

# What's happening?

## Jan. 12, 2010 - Wednesday

### First Meeting of the New Year

Time: 7:00 pm

Stacy's Furniture

1900 S Main St, Grapevine 76051

## Jan. 22, 2011—Saturday

### DFWMAS Day at Neptune's Cove

Time: 12 noon to 6 pm

3055 W 15th St., Plano 75075

972.943.3474

## Feb. 9, 2010 - Wednesday

### February Club Meeting

Time: 7:00 pm — Stacy's Furniture

## February 26, 2011 — Saturday

## *Next Wave 2011*

*and*

*Coral Farmers Market <sup>sm</sup>*

*Event*

Fort Worth Botanical Gardens

3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.

Ft. Worth, TX 76107

## **“How to Build Your Own DJ Switch Set up”**

**Presented by Jeffrey Dheere**



With the new year comes resolutions. One frequent resolution is to get more organized. This month, our meeting program will feature a DO-IT-YOURSELF controller to help you better organize your electrical wires and control your equipment.

As you can see from the picture above, this device is neat and clean (no more bundle of wires under your tank!). You will be able to control your equipment with the flip of a switch — one of eight different switch/controls. It's a very handy way to run a reef and very affordable to build. See the finished product — learn how it was constructed, how it was wired, and where to get the parts needed to make this awesome piece of equipment. This will be an interactive meeting — a slide show plus a live demonstration. If you don't know what this is all about, you should not miss this meeting. And there may be one (OR MORE) of these boxes/parts to assemble in this month's raffle. Who wouldn't want one of these!



## President's Pen

Drew Richardson

### LFS...What Does It Truly Mean?

While reading our boards, or during a discussion with another reef keeper, the term LFS seems to come up often. Although it's an acronym meaning Local Fish Store (LFS), there's quite a bit more meaning under the surface that most don't quite grasp.

Our local fish stores are the lifeblood of the hobby, as we know it, and the genesis of where we all fell in love with caring for aquariums. Most aquarists saw their first coral or fish while snorkeling along a reef, or walking through a landlocked aquarium somewhere, but the passion was born from the fish stores that often go overlooked as we get more advanced in our aquarium knowledge. I would guess more than 95 % of hobbyists purchased their first aquarium from a LFS, and started buying almost all the livestock and dry goods from that same store. However, aquarists tend to venture away from the original store and visit other stores, websites, and now even attempt to purchase live goods from wholesalers directly.

Saving a few dollars may help an individual on occasion, but we, as hobbyists, need to remember where we started from and who helped us with that very first dilemma we encountered while caring for our aquariums. Getting items online, or at a better price is okay, when done in moderation; but is it really worth it to save a couple dollars, when that money could have gone towards keeping the local shop open and encouraging them to bring in more products. I see members constantly talking about going online for something, or looking for any loophole to undercut the LFS, but what they are really doing is draining money from our LFS and not putting it back into our local economy.

I'm not saying people shouldn't buy items online, or for a better deal, but I'm asking members to think about how much you're really saving and is it worth it if that store you like to frequent closes because each person chose to save a few dollars with each purchase. I'm also not advocating that every store is perfect. Each has its flaws, but each has something that makes them unique — it's that uniqueness which makes walking through them so much fun. Take a drive to Frank's Tanks and marvel at how he seems to remember almost everyone's name and how he has such a familiarity with each customer's situation. Head a little north to Fish2Morrow's store and let your eyes glaze over as you stare at his magnificent show tank. Stop by True Percula and pay attention to the rare attractions they often have for sale, coupled with their enormous fish-only tank which has a collection of fish that would rival most public aquariums. A quick stop by Mid-Cities aquariums will show you some of the nicest coral selections in town as well as a beautiful 400-gallon reef display that could easily be included in any aquarium book. As you head towards Dallas swing by Dallas North Aquarium. The only place in town that has almost every dry good you could possibly want, and easily the largest selection of saltwater and freshwater fish in the metroplex. Take a glance at the nearly dozen display tanks they have in the store at any one time, and appreciate the fact they have numerous employees willing to help. If you make it up towards Plano, swing by Neptune's Cove and take a look at the vast amount of exotic corals that the store has to offer, or get some advice from Bill (the owner) about any pressing need you have currently in your tank. Exotic Aquatics is a nice store that has a great selection and is always clean with healthy animals. I can go on-and-on about each store in town, but the point is, for each of us to get to a LFS. If you feel like they help you with some poignant advice, or you like the selection, don't be afraid to spend a few dollars to help that store buy more product for the future. There's not a store in town that doesn't put that money right back into other corals, employees, electricity or some other way of giving it right back to the hobbyists.

You'll thank me later,

Drew Richardson

DFWMAS President

**DFWMAS Officers**

Drew Richardson  
President

Marc Levenson  
Vice President  
Membership

Misty Johnson  
Treasurer

Lindsey Angelone  
Secretary

Wes Parton  
Board Member  
Webmaster

Jim Turkett  
Board Member  
Newsletter

Dave Johnson  
Board Member  
Advertising—  
Sponsorship

Jeffrey Dheere  
Board Member  
Librarian

Dennis Freeman  
Board Member

## Getting organized!

Come see how to build a switch controller and organize those wires for your tanks. We will have a live demonstration that will show you how you can build a control box like the one shown on the cover. Other such sample boxes are shown below. This is an inexpensive, easy to build a box for your tanks. AND if you don't want to build it yourself, we will have at least one in this month's raffle. Don't miss this informative meeting.



We meet at **Stacy Furniture in Grapevine, Texas**

**7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.**

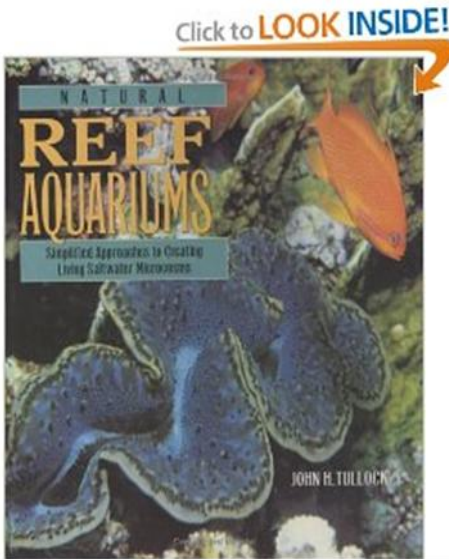
Map to location: [Google Maps](#)

Stacy Furniture  
1900 S Main St  
Grapevine, TX 76051

*Please park on the side as requested by management—NOT in front of the building. Enter the building and take the elevator to the third floor. We meet in the common room. At the end of the meeting, we are required to clean the room, so please look around your area and leave it super clean.*

# Next Wave 2011

**Sign-up TODAY!!!!**



## Natural Reef Aquariums: Simplified Approaches to Creating Living Salt

**John H. Tullock**

Debunking the myth that reef aquariums need to be wildly expensive and technologically complex, John Tullock offers a new, radically simple approach to producing beautiful, captive microcosms.

Using live rock and live sand as part of a natural filtration system, the home aquarist can now create vibrant reef tanks that are biologically stable and simple to maintain.

With Tullock's suggestions, the reefkeeper can now mimic natural habitats such as a Florida Keys Lagoon, a Caribbean Turtle Grass Flat, an Indo-Pacific Deep Cave, or a Red Sea Patch Reef. With more than 200 color photographs and illustrations, Natural Reef Aquariums provides inspiration for both beginning and expert marine reef hobbyists.

### Following review from Amazon.com:

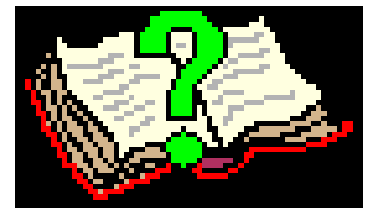
- This is a wonderfully comprehensive book on the challenging project of keeping a salt-water reef aquarium. Although still technology dependent, it emphasizes natural materials and methods to simulate this complex environment.
- Plumbing, temperature control, lighting & filtration systems are covered in detail with step-by-step instructions on setting up the aquarium and establishing a living reef colony utilizing live rock & sand.
- My favorite feature of the book is the detailed analysis of the reef biology of different regions with recommendations for simulating them in the aquarium. These include Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Pacific reefs.
- There are great color photos throughout the book of the fascinating & beautiful corals, invertebrates and fishes that can inhabit the reef aquarium. A superb list of sources completes this essential reference.

**Jeffrey Dheere**

DFWMAS Librarian

***NOTE: Books will not be available at the December meeting. If you want to borrow one, contact Jeff.***

## Rules For Borrowing Items



1. One item per club member per month. Maximum of 2 per household at any one time.
2. There is no deposit required for checking out of items (subject to change).
3. You must provide your username, full name, address, phone #s and email address before you can borrow a book.
4. Items must be returned in the condition they were borrowed (or fines could be imposed).
5. You must be a full member in good standing to borrow books.
6. Contact the librarian (Jeff) to reserve an item—it will be available at the next meeting or arrangements can be made for checking out books between meetings.
7. You must return items before additional items can be checked out. In addition, items must be returned to the librarian by the original person who borrowed them unless otherwise agreed upon (please do not pass books around).

## TANK OF THE MONTH

### *David and Tippie Washington*

My name is David Washington and both Tippie and I have lived in Carrollton, Texas for the past twenty years — after re-locating from Colorado. Both Tippie and I enjoy reef keeping and share the duties of taking care of our three salt water tanks. This write up will focus on our 200 gallon SPS tank. This aquarium has been setup for five years. We started it with frags which have since grown into full colonies. If you want to know more (after reading this article), you can find it in my build thread in the DFWMAS forums.



### System Profile

**Main Tank:** 200 Gallon Brick Style Tank

**Tank Dimensions:** 72"x24"x24"

**Sump size:** Custom Melev 50 gallon sump

**Filtration:** Melev custom sump with protein skimmer.

**Lighting:** 4ea 250W Aquamaxx 14K MH, 2 ea 95W actinic VHO's, and LED blue moonlights.

**Circulation:** 4ea Tunze Stream with 7075 controller

**Chiller:** A ¼ HP JBJ Artic Chiller located in the garage.

**Heaters:** 2ea. 250W Eheim Jager, controlled by the Apex.

**Controllers:** APEX, and Milwaukee controllers.

**Reactors:** A GEO 618 Calcium Reactor with a Milwaukee controller.

**ATO:** JBJ toloff controller with pump located in a 30 gal RO/DI tank located in the garage



*Hawaiian Flame Wrasse*

### How did you get started reef keeping?

I have been keeping fish ever since I was a kid, but we started our first reef tank (the 75 gallon) in November 2000, and have not looked back. The 200 gallon tank was setup about 5 years ago and a 25 gallon frag tank was added—sharing the same system in December 2009. Also, we changed controllers from a Lighthouse to Apex in November 2009. At this time, all our tanks are automated to the point where they require no additional attention—except for feeding the fish—for nine days.

### Describe your filtration:

The system is filtered using an AquaC EV180 Skimmer, which is located in the sump. In addition, we maintain Caulerpra algae in the refugium section. That area of the sump has a light on it: 24/7. The Caulerpra is trimmed once a month. Finally, we use a Two Little Fishes Phosban Reactor..

### Describe your lighting: (Include lighting cycles, bulbs used, timing of lighting, etc).

For lighting, the 200 gallon tank has an Aquamaxx 250W 14K metal halide bulbs (4 each) and two 95w actinic VHO bulbs controlled by the Apex. The actinic's come on at 9:00 am and are turned off at 9:00 pm. The MH's come on at 10:00 am and off at 7:00 pm. The LED moonlights are turned on/off with the phase of the moon controlled by the Apex.

### Do you have your own RO/DI unit?

The RO/DI unit I have is a Spectrapure 5-stage with a TDS of 0.0 ppm. The filters are changed as required.

### What type of salt do you use?

I use both Reef Crystals and Red Sea Pro salts alternating between water changes. I perform a 20% water change every week.

### Please provide your water parameters:

**Specific gravity:** 1.026

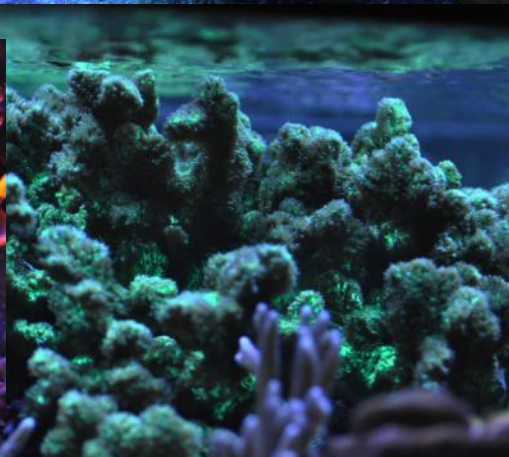
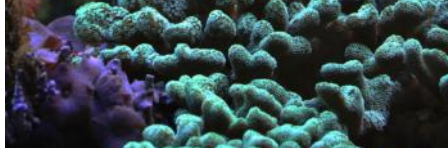
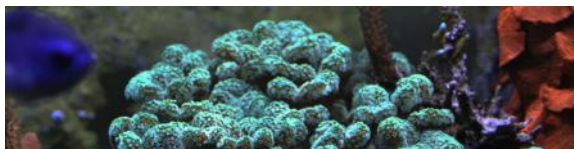
**pH:** Between 8.05 & 8.25 average during the day.

**CA:** 430 ppm

**ALK:** 8.5 DKH

**Mg:** 1,500 ppm

**Temp:** Between 78 & 80 degrees maintained by heaters & a chiller.





We have seven Lyretail Anthias (4 female & 3 males). Here are two picture of the males.

### What fish do you maintain?

- Hawaiian Flame Wrasse
- Yellow Wrasse
- Sixline Wrasse
- Lyretail Anthias
- Yellow Tangs
- Green Chromis
- Blue Reef Chromis
- Flamingii Tang



Here is a picture of an unidentified Anthias — there are four of them in the tank.



**Anything else you test for:**

I also test for Nitrates when I suspect a problem.

**What do you dose, how much and how often? Supplements used?**

I dose two part when required (the Alk or Ca level is low). With the large calcium load of this tank I have a 24/7 Kalk drip. In addition, I dose Kent Tech-M to keep the magnesium level between 1,500 to 1,600 ppm — this helps to keep nuisance algae away.

**Describe your feeding:**

I use a variety of foods starting with Mysis Shrimp, Rod's food for the fish, and oyster eggs for the corals.

**What corals do you maintain:**

**SPS:**

- Dendro
- Elkhorn
- Elephant Ear
- Five kinds of Birdsnest
- Sunset Monti's
- Red Chalice
- Pink Chalice
- Pink Lemon Aide
- Tryee Blue Acro
- Red, Green, and Purple Monticaps
- Cats Paw

**LPS:**

- Green Candy Cane with 5 heads
- Large Candy Cane
- Medium Green Duncan

**Other Corals:**

- Red Mushrooms
- Purple Mushrooms



**What invertebrates do you maintain:**

Tank has about 50 Turbo snails, and 20 Hermit crabs along with one or two Acro crabs.

**Here are some behind the scenes pictures:**



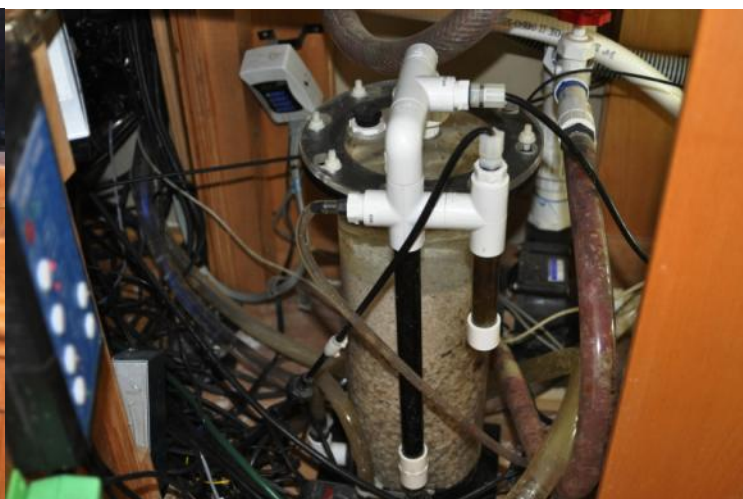
Drew's dosing pumps controlled by the Apex.



Sump with macro algae



DJ switch panel



GEO Calcium Reactor

**Future plans for tank(s):**

During 2011 I plan to convert the tank to 100% LED lighting. I have already purchased the Evolution LED lights and in the processes of re-building the canopy to mount them. The tank has been stable now for one and half years now with no major problems.

**Any additional thoughts/comments:**

I have noticed that once you have the tank up and running for several years and you are past the startup cost, the overall cost does go down. This is after you purchased all the goodies such as controllers, LED lights, and the latest state-of-the-art equipment and you are only spending money to maintain and feed the tank. In fact a lot of the cost is now paid for by selling frags once the corals become overgrown.

## Frank's Tanks



Frank Garner opened Frank's Tanks in late 2004 on Granbury Rd in SW Fort Worth and eventually relocated to the current location on Hulen Street (at 6080 S. Hulen St., #770) — opening for business at the location on May 3rd, 2010.

Frank says he has been keeping aquariums practically all of his life. About 19 years ago, he went to a less commercialized Cozumel, Mexico and took a resort scuba class — going on a shallow dive. He was inspired to have a piece of the ocean in his house and from that moment, his saltwater experience began!

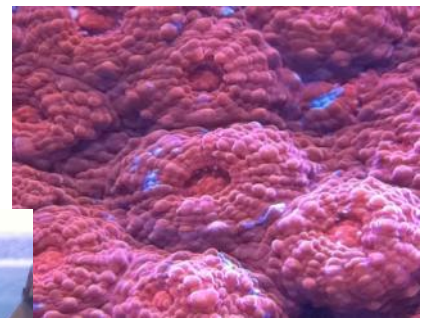
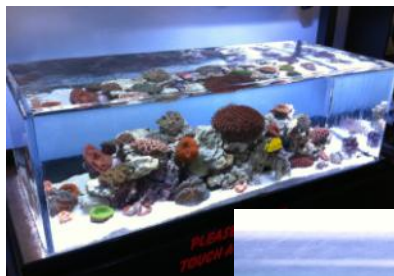
Frank's Tanks has five employees but Frank says he is at the store practically every moment that the store is open! The store has a total of about 3000 gallons of water — two are set up as display tanks. The store's primary show tank is a 300 gallon SPS display.

Frank says his store's specialty is simply teaching saltwater husbandry and explaining to people just how important water maintenance is — despite whatever they may have heard elsewhere. His proof of this is demonstrated in the cleanliness of every aquarium in the store and also by the rapid growth of the corals that thrive in them.

Although Frank's Tanks seldom carries highly unusual fish or corals (particularly when unusual means ridiculously priced), Frank takes pride in carrying healthy fish and corals from the basic "bread and butter" animals to some other fairly unique stock.

Frank says he only has a 34 gallon Solana at home, which is home to LPS corals, a bubble anemone, some leathers and a pair of mated goldbar maroon clowns — something simple after being at work all day!

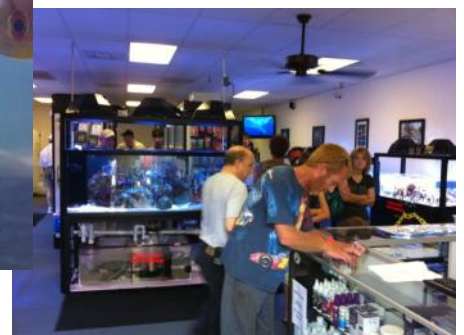
What Frank would like for people to know about his store is that he is genuinely concerned about the fish and corals that come into the hobby. Many die so that we might have what we do. He is opposed to those who want the beauty of the ocean in home aquariums and yet refuse to give the animals what they need — short-changing the fish and corals on food in an effort to reduce algae potential instead of feeding the fish and simply performing proper, adequate water maintenance.



Telephone: 817-423-FISH  
[franks-tanks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:franks-tanks@sbcglobal.net)

### STORE HOURS

Monday - Friday 12:00 - 7:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am-7:00pm  
Sundays Closed





CONGRATULATIONS to *simontan* on this terrific picture!!!

---

## DFWMAS DAY at Neptune's Cove

3055 W. 15th St.; Plano, TX 75075; 972.943.3474.

DATE: **Saturday, January 22, 2011**

HOURS: **Noon to 6 pm**

**Members will receive 20% off their purchase during DFWMAS Day.**

**What is DFWMAS Day?** Members greet customers of the LFS (Neptune Cove). We offer free water testing and other goodies. In addition, we sign up folks for membership — those that join that day can get 20% off also. We also talk to them about meetings, Next Wave 2011, and other club activities.

**How can you help?** Volunteer to serve for an hour or two during the above times. Please post on the forums under DFWMAS Members Only section. Hope to see you there!!!!

Featuring the:

**CORAL FARMERS MARKET<sup>SM</sup>**

At The Fort Worth Botanic Garden

**Next Wave**

**DFWMAS**

**Thousands of Coral Frags & World Renowned Speakers**

**J. Charles Delbeek**      **James Fatherree**  
**Gerald Heslinga**      **Matt Pedersen**

**SAVE THE DATE**

[WWW.DFWMAS.ORG/NW11](http://WWW.DFWMAS.ORG/NW11)

FEBRUARY  
**26**  
SAT

**Tickets — BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!!!**

\$25 - full event ticket including the speakers, vendor hall, and raffle (price goes up after February 12, 2011)

\$15 - vendor hall and raffle only ticket, no speaker access

\$8 - Jasons' Deli Box Lunch. It will be delivered to the Gardens that morning for you to enjoy on your own during our lunch break. Food is only available if you pre-purchase before February 12th.

**Speakers:**

**J. Charles Delbeek, S.Mc.** - *Trials and Tribulations of a 200,000 gallon Reef Tank*  
Senior Aquatic Biologist - California Academy of Sciences' Steinhart Aquarium

**James Fatherree** - *Reducing the Electrical Consumption of Your Reef Aquarium*  
Author - *Giant Clams in the Sea and the Aquarium*

**Gerald Heslinga** - *Sustainable Pacific Island Mariculture*  
Founder/Owner of Indo-Pacific Sea Farms,

**Matt Pedersen** - *Passion Incarnate & the Ultimate DIY Project - Marine Fishrooms*

**PLUS THE BEST RAFFLE OF THE YEAR!!!!**

by Marc Levenson



## Chemiclean

**Chemiclean** has been around for years, but early in 2010 an updated version came to market in liquid form rather than its powdered predecessor. Not that there was anything wrong with mixing up the powder in a small cup of water; still Boyd Enterprises felt there was a need for an even more user-friendly version.

**Chemiclean** removes cyano bacteria in a reef tank, and works its magic in about 48 to 72 hours. While traveling last October, I was

able to purchase a bottle at Reefapalooza. I've used **Chemiclean** repeatedly over the years when my tank was smitten with a cyano bacteria 'bloom' (that familiar red blanket covering the sand, rockwork and even some corals). The routine is always the same: Turn off all your filtration (skimmers, remove any carbon, GFO / phosphate removers, turn off ozone & uv sterilizers) and dose the tank. 48 hours to 72 hours later, inspect the tank and if it looks devoid of cyano, do a minimum of a 25% water change and resume all filtration. It is also recommended to add oxygen to the system with a powered air pump and air stone during the full treatment.

With my set up, I needed to treat for 300-gallons of saltwater. Counting out 300 drops was a pain for me, but for a nano tank-owner, counting out 12 or 24 drops (12g or 24g tank) it would be easy. I found that the bottle wasn't accommodating enough for the squeeze-and-count method. As I tried to squeeze drop after drop, the plastic bottle's resistance was annoying. After counting out maybe 15 drops, I'd release the bottle to let more air into the bottle, and resume. After adding over 100 drops, I was frustrated and began to shake the bottle over the water, counting the multiple drops as best I could. When I reached what I believed to be 300 drops, I stopped. For the next two days, I waited for the cyano to die. I mixed up new saltwater for the water change. Due to the strong flow in my system, the fact that water pours down into my sump and then is pumped back into the display tank, I don't run an air stone. If someone had a small tank with low flow and a surface that barely moved, I would urge them strongly to add oxygen for the needs of the fish and corals. For serious reefkeepers running well-designed set ups, they can make up their own mind what their system needs. If you have any doubt, just use the air stone as recommended.

When talking to one of Boyd Enterprise's representatives about the bottle squeezing issue, I was told that the instructions state that the cap holds 50 drops. I felt pretty dumb since I always read the instructions. Prior to doing this write up, I read the folded up instructions in the box, I read the printed label on the bottle, and I read the box itself. Nowhere did I find that little nugget of information, so you are hearing it now. Alternately, if you have a big system, you might find another way to measure out those 2 fl oz / 59g of fluid.

The product worked perfectly as expected, removing all the cyano. My skimmer went crazy after the big water change, and the system was devoid of the reddish stuff. If it could be put into the same type of big eye-drop bottle Phosphate Control uses, I'd be happy as a clam.

**Chemiclean** is available online and should be sold in most fish stores. Pricing will vary, but seems to cost between \$20 to \$29 depending on the vendor. It will treat up to 720 gallons of water, so a bottle could last most hobbyists a decent duration. Cyano blooms from time to time, and treating three or four times a year doesn't have to be a costly battle. This product works, and I will continue to recommend this brand to everyone that needs help.

I should add that it works with all livestock and that I've never had any losses of livestock (fish/corals/clams/anemones/inverts) whatsoever during the dosing treatment or shortly thereafter.

## DFWMAS Membership

There are a few things you should know before signing up to join the club - which is a different than registering on the forum. You will see that some users have a "Member" logo with a clownfish; others do not. Those users with that logo under their name have paid to become DFWMAS Members.

### Membership

#### has its privileges!

In the forums you can see special areas that are just for Members - special sales and giveaways are the best part. We also have a special Members Only Directory where you can list your business. We have special tours and meetings just for Members (e.g. the Summer Social party) You get a discount for Next Wave, our annual conference with nationally-known speakers. And of course, the best reason of all, you support a wonderful club full of helpful, generous people.

### **Mission Statement**

- Strives to initiate public interest in the marine aquarium hobby.
- Educates hobbyists regarding the importance of the marine ecosystem.
- Increases knowledge in the husbandry of the marine aquarium system.
- Promotes captive propagation



**First and Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State and Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Forum Screen Name (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Annual Membership Options - choose one:***

**New \$20**       **Renewal \$20**

**Attach a check and bring to a meeting**

**or mail to:**

**Membership Chairman**

**P.O. Box 1403**

**Bedford, TX 76095-1403**

You can also apply for membership on our website: <http://www.dfwmas.org>

**Paid \$\_\_\_\_\_ for DFWMAS Membership**

**Circle one:      New      Renewal**

**<http://www.dfwmas.org>**