

The Federation Report

January/February 2006



**The Official Publication of the
Federation of American Aquarium Societies**

F.A.A.S.

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Deadlines	Must be received by	Deadlines	Must be received by
January/February Issue	December 10th	July/August Issue	June 10th
March/April Issue	February 10th	September/October Issue	August 10th
May/June Issue	April 10 th	November/December Issue	October 10th

Items submitted for Calendar of Events must be submitted by the deadline of the previous issue.

President's Message



Jerry Montgomery
President

Well it is hard to believe that another year has conclude. I hope that it was good for your group and you personally as well. 2005 was a pretty good year for me personally and I wish you all Health, Happiness, and Success in 2006. FAAS is trying to be more responsive to the needs of its members but for us to do so we need participation from you to accomplish that goal. The easiest way to do so is to be a member of the Delegates Council discussion group. All that you have to do is to send Alexander Priest an email message and request he add you to the list and your all set. His contact information is in the Committee section of the FR.

I am still trying to find someone to take over the duties of Treasurer and Membership Committee. Please ask among your clubs membership and see if there might be someone willing to take on one of these positions. Is your group participation in the Award programs that FAAS offers. This is a good way to encourage participation on the local level as well. I hope that the member clubs will send in entries for the Publication Awards which will soon be due as well as the Aquatic Photo Awards competition which is coming up this spring. Don't forget to check the calendar for other deadlines as well so that your club members can participate in all that FAAS offers.

It is difficult to find people to do things sometimes and I realize FAAS has not always done as good a job as it should. FAAS is a National/International organization and as suck we are scattered across the continent. This can and does from time to time make communication and results difficult to accomplish all need to remember thought that all of us are just volunteers trying to do what is good for the hobby. Sometimes we over extend ourselves and fall short of our own and the expectations of others. All that I expect of anyone is that each individual give the best effort that they can and hope if they fall short they speak up and ask for help. It is impossible to fix a problem or solve things if no one has said one exists.

If you have anything that you wish to discuss or suggestions to make FAAS a better organization I would encourage you to send me a note or contact me by phone and share your thoughts or ideas. I am always eager to chat with another hobbyist so feel free to contact me about anything that might be on your mind. My contact information is listed in the officers section of the FR. my phone number is 217-359-6707 and anyone is welcome to call anytime before midnight Central Standard time.

Let's work together in 2006 and make it a great year to be involved in the Hobby that we all enjoy so much.

Jerry Montgomery
President
Federation of American Aquarium Societies



Delegates' Council Report



Al Priest

Chair, FAAS Delegates' Council

To The Delegates,

This is my final Delegates Council Report for 2005 (unless, of course, something extremely important and urgent comes up).

The November/December 2005 issue of the Federation Report ("FR") has the Bios and a ballot for the seven candidates that are running for the FAAS Board of Governors. It's very important that you present these to your club members at your next meeting. Please vote for four (4) of the candidates.

The ballots then need to be sent by mail to Tony Berry 222 E. Gift AVE. Peoria, IL 61603. You may also e-mail the results of your clubs elections to Roger Halleen at rogfish@insightbb.com If your society has not yet voted in the FAAS Board of Governors election, the deadline is December 31,

2005. (I'm guilty of not yet having voted on behalf of my society, but I will be discussing this with our President and casting my society's ballot this week.)

In the November/December FR, FAAS President Jerry Montgomery reports that the new Chairperson for the Publication Awards (and the new editor of FR) is Don Miller. The inside back cover of that issue has Don's postal and e-mail address, and the outside back cover indicates a January 31, 2006

Publications Awards submission deadline. Unless I hear anything to the contrary (and both Jerry and Don are copied in on this Report), I assume that the submissions for the 2005 Publications Awards are to go to Don's mail address as indicated in the FR, and that the rules and requirements remain the same as for the 2004 Publications Awards (the Publication Awards rules are on the FAAS website, if you need help in finding them, e-mail either me, or the FAAS webmaster, Rick Borstein borstein@yahoo.com for help in obtaining them).

Apparently, only a small percent of the societies participate in the Publications Awards. This was, at one time, the most popular FAAS "benefit" for member societies. I realize (because I prepare the submissions for my society) that it can be a time consuming process, and that the rules are not as clear as they could be. (For example, what does "column" mean, with respect to the categories for "Best Exchange Column" "Best Review Column" "Best Continuous FAAS Column" and "Best

Continuing Column, Single Author?" In the first two cases, based on the awards presented to date, a "column" appears to be anything from an article in every issue of the publication, to a single article for the entire year; but in the last two cases, "column" appears to mean an article in more than one issue -- but how much more than one? Another example are the two "changing covers" categories: " Best Changing Cover, Original Art" and "Best Changing Cover, Non-Original Art." My society uses original photographs taken by our own members, for our cover – a different photograph every month. Yet, I have to enter my covers in the "Non-Original Art" category. Some of our photographer members object to the "Non-Original Art" designation for original photographs.) Is confusion over the rules, or the complexity of submission, the reason for low participation? Any thoughts on this, and/or suggestions for increasing participation?

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Elections Committee Election Results

Tony Berry
Chairman

Eleven societies in good standing returned ballots prior to December 31, 2005. The election was to fill four (4) positions on the Board of Directors with terms ending December 31, 2008. Three candidates received a majority vote, and four (4) did not. Three were tied with five (5) each. The remaining candidate received three votes.

President Montgomery was notified of the election results on January 5, 2006. He will notify Jan Benes = 8 votes, Rick Borstein = 8 votes, and Roger Halleen = 10 votes they were elected to the Board of Directors.

Concerning the fourth Director to be selected our Constitution, Article III, Section 5 was followed. President Montgomery will report on the results.

With the resignation of Judi Peterson there remained one vacancy on the Board of Directors. Her term expired December 31, 2006. That position will be filled by the president and Board, Article IV, Section 4. President Montgomery will report on this also.

Article III Elections, Section 2 "Candidates shall submit their names to the Nominations Committee, in writing, by March th." Due to the great delay in this past election, and appointment of two Directors by the President in January '06 I'm asking the Board to extend that time to April 5, 2006.

Four November 2005 positions will be elected to the Board of Directors with terms starting January 1, 2007, and ending December 31, 2010. Directors whose terms end this year are Jerry Montgomery, Alan Robbins, Scott Tetzlaff, and the position that was held by Judi Peterson

FAAS Election
 (Terms ending Dec.31 2008)

<i>Members in good standing</i>	<i>Jan Benes</i>	<i>Rick Borstein</i>	<i>Janice Emmons</i>	<i>Roger Halleen</i>	<i>Don Miller</i>	<i>Pat Smith</i>	<i>Steve Vogelgesang</i>
Greater City Bronx, NY	X	X		X		X	
Motor City Detroit, MI	X	X		X	X		
NCAS Sayville, NY			X		X	X	X
AAA Agjadilla, PR	X	X	X	X			
ARVA Olean, NY	X	X		X		X	
Colorado Aq. Aso Littleton, Co	X	X		X	X		
Greater Cincinnati Cincinnati, OH	X			X	X		X
CAFE Tolono, IL			X	X	X	X	
Eastern Iowa Iowa City, IA	X	X		X		X	
T.C.T.F.S. Peoria, IL		X	X	X			X
Chicago Cichlid Chicago, IL	X	X	X	X			
TOTALS	8	8	5	10	5	5	3

The Editor's Report

Don Miller

Federation Report Editor

Greetings, I'll take this time to tell you a little about myself. This will be my third time as an editor and second time as an editor of an aquarium newsletter. I am a member of Greater Detroit Aquarium Society and Motor City Aquarium Society, as well as the American Livebearer Association. At one time or another I have been a member of all the Detroit area clubs and most of the national clubs. I have been keeping tropical fish since I was 13, and have been keeping saltwater since 1971. My passion is keeping and breeding endangered fishes, and fishes that were popular in the 1930s but rarely found in the hobby today.

I want to thank my predecessor Judi Peterson for fine job she did as editor and all the editors that preceded her. The job of editor is not easy. You are always searching for new articles. It is not uncommon for a committee turn in their report late, after all, we are all volunteers and something comes up and a deadline is missed. (I have to apologize about this newsletter being late, I started out having trouble with my computer, and as I write this my 80 year old, father-in-law is in hospital.)

I want to encourage you to send in articles for this newsletter. I especially would like to see some articles about your club. Articles on how your club brings in new members. How your club keeps the meeting fresh and interesting. For new clubs an articles on how your club was started. Plus, I need for your club to send me your up coming events.

I hope to be able to include some of the winning articles from the publication Awards Program in future issues. along with color Photos You may also have noticed that this issue has formatted for on line viewing.

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Finally, I want to remind everyone on this mail list that if you need to communicate something to the entire Delegates Council, you do NOT need me to do it for you (unless, as is sometimes the case, you wish to make comments anonymously). You only need to reply "to all" to the most recent Delegates Council Report, and your message will be sent to the entire Council. I mention this because I was off-line for a while recently, and when I got back, I read several e-mails that lead me to believe that some

Delegates had sent me messages to forward to the Council. The mail address I use for Delegate Council business is from Compuserve, and mail that I do not delete myself, is automatically deleted by Compuserve after a few weeks. So, it is very possible that some mail sent to me was never seen by me; and if you sent me anything that I did not respond to or act on, that's the reason, and I'm sorry.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexander Priest
102337.517@compuserve.com





On Technology

Rick Borstein

FAAS Web Master

Happy New Year! First of all, thanks to all of you who elected me to the FAAS Board of Directors. I'm truly honored!

Welcome aboard Don Miller as the new editor for the Federation Report. I look forward to working with you, Don. Thanks also to Judi Peterson for all her assistance and long service to FAAS.

I am going to continue my regular technology column each issue—so let's get started.

Loath to Change

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing the same way and expecting different results.

How does that apply here?

You'll find people in your club who object to purchasing technology because they don't understand it. Even though they know there is a problem, they fear the solution. This is when you really need to use your selling skills.

In my society, which I consider one of the best-run societies in the United States, I occasionally run into roadblocks trying to get people to accept new ideas.

A few years ago, I tried to convince our board that we needed a new logo. The club logo didn't work well on the web or video, and nobody had a clean version to use in print either! The argument I heard was—it's served us well for thirty years, why should we change it? Nobody could see that the web was becoming the critical medium is today. Today, our club receives most of our memberships via our website and reaches over 500 people via a listserv advertising society events.

It was a long story, but I ultimately ended up abandoning the idea. We still don't have a logo that works in all media or the consistent branding our club needs.


I lost that battle, but recently when our Auction Chairman resigned, we had a tougher problem on our hands.

A People Problem

Our Auction Chairman did a lot of work! He fielded innumerable emails and phone calls asking for seller numbers, created, labeled, stamped and mailed the auction postcards, worked with the hotel on room set-up, coordinated all the volunteers to staff the auction, secured an auctioneer, and stayed all day at the auction. Mind you, he did this job for over five years. I don't think anybody understood how much he put into it and how little he complained. We were very fortunate to get this level of devotion from a club member.

Our last auction had almost 1200 bags of fish, so you can see this is a big job. And, auctions are important; they generate a lot of revenue for the club.

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Publication Awards

Don Miller

Chairman

It's Publication Awards time again. Although, I have been a judge before, this will be my first time as chairman. Since I am also the Editor for the Federation Report and I'm running two weeks behind schedule, I have requested that The Publication Awards deadline be extended by two weeks. This makes February 15th the new deadline.

I hope this year we will set a record for number of entries. I want to encourage all the club presidents to make sure their newsletter editors are entered (categories 1-4a); and editors make sure that you enter your best authors are entered. There's no better way you reward your authors and encourage more articles for your newsletter.



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Knowing how much work the job entails, who would step in and take this on?

Three months went by and we did not have a new volunteer and we had to cancel our January auction. Fortunately, this woke up our membership and someone stepped forward. We didn't want to put a new person into a difficult situation and lose someone as soon as they came on board. What to do?

At our board meeting, we talked about ways to divide or simplify the job to make it easier. We still believed we needed one person in charge of the process. Was it possible to change the job responsibilities without losing effectiveness for the club?

I believe in using technology and services to lighten the load on the individuals who help a club run. I talked extensively to our board about this. Why burn people, I said, if there is a better way to do things?

The first item we tackled were the postcards. Creating the postcard, going to the printer, buying stamps and supplies and labeling and stamping 1000+ postcards is not a fun job. I did some research on-line and discovered an online printer called postcardservices.com. For about \$100 more than we were paying, we could mail out a full-color postcard! Wow! All I had to do was design the postcard, upload that file and an Excel file containing our mailing list, and they did the rest of the mailing—at bulk rate!

You can even design the card on-line using their system. Awesome!

Everyone on the board loved it and we got a lot of positive comments about the postcard.

The next problem to tackle was the onerous task of providing Auction Seller Numbers prior to the auction. As I dug into this issue, I found that not only did our Auction Chairman spend a lot of time giving out auction seller numbers, but all of the information had to be retyped into our auction system the day of the auction!

I proposed to our society Board of Directors that we create an Auction Seller Number System

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Committee Update

Advertising

No Report

Aquatic Photography Awards

No Report

Awards

No Report

Breeder's Award Program Programs

No Report

Federation Liaison

No Report

Horticulture Awards Program

No Report

Legislation

Canada

No Report

USA

No Report

Membership

No Report

Sales

No Report

Show Sanctioning

No Report

We urgently need help and new materials for new programs – please contact Jerry Montgomery and

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hat would allow anybody, over the web, to enter their information and receive a seller number immediately.

I proposed to our society Board of Directors that we create an Auction Seller Number System that would allow anybody, over the web, to enter their information and receive a seller number immediately.

As specified, the system would allow us to start our auction seller numbers at any arbitrary number

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Calendar Of Events

January 21, 2006

Champaign Area Fish Exchange

Winter Auction

Urbana Civic Center 108 W Water Street, Urbana, IL. The doors open at 8am for registration, Auction begins at 10:30 am. Anything related to the Aquarium hobby may be presented for sale at this event. Fish, plants, food, equipment, etc. will most likely be there. The FAAS ten Table method of auctioning items will be used. For more information contact Mark 217-428-6133 or email guppymom_2000@yahoo.com or Jerry 217-359-6707 or email: jmont@insightbb.com This event is open to the Public Free Admission.

May 19 - 22, 2006

CAOCA

Convention

Host Club London Aquaria Society Fanshawe College, 1460 Oxford Street East, London, Ontario, Canada. N5Y 5R6.

The London Aquaria Society is very proud to host the 2006 CAOAC Convention. We are working very hard to make it the best Convention ever held in the 47 year history of CAOAC. We realize most of the Conventions have been great but just you wait. Some of the details are shown below and I hope you will all give serious consideration to attending the Convention. The Convention Co-Chairpersons are Ron Bishop and Dorothy Reimer. The Convention Show Chairperson is Terry Little. If you have any questions please feel free to contact these people or any member of the club executive. (www.londonaquariasociety.com), Ron Bishop 519-457-7907 ron.bishop@sympatico.ca, Dorothy Reimer 519-438-7682 dreimer@wwdc.com, Terry Little 519-752-8642 tlittle28@rogers.com, Fish Show 50 Class show celebrating the 50th anniversary of the London Aquaria Society. Class Sponsorship available at a cost of \$30.00 per class. There are also 6 Special awards and sponsorship is available at a cost of \$60.00 each. Convention Rates: Full Convention \$75.00 each (until April 1st), Full Convention \$80.00 each. (after April 1st), Children 10 or under \$40.00 each, Saturday Banquet only \$45.00 per person, Sunday Banquet only \$45.00 per person, 4 Speakers (Saturday only) \$45.00 per person, Convention Speakers: Ian Fuller, UK Topic-Catfishes, Juan Migel Artigas Azas, Mexico Topic-Cichlids, Karen Randall, Boston, MA Topic-Plants. Mike Schadle, Chesterton, IN Topic-Humor, Mike will speak on Friday evening, May 19, 2005



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and increments the number for each seller. Each seller would receive their exclusive number on-line and a confirmation email with their number.

Even better, our Auction Database Chairman would be able to download the list of sellers saving about two hours of retyping!

The cost to have an outside developer produce this system was \$150. This seemed like a slam dunk to me! There was opposition on our board to the project, mostly from technophobes. Fortunately, we had some lay members attend the board meeting who thought it was a great idea and that seemed to swing the vote. The system is now up and running and is simple enough for anyone to use. Our club will be able to use the new system at the American Cichlid Association auction being held in Chicago on July 23.

What can we learn?

Sometimes to solve a problem, you have to ask a different question. We were initially trying to find a new auction chair to do exactly what the previous chair did.

Instead, we needed to find ways to make the job easier and more attractive to a new volunteer. What's left in the job are the important people-related issues critical for success.

When you can use technology and services to lighten the load—and it is economically feasible—it's a good decision. Hardworking volunteers respond well when you tell them they have less to do!

Web Applications

Web applications are programs that run on a web server—they do more than just display static HTML pages. Some examples are databases, content management systems, auction systems, etc.

Our auction seller number system is one example of a web application. Some common web application languages used on the web are PHP and ASP. If you have a techie in your club who knows these languages, by all means take advantage! If not, I highly recommend Don Boston of bosdev.com who produced the auction seller system for my club in about two days! He was great to work with!

FAAS Site Changes

The FAAS site has been going OK for the last three years, but the current design getting a bit creaky. It's difficult for me to add new sections, so it is time for a redesign.

I want to add new, more accessible sections of content to help societies run better.

Please let me know what you'd like in the new FAAS site.

FAAS Website Awards

It's January, so it is time to recruit judges for the 2006 Website Awards. If you'd like to judge, all you need is an internet connection and a couple of hour's time to look at the entries.

Email me at rick@borstein.com if you are interested.



F.A.A.S.

Committees

ADVERTISING

Open

AQUATIC PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

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BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

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PUBLICATION AWARDS DEADLINE

February 15, 2006

AQUATIC PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS DEADLINE

March 15, 2006

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I want to especially thank Jerry Montgomery, Roger Halleen, Rick Borstein, Tony Berry, Al Priest for their articles; without which, this issue of the Federation Report would not have been possible. finally I want to thank the Board of Governors and Committee Chairs for the work they have done. Most of them hold positions in their local clubs, as well as the positions they hold in FAAS.

I hope all our member clubs and the hobby will prosper in the coming year.

I'm looking forward to being the FR editor.

Don Miller

