!

Midas Blennies (*Ecsenius midas*) are a beautiful and peaceful fish. Gold in color with blue eyes, these four to five inch long fish are found in very few home aquaria. This isn't your ordinary blenny. That is to say it is not an herbivore, a bottom dweller, or a venomous fang blenny. This blenny is different! It frequently swims near the surface in the water column searching for food. If feeling threatened, it will jump out of the water to confuse a potential predator or back into a hole in the rock, tail first, and watch its surroundings through big blue eyes. When it feels safe, it will slowly swim out in an eel-like manner searching for food.



Midas blenny peeking out of hole in rock



Midas swimming around happily getting attention

My blenny knows me and swims back and forth to get my attention, no doubt hoping to be fed. They take prepared foods well and aren't shy at all about eating. Although they don't do well with firefish due to a similar body shape, they do get along with nearly all other reef-safe fish including bi-color and lawnmower blennies. Mine refuses to be bullied by my Kole and Sailfin tangs and enjoys swimming with my Naso tang, which really is peaceful. I have read of them swimming with Orange Lyretail Anthias in the wild and think it would be great to try them together in a large home aquarium. These blennies are readily available but seldom seen in fish stores. Most local fish stores are happy to order them in if they are available from their suppliers. So don't be afraid to ask; I did.

If you are looking for a beautiful fish with a unique swimming habit for your peaceful reef and have at least a 29 gallon tank, you should consider a Midas Blenny; they truly are a treasure!

## Algae of the Month: *SARGUSSUM*

By Mark Peterson

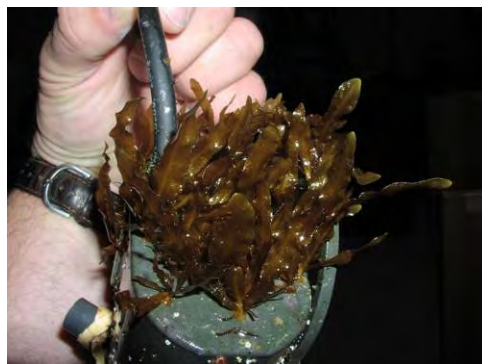
While the name *Sargassum* [sahr-**gas**-uh m] may conjure up mystical images of ancient sailing ships engulfed in floating seaweed, seashore explorers may see fronds of *Sargassum muticum* draped upon intertidal rocks like a mermaid's locks. A disc-shaped holdfast glues the bushy algae to the substrate. From this base grow several stalks, or fronds, often over three feet long with alternating leafy branches. Among the golden-brown, leaf-like blades are pea-size floats, or vesicles, and similarly shaped reproductive organs.



*Sargassum* growing from center piece of live rock

*Sargassum* bears a close resemblance to the kelp often seen off the coast of California. Many reef hobbyists may prefer to call it by that name. Whichever name you chose to use, this golden brown macro algae is a beautiful addition to any marine aquarium.

In my aquariums, *Sargassum* first grew from LR in a sunny basement window refugium. It even came with a fascinating nudibranch that ate the clear hydroid-like polyps that continually grew on the *Sargassum* leaves. Currently, a new crop of it grows like a weed in my 120 Stingray and Batfish tank. Several other WMAS hobbyists have also grown it.



Jon Finch shows it off where it sprang up, attached to a powerhead



Jamison Hensley makes a continual harvest of it from his 120 reef.



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## Signatures of Note:

By: Amy Newbold

If you are a constant visitor of our forum, you will notice that many forum members have different signature lines. What is a signature line? It's a feature that allows you to automatically add information at the bottom of each of your posted messages or replies on the forum.

For the month of January – here are the ones of note:

Adam Blundell.

*"I'm only bad when Charisse wants me to be!" - Jon Finch*

*"I'll be single tonight. " - Will Spencer*

*"I got a fung-fu grip" -Sukie*

Jon Finch.

*"Stimpy! ACTIVATE THE PLOT DEVICE!" -Ren*

*"Mmm, timing & consistency never were my strong points. I was always much better at the after-gig parties." --Nick Mason, Inside Out: A Personal History of Pink Floyd"*



Dion Richins (Holdencraft33).

Where's the line between a hobby and mental illness

Shane Silcox (ssilcox).

*I would love to see someone snort a line of Kalkwasser. It might be really cool.- Shane Heil*

Mike Savage

On a quest for the perfect cube.

Shome Shibaji (sshm)

*"most aquarium products are based on profit and not science" - Eric Borneman, The Skeptical Aquarist.*

Eric Davis (FIRE SHRIMP)

This is the only hobby where someone is cool gluing animals to rocks (*Continued on Page 10*)

Scott Morell (GARFvolunteer)

A fair and *biased* reef hobbyist

Taylor Waldron (taylorwaldron)

I am a genius or an idiot depending on how you look at it!

Bret Hadley (Snowsrfr)

*"I don't have the knowledge of the other members, but I've screwed up enough to tell you what not to do!" – Me*

Abdul Mardini (Elvis37011)

*"Failure is the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently"*

Colton Sooter (c-sooter)

**"predisposed reef addict"**

Jared Page (peiji)

*"Will Design for Frags. I'm a graphic designer."*

Mark Peterson

*"Ms Stingray still seeking Mr Right"*



Ryan Ferre (Greenanemone)

“Secrets are worthless unless they are shared---Holly Claus”

Jaminson Hensley (jaminson)

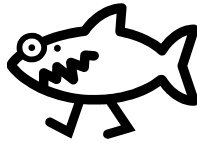
“I’ve finally “Seen the light” and can verify that it is indeed, Metal Halide.”

Ryan Murdock (yozhik)

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

I’ll be surfing the site for more signature lines. If you want to change yours, here’s how:

- Settings
- Edit Profile
- Signature Box – inspiration saying
- Update Profile



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Again, if you would like to submit an article or have suggestions for future articles – please don’t hesitate to contact me on the board or by email: [sukie80@gmail.com](mailto:sukie80@gmail.com)

