

The Federation Report

July/August 2003



The Federation Report
11308 Donnymoor Drive
Riverview, FL 33569

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

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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

I would like to welcome Noel Roberts to the FAAS working group. Noel Roberts was recently appointed to the Federation Liaison position with FAAS. Below is a short Bio to introduce Noel to everyone.

"I started in my boyhood years with a tank of Red Swordtails and have over 30 years experience keeping and breeding fish. I have kept most of the common fishes and plants in the hobby. My interests are livebearers and natives of North America. I have collected fish in South America in the upper Amazon basin as well as in numerous states in North America. I worked in retail pet store for 4 years and was a lead livestock specialist.

I have been a member of Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. since 1983 and served on the Board for most of the 80's. I was BAP Chairman for the club most of the 90's. I achieved Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist in 1999 and am a Master Breeder in the BAP program. The second year I was in the club I earned Novice of the Year awards. I left MASI in Oct 2000 when I moved to the Champaign, Illinois, area where I joined the Champaign Area Fish Exchange and the Tri-County Tropical Fish Society. I have served on the Board of Directors of American Livebearer Assn. and am a member of North American Native Fish Assn. I was also a member of Suburban Aquarium Society in 1994 in the Chicago area."

I realize that summer is a busy time for most of us and that sometimes our hobby activities often get pushed to a lower priority. I hope by now each of you have found the time to look at the "Delegates Duties" page on the new FAAS Website which is located at www.fass.info. **Your Society can realize the benefits of its membership by its' full participation in the various programs offered. Your communication of deadlines to your club committee chairs regarding the BAP, HAP, APA, Publication Awards, etc. is vital. If you have questions**

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Calendar Of Events

July 2003

July 26, 2003 - Saturday Champaign Area Fish Exchange Summer Auction

Champaign Area Fish Exchange Summer Auction will be on Saturday July 26th, 2003 at the Urbana Civic Center, 108 Water St., Urbana, IL. This is an auction of fish, plants, supplies, equipment, books and hobby related items. The FAAS 10 table method will be used for all items auctioned. The split is 70% to the seller. Doors open at 8:00 am for Registration, Auction begins at 10:30 am. For information or to advance register contact Jerry: 217-359-6707 or e-mail jmont@soltec.net or Mark: 217-428-6133 or e-mail guppymom_2000@yahoo.com. You may also request info by mail to C.A.F.E., 2508 Alton Dr., Champaign, IL 61821-4777

August 2003

August 29 - 30, 2003 - Friday & Saturday Tri-County Tropical Fish Society's 34th Annual Fish Show

The show has been ACA, ALA, and FAAS sanctioned the last few years and should be again this year. Entry deadline is August 13th. Please contact Roger Halleen at Roghfish@aol.com or (309) 699-7394 for more information.



Expired Or Expiring Memberships

The following memberships have already expired or will be expiring shortly.

- Champaign Area Fish Exchange 5/03
- Circle City Aquarium Club, Inc. 3/03
- Colorado Aquarium Society 9/03
- Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies 8/03
- Medina Aquarium Society 7/03
- Minnesota Aquarium Society 6/03
- Nassau County Aquarium Society 9/03
- Saskatoon Aquarium Society 8/03
- Silicon Valley Aquarium Society 7/03
- Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society 6/03
- Tri-County Tropical Fish Society 8/03

Newsletter And Membership Committee



Judi J. Peterson
Editor
Membership Chairman

I would like to thank all of you for your concern and understanding through the last few months. My Mother-in-Law passed on in June from a terminal illness after multiple surgeries, since January, and finally spending a week in the hospital and then four days in a Hospice facility.

Unfortunately with Dad's health problems, we are now spending every weekend in Lehigh Acres, Florida, trying to get Dad settle, which will take two to three more months.

We have a new writer, Rick Borstein, our Web Master has written a great article on websites and will continue this in future months. Not only has he done a fantastic job with the FAAS website, he is now helping our members with information for their websites.

Also, many of you have noticed that notices for membership renewals have not been emailed in a timely manner. Again, I apologize and will get them out just as soon as possible. However, you will not be removed from our membership list unless you have been previously notified of membership renewal and have failed to respond.

Not a single notification was received on functions for the upcoming months for this newsletter. Listing your event in the newsletter is free, so please send in those notices.

Please note my email address has changed to **jpeter30@tampabay.rr.com**.

I would like to remind you that this month instead of mailing The Federation Report to the Board and Committee Chairs, I will email you when the newsletter has been sent to the Webmaster and you can print it from the website. This will save FAAS on postage.

Again, thank you for your patience and support.



On The Web

Rick Borstein
FAAS Web Master

Hey, I think this Internet thing is going to catch on really soon! Obviously, I'm being facetious. Today, close to 80% of Americans are on-line. Virtually every public library offers free Internet access. Each Starbucks across the United States offers wireless Internet access. You can plop down your laptop and surf the web while drinking your espresso.

The web is here to stay, yet many fish clubs have only a token presence on the web. What should your club do on the web?

Who is this guy?

I'm FAAS' new Web Master! I'll be using this column to share how your club can best take advantage of the web. In the coming months, I'll cover everything from planning to organization to the tools you need to get going.

Have you visited the new FAAS Web Site? Our new location is www.faas.info. This new site has lots of new information and an all-new design.

Before I get started, update your links to www.faas.info!

Many aquarium-related sites (and maybe your club!) still link to our old web page. If you find a site linked to our old address, please tell them the link is out of date.

Your Club's Goals on the Web

During the process of putting together FAAS' new site, I visited every member club site I could find. Some clubs do a good job on the web. Others could use some help.

Before your club gets started on the web or makes a change, your club needs to decide on a set of goals. What do you want the web to do for you?

Better, reverse the question— What does your club need to do and how can the web help?

What's important to your club? Prioritize the following list at your next board meeting:

— Attract new members

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**On the Web
con't from page 3**

- ___ Keep current members informed
- ___ Increase participation from current members
- ___ Generate revenue
- ___ Generate publicity
- ___ Generate interest in the aquarium hobby (or hobby segment)
- ___ Create an on-line community within your club
- ___ Elevate the stature of your club (how your club is perceived by others)

The web site you build *must* reflect the prioritized goals of your board. These goals affect more than you think! They touch everything from the layout of individual pages to site structure to the ultimate cost in dollars to your club.

Get this part right and rest is a lot easier.

Here's a hint— look at your club's mission statement or purpose. You should find this in your organization's constitution.

What are your top three goals from the list above? You can't do everything on the list, at least not in your site's first iteration.

A Case Study

In late 1998, I prodded the Board of the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association to get on the web. The GCCA Board was receptive and a committee was formed shortly after. Eight members met and went through the goals above.

Like virtually all clubs, we suffered from too few people doing too much work. We wanted to reach more people. We wanted to attract new members. We wanted to be seen as a "cool" club that offered a lot. We wanted a central place where everybody could find information about our club.

Here's some truth that's difficult to swallow. Individual club members cost more than their memberships. If you are going to attract new members, it will cost your club more money not only to "sign" them, but to maintain them as members. Benefits such as publications, good speakers, quality meeting space, holiday parties, outings, books for the club library, etc. are expensive.

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Committee Update

Advertising

Nothing to report this month.

Aquatic Photography Awards

Currently being judged

Awards

No response received

Breeder's Award Program

see article

Computer/Website

Check out the new website at
www.faas.info

Delegates

see article

Elections

No response received

Federation Liaison

We have a new committee Chair

Horticulture Awards Program

Nothing to report this month

Legislation – Canada

No response received

Legislation – USA

No response received

Membership

Nothing to report this month

Nominations

Nothing to report this month

Programs

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

Publication Awards Program

Nothing to report this month

Publishing

Nothing to report this month

Sales

No response received

Show Sanctioning

No response received



President's Message con't from page 12

suggestions on content for the FAAS site please contact me.

I had hoped more of you would join the Delegates Council discussion by now. This is a good opportunity to give your Society a voice in FAAS activities. If you are not going to do so, please drop me a note and explain why. Your comments are necessary for FAAS to better serve you.

I have received a couple more newsletters since my last President's Message. I hope all of you will send them to me so I can see what's going on in your region of the country. If your Society has decided not to do so please drop me a note to let me know. I realize that the cost of printing and mailing your publication is constantly on the rise and understand if your group decides not to add me to their list.

Enjoy the summer.

**Delegate's Council
con't from page 11**

and up-to-date links to other related sites, be judged equal to, better than, or inferior to one with only few good links, but that has original content? (And, considering how fast websites come and go, should "dead" links be counted against a website and, if so, to what extent?)

I throw these thoughts out for discussion purposes only, so let's discuss! As always, if you have an opinion or would like to add something, then please reply to this message as "reply all" so that everyone receiving this email gets an opportunity to see your response. If you are reading this for the first time in FR, and if your society is NOT listed below, and you want to be part of the discussions of the Delegates Council, just send me an email. Neither I, nor FAAS will send your email address to anyone without your permission. And, I ask those reading this in any form not to succumb to the temptation of routinely sending email about activities of your local group to Delegate Council members. It's hard enough to get people to participate in these discussions without having those that do get large doses of unsolicited email, unrelated to the business and discussions of the Council. Members of FAAS can have events listed in FR, if they send the information to the FR editor in advance. Please use this means to do so.



**President's Message
con't from page 2**

about participation in any program please contact the committee Chairman for assistance. The contact info for all Chairs can be found elsewhere in the FR. If you have any problems communicating with a Chairman contact me immediately so I may assist you and help resolve the situation. I hope this year sees an even greater number of clubs participating than in years past.

Does your club have a Website? If so please send the address to the FAAS webmaster and to me so I can check it out and we can add a link to the FAAS site. I have very little time to just "surf" the web anymore so knowing the address will give me a better opportunity to see the member club sites. If you have ideas or

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**On the Web
con't from page 4**

Like most clubs, GCCA holds regularly scheduled Swap Meets and Auctions. These activities make up the bulk of the club's revenue.

It was our idea to use our web site to gather names of cichlid-fanciers who would attend our events. By increasing attendance, we'd create more revenue and be able to deliver additional benefits to members.

Thus, the number one goal of the site was to acquire names (email addresses) of potential "customers". What would we have to do to earn the trust of our site visitors so that they'd give us their email address? Would they keep coming back?

Our second goal was to make the site a place where current members could get access to forms and other information necessary for the day-to-day business of the club. We spent a lot of time discussing what and where information should be organized.

The committee members were all avid cichlid hobbyists who felt strongly about promoting the hobby. Indeed, promoting the cichlid hobby was a core mission of the GCCA. Our third goal, then, was to fulfill this mission through the web. Interestingly, there were committee members that needed to be convinced that this was a good idea. Essentially, the argument was: "Why create all this content (that's what we web folks call the information we put on web sites) for some guy in Australia to read about? We're only interested in cichlid hobbyists in Chicago."

The challenge and beauty of the web is that once you're on it, you're global. It's impossible to "narrow-cast". You have to share with everybody, or not share at all. Your job is to create something a global audience will appreciate, but a target audience will act upon.

In my next column...

After you set your priorities, you have to decide what to put on your web site and how to get others to help you. I'll share some tips and techniques to get you headed in the right direction.



Breeder's Award Program

Scott Tetzlaff
Chair, Breeder's Award Program

By now everyone should have received all the cumulative certificates they were owed. At least for everyone that has submitted species past 1998. If there is anyone that is still a member of you club that you have not received certificates for, let me know and I'll check the records and get them out. Certificates are awarded for every 10 species. Below you will find the club, name of person and number of certificates received.

Brooklyn Aquarium Society

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Jeff George | 1 |
| Joseph Graffagnino | 3 |
| Basil Holubis | 1 |
| John Kucel & Jeanette Tozzi | 1 |
| Tom Miglio | 8 |
| Lisa Quilty | 3 |
| Mike Rosenthal | 2 |
| Derek Schillizzi | 2 |
| Bob Warnovics | 1 |

Bucks County Aquarium Society

| | |
|----------------|---|
| John Maier | 1 |
| Ed Ralff | 1 |
| Paul Stettlich | 1 |

Central New York Aquarium Society

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Richard Brice | 2 |
| William Brogan | 17 |
| Andrea Groetz | 1 |
| Vinny Guarno | 1 |
| Robert Heisey | 2 |
| Ted Klotz | 4 |
| John Miller | 3 |
| Martin Muldowny | 3 |
| Phillip Oakes | 9 |
| Ronald Snead | 8 |
| Cheryl Ann & Bryan Stevens | 2 |
| Bruce & Debbie VanNort | 2 |
| John Wubbolt | 12 |

Circle City Aquarium Society

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Joe Fleckenstein | 1 |
|------------------|---|

Cleveland Aquarium Society

| | |
|----------------|---|
| John Chapek | 1 |
| Al Davis | 1 |
| George Grether | 1 |

CAS (con't)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Albert Malinak | 6 |
| Don McMonigle | 1 |
| Mike Neelon | 3 |
| Alan Robbins | 2 |
| Brian Rouse | 1 |
| Dennis Tomazin | 1 |
| Rennis Rouse | 2 |

Chautauqua County Aquarium Society

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Gary Dolce | 1 |
| Joe Rozen | 1 |
| Mary Salhoff | 3 |
| Roger Salhoff | 1 |
| Ted Taft Sr. | 7 |
| Shawn Tompkins | 4 |

Delaware Aquarium Society

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Bob Kulsea | 1 |
| Ron McCuen | 6 |
| Peter R Rollo | 2 |

Greater Akron Aquarium Society

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Ken McGill | 3 |
| Don McMonigle | 1 |
| Dennis Rich | 3 |
| Rich Serva | 3 |
| Seth Serva | 1 |
| Joanne Toven | 3 |
| Wayne Toven | 4 |
| Bud & Cathy White | 3 |
| Dave Williamson | 5 |

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dan Barmore | 1 |
| Rick & Monica Boester | 2 |

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Delegate's Council con't from page 10

award (for "Best Website of the Year"), or several awards, and should some specific criteria be included in the judging rules, or not?

As some food for thought, I'd like to mention that the World Wide Web is "surfed" by more people than just Americans in the U.S.A. using the Windows operating system and Microsoft's Internet Explorer. People using a Macintosh might use a browser called iCab, or Chimera, or OmniWeb (there is a version of Explorer for the Mac, but Microsoft recently announced that it was discontinuing further development of it). Mac or Windows or Linux users might use their own version of Netscape, Opera, or Mozilla. People using an Amiga might use iBrowse, AWeb, or Voyager. People using the increasingly popular Linux operating system can use (in addition to Linux versions of Netscape, Opera, and Mozilla) Galeon, Konqueror, or Amaya, among others. Some people with visual impairments can use browsers that "talk" to them, such as pwWebSpeak, Home Page Reader, or Sensus. Unfortunately, some websites are not compatible with a browser other than Internet Explorer. So, here's something to think about: Should compatibility with other major "alternative" browsers be a factor in judging a website? If so, to what extent?

Another thing to think about: Many Internet Service Providers and web hosting websites will provide "free" hosting for your website, but only if you permit pop-up and/or banner advertisements (although most providers allow you to remove the ads, if you pay a monthly or yearly fee). Should a judge be allowed to consider pop-up ads on a website as negative factor in judging (if they are consistent and annoying), or should ads be ignored as being out of the control of the society and its webmaster?

My final (for now) food for thought question is this: The FAAS Publication Awards only judge original articles — and that makes a lot of sense. But, is original content important for a website? Probably the most popular websites have little or no truly "original" content (Google, for example), but they are popular because they serve as a "gateway" to obtain information more easily. In other words, all things being equal, should a website without (or with very little) original content, but with many good

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**Delegate's Council Report
con't from page 9**

may not be prudent to have a fixed set of criteria to judge web sites. This is a dynamic area where change is an every day part of life."

Pat Smith (Nassau County Aquarium Society) felt that more weight in judging should be given to speed in loading because, as Pat explains: "Speed in loading can keep many people from waiting to view a site."

Pam Chin (Pacific Coast Cichlid Association) stated "I don't think we need a criteria.... Whoever the judges are going to be they can sort out all that stuff... Lets give them a little credit, they should be able to figure it out." Earlier in the discussions, Pam also had a very interesting suggestion (which I personally like a great deal) that societies entering a website competition "submit a 200 word essay about their website and why it is so wonderful where they could point out their good points, like pictures and their original articles."

My personal take on this (and I stress this is my personal take and does not reflect the Council's opinion, which is still in the process of being formed), is that if you have only one award (say: "Website of the Year"), then you probably do not need to specify criteria (other than, perhaps, saying that a website entered in the competition must declare that, to the best knowledge of the society and its webmaster, the website is not in violation of copyright laws and any material available for viewing or downloading is either with the permission of the copyright owner, or in the public domain). BUT, if you have multiple awards, as listed by me below (and the list below is my own off-the cuff thoughts and does NOT reflect any Council decision to date, and is NOT intended to be an all-inclusive list): Best Website of (the year) Best use of graphics on a website, Most useful aquaria related content, Most useful links to other than clubs/societies, Most useful links to clubs/societies, Most informative website, and Most helpful website then, you are actually specifying criteria to some extent anyway, as part of the award.

Anyway, what I am asking the members of the Council (and, if this gets printed in FR, all FAAS member societies) to do is send me comments on the above. Basically, I'm asking you to decide: one
con't on page 11

**Breeder's Award Program
con't from page 6**

GCCA (con't)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Rick Borstein | 2 |
| Al Desautels | 4 |
| Mike Garibaldi | 1 |
| Willie Heard | 1 |
| Mike Helford | 2 |
| Gint Kilikevicius | 1 |
| Scott Moreen | 2 |
| John Oyer | 2 |
| Eric Rogne | 3 |
| Howard Schmidt | 1 |
| Robert Williams | 1 |

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Charles Alicie | 1 |
| Phil & Jan Benes | 2 |
| Dick Breitfelder | 1 |
| Jerry Caperton | 2 |
| Bill Childers | 1 |
| Marcus Christy | 2 |
| Sean Danekind | 1 |
| John Fishburn | 1 |
| Eric & Stacey Foldenaur | 1 |
| Dave & Michelle French | 2 |
| Tom Geier | 1 |
| Erwin Gundrum | 1 |
| Darryl Haussler | 7 |
| Robert Maichle | 4 |
| Ron Maichle | 1 |
| Mark Murtaugh | 5 |
| Mark Plunkett | 1 |
| Donna Recktenwalt | 1 |
| Jerry Riegel | 4 |
| Mike Satkowski | 5 |
| Ken Saxon | 2 |
| Dan Schellenberger | 1 |
| Peter Shepard | 1 |
| John Sipes | 1 |
| Steve Smith | 10 |

Greater City Aquarium Society

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Jeff George | 1 |
| Gregory Wuest | 1 |

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Timothy Adkins | 21 |
| Gary Balbo | 2 |
| Charles Bialon | 25 |
| Eric Bodrock | 20 |
| Sallie Boggs | 19 |

GPAS (con't)

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Brian Carson | 3 |
| Jason Clester | 1 |
| Wallace Cox | 2 |
| James Davidson | 1 |
| Robert Fuller | 4 |
| J Todd Glotfelty | 1 |
| Scott Graner | 3 |
| Steven Graner | 1 |
| Hank Marzina | 7 |
| Don Mikulan | 1 |
| Donald Plazek | 2 |
| Ed Redgate | 8 |
| Walter Roth | 2 |
| Pete Scaletto | 3 |
| Marlene Scholze | 1 |
| Bill Shenefeldt | 1 |
| Mike Solito | 1 |
| Jane Swanson | 10 |
| Robert Timmins | 2 |
| Richard Wiley | 3 |
| Ray Yutzy | 6 |

Medina County Aquarium Society

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Ralph & Jean Barr | 1 |
| Joe Reich | 1 |

Milwaukee Aquarium Society

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Ralph Bahrke | 2 |
| I Balistriero | 1 |
| Dan Cram | 13 |
| Ed Curran | 4 |
| Carl Fiala | 1 |
| Jeff & Cindy Filz | 1 |
| Ray Gettler | 7 |
| Ken King | 4 |
| Kevin Korotev | 6 |
| Joe & Judy Martin | 9 |
| Jerry & Jeff Michels | 13 |
| Rick Nemeth | 6 |
| Robert Nourse | 1 |
| Ed Rondell | 2 |
| Shirley Ratzmann | 2 |
| Ismail Resul | 4 |
| Ron Revolinski | 2 |
| Eric Rogne | 7 |
| Terry Tankersley | 3 |
| Woody Tews | 5 |
| Tom Wojtech | 11 |

Minnesota Aquarium Society

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Lenny Ancheta | 8 |
| Ken Berglund | 2 |

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**Breeder's Award Program
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MAS (con't)

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Richard Bradbury | 1 |
| Lee Anne Byers | 4 |
| Randy Carey | 17 |
| Chet Ekstedt | 1 |
| Chuck & Rita Ekstedt | 1 |
| Robin Engelking | 1 |
| Roger Fischer | 10 |
| Tim Fitsgibbons | 3 |
| Tom Gromek | 5 |
| David Hallet | 1 |
| Ron Hansen | 4 |
| Shane Heinen | 1 |
| Cary Hostraiser | 2 |
| Dean Hougan & Cynthia Teague | 4 |
| Kris & Ted Jolivet | 3 |
| Peggy Kalvig | 1 |
| Jenny Kruckenberg | 5 |
| Jay Lowe | 1 |
| Robby Lucken | 1 |
| Chad Masterberger | 2 |
| Jim Mathus | 16 |
| Barry Nab Dahl | 4 |
| Scott Nordahl | 1 |
| Ken & Sharron Nordby | 9 |
| Pete & Carol Petersen | 8 |
| Bob Randall | 1 |
| Bob Resech | 3 |
| Terry Robertson | 1 |
| Tim Rutz | 3 |
| Kenneth Ruzek | 4 |
| Terry Scepurek | 2 |
| Karl Schoeler | 1 |
| Rich Smaciarz | 5 |
| Milo Squires | 2 |
| Brad & Nancy Swanson | 5 |
| Paul Turley | 1 |
| Joel WasDyke | 2 |
| Robin Weber | 2 |

Motor City Aquarium Society

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Lori Lawrence | 1 |
| Mark Stewart | 1 |
| Joe Zdinnicki | 1 |

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Curt Bitterling | 9 |
| Vern Cloud | 1 |
| George & Vickie Coy | 26 |
| George II & Tammy Coy | 2 |
| Paul Delger | 4 |
| Eric Dellenbusch | 10 |
| Peter Goetner | 5 |
| Dick Graham | 3 |
| Jim Graham | 13 |
| Pat Hartman | 21 |
| Sue Hartman | 17 |
| David Hemmerlein | 8 |
| Ken Hoekstra | 7 |
| Chase Klinesteker | 42 |
| Steve McDonald | 8 |
| Jim Reed | 1 |
| Harry Rogalla | 2 |
| Robert Sandberg | 11 |
| Mike & Robin Schadle | 2 |
| Mike Schuster | 8 |
| Scott Tetzlaff | 26 |
| Darrell Ullisch | 21 |

Younstown Area Tropical Fish Society

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Ray & Dee Bowman | 1 |
| Don Giovannone | 1 |
| Mike & Robin Kays | 4 |
| Cheryl Miller | 3 |
| Gary & Romona Omerzo | 2 |
| William Shreves Sr. | 4 |
| William Shreves III | 3 |
| Curt Smith | 4 |



Delegates' Council Report



Al Priest
Chair, FAAS Delegates' Council

First, a small recap for societies not currently participating in this email discussion group (and if you're not — please feel free to do so, just send me, Al Priest, an email to sign up). My last Delegates Council article did not arrive in enough time for it to be printed in the FAAS Report, so this will hopefully bring everyone up to date (if, that is, this article arrives in time for the next FR).

The Council made its recommendations to the FAAS Board relating to the Publications Awards. The Council asked the Board to consider reviving the "Author of the Year" Publication Award, using a point system based on first, second, and third place article awards won. The Council also asked the Board to consider expanding the scope of, and renaming, two judging categories: "Best Collecting Article" and "Best Article on Live Foods," so that they become "Best Collecting or Traveling Article" and "Best Article on Health and Nutrition," respectively. I suggested that we wait to see if the Board agrees with our recommendations, and, if approved, that we wait to see how well the changes work before we consider "tweaking" this particular area of the Publication Awards again.

The Council then began discussion on a recommendation by Alan Robbins (Cleveland Aquarium Society) for an award for society websites. While those voicing an opinion were all in favor, the question we are now discussing is whether this should be one award (singular) or an award program (with more than one award given out), and whether some criteria should be specified in the rules setting up the award/award program, or should we allow the judge or judges to determine his/her/their own criteria (which, if the judge or judges change each year, can also be expected to change).

Jerry Riegel (Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society) felt that judging criteria should include: "content, aesthetics, new information, hits, and the total picture," but he also feels that "It

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