



Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas



Meet The MASOC Board of Directors

The inaugural MASOC Board of Directors is truly an eclectic group of individuals. For our organization's first newsletter, I thought it would be nice to introduce the people who volunteered to serve for the next year. A short biography of each of the board members follows below.

Board Members:

- Chief Executive Officer—Wade Lehmann
- President—Chad Bryant
- Vice President—Roger Holt
- Newsletter Editor—Keith Stiles
- Webmaster—Wes Johnson
- Committee Chair Director—Christopher A. Ray

Chief Executive Officer—Wade Lehmann

Wade Lehmann has been involved in keeping reef aquariums since 1997. Wade says that “My appreciation for the marine environment and drive to create a sustainable reef aquaculture fishery for hobbyist consumption have driven me to create NC Coral Frag Trade Group (NCFRAG) and more recently the Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas (MASOC).” The NCFRAG group now has 240 members and has spawned 5 splinter groups to date. In forming MASOC, Wade feels that it is time “to combine the massive interest of regional hobbyists

with the wider national audience and with scientists and researchers that work toward the common goal of marine preservation.” Wade is currently a fifth year graduate student earning a Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Clemson University in Microbiology and Environmental Science. See tank photo below.

wade@masoc.org



Wade's tank, pictured above, was recently torn down to make way for a new, larger tank.

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President—Chad Bryant

Chad Bryant is a reef enthusiast who has 15 years of experience with saltwater aquariums. He began an online website called Reef-Science.com which has been in operation for over two years now. He is co-founder of the Raleigh Area Reef Enthusiasts (RARE) and President of the newly founded Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas (MASC). He resides in Apex, North Carolina, with his

wife and new-born son. Chad also holds a bachelor of science degree in Computer Engineering from North Carolina State University. See tank photo below.

president@masotc.org



View from the left side of Chad Bryant's main display tank.

Coming Soon...

Spotlight Species

In-depth information about a species of fish, invertebrate or coral! Details to include information such as: Feeding, species compatibility, tank parameters, etc.

Want to know more about a species? Let us know!

Have a species photo you'd like to share? Send it to us, we'll use it in 'Species Spotlight'!



Amphiprion ocellaris—False Percula Clownfish (top), Astrea Snail (bottom)



Vice President—Roger Holt

Roger Holt is 37 years old, is married, and has no children. Roger, who was born in Kansas, moved to Nebraska, then Texas, and finally to North Carolina about a year ago, resides in Salisbury, North Carolina, where he is a Nurse Practitioner. He also has many hobbies including scuba diving, traveling, snow skiing, camping, fishing, non-competitive shooting, collecting World War II weapons, and home repair. Roger has been involved in reef-keeping for the past 9 years. While living in Houston, he had a 135-gallon tank with a 30-gallon sump and 20 gallon refugium. He kept mostly SPS (small polyp stony) corals and tangs.

Since moving to North Carolina, he has only kept the 20-gallon tank up since he is renting and plans to build a home. Roger says that he “would like to see MASC grow into an organization where enthusiasts can share information, resources, and livestock in an effort to promote the hobby and ensure the survivability of the world’s reefs.” He says he wants to have a lot of fun doing it.

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No photo available

Webmaster—Wes Johnson

Wes Johnson, the youngest member of the Board of Directors, is a software engineer whose hobbies include cycling, board games, and home-improvement projects. He has one year of experience with reef-keeping, and currently has two tanks— 20- and 58-gallons.

His 58-gallon RR (reef-ready) SPS tank has only been up for a few months. He got started in reef-keeping with his 20-gallon tank and started with soft corals, which sparked an interest in SPS corals. After adding them to his tank and seeing almost no SPS growth while the softies took off, he decided he wanted a slightly bigger tank, strictly for SPS.

It took about 3 months to gather, build, and set up all of the equipment. He built outlets into the stand, built the hood for the lights and the sump. Wes says he can already see growth on almost everything now that he has finished the final piece and added the calcium reactor. The tank hardware consists of 250w 10k and 175w 20k lighting, a Remora skimmer, a 1” SeaSwirl, a Fergy Calcium Reactor, and a 20-gallon sump. This tank is inhabited by snails (Nass, Cerith, Turbo, Astrea, Nerite), a Tiger-Tail Cucumber, a black brittle star, a peppermint shrimp, a yellow tang, two green chromis, a false Percula clownfish, and a firefish. Corals included in this tank are Caps, Digitatas, Nana, Slimer,

Hydnophora, Birdsnest, and assorted other Acroporas. Pictures of this tank may be found at: <http://www.kicbak.com/pictures/ListPictures.php?nAlbumID=21>.

His 20-gallon tank is entirely devoted to softies. It is mainly stocked with zooanthids, mushrooms, and leather corals. It has power compact (PC) lighting and simple powerheads for water circulation. You can find tank specifications and pictures at: <http://www.kicbak.com/fishtanks/showtank.php?nRecordID=2>.

Wes would like to see MASC grow “into a well-organized group with regular meetings and discussions.” He would like to see the organization sponsoring organized trips to the coast and large aquariums. Setting up a database of coral species and color morphs that people in the group have would also be a nice addition to our goals. Finally, Wes says he would like to see us grow into “a wide group of people with different backgrounds and experiences to move the group forward.”

webmaster@masotc.org

See photo below



Wes Johnson's 58-gallon SPS tank.

Committee Chair Director—Christopher A. Ray

Chris Ray, a 29-year-old self-employed carpenter, enjoys scuba diving, collecting authentic NFL jerseys, and spending time with his family. He has only been involved in reef-keeping for the past year and is still learning about the daily aggravations and enjoyment of owning a reef tank. His current tank is a 29 gallon All-Glass Aquarium Reef Tank with JBJ power compact lights (2 x 65w), a Remora Pro Skimmer HOB, an Amira mud filter with a Mag 5 return pump, and 3 MJ 1200 powerheads in the tank.

Chris would like to see more people become involved in the hobby. He thinks “that MASC will have a lot of opportunities to spread the word and encourage people to understand the hobby before they jump right in with both feet.” Chris believes that “as members we should all be good examples of how this hobby

should be taken and give everyone a hundred percent. MASC should be an organization where its members are fair with each other and share the best possible information with each other while answering people’s questions.” Chris also says he would like to see more articles involving large-polyp stony corals and softies, since not everyone in the hobby is an SPS collector. He believes that MASC “should become more active in ALL our communities.” By informing and helping those still under the influence of LFS’s. He feels that the LFS doesn’t really care about our individual systems or our fish. “MASC should be active in recruiting future reefers in the area.”

No photo or email address available

“MASC will have a lot of opportunities to spread the word and encourage people to understand the hobby before they jump right in with both feet.” - Christopher A. Ray

Newsletter Editor—Keith Stiles

Keith is 35 years old, single, and has two furry children, his cats—Shadow and Arwen. Keith is a native North Carolinian who was born in and grew up in Waynesville, North Carolina. He is the lone representative from the western end of the state on the board of directors (to date and hopes that changes!). He works at Western Carolina University as a Planning & Institutional Research Analyst.

Somewhat of a perennial student, he has degrees in business and English literature: a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (majors in Accounting and Economics), a Bachelor of Science in English Literature, Master of Business Ad-

ministration, and Master of Arts in English. Keith has many hobbies, which include coin collecting, reading, music (he plays the organ), bonsai keeping, and web design. Keith does not currently have a reef aquarium but is in the planning stages for his first reef tank. In the past, he has kept saltwater fish-only tanks but is intensely interested in a reef setup. He is currently doing a lot of research and reading so he will know what he wants in his setup.

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No photo available.

Don't Forget the upcoming meeting!

Where: North Carolina State University—Department of Veterinary Medicine

When: Saturday, August 28th from 9am—5pm

Vendors will be on-hand with product information. There will be coral fragging demonstrations with free frags given out to paid members, and door prizes, too. Speakers will also be giving informative talks about the industry, etc. Keep an eye out for a formal agenda, and check the website for directions to the meeting.

Newsletter Assistant—Scott Thomas

Scott Thomas, although not a member of the board of directors, was included because of his contributions to the organization's communications. He serves as an assistant to Keith Stiles by helping with editing of newsletter content, as well as putting all of the information contained in the newsletter into its format.

Scott is a 32-year-old research scientist working with veterinary pharmaceuticals in Research Triangle Park. He lives in Durham with his wife and infant daughter.

His interest in marine life began very early, having been born in Myrtle Beach, SC and taken to the beach and to various aquariums. Growing up, his father kept at least two freshwater aquariums up and running at all times. As a gift, he was given his first aquarium when he was around 8, and since then he's almost always had at least one.

Although he has only limited experience keeping reef tanks, his

most recent aquarium, a 125-gallon FOWLR (Fish Only With Live Rock) was running for several years and in the process of becoming a reef before it was broken down and sold when he and his wife moved out of to state. The tank had a frag of button polyps, a mushroom, and green star polyps. Scott and his wife returned to North Carolina in 2002, and have been planning a return to keeping aquaria ever since.

Scott has a 12-gallon nano that is currently cycling and contains only live rock, some macroalgae and a few snails. Upon completion of the cycle, his plans are to slowly add two-to-three fish (a neon goby, and a clownfish or two, and/or a Banggai cardinal), a shrimp, and various cleaners. The contents of the nano will be transferred, upon its completion, to a 90-gallon AGA tank that Scott is in the process of purchasing equipment for.

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Scott Thomas' 12 gallon nano-reef.

As you can clearly see, our new board of directors is a very eclectic group with wide-ranging interests and backgrounds. Feel free to contact your board members and let them know what you would like to see the organization accomplish.