

FAAS News

Thank you for supporting the Federation of American Aquarium Societies. The FAAS publication awards winners have been announced. LIAS will present its awards at the December Holiday Party. You can see a list of all of the winners on the FAAS website: http://www.faas.info/2007_publication_awards_winners.html. The First Place winners for most FAAS Publication Award categories are as a PDF download. All clubs may use these articles for reprint, if they review and follow reprint policies.

A box exchange is a great way to get new fish into your club. Basically, you exchange some of your BAP fish with another club in an even trade. FAAS has created a new animated and narrated program for you to learn how to run a Box Exchange. The link to view this program is http://www.faas.info/presos_practices/box_exchange.html.

Some interesting notes about the fish hobby that were compiled by Rick Borstein, FAAS president include the following.

1. The FAAS board is very concerned about the Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act (HR 6311), a bill that would severely restrict the import of fish into the hobby. <http://www.petproductnews.com/headlines/house-bill-would-restrict-animal-imports.aspx>. This bill attempts to restrict entry to the United States of any fish (or other animal) that is not native and could become established.

The Anticipated Consequences of the Bill are:

- 1) Higher cost of fish
- 2) Smaller importers will be put out of business
- 3) Less new species imported

For a list of all the sponsors of the bill go to the following website:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-6311>

2. Many new tropical fish species have been added to a proposed list of banned fish in California, as reported by The FishChannel.com website. The list includes characins, cichlids, piranhas, and livebearers. <http://fishchannel.com/fish-news/2008-march/proposed-california-banned-species-list.aspx>

3. Does the Economy affect Fish Purchases?

According to a poll of 820 people conducted by FishChannel.com:

- 30% Not at All
- 13% Minor
- 25% Some
- 32% Seriously

4. Water Hyacinth Problem in Lake Victoria: Pet Product News had an interesting article about Eichhornia crassipes, a beautiful but invasive species of Water Hyacinth. Over 90% of the surface of Lake Victoria was covered by water hyacinths by 1995. The habitat changes threaten native species and the 30 million people who live nearby and depend on the lake. This article has not yet been posted to the Pet Product News website.

5. There is a Wall Street Journal Article on Mosquito Fish, *Gambusia affinis* found at : <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120897815466039041.html>

The mortgage crisis has left many unfortunate home owners abandoning their homes . . . and their swimming pools which become infested with mosquitoes. Concerned about West Nile Virus, various mosquito abatement agencies around the country are introducing *Gambusia affinis* as a natural control. *Gambusia affinis* (and the western occurring similar species *Gambusia holbrooki*) are easy to collect in their natural range and are an interesting, if not very colorful, aquarium fish. Editors Note: I've captive bred them. They do tend to be a bit nippy, but can be used as dither fish for appropriately-sized cichlids.