



MEDIA ADVISORY

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New Albany Coral Farm to Officially Open its Doors
Coral farm first of its kind in Ohio

New Albany – **February 2, 3 and 4th** will mark the grand opening of Reef Systems Coral Farm at **8459 Peter Hoover Road** in New Albany. **Between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, hobbyists, aquarists and those with an interest in saltwater, domestically-raised corals are welcome to visit the facility and browse the more than 1,000 specimens now available for sale.

Reef Systems Coral Farm is the first of its kind to be recognized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Wildlife and has been the dream of owner Todd Melman. In 1999, after working for numerous aquarium stores, Melman started his own businesses to set up, supply and maintain saltwater tanks and ponds for a growing list of clients around the Columbus area. A self-taught aquaculturist, Melman has done work for the Columbus Zoo, trained staff at COSI and set up recirculation systems for the Ohio State University. He is a 1996 graduate of Bowling Green State University.

Four years ago, Melman began building his coral farm, which now consists of: a fully-automated, 1,750-square-foot glass greenhouse, where the corals are grown in 14 x 4-foot, 2,000-gallon containers; a pump room (used for recirculation systems), and a farmer’s market storefront, complete with a 9-foot, 450-gallon reef display tank to demonstrate to visitors the beauty of live corals under optimal lighting conditions. Instead of using live rock, the collection of which would further erode the world’s coral reef ecosystems, Melman’s tank instead simulates the corals’ natural habitat by using lace rock, a limestone-based rock harvested from the earth.

“As interest in corals and saltwater aquariums continues to grow, I think it is important to preserve these natural resources so that we can enjoy them for many years to come. That’s why I am proud to grow them right here in central Ohio and to provide my customers specimens that would otherwise be harvested from the wild,” Melman said.

Reef Systems Coral Farm plans to maintain regular, weekend business hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. For more information, visit www.reefsystems.com or contact owner Todd Melman by phone: (614) 933-8779, or by e-mail: toddmelman@hughes.net.