

The Federation Report

March 2001



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

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May Issue	April 10th	Nov. Issue	October 10th

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

President's Message

Since I became involved with the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, I have seen the organizations membership rise, fall and rise again. I began my involvement simply by agreeing to allow my name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors. This was done as a favor to a friend who was chairing the Nominations Committee at that time so there would actually be more candidates than open positions. Having not been involved in the organized hobby at any level other than my local club, I had no expectation of being elected. However, much to my surprise, I found myself suddenly elected as a member of the FAAS Board of Directors. I took this responsibility seriously, and after serving on the Board for a few months realized that more was needed from me.

The FAAS Board of Directors had been having problems getting the programs back on line after serious problems caused by incompetent behavior from previous chairs. When we were able to finally retrieve the slide materials, we found them to be in a shambles. Since that time a small number of those programs have been put back together, videos and a couple of new programs have been acquired as well as additional new slide material that need to be placed into new programs. I consider this effort to be both a success and a failure on my part. I was successful in that I had programs available again, but a failure because I had not been able to get more societies involved and manage to create new programs from the materials I have available. I have tried to find people willing to assist me in this effort by writing a plea as program chair on several occasions. So far I have had little success in finding volunteers. I will continue to work toward improving the situation with the slide programs. A lot more can be accomplished if I can find assistance.

I use this example of the problems with programs to illustrate why FAAS has struggled in the recent past. FAAS is like your local society and can only be as good as those volunteering make it. And with FAAS, just like with most local societies, there is a shortage of people willing to work, leaving those that do volunteer challenged with multiple responsibility. This is not because these individuals had a desire to hold office and additional committee responsibility, it is simply out of necessity because the job had to be done and no one

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**President's Message
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else stepped up and volunteered for the job. I would like to see those of us on the BOD have the option of giving up some of those additional duties. I know that I for one, would like and need to find assistance with the additional committee responsibility that I now have.

This brings me to the two things that I believe FAAS needs to change to again become the vital leader in the hobby that it should be in the 21st Century. There needs to be more involvement with and from the member societies. There also needs to be better communication between member societies and the working members of FAAS. I believe that this can, and will be accomplished. If your society has a problem with a Chair not responding to your needs, I would ask that you contact me immediately so that I am aware of the situation. We can not deal with a problem if we do not know one exists. We have created the Delegates' Council in the hope that more societies will get involved and to give you a voice and a means of expressing your ideas of what FAAS should or needs to be concerned about. I would urge you to join the Delegates' Council and to become more involved by volunteering to work with a committee or to even Chair one of the committees. Together we can accomplish great things.

Jerry Montgomery
President



Letter From The Editor And Membership Chairman

First of all, I would like to thank all of you. As many of you are aware, we had some problems with the mailing lists in January. We feel that we now have those problems corrected, but if you hear of someone who should be getting the newsletter and is not, please let me know.

Next, I would like to thank all of the committee Chairman for their prompt response in sending in information for the March 2001 newsletter. You have made my job much easier and I thank you for it.

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**Letter from the Editor And Membership Chairman
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Jerry Montgomery and Greg Wooters have patiently tried to answer all of my questions and in some instances, this was not an easy job, because of lack of documentation. My thanks to both of you.

Dale Speirs has done a very informative book review on "Bowling Alone" for this issue. Take the time to read it! You will observe some insights to your aquarium societies that may well astonish you.

Some of you are already sending me information for our Calendar of Events, which is printed later in this issue. To those of you who are not sending me information, you are missing out on some very important FREE advertising for your events. As a member of FAAS this is a free service, why not take advantage of it?

As most of you know, I am also the Membership Chairman. Renewal notices have been sent (either e-mail or through the postal service) for all societies whose membership is expiring through April 2001. This should give you plenty of time to renew your membership before it expires. Because of initial problems with not knowing who had received or not received notification of renewal, we will send everyone the newsletter for March 2001. However, for all clubs with membership expiring through March 2001, if we do not receive your renewal by May 1st, the March 2001 newsletter will be the last issue you will receive until your membership is brought current. At that time, any issues you have missed will be sent to you.

If any of your club information changes, please notify me as soon as possible. This also includes any changes in e-mail addresses. This is the only way that we can insure that you receive notifications and newsletters in a timely manner.

Some of you are sending in your checks for renewal without the Renewal Application. Please fill out a new application so that we can make sure that we have all of the current information on each of your clubs.

Well, I have got to get back and put the finishing touches on this newsletter. Thanks to all of you for your courtesy, even when things didn't happen as they should have. Your warm welcome and positive responses were greatly appreciated.

Judi J. Peterson
Editor
Membership Chairman



2000 Horticultural Award Program Results

Cumulative/individual Certificates:

Wayne Toven - Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Flowerings:	55 entries
Aquatic Plant Sexual Reproductions:	2 entries

Linda Walrath - Medina County Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Sexual Reproduction:	1 entry
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John Clark - Medina County Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	10 entries
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Chris & John Summers - Tropical Aquarists of Northern Ohio - Club

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	40 entries
Aquatic Plant Flowering:	15 entries

George Hollister - Tropical Aquarists of Northern Ohio - Club

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	10 entries
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Kris & Ted Jolivette, P & H Rosa, David Behler, Peggy Kalvig - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Sexual Reproduction:	1 entry each
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Milo Squires - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	40 entries
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Shane Heinen - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	20 entries
Aquatic Plant Flowerings:	5 entries

David Behler - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	20 entries
Aquatic Plant Flowerings:	5 entries

Chuck Dohmeier - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	20 entries
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Richard Pelkey - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Aquatic Plant Vegetative Reproductions:	10 entries
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2000 Horticultural Awards
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Annual Awards: Individual

Most Vegetative Reproductions:

1. Milo Squires - Minnesota Aquarium Society
2. Chuck Dohmeier - Minnesota Aquarium Society
3. David Behler - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Most Flowerings:

1. Chris and John Summers - Tropical Aquarists of Northern Ohio-Club
2. Wayne Toven - Greater Akron Aquarium Society
3. Chuck Dohmeier - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Most Marine Propagations:

1. Tom Gromek - Minnesota Aquarium Society

Most Sexual Propagations:

1. Wayne Toven - Greater Akron Aquarium Society
2. A five way tie:
P & H Rosa, Kris & Ted Jolivette, David Behler, Peggy Kalvig -
Minnesota Aquarium Society,
and Linda Walrath - Medina County Aquarium Society

Annual Awards: Society

Most Participants:

1. Minnesota Aquarium Society
2. A tie:
Greater Akron Aquarium Society
Medina County Aquarium Society

Most Vegetative Reproductions:

1. Minnesota Aquarium Society
2. Tropical Aquarists of Northern Ohio-Club
3. Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Most Flowerings:

1. Minnesota Aquarium Society
2. Tropical Aquarists of Northern Ohio-Club
3. Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Most Marine Propagations:

1. Minnesota Aquarium Society

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**2000 Horticultural Awards
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Most Sexual Propagations:

1. Minnesota Aquarium Society
2. Greater Akron Aquarium Society
3. Medina County Aquarium Society

Most Awards, All Categories:

1. Minnesota Aquarium Society
2. Greater Akron Aquarium Society
3. Tropical Aquarists of Northern Ohio-Club

Karl R. Schoeler
Chairman

Horticulture Awards Program



Delegates' Committee Report

The Delegate's Committee is not all that easy to report on. For one thing, by the time you read this, the issues under discussion may very well either be different, or at least include new items. So, as my first report, I want to familiarize the FAAS Delegates reading this with the Committee, and again extend an invitation to join in its discussions. As of the date I am writing this, 13 FAAS societies are participating (not counting six FAAS Board members and their respective societies), Those societies are: Association de Acuaristas de Aguadilla, Brooklyn Aquarium Society, Cleveland Aquarium Society, Colorado Aquarium Society, Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, Greater City Aquarium Society, Houston Aquarium Society, Medina County Aquarium Society, Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Raleigh Aquarium Society, Tampa Bay Aquarium Society, Worcester Aquarium Society, and Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society.

Our first two topics (suggested by FAAS Board members) relate to membership classes and dues. Our third (and Delegate member selected) topic involves the FAAS Publication Awards and the current rules. Already there are indications that some member suggestions for adding categories and for modifying submission requirements are being viewed in a favorable light. For the first time since I can remember, FAAS has established a procedure to get member input

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**Delegate's Committee
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before acting. We delegates have a chance to help FAAS and each other, but only if there is active participation.

This Committee is an e-mail discussion group. E-mail means that difficult to set up (and costly) long distance conference telephone calls (or the need to travel) can be done away with. Most libraries offer free Internet access. Once you have access to the Internet, there are many free e-mail services you can sign up for. Just about every society has at least one person who is currently on (or who can easily gain access to) the Internet. The person from your society participating in the Delegates' Council does not necessarily have to be the FAAS delegate. If he or she is not, there should be a sharing of the information, and consultation with, the FAAS delegate. So, if your society is NOT participating, why isn't it? All you need to do is to send e-mail to me at 102337.517@compuserve.com

Alexander Priest
Delegate Liaison



Publication Awards Update

Here is a timetable for the publication awards. The deadline was extended to a post mark date of Feb 15th. We will wait a week after the 15th and begin distributing the articles to the six judges. Each judge will have 30 days to review, grade and provide us with the winning articles. Then I must type 100 certificates and provide an outline for the newsletter with all of the winners. The deadline for the May newsletter is April 10th, and I will do my best to have the outline in this newsletter, but will not make any guarantees on that.

The past two years I have held this position we have had many e-mails from various clubs to add an additional open class so all articles could be representative in the publication awards. Recently I have made this request known to our board, and hopefully will be voted on, and accepted for next years publication awards. Al Priest of Greater City Aquarium Society made a recommendation of breaking the open class into three classes based on size of article like we do with spawning articles. I like this idea and believe would work well.

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**Publication Awards Update
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Now is a great time to start preparing for 2001 publication awards! Make your copies monthly instead of making all the copies at one time at the end of the year.

Jeff Senft
Chairman

*Publications Awards Program
& Sales*



Legislation – March 2001

I really have very little to write about this month, while we have had to put up with all the election stuff it as really slowed down the enactment of new legislation. I would like to thank Judi for including the article on Fish Hobby Threatened By Legislation in the January issue of the FAAS report. In following up on information I found out the following. Mr. LAUTENBERG proposed an amendment to the bill S. 82, That was AMENDMENT NO. 1921 made on October 5th of 1999 this passed by a vice vote also on October 5, 1999, also on October 5th the Senate incorporated this measure in H.R.1000 as an amendment. This then Became Public Law No: 106-181. on April 5, 2000.

I have had several discussion with people both in the retail and wholesale end of the fish hobby and no one really knows if this is going to make an impacted on the shipping of tropical fish. If any of you have more information on this will you please forward it to me.

I will add just a few notes to let you know what is going around the county. First from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that a review of findings on species it was petitioned to list in the past shows that 21 species continue to warrant listing, but are precluded by the need to take higher-priority listing actions first. There are a few fish on this list they are as follows; Gila chub, Sicklefin chub, Sturgeon chub, spike-dace, and the loach minnow, it seem that the main reason behind the ability of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list these fish is funding.

One thing I found interesting in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Bulletin was, Pecos Pupfish (*Cyprinodon pecosensis*) listing proposal withdrawn. The following explanation was

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given. In 1998, the Service proposed to list the Pecos pupfish, a small fish native to the Pecos River, its tributaries, and nearby waters in New Mexico and Texas, as an endangered species. The threats cited in the proposal were 1) habitat alteration resulting from dams, water diversions, and excessive groundwater pumping, and 2) hybridization with a non-native fish species, the sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegatus*), which anglers introduced into the pupfish's habitat in the 1980s as a baitfish.

Since publication of the listing proposal, the Service and other federal and state resource management agencies have executed a Conservation Agreement that addresses the threats to the pupfish and establishes a plan to restore the species to a viable status. For that reason, the Service published a notice in the March 17, 2000, Federal Register withdrawing the listing proposal.

Now for a little good news from this bulletin, Vermilion Darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*) The small, brilliantly colored vermilion darter, a fish found only in a single tributary in Alabama, is nearing extinction because of habitat destruction and a decline in water quality. As a result, the Service proposed on April 18 to list this native species as endangered. Alabama Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus suttkus*) The Service published a final rule on May 5th to list the Alabama sturgeon, a rare fish of prehistoric origins, as an endangered species. The decision was based on the species' small population size and inability to sustain a viable population. The Alabama sturgeon has disappeared from approximately 85 percent of its historic range in the Mobile River basin of Alabama and Mississippi. Only 5 have been captured in the last 4 years despite intensive efforts by federal and state biologists. This species was once so abundant it was caught and sold commercially. Biologists attribute its decline to over-fishing, loss and fragmentation of its habitat due to navigation-related development, and a degradation of water quality.

Well I know that I covered our native fish real well this month, I will work on a little more for the tropical fish end for next month.

Feel free to contact me at: Roghfish@aol.com or Roger Halleen
301 Baylor East Peoria, IL., 61611

Roger Halleen
Vice President
Chairman, Legislation-USA



What Ails Us In The Aquarium Hobby

A review of BOWLING ALONE by Robert D. Putnam (Simon & Schuster, 2000), hardcover, 540 pages, ISBN 0-684-83283-6. This book looks at trends in civic engagement, why the decline in non-profit organizations, what the effects are, and what is to be done. Aquarium clubs are not mentioned, but the content of the book is in fact fully applicable to the hobby, and certainly should be seriously considered by those of us concerned about the future of fish clubs.

We Are Not Alone.

Professor Putnam starts off by pointing out that the decline of clubs and social groups is not specific to one or a few activities, be they stamp collecting, science fiction fandom, or aquarium keeping. He illustrates this with examples from the Glenn Valley, Pennsylvania Bridge Club (died in the 1990s after 50 years), the Roanoke, Virginia, NAACP chapter (down from 2,500 members to 57), and many others. The rate of youth participation in sports relative to population is stagnant or declining since the 1960s.

Some statistics can be misleading. The number of non-profit organizations has doubled since 1968, but very few are mass-membership organizations. Average membership size for a group is now one-tenth of what it was. Many are actually advocacy groups, not social groups. Most only require a cheque to pay the annual dues, and are basically mailing lists such as Greenpeace, rather than genuine social groups such as Rotary. The members of advocacy groups never meet each other and have no long-term commitment to the group. As Putnam writes, "*Probing further reveals that mail-order 'membership' turns out to be a poor measure of civic engagement.*". Not only the quantity but also the quality of the membership has been affected: "*... the more demanding the form of involvement, actual attendance as compared to formal membership, for example, the greater the decline.*".

Chapter-based national organizations which use face-to-face relationships to recruit memberships have low but steady memberships. Organizations using high-pressure direct mail

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recruiting, where members write a cheque and never meet others, have a turnover of as much as 85% (Greenpeace, 1990 to 1998) despite higher totals. The renewal rate of the National Rifle Association is 25%. Says Putnam of passive mass-membership groups: "*Citizenship by proxy is an oxymoron.*".

It should be noted that while a number of non-profits are apparently increasing their membership, their relative ratio as a percentage of population is declining. Passive activities, such as spectatorship at professional sports games, visiting museums, and attending concerts have increased, but playing in a local league, going to a club meeting, or learning a musical instrument have declined.

Social Capital.

Putnam bases his thesis on the concept of social capital, the idea that social networks have value. He writes: "*A society of many virtuous but isolated individuals is not necessarily rich in social capital.*". Social capital benefits the individual in job hunting, companionship, or a helping hand, but it also benefits the community at large with the spillover effect to non-participants.

There are two types of social change. Intracohort changes are basically fads within a particular generation, such as Pokemon among children or SUVs among yuppies. This type of change comes and goes quickly. Intercohort changes occur gradually as the tastes of one generation are swamped by the next. Rock-and-roll, for example, drowning out jazz and swing.

Volunteering is more common in small towns than big cities. It peaks in the age bracket of late 30s to early 40s, a reflection of the fact that most people only volunteer for youth activities while their children are young. Volunteering for charitable activities is most likely in people with active social networks such as local clubs (not just paying dues but actual attendance at meetings). Putnam writes: "*When volunteers are asked how they happened to get involved in their particular activity, the most common answer is, "Someone asked me."*".

The Consequences.

One result of the decline of social capital is a trend to paid help in

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supposedly volunteer organizations. Instead of a local party worker contacting a voter during an election campaign, it is now a call-centre operator from the other side of the continent. "*Financial capital, the wherewithal for mass marketing, has steadily replaced social capital, that is, grassroots citizen networks, as the coin of the realm,*" writes Putnam.

This decline sets off a chain reaction and affects even those who still want to volunteer. There has been a more rapid decline in collective activities such as public meetings, rather than individual activities such as writing letters to the editor. Those who want to take collective action can't find enough people to work with, and give up in despair.

Less-involved people pay less attention to the news, whether newspapers or television. This is generational. 60% to 70% of people born before World War Two follow the daily news on television or newspapers. Only 40% of the Baby Boomers (born between 1945 and 1965) do, and about 30% of Generation X (born late 1970s to 1980s).

Arresting The Usual Suspects.

Putnam devotes a section of his book to possible reasons for the decline in civic engagement. He uses hard data to demolish some of these reasons. Time and lack of money are often offered as an excuse for not volunteering. Contrary to popular belief, the average person has about the same amount of free time as 25 years ago. What appears to have changed is that instead of blocks of leisure time that everybody had in common (evenings and weekends), we now work different shifts and have free time chopped up inconveniently. This is not the villain of the story though, as studies show people busy at work also do more volunteer work, illustrating the truth of the saying that if you want something done, give it to a busy man. Further, the decline in social activity is just as steep for those who feel least harried for time as those who feel most harried.

Neither is the decline in social capital related to the ongoing decrease in real incomes (after inflation) which started in 1973. The decline began before the decrease, and is just as bad for financially secure people as those worrying about being laid off.

Women who work outside the home are less socially active, but

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this only mirrors the trend for other groups. Divorce rates and working moms cannot be blamed, since the decline began before those two increased. Again, neither can the heavy hand of government or big business (Walmart wipes out the small businessmen who belonged to social clubs) be blamed.

Our mobile society cannot be condemned either. People who move house frequently tend to have less involvement in their community. Mobility rates have actually gone down from 20% of the population in 1950 to 16% today. Two-thirds of the people today are now homeowners.

While urbanites are less likely to become involved than small town dwellers, the majority of urbanization in North America was completed by the 1960s. What did change over the past few decades since was that more commuters now travel from suburb to suburb rather than suburb to city core. Putnam remarks that: “ *... each additional ten minutes in daily commuting time cuts involvement in community affairs by 10%*”. People with long commutes don't want to go out of the house evenings and weekends. Their friends and co-workers are scattered over a wide area, not in a well-defined closely-knit neighborhood of easy access.

Since the decline of social capital began in the 1960s, the Internet cannot be used as a scapegoat. Internet users, when sorted by social class and education, are indistinguishable from non-users for civic engagement. In other words, nerds are nerds, whether on-line or off-line.

Smoking Guns.

Previous civic activity was boosted periodically by wars, of which World War Two was the greatest in impact. People of that generation (80% of men born in the 1920s served in the military) got civic mindedness because everyone was in it together.

Television for entertainment has increased with each new generation, and is now 4 hours per day for the average viewer. It pulls people into their houses and away from social activities. It is one of the ringleaders in the decline of social capital. Putnam notes that: “*The more fully that any given generation was exposed to television in its formative years, the lower its civic engagement*”

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FAAS 2000 Aquatic Photo Awards Deadline

Submissions deadline for the 2000 Aquatic Photo Awards competition is March 31, 2001. Please remember to include the necessary release forms, etc. and send your entries to Jerry Montgomery, 2508 Alton Drive, Champaign, IL 61821-4777. Everyone should have gotten the rules and guidelines by e-mail or US mail around the end of January. If you have questions or did not receive the guidelines, drop me a note at jmont@soltec.net or give me a call at 217-359-6707 and I will get it out to you or answer your questions.

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during adulthood.". Stamp collectors, for example, fondly hope that kids started on the hobby will come back as adults in later years, but that will not happen as it did with the pre-WW2 generation. If those kids do come back, it will be as lone wolf collectors, not club members.

Blame It On The Boomers.

The Baby Boomers are not as active as their parents in social groups. As the population ages, the older volunteer workers are dying out while there are fewer younger ones. There has been a 40% decline in social group membership since 1973, regardless of race, gender, education level, or geography. Putnam remarks that: "*... virtually all of this decline is attributable to generational replacement: members of any given generation are investing as much time in organizational activity as they ever were, but each successive generation is investing less.*"

The problem is lack of younger members, which seems to have begun in the late 1960s. Normally the bulk of volunteers are middle-aged, as they have the time, experience, and money for civic involvement. This led people to expect a surge of volunteerism in the 1980s from the Baby Boomers. The surge never happened.

Baby Boomers do not volunteer as much as the 1910 to 1940 generation does, and this carries on regardless of what age the Boomers are. That is, a Boomer is not likely to volunteer after retirement if he didn't in his 40s. [For the record, I am a Boomer born in 1955.]

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If age determined volunteerism, then social clubs should have begun an increase in the 1980s as the Boomers reached their 40s and 50s. Instead, as Putnam writes: “ ... *each generation that has reached adulthood since the 1950s has been less engaged in community affairs than its immediate predecessor. ... This generational math (coupled with the civic differences among the successive generations) is the single most important explanation for the collapse of civic engagement over the last several decades. ... Thus a generational analysis leads almost inevitably to the conclusion that the national slump in civic engagement is likely to continue.*”

An appendix of 40 different organizations from a variety of hobbies and causes displays the trends of the past century. The graphs confirm the burst of social capital after World War Two and its decline in the late 1960s and 1970s.

What Is To Be Done?

Putnam considers that methods of restoring social capital must be different than before: “*Our challenge now is to re-invent the twenty-first century equivalent of the Boy Scouts ... What we create may well look nothing like the institutions Progressives invented a century ago ... we should be wary of straining our civic inventiveness through conventional filters.*”

The old methods will not work on the younger generations, no matter how successful in the past. Putnam does not provide specific methods to overcome the problem. He can't, he says, because the new world being born will have to invent things we can't conceive of, we who are of previous generations.

In Which I Interject My Opinion.

I have until now not been too worried about the future of the organizations I belong to. I always relied on the idea that as Boomers reached retirement age, they would begin to volunteer. But the masses of hard data and graphs, sorted by generation, have shaken my confidence that my generation of Boomers and the subsequent Generation X will reverse the trend. Putnam has presented convincing evidence that doing things the way they have been done is a recipe for continued decline.

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Stamp collectors say that kids will come back to the hobby as adults. While some do, their numbers are too few to sustain stamp clubs. Aquarium keepers fondly believe that their kids will carry on the hobby, but I wonder why in my twenty years in this hobby I have only seen one or two return out of dozens.

That the next generation will do things differently is shown by one blind spot that Putnam unwittingly illustrates himself. He discusses how the decline in voters in elections might be reversed. This decline is confined to post-WW2 voters, for the war generation still vote as much as they ever did. The younger generation, however, do not believe that voting or petitions or writing letters to elected politicians will make a difference. The politicians are bought off by multinationals and slick lobbyists in three-piece suits. The younger people are just as involved politically as their elders, but they do not register in the statistics because they have shifted to direct action. And direct action works. The World Trade Organization never paid any attention to traditional lobbyists from environmental or social movements, but the Battle In Seattle stopped them cold and forced them to put those concerns on the agenda. Like it or not, and rant against anarchists if you wish, but that is how politics of the future will be done by a generation that has no faith in elected representatives.

What of stamp clubs and aquarium keeping and science fiction fandom? Many organizations are learning now that their new recruits are coming from their Web sites, not the shopping mall displays or annual shows. The idea of regular monthly meetings may have to change if everyone is working shift and can't come out on first Wednesdays of the month. Do we offer IRC chats instead? (If you don't know what an IRC chat is, ask the nearest teenager.)

Anecdotal evidence that your club is booming must give way to the general statistics. Before you write in that your club has increased and is doing well, ask yourself the following questions.

- 1) Is the increase due to the activity and enthusiasm of one or a few members? If so, what happens when they burn out a few years from now or get transferred out of town?
- 2) Is the increase absolute or relative? If your town has grown by 10% in population but your club has only grown 5%, that is a warning.
- 3) What is the distribution of generations in your club? Divide

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**What Ails Us In The Aquarium Hobby
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your membership into the WW2 generation, the Boomers, and Generation X. Which generation is doing most of the actual work needed to run a club?

I don't have answers as to how to reverse the declines, anymore than Putnam does. I agree with him that new methods of recruiting must be experimented with, and the old ways rigorously examined. Anecdotes about how it was when you were young fail to note that your memories are ancient history to the Boomers and Generation X, for whom the Boer War and the Korean War are both chapters in a boring history book they had to read in class. What is important is not how things were when you were young, but how they are to your children and grandchildren.

Buy The Book.

I have only summarized a small fraction of Putnam's work. The graphs throughout BOWLING ALONE will bring pause to anyone who reads it. This is one of the major works of sociology of the last few decades, not just pop psychology. Anyone concerned about the future of their hobby should be reading it.

Dale Speirs
Chairman
Legislation-Canada



Calendar Of Events

March 2001

March 31, 2001

FAAS - 2000 Aquatic Photo Awards Deadline

April 2001

April 7, 2001

Central New York Aquarium Society - 23rd Annual Auction

St. Mary's Parish Center, Minoa, NY

Sellers must preregister. For more info write to: CNYAS, P.O. Box 566, Syracuse, NY, 13206, or e-mail cnyas@yahoo.com.

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Calendar Of Events – con't

April 2001 – con't

April 7, 2001

Delaware County Aquarium Society – Annual Auction

11:00 am. Till ?

Springfield Township Building, Springfield, PA 16064

For information call: Marilyn 610-447-0786.

April 22, 2001 – Sunday

Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Spring Auction

Burnham Bowl, 6016 W. Burnham, West Allis, WI

Registration begins at 10:00 am. Auction starts 12:00 Noon - FREE

Consignment of fish and aquatic plants only.

May 2001

May 25 – 27, 2001

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association – Cichlid Classic 2001

Wyndham Hotel, Itasca, IL.

For reservations call 800-822-4200 or 630-773-4000

Cichlids only fish show, speakers/workshops/vendor showroom/giant Sunday auction September 2001. For more info contact: Del Calhoun 847-428-0768 or Don Cave 630-980-5933.

July 2001

July 7, 2001 – Saturday

Champaign Area Fish Exchange – Summer Auction

Urbana Civic Center, 108 Water Street, Urbana, IL.

Doors open 8:00 am - Auction starts at 10:30 am pro,pt

For advanced registration contact Jerry 217-359-6707 (jmont@soltec.net) or

Mark 217-872-8809 (guppymom@yahoo.com)

Split is 70% to seller and the FAAS "10 Table method is used for all items being auctioned.

September 2001

September 15 – 16, 2001 – Saturday & Sunday

Milwaukee Aquarium Society

8th Annual Speaker Workshop and Auction

Watch the next few issues of the FAAS Report for more details.

Program Rentals

There are a number of programs now available for use by FAAS member societies. Programs may be obtained by contacting **Jerry Montgomery, 2508 Alton Drive, Champaign, IL., 61821-4744, Phone: 217-359-6707 or e-mail jmont@soltec.net**

All shipping costs are the responsibility of the renter. **A separate check for deposit** must accompany the request for a program as well as the check for rental and shipping. The check for deposit will be held (not cashed) and then returned to you unless there is a problem with damage or in the return of the program material. Programs will be sent by Priority Mail and be insured, return receipt requested.

They must be returned by the same method. Expedited shipping may be available in an emergency by contacting the Chairman. Shipping cost has gone up to \$7.00 due to increased postage costs..

Description	Rental	Deposit
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Slide Programs

Breeding and Maintenance/In the Beginning (75 slides/30 minutes)	\$20	\$75
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This program places emphasis upon breeding fishes. Several different groups are represented with details for the spawning and care of each.

Rare and Unusual (63 slides/27 minutes)	\$20	\$65
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Species covered may be considered rare/unusual depending on their availability in your area. Though some of these fish are no longer considered that rare, they are unique. Care, maintenance and description of each species is provided.

Killifish #3–North American Natives and Others (57 slides/30 minutes)	\$20	\$60
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Covers in detail members of the Epiplatys, Rivulus, and Lampeye groups. Care, feeding, egg collecting and the raising of fry are all explained. Several North American genera are also discussed as are several representatives of other killie groups

Catfish #2–Cats without Claws (63 slides/23 minutes)	\$20	\$65
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A look at the major catfish groups with hints and ideas for their maintenance. Also included are some seldom seen species. Special attention is made to the varied characteristics of each special group and species as well as special requirements of each.

Florida Fish Farms (70 slides/25 minutes)	\$20	\$70
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An in-depth look at the source of a large number of the many tropical fishes sold in North America. Methods used and the operations of these farms are of major concern.

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**Programs
con't from page 20**

Description	Rental	Deposit
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Slide Programs con't

Shell Dwelling Cichlids of Lake Tanganyika/Dr. Peter Lewis (45 slides)	\$30	\$45
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This program was presented by Dr. Peter A. Lewis at the 1998 ACA Convention in St. Louis. It contains several of the Lamprologus and Neolamprologus species and covers such topics as natural habitat, keys to successful breeding, and the observations and experiences of Dr. Lewis.

Modern Aquascaping by George & Karla Booth (80 slides)	\$30	\$80
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Aquascaping has become an important aspect of the hobby in recent years. This program presented by George and Karla Booth will help you learn to arrange plants in a pleasing design. Color, texture, size and shape all come into play. Learn about planted aquarium basics, lighting, water chemistry, plant nutrients, maintenance and how to aquascape a "tank beautiful".

Videos

Laguna: How to Build a Pond (34 minutes)	\$5	\$10
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This video will show you just how easy it really is. Follow step by step instructions to learn everything you need to know about planning, setting up and maintaining a pond system with practical tips from professional gardeners and landscapers. Learn about ideal sites, choosing a style (formal or informal), containers (liners/pre-formed pools) and filtration elements (pump/filter/U.V. sterilizer). Observe actual set-up procedures, decoration techniques, introduction of fish, and how to maintain your pond system.

Garden Pond Basics (35 minutes)	\$5	\$20
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A comprehensive video with tips on planning, building and maintaining a beautiful and healthy garden pond. You will learn how to build an effective and inexpensive filter system, the secrets to good water quality (including pH, Ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate and problems associated with overstocking). There is also useful information on Koi, Goldfish & Catfish. Tips on Plants & Water Gardening plus you'll see sample ponds from 100 to 100,000 gallons.

Tetra Pond: Video for a Successful Garden Pond (16 minutes)	\$5	\$20
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Step by step instructions on how to establish and maintain a successful garden pond, selection information on pond fish and plants, with information on Tetra Pond products. The information on this video will show you how to establish and maintain a successful garden pond with additional information about plants and fish.

Tetra Pond: Video for Successful Koi Keeping (17 minutes)	\$5	\$20
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This program features by Mr. Robert Spindola of the Associated Koi Clubs of America. Learn how to establish and maintain a successful Koi pond, the history of Koi culture and how to identify Koi varieties.

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E.A.A.S.

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rogfish@aol.com

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The Federation Report

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March 31, 2001

FAAS 2000 Aquatic Photo Awards Deadline