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THE FISHKEEPER'S WIFE'S TOP TEN



by Marsha Radebaugh

Aquarium hobbyists have occasionally been known to suffer from an obsessive syndrome. Sometimes it's hard for them to determine objectively when things are getting out of hand. As a hobbyist's wife, I've developed a list of the top ten clues that might indicate someone needs to get a grip. Here they are.

You know things are getting out of hand when:

1. your kids invite their friends over and charge admission
2. your water bill is higher than your mortgage payment
3. you can't pass any of the 100 Petland Discounts in the tri-state area without stopping in "just to see what they have"
4. the other party in your divorce proceedings is named "Oscar"
5. you've been abducted by terrorists but your spouse doesn't notice because he/she assumed you were just in the fish room
6. you encourage your 15- and 16-year-old kids to move to a kibbutz so you can have more space for tanks (they were a pain in the butt anyway)
7. Dr. Foster calls you to place an order
8. vacation destinations depend on where the next fish convention is being held
9. his or her teacher counts your kid's birthday party as a "field trip"

And finally, you know things have gotten out of hand when

10. you buy a bigger house so you can have more tanks, not more kids!