



## The President's Pen

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The last month has been an incredibly fun and busy time for DFWMAS. We have had the pleasure of hosting some great speakers and events. I will do my best to summarize those experiences for those that missed out.

### Reef Stewardship Foundation (RSF)

This group held their annual meeting in our backyard and we were host to both Dr. Brian Plankis and Eric Borneman from Houston. This meeting gave us great insight into their organization. Their mission statement as follows: "Our mission is to foster a diverse stewardship community that protects coral reefs through collaborative action, research, education, and aquaculture initiatives." The reality is that our oceans and reefs are under numerous threats and RSF "seeks to conduct research yielding qualitative and quantitative data to fill basic knowledge gaps, provide practical knowledge regarding the captive breeding of species, encourage the global use of breeding techniques to supplant wild collection, disseminate information to pertinent stakeholders and empower an environmentally sensitive and personally engaged citizenry." We invited Dr. Brian Plankis to a local club meeting about 2 years ago where he was promoting Project DIBS. If you are familiar with that organization then this one should be ring a bell. It is simply the same organization renamed and expanded.

I highly recommend visiting their website and perusing the forums. You might be surprised at some of the species of animals and inverts that are being worked with by hobbyists like you and I. You will find discussions about Banggai Cardinalfish, Six Line Wrasse, sea anemones, corals, crustaceans such as crabs and shrimp, marine worms, sea stars, sea urchins, molluscs (clams, snails, nudibranchs), and more. In addition to species discussions, there are many other helpful forums aimed at food culturing, larval rearing, etc.

This is an area that few hobbyists venture. It is not for the casual hobbyists by any means. Nothing is impossible if we have the drive and determination to understand and develop techniques that are reasonable, repeatable, and uniform.

Something that we as hobbyists fail to realize is that many of the corals we keep are brooding corals meaning that they internally fertilize the eggs prior to releasing in our aquariums. These broods are easily timed and the larvae can be collected and reared in a specialized tank. This information is readily available.

For anyone seriously interested in breeding corals I highly recommend picking up Breeding Techniques for Reefbuilding Corals by Dirk Petersen. The information described above is contained within the pages of this book. Of special note, Eric Borneman who has and continues to assist in Project SCORE has personal experience working with *Acropora palmata* and rearing this technically extinct coral in captivity. He is one of a handful of professionals that most within our hobby recognize and hold in high esteem for their knowledge and contributions. Brian and Eric both plan to help aid in the development of easy to use, uniform procedures for hobbyists.

It is debatable as to when but at some point in time we are likely to face zero wild collections from our oceans and reefs. When this happens we will be faced with the great challenge of meeting our needs on a home-grown level. I think that it is imperative that we begin to focus on achieving the goals before we lose what we all tend to take for granted.

If you are interested in helping this organization, there are means to do so via the website. Please visit RSF at: [www.reefstewardshipfoundation.org](http://www.reefstewardshipfoundation.org)



## **The President's Pen (cont'd)**

### Dallas Coral Farmers Market 2009

Just like in 2008, Steve Tyree and many coral vendors from across the country visited Dallas. This is the single best opportunity for hobbyists to purchase a variety of beautiful corals in one single location for our immediate area. The event appears to have been such a great success in 2008 that there were nearly triple the amount of vendors this year. DFWMAS once again put together a beautiful vendor booth to help promote our club. A big thanks to Lindsey Angelone and her great creativity (once again) and Drew Richardson for providing a beautiful nano tank packed full of corals. We successfully signed up a handful of new members as well which was a bonus.

After this event, we moved over to our Next Wave 2010 location in Addison for a guest speaker. We brought in Greg Hiller from Boston to speak about water chemistry. Greg has been in the hobby for quite some time and has an extensive amount of professional work in the field of chemical engineering. The discussion was great for new and seasoned hobbyists.

### DFWMAS Fall Frag Swap 2009

We enjoyed our last frag swap of the year and it was packed with sellers this time around. There were approximately 20 sellers, most of which had tanks set up! It was definitely a buyer's market this go-around and was fairly well attended considering the timing of a week after the Coral Farmers Market.

Unfortunately all three of these events were timed very close in proximity of each other without as much advance notice as we would have preferred. In order to encourage better attendance we will strive to plan better in the future so that we may boost attendance. These were some great events and if you missed out on them, try and make it out to some of our future offerings. I think you will walk away with some new gained knowledge and a good time.

Happy Reefing!

Matt Little  
DFWMAS President

## Product Review

### Aiptasia-X

By Matt Little

Like many hobbyists I found myself contending with the infamous pest glass anemone, otherwise known as Aiptasia, in my reef. I was a bit careless by not aggressively working to remove them and found them popping up in various spots within my rockwork. As many of you know they are incredibly annoying as they will sting corals and fish, not to mention they reproduce at an aggressive rate if you feed your tank regularly. I tried many off-the-shelf brands of chemicals and even a slurry of kalkwasser to deal with this pest during my years in the hobby, all with dismal results. While they seemed to work okay initially, the Aiptasia simply came right back and it became frustrating. I tend to be a bit reluctant to use kalkwasser as most of my tanks are nano systems and the addition of this slurry can have an effect on pH in such a small ecosystem and is dangerous around other inverts. I considered adding some Peppermint Shrimp but as many of you know, they tend to be hit or miss as they may find other things more appetizing within the reef. After hearing many good things about the Red Sea product named Aiptasia-X I eventually broke down and figured I would give it a shot.

The label reads like many similar products. I was pleased to find that the kit included a plastic syringe accompanied by two different replaceable tips. Both a straight tip and an angled tip were supplied for those hard to reach areas. I am very impressed with the results of this product. If you have ever tried to inject these pest anemones you know that they will retract very quickly to the caustic concoctions, which can make treatment difficult and ineffective. This product does not make the Aiptasia retract at all. The anemone simply takes the product and immediately starts to dissolve. I could then easily siphon away any leftovers with airline tubing. I highly recommend this product for anyone that is plagued by this common reef pest.

\*Photo sourced from <http://www.redseafish.com/Prod296.asp>



## **And you thought you knew...**

### **David Washington a.k.a. washingtond**

How long have you been in the hobby? **I started in the hobby at the age of 12 with a guppy tank and have grown from there. We started our first reef tank in 2000.**

Where do you live? **Carrollton, Texas**

Where are you from? **Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado**

What brought you to Texas? **We moved to Dallas 19 years ago with Sony**

What do you do for a living? **I am now retired but was Director of Technical Sales Support for Sony Electronics when I was working.**

Favorite movie: **This is a tough one since we watch a movie almost every night and it is hard to just pick on movie. It also depends on the mode that I am in so my favorite always changes. I like anything by Quentin Tarantino so I would say Kill Bill 1&2 best viewed back to back.**

Favorite Actor: **Morgan Freeman**

Favorite Actress: **Halle Berry**

Favorite Musical Group: **Fatburger (smooth jazz)**

Favorite Author: **James Patterson (Alex Cross series)**

Favorite Quote: **"Don't Start What You Can't Finish." This applies to almost everything in life.**

Favorite Holiday: **Christmas**

Favorite Restaurant: **Nate's in Addison (crawfish in season)**

Pet Peeve: **People that say that they are going to pick up something you are selling and never show up or call.**

Do you have pets? **No just the fish, we travel so much that having a dog would be a problem. It is hard enough getting someone to feed the fish.**

Dream Vacation: **A train tour of Europe.**

Hobbies: **Golf, Photography, and Movies.**

Family: **I have one brother who is a heart doctor in Denver; he was also President of the American Heart Association a few years ago.**

How do you want to be remembered? **This is a hard one, but I guess as a person who gave more than he took from life.**

Who would you like to have as a guest for dinner? **Collin Powell**

Something you probably don't know about me? **I worked with Robert Redford for over ten years at the Sundance Institute providing equipment for their film projects. The past summer I was presented with an award for all my work with the Sundance Institute.**

What gives you the most pride in life? **That would be my daughters, the oldest Wendy is Senior Vice President of Sony Music BMG in NYC. She is the highest ranking female within the entire Sony America that includes Sony Pictures, and Electronics. My youngest daughter Michelle is a nurse in Baltimore, Maryland. I have been truly blessed. And last but not least Tippiie for putting up with me.**

Do you know any famous people? **Over the years working for Sony I have met over 75 movie stars and/or sport figures. For example Morgan Freeman, Sally Field, Denzel Washington, Kathy Bates, and the list goes on.**



## Upcoming Events Calendar

### Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Club meeting: 7pm to 9pm

**Topic: Round Table Discussion** Our round table discussion is always fun because the audience gets to pick the topics and let our advanced hobbyists address them with their combined years of experience. The meeting moves from topic to topic interactively. Additionally, Next Wave coverage will be provided to encourage everyone to attend our February full-day conference.

Map to location: [Google Maps](#)

*We meet at Stacy Furniture in Grapevine, Texas on the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in the Common Room; enter the building and take the elevator to the third floor. Guests are welcome to attend to learn more about DFWMAS. The meeting features a specific topic, which often is provided by a speaker using PowerPoint. Meetings conclude after all the door prizes have been given out.*

**October Picture of the Month  
Submitted by tramduong08**

**Close-up of an Acan Lord**



**Register NOW for Next Wave 2010!**

**February 27, 2010**

**8am - 6pm**

**Addison Conference Center**

315650 Addison Rd

Addison, TX 75001

[Google Map](#)

[Click here for complete details!](#)

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