

2nd Quarter

Apr May Jun 2009



ORLANDO REEF CARETAKERS ASSOCIATION

The Harlequin



## Southeastern Reef Conference

ORCA only does this once every two years so you won't want to miss it. There is a great lineup of speakers, unbelievable raffles, and a giant frag auction. A fun filled day for the special price of \$35 for ORCA members that also includes lunch. Visit the website for additional details and updates [WWW.SRC2009.com](http://WWW.SRC2009.com)



**Raffle Items:** 110 G RR Tank, 30g and 40g cubes, Dual GFO and Carbon Reactors, 17 bags of IO salt, Canister Filter, Acrylic Sump Filtration System, T5 Light Fixtures

RODI units, pumps, Protein Skimmers, pump mods, wave makers w/pumps, MH Bulbs, DVDs, assorted Specialty T-Shirts, assorted test kits and reef additives, 2 part solutions, fish and coral foods, gift certificates (Drs Foster & Smith, Gulf Aquaria, Salty Supply, Exotic Aquarium), Assorted reef books. Many more too numerous to list.

**Sponsors:** Air Water Ice, Aquatic Life, Aquavitro, Brightwell Aquatics, Bowtie inc, Bulk Reef Supply, Caribsea, Coral Magazine, Current, David's Tanks and Innovations, Drs' Foster & Smith, Ecosystems, Exotic Aquarium, Gulf Aquaria, Hikari, Ice Cap, Instant Ocean, Jaws of Fire, Live Rock Inc, Marc Weiss, Modern Reefkeeping, My Reef Creations, Plantation Design, Purely H2O, Marineland, Next Reef, Oceans Blend, Ocean Direct, Ocean Inspirations, Ocean's Reef, Orlando Science Center, Pacific East Aquaculture, Publix, Reef Nutrition, Reefer DNA, Salty Supply, Sea in the City, Studio Aquatics, Tidal Designs, Tropic Marin, Tropical Fish Hobbyist, Tunze, Two Little Fishies, World Wide Corals.

# 2nd Quarter Review

## April

The April meeting was a frag event that was held at the beautiful home of Cesar and Gladys Campo. Our gracious hosts provided a bounty of food throughout the night. Over 150 frags were auctioned to some very happy recipients. The frag team implemented a slide show of coral as it was auctioned in real time which proved to be quite a success.



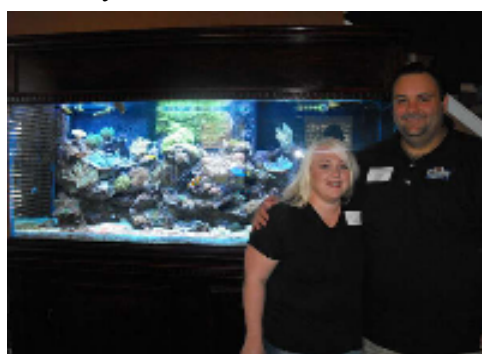
## May

May found us at the lovely home of James and Wendy Goodyear in Windermere. Food and drink flowed all night while Mitch performed his DIY workshop. The subject of the workshop was media reactors. Mitch took us through each step of the build, explaining how and why expertly. At the conclusion the reactor was donated to the raffle.



## June

Two days before this meeting the AC in the OSC went down. Jon and Naomi Clements were gracious enough to open their home to us as an alternative. Steven Pro gave a wonderful presentation entitled "So, you touched it, - Now what?" which was followed by an exciting Q&A session. Delicious home made snacks and beverages were provided by our Venue Committee



## Welcome to Our New members

**Wilbert Bell**  
**Lawrence Hufty**  
**Michael Jimenez**  
**Brian Chandler**  
**Laura Clayton**

## Bulletin Board

### New Frag Event Rules

Due to the large amount of frags and the time it took to auction them off in recent meetings there are new frag rules in effect for future Frag Events. These rules apply to people bringing frags as well as those coming to purchase them. Please consult the website for an important announcement concerning the Frag Event.

### Save the date

July 11, 2009—Southeastern Reef Conference

July 25—DIY Workshop (Auto Top off)

August 29—Frag Event

September (TBA)—Speaker (Randy Reed)

## Making ORCA Better

ORCA now has a **Venue Committee**. This committee will avail itself to prospective meeting hosts. They will ensure the home has enough room to host a meeting, they will procure chairs if needed, they will even arrange the beverages and snacks if the host desires. The committee is comprised of Kelly Martin (of the ORCA Clownfish cake fame), and Josh, our secretary, with a big assist from Natalie.

Natalie has also stepped up and volunteered to be our **Merchandise Coordinator**. She will be offering ORCA merchandise for sale at all meetings and events.

# Looking Ahead—3rd Quarter 2009

## July

This meeting will be held on Saturday, the 25th of July. Check the website for address and time. Due to the SRC Frag auction in July we have changed this meeting to a DIY workshop. Mitch will do a presentation showing us how to build an auto-top off system.

## August

The August meeting will be held on the 29th. The location has not been confirmed as yet so check the website for additional information. This will be our frag event month. Pictures of frags will be posted on the website as they are registered.

## September

Since the Atlantic City MACNA falls on our usual meeting date this meeting date is TBA. Randy Reed, will be speaking about reef mariculture and nutrition. Rumor has it that free samples will be distributed to all attendees.

## ORCA Out Takes



What the @&^%\$#\*& is that?



Charades: Sounds like!



JiJi, look daddy I can make you a salad tonight



That's great Neimar—I've got the salt for the Margaritas

# The ORCA Spotlight

The ORCA Spotlight will shine on members and sponsors. We will learn more about each other and hopefully become a tighter knit ORCA family. Email the newsletter if you'd like to recommend someone to be spotlighted.



[WWW.ReefCleaners.org](http://WWW.ReefCleaners.org)

Brothers John and Joseph Maloney started Reef Cleaners in January 2008, which is located in Stuart. Although both grew up in Florida John was born in New York and relocated here in 1986, while Joe is a native Floridian. Reef Cleaners is a valued sponsor of ORCA. They specialize in cleanup crews and natural filtration. John has said "if you have algae we can kill it or grow it". John's personal tanks include a 72, 20 and 10 gallon. The 72 is his only display tank which houses Firefish, Damsels, Frillfin Goby, Engineer Goby and a Pajama Cardinal in addition to Zoas, Ricordea, mushrooms, toadstools, Gorgonians, Xenia and anthelia. The 20 gallon tank houses a Lined Seahorse which John is attempting to rehabilitate. Joe is in the process of setting up a 50 gallon tank at his new place. Aside from Reef Cleaners the brothers interests include diving, fishing, boating and hiking. John also enjoys web designing while Joe is into weight lifting and football. The brothers were hobbyists before they became retailers and understand how important the health of a tank is to an enthusiast. All of their products are reef safe and include cautionary instructions as needed. They adhere to strict quarantine procedures in the prevention of unwanted pests. They pride themselves on offering quality products and advice. In fact there is a forum on their website where you can ask questions and receive professional advice and counseling. We thank Reef Cleaners for sponsoring our club. Visit their website for some awesome deals. ORCA members are offered a 10% discount on livestock and dry goods plus special shipping rates within Florida. Editor's note: Just before this newsletter went to print John reported that the seahorse has recovered and is now in a breeding program.



Sea in the City opened in Orlando in May 2005. It's owners, Marcye and Tom Sweeney have six kids and six grandchildren. Marcye's fascination with saltwater tanks began at the Jersey shore 33 years ago. Since then she's spent countless hours studying reefs and all the creatures that inhabit them. Marcye's goal is to promote the hobby in terms of aquaculture and sustainable aquarium reef inhabitants. She believes there are many fish and inverts sold in the hobby today that should never be removed from their habitats, either due to their importance in nature or the fact that they have little or no chance to survive outside their natural environment. As custodians of the creatures we add to our aquariums, she feels strongly that it's our obligation to educate ourselves about the animals we plan to add to our tanks. Marcye stresses that our roles as reef keepers is to properly care for our aquarium inhabitants, and make sure we're purchasing fish and inverts that are ethically caught and taken from waters with similar parameters to those we keep in our tanks. Marcye ensures that the staff at Sea in the City is educated to work with customers to promote the conscientious keeping of all live animals. They are more than happy to explain proper feeding, additives and water parameters best suited to the animals in your care. It's with this in mind that they offer products they personally use and can endorse. They promote the same products that keep their store and home reefs thriving. A testimony to this is Cyndi, the Red Sea Sailfin and Paul, the Gold Striped Maroon Clown, 32+ years and going strong. This quote by the author, Dr. Lloyd Biggle Jr., defines Marcye's views in responsible reef keeping:

***"Life is life's greatest gift. Guard the life of another creature as you would your own because it is your own. On life's scale of values, the smallest is no less precious to the creature who owns it than the largest..."***

SITC is a generous supporter and sponsor of ORCA and SRC. Visit their website at [WWW.seainthecity.com](http://WWW.seainthecity.com)



## Local Fish Stores / Sponsors

## Online Stores / Sponsors

### ORLANDO REEF CARETAKERS ASSOCIATION

We're on the Web

[WWW.O-R-C-A.COM](http://WWW.O-R-C-A.COM)

Have something to include in the newsletter?

*Send it to:*

[Newsletter@o-r-c-a.com.](mailto:Newsletter@o-r-c-a.com)



Best Club Website  
2008  
Third Place



Orlando Reef Caretakers Association  
[www.orca.com](http://www.orca.com)

**Exotic Aquarium  
Kapaloric Family Pets**

**Max Reef**

**Ocean Direct  
Sea in the City  
World Wide Corals**

**Air Water & Ice  
David's Tanks and Innovations  
Juicy Corals**

**Ocean Inspirations  
Oceans Blend  
Pacific East Aquaculture**

**PurelyH2O**

**Reef Cleaners  
Salty Supply**

*ORCA thanks you for your support*

Want to host an ORCA meeting? Ask any of the Board of Directors below for information. We're the guys in the **Black** ORCA shirts.

---

## 2009 ORCA Board of Directors

### Club Officers

**President** - Terry Alexander

**Vice President** - Ray Wortley  
**Secretary** - Joshua Solomon

**Treasurer** - Jon Clements  
**Public Relations** - Jose Perez - Rivera

### Directors

**Membership** - Neimar Perez  
**Newsletter** - Ron DeNoia

**Web** - Paul Ogne, Cesar Campo  
**Mentoring** - Mitch Carter

### Coordinators

**Raffles** - John (Mac) McDougall

**Frag** - Vacant

**Photography** - Yanira Rodriguez

# Invasion of the Lions



“Near Perfect Invader” is what Lionfish found off the east coast of the United States, Bermuda and the Bahamas have been called. Lionfish (*Pterois Volitans*) are native to the Indo-Pacific yet there have been reports by divers since the mid 1990s of sightings of lionfish off the coast of North Carolina. These reports were regarded as little more than urban legends until photographs started turning up in the late 1990s. A concerned NOAA sent a team to investigate this phenomenon. Indeed the fish were there. On one dive the team pulled up 28 full grown lionfish off a shipwreck. In 1998 the lionfish had been officially recognized as being the first tropical marine ornamental fish to be declared as an invasive species. Over the next few years,

they slowly increased in number up and down the east coast and have been spotted as far north as Long Island, NY, with a very large population off North Carolina. How they got there is still up for debate. Some believe that eggs were released with ballast water from ships traveling from tropical Pacific seas. Others believe the fish were accidentally released in a shipment of tropical fish in a plane crash. And then there are those that are quick to point the finger at the aquarium hobbyist. During hurricane Andrew six lions were accidentally released in Biscayne Bay outside of Miami when the aquarium they were housed in was washed into the sea. They were spotted swimming in the bay for months afterward. Since Lionfish eggs are buoyant for up to three days it is a real possibility that the eggs and larva may have caught the Gulf Stream, drifted up the coast, and settled off the coast of North Carolina.

The next question is “How did they make the jump from the mainland North American coast to the Bahamas?” The Bahaman infestation appears to have originated from the North Carolina outbreak, and the fish simply swam the distance. Lionfish have been spotted in open water, swimming halfway between the east coast and Bermuda, where they have also established themselves. One NOAA diver estimated that in some places one Lionfish could be found every 40 meters. Considering that the species was not even discovered in Bahaman waters until 2004 the increase in population is alarming, to say the least. They were even found in canals and waterways.

Others believe that the release of eggs from the Atlantis Resort in Nassau may be the culprit. DNA testing on the Bahaman Lionfish has shown that the DNA from Lions in the Bahamas is closely related to that of the fish found on the coast of the United States. Because of the cooler water of the mid-Atlantic coast, those Lionfish have not spread as fast as the group in the Bahamas. Temperature plays a role in the fertility and frequency of their spawn. Due to the buoyancy of Lionfish eggs, the swift moving Gulf Stream may catch these eggs and push them out to deeper and cooler water. But in the Bahamas the temperature is much more favorable for Lionfish spawn quality and frequency. With an abundant food supply and no predators they have found the Bahama Islands a paradise in which to thrive. Females reach sexual maturity in only one year, spawn once a month and can produce up to 30,000 eggs per spawn! Taking these factors into consideration it has been estimated that Atlantic Lionfish populations are increasing at the rate of up to 1000 per cent per year!

What this information means to local species and even the economy is anyone's guess. What is particularly disturbing is that many research papers have placed the blame on the aquarium hobby and industry. We have seen the results of legislation putting pressure on the collection and importation of marine fish and invertebrates. The rapidly evolving threat that lionfish pose to Bahaman waters should be a wakeup call to all marine aquarists. Unless the marine aquarium industry, hobbyists, and clubs make a pre-emptive, conscious effort to educate home aquarists on the possible impacts of releasing non-native species into the wild, the public outcry could lead to restrictive policies placed on the aquarium industry.