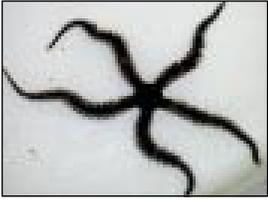


CMAAS Road Trip!



**Saturday, March 15th, 1pm
we're meeting at**



Harbor Aquatics

Come see the area's most unique dealer!

Big tanks of cured Fiji live rock you can explore to your heart's content!

Soft corals, Acropora, Stony Coral Frags (both cultured & salvaged*)

Macroalgae, Zooanthids, Snails, Hermit Crabs, Clean-up Critters,

etc.



Big Raffle!

**(Members only, but worth \$15 to join!)
2 Moonshine Lights**



the newest in lighting, as advertised in the March FAMA (Marc Weiss ad):

“Observe the natural behaviors of fishes and invertebrates throughout the night!

Make nighttime viewing primetime viewing!”

How to get there:

Harbor Aquatics is in the countryside just North of Valparaiso, Indiana. That's about a hour east of downtown Chicago off I-94. They are about 2½ miles south of I-94 at the Burns Harbor exit.

From Chicago and points West: Take exit 22A. At the bottom of the ramp you'll see the Club and Rocket fireworks stores on VerPlank Road. You'll also see a sign saying “NO LEFT TURN”. Just go up to the Auto Dealer and make a U-Turn. Drive back and make a right on VerPlank.

From points East: Take exit 22A. You will come under I-94. Get into the left lane. You'll see the fireworks stores on VerPlank Road. Make a left.

VerPlank dead ends in a block. Make a right onto Babcock Rd (200 West). They are 2½ miles south, on the left. It's the fourth house on the left past the second set of railroad tracks. The address is 927 N. 200 West. There is a large greenhouse attached to a two-story building behind the house. You'll find them in the greenhouse. Just in case: 877.464.6562.

(If you use Yahoo to generate a map, use the address 927 North 200 West, Babcock, IN.)

Bring short sleeves! Visitors are “required” to get wet. Harbor has towels. A spare shirt is not a bad idea if you want to pick out a lot of rock. Short sleeves, jeans or shorts and tennis shoes are the best attire. Normal temperatures in the greenhouse are around 80 to 90 during the day.

**What is a 'salvaged frag'? The term is used to refer to a fragment that either came from a wild colony that had major stress (RTN) during shipment, or one where Harbor honestly cannot, without 100% certainty, say that the frag is captive-grown or aquacultured. Frags that break off from wild colonies during the shipping process are also classified under this category.*

About Harbor's Live Rock

You need three things for a reef aquarium: good lighting, good water motion, and a complete reef ecosystem. The life on the live rock is the base of that ecosystem. If you get the base right, the rest is pretty easy. Harbor Aquatics cures rock the best—and hardest—way: by keeping it in water with intense filtration, water flow, and light for several weeks after import, rather than leaving it in boxes to die off.

Harbor only sells Pacific live rock from Fiji and Tonga. Pacific live rock is actually pieces of coral skeletons that have broken off reefs during storms. The 'rubble' washes in toward shore, where it is collected in shallow water. No reef damage is caused in collecting Fiji rock. Fiji live rock is prized for its high porosity which provides superior nitrifying/denitrifying capability. It is much lighter than Caribbean (Florida & Mexico) live rock and only about half as many pounds are needed for your aquarium. 1 to 1½ pounds per gallon are recommended.

Harbor's rock starts out as what the industry calls RAW rock. This is not the pre-cured premium Fiji that sits on shelves being salt sprayed for weeks losing most of the desirable life forms in an attempt to remove the undesirables. The quality of this rock is so because it is NOT pre-cured before it ships to them—it is delivered in the same condition that it is pulled from the ocean. They then cure this rock in a greenhouse under full natural sunlight. Various filtering systems keep nutrients in check so undesirable micro algae isn't a problem. The curing tanks contain astrea snails, hermit crabs, tangs, arrow crabs and others to keep the rock clean and remove undesirable hitchhikers. The idea is to save as much of the reef ecosystem as possible, and you need powerful circulation to do that. Their system is capable of 18,000 gph circulation, it runs at undetectable levels of ammonia and nitrite, nitrate is held below 5 ppm. There are numerous fish and inverts in the system; some are there to do a job, while others are just pets.



This piece of live rock was grown out in a show tank for about 8 weeks.

You'll soon have grow out like this as well with properly cured rock from Harbor! Some of the things people have found on Harbor live rock include *Sargassum*, *Halimeda*, fan worms, zooanthids (button polyps), sponges, cukes, anemones, and nudibranchs.

Chicagoland Marine Aquarium Society, Inc.



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