

The Federation Report

March/April 2005



The Official Publication of the
Federation of American Aquarium Societies



The Federation Report
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Vacant

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Deadlines:	Must be received by:	Deadlines:	Must be received by:
January Issue	December 10th	July Issue	June 10th
March Issue	February 10th	Sept. Issue	August 10th
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



Jerry Montgomery
President

The year is hopefully off to a good start for all the member clubs. My local group, C.A.F.E. just finished hosting their Winter Auction and I am still trying to get caught up on some of my other duties.

If there are any clubs that would be interested in getting more involved in the day to day activities of FAAS please let any of the BOD or myself know of your interest. We would welcome your involvement, ideas and assistance.

There may be some committee openings available soon. There is also the possibility of assisting one of the current chairman if you find a certain area might be of interest to you. One of the opportunities is with the Program Committee. I can use assistance there for things such as slide identification, finding new images, developing new program ideas and writing scripts. If you might be interested in this effort please contact me to discuss what you can do to help.

I have heard second hand that some of you have had a problem contacting me. Please note that my correct email is jmont@insightbb.com and the correct US mail and phone number are listed in the Officers section on the inside cover of the FR. This has been my correct address for well over a year, but, there seems to have been some mix up along the way. Sorry if any of you have been unable to reach me.

As I said previously in the Jan/Feb FR I would hope that your club is participating in the Delegates Council discussion group. This is the best opportunity for member clubs to have a voice in the activities of FAAS and the best way to stay in touch with the most current activities as well. Try to get a member of your group to join the Delegates Council if you have not already done so. It is easy to do, just send an email message to the Chair and ask for your group to be added to future discussion. I would like to see this get to 100% participation so all clubs have the opportunity to be heard and represented.

Lets all try to work hard and help keep the hobby we all love to continue to grow in 2005.



Calendar Of Events

April 2005

April 2, 2005 - Saturday Tri-County Tropical Fish Society Spring Auction

Limestone Community High School
4201 S. Airport Road
Bartonville, IL 61607
Auction starts at 11:00 am registration at 9:30 am
Please contact Roger Halleen for more information.
Roghfish@insightbb.com (309) 699-7394

July 2005

July 16, 2005 - Saturday Champaign Area Fish Exchange Summer Auction

Urbana Civic Center
108 Water Street
Urbana, IL.
The doors open at 8:00AM 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. 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.



Committee Update

Advertising

nothing to report this month

Aquatic Photography Awards

no response

Awards

see article

Breeder's Award Program

see article

Computer/Website

see article

Delegates

see article

Elections

no response received

Federation Liaison

no response received

Horticulture Awards Program

no response received

Legislation – Canada

no response received

Legislation – USA

see article

Membership

nothing to report this month

Nominations

no response received

Programs

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

Publication Awards Program

Awards to be published May/June 2005

Publishing

nothing to report this month

Sales

no response received

Show Sanctioning

no response received



Membership & Publication Committee



Judi J. Peterson

Publication and Membership Chairman

First, I need to apologize for not being as responsive recently as I should have been. As with older parents, we have had another emergency with my father-in-law and have been out of town a fair amount of the time. He is still

not doing well, but hopefully things will improve.

Next, I would sincerely like to thank all of the contributors to the newsletter and also urge more of you to participate. Unfortunately, only a few of our members are contributing and as such we are not printing a fair representation of all of our members. I especially do not understand not receiving more notices for the Calendar of Events. When my husband and I are traveling, we try to make a point of attending other club events, if we know about them.

I would also like to request that each of you e-mail me at jpeter30@tampabay.rr.com if you actually read the newsletter. Since I very rarely get any feedback, I would appreciate just knowing if the FR is actually read. I would also appreciate comments and suggestions.

Again, I am going to ask each of you to send me listings of the various clubs/societies in your areas. We need to increase our membership if we are to be successful in having any say in the industry as a whole. Especially here in Florida fish exporting is a major industry. At the Tampa International Airport, 97.4% of everything that leave the airport is fish. All of this leads to the fact that with such a large industry we need to be much more active in the industry. This includes all phases of the industry, from organizations/clubs, breeding, shipping, sales and laws that affect the industry. We can only accomplish this with a large committed membership. Please help make this a reality.

I realize that I am not the only Board member that gets frustrated, but society participation is just not what it should be. This includes the various award programs, show sanctioning and participation in the

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Delegate's Council
con't from page 3

Delegates' Council. You are the backbone of FAAS, so please get involved. Help out one of the committees, write articles, run for a board position, help put programs together or just talk with nonmember clubs and help us increase our membership. We need your participation



Breeder's Award Program 2003 Awards

Scott Tetzlaff
Chair, Breeder's Award Program

Society	Spawns
1. Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	244
2. Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	223
3. Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	198

Society Species	
1. Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	158
2. Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	152
3. Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	129

Society New Species	
1. Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	21
2. Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	17
3. Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	14

Individual Spawns	
1. Scott Tetzlaff Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	70
2. Peter Shepard Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	38
3. Mike Garibaldi Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	36

Individual New Species	
1. Eric Bodrock Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	7
2. Mike Garibaldi Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	6
3. Jim Mathis Minnesota Aquarium Society	4

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Expired Or Expiring Memberships

Robert Rofen 3/05

Champaign Area Fish Exchange 5/05

Greater Chicago Aquarium Society 3/05

Greater Orlando Aquarium Society 3/05

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. 12/04

Heart Of America Aquarium Society 2/05

International Betta Congress 10/04

Ohio Cichlid Association 10/04

Sacramento Aquarium Society 3/05

South Jersey Tropical Fish Association 1/05

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society 6/05

Stark County Aqua Life Enthusiasts 4/05

Tampa Bay Aquarium Society 10/04

Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society 3/05

**PLEASE REMEMBER, IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP
IS NOT CURRENT, YOU CAN NOT PARTICIPATE
IN ANY OF OUR AWARD PROGRAMS.**



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to a website error – the following e-mail addresses
were in error. Please use the following addresses:

Jerry Montgomery – jmont@insightbb.com

Judi Petetson – jpeter30@tampabay.rr.com

Enter Your Society
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you pay the initial set-up fee, it's going to cost your society only \$2 to process this membership.

If you have 100 members, that's less than \$200 per year! Because it's easy to sign up on the web and the system does the reminding, you'll probably increase your revenue to the club.

I believe it is worth spending money to avoid human cost to your club. Have you ever had a good, contributing member leave because of burnout? Hard-working, active members are very hard to replace. Regonline.com lessens the burden on the membership chairman.

I'm here to help...

If you would like some advice or a critique of your club's web site, email me at webmaster@gcca.net.



Awards Program



Roger Halleen
*Legislation-USA
Chairman*

Well I'm sorry to say I have nothing to report as far as awards go. I was extremely disappointed again this year to see that there were no nominations from club delegates for any of the available awards.

Please if you a FAAS delegate or FAAS representative for your club read through the awards section of the by-laws. I'm sure every club out there has at least one member that is deserving of a nomination. The nomination deadline is January 31, 2006 but there is no reason to wait until the last minute. Please e-mail me at rogfish@insightbb.com and I will be more than will to work with you to get the nominations submitted.



BAP 2003 Awards
con't from page 4

Category 1 Livebearers

		Spawns	
1. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	14	
2. Jim Mathis	Minnesota Aquarium Society	8	
	Mike & Robin Schadle		
	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	8	
	Seth Serva	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	8
	Jim Graham	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	8

Category 2 Anabatis

1. Richard Wiley	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	2	
	Mike Fries	Minnesota Aquarium Society	2
3. Eric Bodrock	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1	
	Hank Marzina	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
	Sallie Boggs	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
	William Montgomery		
	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1	
	Marshall Davis	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
	Linda & Ted Neil	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
	Melanie Potts	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	1
	Jim Hinkle	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
	Tom O Day	Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society	1

Category 3 Barbs

1. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	2	
	George & Vickie Coy		
	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	2	
	Paul Garity	Minnesota Aquarium Society	2

Category 4 Minnows

1. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	5	
2. John Sipes	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	3	
3. Mike Fries	Minnesota Aquarium Society	1	
	Linda & Ted Neil	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
	Paul Garity	Minnesota Aquarium Society	1
	Marcus Christy	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	1
	Pete Scaletto	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
	Herschel Beeman		
	Central New York Aquarium Society	1	
	Mark Weierman	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	1

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Category 4 Minnows (con't)

		Spawns
Chase Klinesteker		
	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
Joe & Maureen Kirksey		
	Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society	1

Category 5 Rasboras

1. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
Eric Bodrock	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Chase Klinesteker		
	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
Scott Graner	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1

Category 6 Tetras

1. Gary Balbo	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	4
2. Chase Klinesteker		
	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	2
Pete Scaletto	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	2
Tom Gromek	Minnesota Aquarium Society	2

Category 7 Old World Cichlids

1. Mike Garibaldi	Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	36
2. Peter Shepard	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	32
3. Mike Helford	Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	25

Category 8 New World Cichlids

1. Eric Rogne	Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	8
Piotr Ziolkowski	Greater Chicago Cichlid Association	8
3. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	6

Category 9 Mop Spawning Killifish

1. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	14
2. Terry Scepurek	Minnesota Aquarium Society	11
3. Seth Serva	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	4
Jim Hinkle	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	4
Dan Frase	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	4

Category 10 Soil spawning Killifish

1. Terry Scepurek	Minnesota Aquarium Society	3
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registration services available, which, for a fee, allow you to set-up and register customers for events.

Interestingly, many registration services also offer membership management capabilities. Sorting through the various offerings can be daunting, and many seem to target larger associations.

One that I found particularly interesting was www.regonline.com.

What does the Regonline offer?

Regonline manages the entire membership management process. Your members can:

- Signup online
- Pay online
- Renew online

Members are prompted to renew their membership at an interval you set. The system accepts credit card payment and sends you a check once per month.

The membership chairman does not have to handle as much paperwork. Multiple administrators may be assigned so that the newsletter chair can download the member list when they need to print labels. Board members could download summaries of payments.

The system is customizable so that you can add your society logo, set pricing and membership types, etc. One very nice feature is the ability to send personalized email to your membership base.

Best of all, it makes it easier for people to join your club. Just put a button on your website!

But, it's not free . . .

Regonline.com is not free, but I think it is reasonable.

Set-up Cost is a one-time fee of \$150. There is also a \$1 charge per member per year.

There is a credit card fee applied of 5% on Visa and MasterCard, and 6% on Amex, Diners and American Express.

Does it make sense for your society?

You'll have to make this decision for yourself, but it looks promising to me.

Let's say your annual dues are \$20 per family membership. After

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On The Web



Rick Borstein
FAAS Web Master

In the last *On the Web*, I discussed how to reach out and add “customers” to drive site traffic.

How can you use the web to manage club functions or your own membership?

Customer Service

I’ve been involved in a couple of aquarium-related clubs. One thing I’ve noticed is inconsistent service.

For example, let’s say somebody mails in a membership form with payment. How long does it take to get back to that person to let them know they’ve been accepted into the club? Do you do it at all?

Does your club consistently remind members to “re-up” their membership? Do you send a statement or reminder? The most I’ve seen in this area from any club is printing the expiration date on the membership label.

Realistic Expectations

I know what you are thinking—this is a volunteer organization—there is only so much we can ask the membership chairperson to do. I’ve been a society membership chairman before—it’s not easy!

None of the customer service examples I have cited above are particularly hard, but the process is time-consuming.

If your club does an annual convention, registration, set-up, etc. can be overwhelming.

Outsource via the Web

My society, the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association, hosts an annual convention that attracts about 120 guests. Next year, in 2006, we are hosting the American Cichlid Association (ACA) convention with over 600 guests!

As the webmaster of our society—and the ACA 2006 Convention Chair—I knew that automating the registration process would be worthwhile. Although I’m good with web tools, I’m not a back-end database expert or shopping cart guru.

Late last year, I began researching registration services that we could use for GCCA’s events. There are at least twenty event

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BAP 2003 Awards con’t from page 6

Category 10 Soil Spawning Killifish (con’t)		Spawns
2. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	2
Dan Frase	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	2

Category 11 Catfish

1. Eric Bodrock	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	5
Gary Balbo	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	5
3. Steve Smith	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	4
Bob Perciavalle	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	4

Category 12 Sharks Botias & Loaches

No Reported Spawns

Category 13 Brackish & Marine

1. Hank Marzina	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Mark Johnson	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Mark Short	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Jeff & Mike Clifton	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	1

Category 14 All Other Varieties

1. Chris Homrich	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	3
2. William Montgomery	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	2
3. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
Marcus Christy	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	1
Darryl Haussler	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Mark Short	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Marlene Scholze	Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society	1
Eric Dellenbusch	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
John Lane	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
Mark Schlectky	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	1
Dan Frase	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	1
David Starcher	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	1
Dave Williamson	Greater Akron Aquarium Society	1
Bob Randal	Minnesota Aquarium Society	1

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Category 15 Rainbows

		Spawns
1. Phil & Jan Benes	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	6
2. Scott Tetzlaff	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society	3
Steve Smith	Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society	3



Legislation – USA



Roger Halleen
Chairman

This little bit of legislation news for this month is directed to those hobbyist that live in Illinois or have occasions to tell or trade fish in Illinois.

Elaine Nekritz has introduced a bill into the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois that may make major changes in what we in the state have to do to sell our fish.

You may go to <http://www.ilga.gov> and type in HB0707 and click Search. To read the complete bill. A brief statement of its content follows.

Amends the Animal Welfare Act. Replaces the term “pet shop operator” with “animal caretaker” throughout the Act. Provides that licensees under the Act shall provide for their animals a sufficient quantity of good quality, wholesome food and water, adequate shelter and protection from the weather, annual and necessary veterinary care, and a stimulating and enriching environment. Provides that an individual who violates any provision of the Act or a Department rule or order is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor (now, a Class C misdemeanor).

It defines as Animal caretaker as any person who sells, offers to sell or, exchange, or offers for adoption with or without charge or donation dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, or other animals customarily obtained as pets in this State. “Animal caretaker” includes, but is not limited to, a pet store, breeder, adoption facility, shelter, or private

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individual who performs any of the functions of an animal Caretaker listed in this paragraph.

What I think is especially scary is the phrase “or private individual” this statement could be taken to mean the small hobbyist that breeds a few types of fish then sells them at there club auction. I urge all of our Illinois members to contact their state Representative and ask them to amend the bill to exclude hobbyist.

Snakehead revisited, that's right folks remember all that fuss 2 years about the snakeheads in that Maryland pond, then 15 states jumped in placing some type of ban on them. Well now there is a movement underway to get them listed as on the endangered species list. Alan Gardner a Republican county commissioner from Utah, with officials from 12 other Western states, has petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to save the snakehead. Unfortunately it turns out that Gardner's petition is more a way to strike back at Washington then a true effort to save this fish. Gardner's jurisdiction, Washington County, 60,000 acres of tortoise territory has been protected since 1996 inside the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. The reserve, he said, devalued private property, kept out new subdivisions and golf courses and generally trampled the economy. All because the tortoise is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. So Gardner hopes to hit Washington policy makers where it hurts. All fresh water with any connection to the Potomac should be closed to boating, fishing or swimming to protect the snakehead.

I really with that our lawmakers could put this type of effort into some real issues that would benefit the hobby.

