

Chicagoland Marine Aquarium Society (CMAS)

Brief Newsletter for February 2006



FEBRUARY 18. CHRISTINE HUFFARD

CMAS is fortunate to have Christine Huffard speak on Feb 18. Christine will talk about cephalopods. She recently published an article in *Science*, one most prestigious scientific journals, about bipedal locomotion in an octopus. They are able to walk on two legs using movements that have an uncanny resemblance to a man walking. This motion may be used for escape from predators.



Photos from Huffard's web site.

Christine is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation project is titled the "Behavior and ecology of *Abdopus aculeatus* from Sulawesi, Indonesia". Her research interests are: Cephalopod behavior, evolution, ecology, locomotion, taxonomy, muck communities, and coral reef rehabilitation.

The meeting will be held in the Schaumburg library at 1pm. We will also have a dinner with Christine on either Fri or Saturday evening and CMAS members invited. Check the web site for further information.

CMAS MEETING JAN 21—FUTURE OF CMAS: SEARCH FOR VOLUNTEERS

The purpose of the meeting was to establish the direction the club should take in the future and to find additional people willing to help run CMAS. The meeting opened with all attendees introducing themselves and describing their aquariums and interests. Next, a brief description of the history of CMAS was given by Steve Kossack, a founding member of CMAS. Steve said that the club was started as a group of people (6) getting together 13 years ago to share information. Some thought the group could and should grow to a thousand but others

felt it should remain small. It seems they had analogous discussions about the future direction and purpose of the club.

The current board members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their duties. Marelet Kirda (Mar) started by introducing herself as treasurer. She is Mike Kirda's wife (a longtime active member) and was recruited, with only a small amount of cajoling and arm twisting, to take over the treasurer's spot even though she claims not to know anything about reef keeping. She also said she would like to be replaced by the next election to be held in December. The other notable position discussed was that of membership chairman (chairpeople) jointly held by Jim and Marty Bash. Jim has retired and they plan to travel beginning next summer. Their job is one of the more demanding ones at CMAS since they talk to people who wish to join the club at each meeting, field emails about membership, and maintain a database of the membership. It was suggested that this job, membership chairman, could be split into two parts. One part would involve talking to potential members and accepting membership fees. The other would be keeping a database (or excel file) of the current members. Anyone interested in one of these spots please contact the Bashes.

Further discussion centered on the newsletter and web site. The consensus was both are not needed since most members have web access. Tom Sandercock is the current webmaster. He is willing to take the most current information on the web site and put together a one page newsletter. Jeni agreed to print and mail it to members requesting a newsletter. Tom also requested help writing up stories for the newsletter, particularly information about the monthly meetings. Please contact him if you would like to help.

All people present were asked for their input about what they would like to see from CMAS. Some of the ideas were: 1. Photographic tank tour; 2. Speakers; 3. See other hobbyist and their tanks. 4.) Problem of the month talk; 4. Change meeting to Sundays sometimes.