



The Sea Star

Newsletter of the Wasatch Marine Aquarium Society Founded 1995 Issue 38 January 2001

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Welcome New Members

Michael & Amy Berrett

Tom Brickey

Ed Denny

Ray Dillman

John Fletcher

Aaron George

John Hatfield

Matt Keane

Ed Lind

Glenn Neff

Jim Perry

Brandon Peterson

Jeremy Thompson

Phil Varley

Brandon, Jamie & Burt Woods

Successful Reef Tour

Thank you to everyone and every retail store for the help and combined success of the Reef Tour 2000. It was a huge success despite the freeway closure and the lack of newspaper coverage. The number of visitors was less than expected but 12 new members gained was proportionally higher than previous years. It is great to see the enthusiasm which the Reef Tour generates and we thank SallyJo and LeRoy Headlee for coming up with the idea. We hope to use the funds for bringing in some high powered speakers like Julian Sprung, Bob Goemans, Martin Moe, John Walsh. If there is someone you would like to see, let us know and we can consider bringing them to Salt Lake.

Give Thanks

Please remember to thank the retail stores for their support of your needs as a hobbyist and as a member of the Wasatch Marine Aquarium Society.

Marine Algae Control

Bob Goemans, Ph.D., a well known marine aquarist, has written a booklet which he titled Marine Algae Control Secrets

- Remedies for the Marine and Reef Aquarium.

I found the information to be very informative and as complete as technically possible in the year 2001. The booklet is available in the WMAS Library for all members to reference. Any aquarist wishing to avoid trouble with algae is advised to read the booklet. Any aquarist already finding themselves in trouble with an overgrowth of algae may want to read the booklet before dumping in that bottle of chlorine bleach!

Dr. Goemans writes:

“There are numerous reasons why unwanted forms of algae and cyanobacteria show up in the aquarium. I'll first attempt to briefly list all possible causes... to surface as many possibilities in as concise a manner as possible. Then let the reader pick those that may apply and then look through "Remedies" to find what may help resolve the problem. Some of the "Causes" may seem extremely simple because they are. However, awareness of these causes goes a long way in preventing them in the first place.

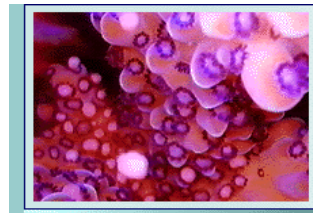


“Eliminate the desire to feed too often. If feeding more than once a day the chances are the fishes are not fully

metabolizing their food intake before they again eat more food. Their waste may simply add undigested food/more waste products to the nutrient problem. Overfeeding, especially with liquid or frozen foods where much waste is incurred, is a sure-fire way of increasing aquarium nutrient level. Keep in mind 90% or more of liquid invertebrate food goes to waste.

“The antibiotic Erythromycin sulfate or Tetracycline will kill cyanobacteria. Even though these chemicals may eliminate this unwanted pest the first time around, further problem blooms may become more resistant to the drugs. It is really much wiser to get to the root of the problem than to put antibiotics into the aquarium. Bear in mind that antibiotics negatively affect entire system biological filtration.

“Vacuum up the affected area's upper quarter inch of sand and replace with new sand. Often this removes an area where there was a concentration of organic material.



“There's no doubt reasonable use of some herbivores is helpful in closed systems. Yet in systems with prolific algal growth, it makes more sense in my opinion to limit the avenues for growth than spend money and time

trying to control it. Of course that may not always be feasible, and if herbivores are required, it is wiser to remove any readily accessible growths by hand before allowing them access. The less they have to turn into fecal pellets, the better off the entire system will be. Keep in

We have just received confirmation that Bob Goemans will be visiting the club on Thursday May 3rd. Additionally, we are now in contact with Julian Sprung working out a possible visit for the September Meeting.

September appears to be the best month for the Reef Tour, co-hosted

mind that once fishes, including herbivorous fishes, become accustomed to a free meal, i.e., being hand fed different foods, they become less apt to vigorously devour algae in the aquarium. Since there are herbivores that eat only certain forms of algae, I've created six, broad-ranging categories. A number will appear in front of the herbivores listed below indicating what general category of algae they consume.

- 1 - Filamentous
- 2 - Macroalgae/Micro/turf algae
- 3 - Coralline
- 4 - Cyanobacteria
- 5 - Diatoms
- 6 - Bubble Algae

Dr. Goemans produces a great list of at least 40 fish and

invertebrates along with which of the algae they consume.

“The most probable cause of sustained plant growth in closed systems is the lack of balanced microbial processes. Such a skewed microbial system then favors nitrogen storage, usually seen as unwanted plant growth.



“If aquarists first construct a truly efficient biological filtration system, they will have much less unwanted algae problems in both the short and long term. If what was described in my first two booklets were utilized to set up all aquariums, this third booklet wouldn't sell many copies!

“In my first booklet it clarified what I believe to be the best form of biological filtration. The second booklet explored what I consider the best forms of chemical filtration. By building upon the information disseminated in those booklets an aquarist could establish a very efficient microbial foundation that would be able to greatly limit unwanted forms of algae or cyanobacteria, both in the short and long-term. Bear in mind that the foundation of the aquarium is extremely important to its long-term existence. Give it the attention it deserves!”