

FAAS Report January 2008

As the calendar changes and we reflect back, it is clear that FAAS has made some great strides during the past year. The Board of Directors wishes everyone a very happy holiday season, and we look forward to the New Year. It is hoped that more programs will become available and that we can start working on a listing of prospective speakers for clubs.

Our club will be preparing the entries into the annual publication awards contest. It takes a lot of time to prepare the articles for entry and it takes even longer to be able to go through, read and judge all of them. If you go to the FAAS website, you can read some of the winners from the 2006 awards contest. If you don't have an entry into the FAAS contest, there is only one thing you can do about it. Write an article. There are so many different categories that articles can be entered into that you do not need to worry about IF it can be entered. We would love hearing about your experiences in the fish hobby. If you are interested in finding out more about FAAS, or joining the FAAS board, visit the website at <http://www.faas.info> or send an email to Rick at borstein@yahoo.com. All clubs can use new members. Find out what you can do to help the aquarium hobby. In the meantime, we hope you had a very Merry Christmas and most definitely a Happy New Year! See you at the meeting.

FAAS Report February 2008

by Pat Smith

Visit the FAAS website (<http://www.faas.info/>) to see improvements that have been made. One of the additions is a forum, <http://www.faas.info/faasforum/index.php>. Other items of interest, particularly for newer clubs, might be the information on holding a swap meet, and starting and running an aquarium society. There are also numerous slide and video programs that are still available for rental. But some of the newer entries there are a couple of programs that can be downloaded (for a nominal fee) to be used at club meetings. If I didn't mention it before, the newest one is one on Killifish by Charlie Grimes.

Well, now that we are into the New Year, it was time to get the FAAS publication awards done. In order to do that, I had to read each article and determine just which category the article belonged. Some, particularly the continuing columns, are easy to place. Others are more difficult. I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of articles Long Island Aquarium Society had to enter this year. What would make it better? Well, if each member contributed an article, or two, it would give us a much wider variety of information. I am sure that all members have had a good (or bad) experience with their fish, or their fish room. Why not let the rest of us know how you coped with the problem, or what you did that worked out for your fish? We can all learn from experience; our own and from others.

This year, entries can be submitted electronically. With my current Internet problems, perhaps this will be our method of entry in the future.

Good luck to all members who have articles that are entered into the Publication Awards, and hope to see more members entered next year. In order for that to happen...write an article, or do some fishy artwork.

FAAS Report March 2008

pat smith

I know I have been warned that I have too many email addresses. I guess it finally hit me that maybe I do. I realized I haven't attended one of the FAAS Board meetings at all this year. Now, the sad fact is I am not sure if there was one. It seems the email address I was using for the FAAS Board is no longer in effect... and it doesn't appear that I had gotten the change of email information to Rick. I extend my apologies to FAAS and to the club for not recognizing the problem sooner.

The FAAS Publication Awards have been submitted and I am looking into whether or not my Adobe Acrobat program is capable of separating the articles and keeping them in PDF format for submission next year. This year I was lucky enough to have Ken helping me with the copying so it could all get done. The all in one printer/copier/fax machine is very nice! Good luck to all who are entered, and for those who haven't got an entry in the 2007 contest... start writing (or drawing)! There is still time to enter the 2008 Publication Awards contest. I am sure the editor would appreciate hearing from you. It was great to see the junior member entries... let's keep them coming!

It is difficult to come up with different information sometimes, but some things are important enough to repeat. Finally, I would again encourage club members to visit the FAAS website, FAAS Forum, found at <http://www.faas.info/>. Rick has done a lot of work updating the information on the site. You never know what you might find. For example, in addition to our NCAS Forum, you might want to visit and join the forum on their website, at <http://www.faas.info/faasforum/index.php>.

FAAS is looking for ways to be helpful to member societies. Your suggestions are welcome. You will find email addresses on the FAAS website. If you are a member of another fish, reef or pond club, please let them know about FAAS and encourage them to visit the website and join. Membership is free. And, finally, if you are interested in joining the FAAS Board, just let Rick or any other FAAS Board member know.

LIAS FAAS Report April 2008 by pat smith

Although FAAS does not have any person-to-person Board meetings, the net meetings are proving to be successful. These net meetings are held by phone with an Internet connection. Through this we are able to see what is being accomplished and discuss it in real time, rather than communicate through a forum or emails.

Rick reports that there are now 65 member clubs in FAAS and that the inquires into how to run a swap meet continues to be significant enough to warrant keeping the link on the first page of the FAAS website. There are many important links, including those to some available power point programs, which can be downloaded for club use with a nominal donation. To get an idea of what is happening in FAAS, why not visit the website at <http://www.faas.info>.

Since the Internet has become such a powerful tool for clubs in general, FAAS has this year started to accept PDF entries for the publication awards. This will make it easier to post the winning articles on the FAAS website. Last year's winners are posted and you can visit the website to see them.

FAAS is also trying to take a more active role in legislative issues. Reviewing legislation is a time consuming job, but letting clubs know about both positive and negative legislative actions that are pending is important. There is also a need for more Board members to help FAAS. If you know anyone who is interested in taking a more active role in FAAS, please have them contact Rick Borstein, FAAS president. Listings of email contacts are available from the FAAS website.

Finally, and in my opinion, the most important information is the FAAS FORUM. Did you know that FAAS now has an open forum for hobbyists? Go to the website and click on FORUM on the left side bar. It is free to join. Many of you also know that there is a forum that you can link to from the Nassau County web site, <http://www.ncasweb.org>. You may want to join them both. Lonnie Goldman, the forum administrator, recently gave a link to the FAAS forum from the NCAS forum. Get the word out! Forums are another way to have a "net meeting." It is a great way to share ideas, ask questions, and just chat with other hobbyists.



There has been some new information posted to the FAAS site in the last couple of days. Since there isn't much to add from FAAS Board meetings, I extend the invitation to all members to visit the FAAS website. I would also like to encourage everyone to join the FAAS forum. It is a great way for club members across the country to get to know one another and exchange ideas. I have seen how successful the NCAS forum is, and I am sure that the FAAS forum will be just as popular.

- Downloadable Programs to “play” at your regular society meetings
- Articles on how to run auctions, publications, get volunteers and more
- Information on the Publication Awards Program, and winners from past awards contests
- Legislative Alerts.
- There is a new, narrated Flash presentation on how to do a Box Exchange.
- There are continued questions about swap meets. Check out the presentation about running one on the FAAS website.
- Check it all out at www.faas.info.

FAAS Report, June 2008

As the weather gets warmer, there are fewer fish shows and fewer meetings. The fish hobby tends to focus more on the outdoor ponds than fish rooms. So, why not visit the FAAS website, <http://www.faas.info/>, and check out some of the pond clubs in the country. Other things of interest include checking out the new, narrated Flash presentation on how to do a Box Exchange. 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. Now, if I had a high-speed connection, I could tell you more about this presentation. So, you will just have to go and view it and let me know what you think about this presentation. Voice your opinion to guppyghost@hotmail.com

Rick continues to field questions about swap meets, and has had other clubs come to their Greater Chicago Cichlid Association swap meets just to see how they are run. You can get information just by going to the FAAS website. This is still FAAS' most popular presentation! Many clubs are now starting to augment their auctions by running swap meets. Check out FAAS' [Swap Meet Presentation](#) to learn all about conducting a swap meet.

FAAS has also started a [new mailing list](#)— open to everyone — so that we can keep in touch with you. Make sure you "white list" webmaster@faas.info so you can respond to the confirmation email. If you are on this mailing list, you will be notified of additions to the FAAS website.

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.



The FAAS Report

By pat smith

In a few short months, it will be time for us to submit the FAAS Publication Award Entries for 2008. In December, we will be handing out the awards that Long Island Aquarium Society members won in 2007. Will YOU be winning one of them? First, think back. Did you submit articles or artwork to the Paradise Press? If the answer is yes, then at least you are in the running. It means you had something entered. But, if the answer was no, then take this as a not so subtle hint that you should sit down now and write an article or draw up some fish. If you don't like either of those ideas, how about a photo essay. You can take some pictures of your favorite fish breeding, or of a do it yourself project you are assembling. The photos tell the story for you, all you would need would be short one line statements under each. Even if you don't win a FAAS award, it will make the new editor happy to have articles to choose from and it will make YOUR publication more interesting for all the members.

FAAS is always looking for new ways to help member societies. They welcome new members to the board or even suggestions you think the board would be interested in. All you need to do is click on a link for Rick Borstein to reach his email. Just go to the FAAS website. (<http://www.faasinfo.com>) While you are at the website, take some time and visit, and join. You should also look around and check out all the additions which have been added.

FAAS also feels that upcoming legislation is a concern of all hobbyists. The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2007 is one of their concerns. Long Island Aquarium Society members had the opportunity over the summer to see the results invasive species can have on a local environment. Some of our members took part in a Peconic Estuary Ludwigia eradication program.

FAAS Report, November 2008

As you probably can tell from the last couple of FAAS Reports, there haven't really been any major events occurring. But, it is still steadily growing; and there are now 71 clubs that have joined. As in every club, there is a constant need for new members, new ideas, and additional workers. Rick Borstein has been very active in his efforts to rebuild FAAS and bring it back to the original objectives.

When FAAS began, its primary purpose was to increase inter-club communication. It was found that many clubs were having conflicts in planning events. FAAS was a gateway for clubs to find out when other clubs had auctions and shows planned so that they could plan accordingly. Today, however, the Internet has taken on a significant role in eliminating this problem. It is easy to instantly send emails and even quicker to view the websites of sister societies. Even the idea of a monthly publication by FAAS can be replaced by an updated website, which Rick has provided.

One of the major roles FAAS had originally adopted was one of legislation. There were many bills being presented that would adversely affect the fish hobby. PIJAC, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Committee does this as well, but in a more general field. It is concerned with all areas of the pet industry. While their interest is primarily economic, FAAS and its member clubs are concerned with negative outcomes that could affect our ability to keep our aquarium fish. Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act (HR 6311) is an example of one of the Legislative acts that FAAS is watching. FAAS rejoined PIJAC, and hopes to continue to get information on upcoming legislation from them.

If you or anyone you know is interested in taking on a more active role in FAAS, contact Rick, FAAS President by phone at 847.634.2443, or email at <mailto:borstein@adobe.com> . You can also visit the FAAS website at <http://www.faas.info>. While you are there, why not check out the forums?



The FAAS Report

December 2008

By pat smith

Hopefully, many of you have gone and checked out the FAAS website, and are familiar with what FAAS stands for, and what it is hoped that FAAS can do with the help of member clubs to help the member clubs. After all, FAAS like any other organization is only as good as the members in it help it to be.

Just to give you an idea of where FAAS started and how it has attempted to maintain it's mission statement since its origin in 1979, I have decided to include this month a reprint from a May 1993 Paradise Press.

What IS A "FAAS"?

by Ron Ferraro

First, let me explain what FAAS: The Federation of American Aquarium Societies stands for. FAAS is a national organization encompassing North American, Central American and South American Aquarium Societies. It's main purposes are to further the growth and activities of aquarium societies and represent aquarium societies before governmental bodies. FAAS also keeps all participating members informed of any new laws proposed that would threaten the hobby. This was the reason FAAS was original formed in 1973.

FAAS has a lot of different programs available for aquarium societies, many of which are ongoing in our club now; such as Aquarist Of the Year, Breeder's Award program, Aquatic Photography, Horticulture Awards Program, guest speaker list judging list, video tape programs and much more which I will write about some other time.

A FAAS delegate is a person who is responsible to act as liaison between an aquarium society and FAAS. The delegate keeps their own club apprized of national activities and keeps FAAS informed of local developments. All correspondence between local aquarium societies and FAAS goes through the FAAS delegate The FAAS delegate has a FAAS membership handbook and receives a bimonthly publication from FAAS which is very informative, m as far as listing what is expected and required of all FAAS officers arc committee chairpersons and their various programs Each FAAS program has a committee working on it. The delegate has to correspond to all ongoing programs of the local aquarium society to FAAS, and must report FAAS activities back to the local aquarium society.

I have volunteered to be our club's, FAAS delegate and I will try to keep you all informed with the information that I receive from FAAS as I get it As most of you can see our club has grown tremendously in the last year and the varied programs that we've had with the huge turnouts prove that there are many afferent interests from beginner to advanced,

freshwater to saltwater, reef keeping to aquatic horticulture. I think FAAS has something of interest for everyone if you are interested in any of these programs just let our committee chairpersons, board members or me know.

As I was reading thru the FAAS membership handbook I noticed that in the 1980's LIAS won some Best of awards, for article writing and art work in the **Paradise Press**. So you see, the **Paradise Press** was an award winning publication; it could be again possibly, with your help. (*Editor's note:* You may notice that some of the FAAS programs are no longer implemented. It was decided that since most clubs are now successfully handling their own BAP and HAP programs, many of which were created under guidelines set up by FAAS. Still others, such as the Photography contest were discontinued due to the lack of participation. Some clubs have photo contests on their forum sites. The bi-monthly publication is not handled online. As you can see, Paradise Press was winning awards in the early 1990's and is doing so again. Our awards will be presented at our holiday party.)