

The Federation Report

July/August 2005



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 hope that the summer has gone well for all of you. It has certainly been going fast for me and for the most part OK as well. I am concerned with what seems to be a trend with the FAAS membership. It is a lack of participation and also a lack of communication between the member clubs and the working members of FAAS who are just regular hobbyist folks like you. This will turn into a serious problem and makes it extremely difficult for FAAS to be of service to you and your group. I realize that we don't always get things done as fast as some think we should be but, as with most of you, our time is also limited and we have families, jobs, and other responsibilities just as you do. I just do not understand why so few of you take time to let us know what you think is important or to make suggestions when you have a good idea to better the organization. FAAS truly does want your input and assistance and must have it to be the premier representative of the aquarium hobby in North America.

If you or another member of your club is willing to help on a committee or chair one I'd like to hear from you. There are currently a couple of vacancies and may be another one or two very soon as I have heard some talk of a desire to step down from a couple of people. We are always looking for candidates to have on a list of possible replacements to contact if this does come to pass. Let me know if there is an area of interest where you might be willing to serve. Just drop me a short note and I'll be happy to give you a call at a convenient time for you so we can talk about the possibilities.

There has been an ongoing discussion of the FR going to an electronic format. Has your group voiced its opinion on the subject yet? If not the time to speak up is now as I expect the discussion to be presented to the BOD for discussion and a final vote before the end of the year. Be sure your group is/has been represented in this matter.

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Program Committee



Jerry Montgomery
Chairman

I have been taking digital picture at my local fish store and may soon have enough to begin trying to put together a couple programs. Possible topics could be anabantids and catfish..... is there anyone among your

members that could help in identification of images and the writing of a script to go with them? If you might have images that your willing to share I would also like to hear from you in that regard. Please contact me, Jerry Montgomery, at the address listed in the Committee section of the FR.



2004 Publication Awards



John E. Peterson, Ph.D.
Publication Award Chairman

Unfortunately, judging has been delayed by some personal complications that Judi and I have had to deal with.

The judging has also been complicated due to the fact that some of the submissions were not sent in correctly. For instance, multiple articles sent in for the Author of the Year Award instead of being sent into the individual categories. These had to be recatergorized to the appropriate category. Author of the Year is awarded to the individual having the most points overall in all of the categories that pertain to the Author of the Year Award. **SUBMISSIONS SHOULD NOT BE SENT IN FOR THE AUTHOR OF THE YEAR CATEGORY.**

Judging will be completed in the next few days. Certificates will be mailed out in the next few weeks and the next Federation Report will list all of the winners.



Delegates' Council Report



Al Priest
Chair, FAAS Delegates' Council

In my last e-mail, I mentioned that Judi Peterson, the FAAS Membership Chairperson and the Editor of the FAAS Report ("FR") would like the Delegates opinion on distributing the FAAS Report only in electronic format. In the discussion that followed, it was generally agreed that an Adobe Acrobat .PDF file sent by e-mail would be the best way to accomplish this. Of the delegates responding, none had any objections to this approach. I'm assuming that Judi will still print and mail the next issue of FR, and this will give any society not represented on the Delegates Council with the opportunity to respond. (Obviously, since the Delegates Council is an e-mail discussion group, its members are at least semi-literate with respect to computers and have access to e-mail). So, to recap for the societies who were not aware of this discussion (and to give members of the Delegates Council one last chance to chime in on the issue), here are what I see are the major pros and cons of having the FR distributed in electronic format only via e-mail:

PROS (that is, in favor of electronic-only distribution of FR) 1) Reduced cost to FAAS to maintain the same FR distribution (e-mail is virtually "free") 2) No additional cost to add more persons to the existing distribution (so, for example, the President, FAAS Delegate, and newsletter Editor or other members in a society can be added to the FR distribution at no extra cost to the society or FAAS) 3) May be more reliable (I know that, at least for me, I get someone else's postal mail at least once a week, so I know that someone else is also getting my mail on occasion). With e-mail, if the mail is not delivered, the sender usually receives an error message in a day or so after sending. This is not available (without considerable additional cost) with postal mailing. Also, the last issue of FR came to me torn from postal handling, and how often

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does that happen to your magazines? 4) E-mail will almost always be faster than postal mail. 5) Depending on the format of the e-mail and how it was created, it is possible that an electronic version of the FR could be sent in a format that allows an Editor or Delegate of a society to copy and paste sections into the society's newsletter. (Judi tells me that she has the Acrobat Pro version, which means that she "prints" to a file, and unless she copy protects it, that file can be copied from and pasted into a word processor.) 6) At the start of the 21st century, it is almost inconceivable that there is not at least one person in each FAAS member society who does not have an e-mail address (at home, work, school, or a free account that can be accessed at a library or community center). 7) An electronic format newsletter makes saving back issues, and retrieving them later MUCH easier.

CONS (that is, why paper copies should continue, or at least remain an option) 1) Reading an entire newsletter on a computer screen would be difficult, and is impossible to share with ones society in that format. So, each person receiving the FR would have to print it out. This is an unnecessary and time consuming extra step. 2) While it may be reasonable for a computer users group to have an electric format newsletter, this is not reasonable for an organization associated with the aquarium hobby. Basically, a new requirement is being imposed on member societies, totally unrelated to fish keeping or the aquarium hobby — the requirement of computer literacy. 3) Even if every society has someone with an e-mail address who is willing to accept electronic distribution of the FR, and be responsible for getting it to the society's officers and members, that person may not be the society's FAAS Delegate, or even a society officer. 4) The FAAS Delegates Council is an on-line-only forum, and not even a majority of FAAS member societies participate in it. This MAY indicate that, at least at the present time, most FAAS member aquarium societies are not ready or equipped to deal with e-mail as a substitute for postal mail. 5) Except for a select few Internet Service Providers, there is nothing similar to the service the Post

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On The Web



Rick Borstein
FAAS Web Master

In a recent FAAS Delegates email thread, Judi Peterson suggested that FAAS no longer print the *Federation Report*, but instead distribute it electronically, via email.

Her message resulted in some interesting discussion on the topic. Since I tackle technology issues in this column, I thought this might be a good forum to discuss electronic newsletter distribution.

At a recent Greater Chicago Cichlid Association meeting, I posed the question—should we eliminate printing the *Cichlid Chatter*, the club newsletter, and distribute it electronically?

As I expected, the result was an emphatic “No way!” to exclusively distributing the newsletter electronically. However, everyone wanted to be able to have access to back issues on our web site and considered the *Cichlid Chatter* to be a valuable part of the club.

BACKGROUND AND DISCLAIMERS

In the next few paragraphs I'll discuss options for electronically distributing newsletters and other materials in the PDF format. I have worked for Adobe Systems Incorporated for over ten years. I will be discussing Adobe tools as I am most familiar with them. In fact, I am an Adobe Certified Expert in Acrobat.

NEWSLETTERS AND COST

I have held posts as editor of two society newsletters, so I know the challenges facing newsletter editors. Between begging for stories and content and waiting for regular columns (why are Club Presidents the last ones to submit articles?), it is a challenging job.

For many clubs, printing and mailing the society newsletter is largest on-going cost for the club. The *Cichlid Chatter* costs about \$250-\$300 to print and the club incurs a further \$300 in mailing costs. Since the club publishes six times per year, it costs GCCA

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\$3000 to \$4000 per year to get out the newsletter.

We also use the newsletter to post meeting announcements, etc., but that could easily be replaced with a less expensive to produce/mail postcard. With almost every member on our email list, I am not sure it is even necessary.

Despite this, one of the only exclusive benefits of the club is getting the newsletter and people like getting it! Our editor Mike Mazurkiewicz puts in a lot of work on our pub and it shows. Most likely, our members don't want to give up this membership benefit and I can't see us going away from this in the near term.

Since our publication is seen by our members as a benefit, it only makes sense to electronically preserve your newsletters for your membership.

What's the best way to do this?

THE PITCH FOR PDF

Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) is the defacto standard for distributing electronic documents. It solves many key issues associated electronic document distribution:

- **Self-Contained**
PDF documents contain all images, text, fonts and images and illustrations necessary to reproduce the publication. PDFs can be made from electronic sources (a word processor, for example) or from paper using a scanner.
- **Free to View**
The Adobe Reader is free to download from the Adobe Systems Incorporated website at <http://www.adobe.com>.
- **Ubiquitous Format**
There are billions and billions of PDF documents on the internet already. Over 750 million people have the free Adobe Reader software needed to view PDF files. The Adobe Reader is installed by default on virtually every computer that ships today.
- **Compact**
PDF documents are generally one-third the size of the original file. The format cleverly compresses the entire contents of the entire file into a single PDF.
- **Web Friendly**
PDF files are easy to post on websites and documents may be easily viewed in the browser.

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- **Print Accurately**
Accurately printing a PDF file is not dependent on the type of printer you have. PDF files automatically scale to the page size of the printer you have. Unlike web pages, they print reliably and the same without cutting off information.
- **A Digital Stapler**
PDFs can contain pages generated in different applications. For example, you might digitally bind together your publication (done in Microsoft Word), your BAP Standings (done in Excel) and a document that was scanned in from a piece of paper. Acrobat even allows you to number across all the pages.
- **Forms**
PDF files can contain form elements that users fill out. E.g. a membership form.
- **Navigation**
PDFs can contain bookmarks that act as a table of contents for your publication, hyperlinks and multimedia.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Unfortunately, you cannot use the free Adobe Reader to create a PDF. However, Adobe does offer a few alternatives

1. **Create PDF Online—<http://www.createpdf.com>**
This is Adobe's low cost on-line service for creating a PDF and supports most common file formats. For example, you could upload your Microsoft Word document and Adobe will email you're the completed PDF within a few minutes.
2. **Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Standard**
This \$299 program allows you to create PDFs from any program on your computer. It also allows you to scan your old pubs and turn them into searchable PDFs. It installs one-button PDF creators into all Word, Excel and PowerPoint, which makes it very simple to create a PDF.



This product also installs the Adobe PDF print driver which converts the print output of *any* application into a PDF.

Additionally, Acrobat Standard can add security to PDFs, reduce file size of PDFs, and add notes and comments on top of PDFs.

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3. Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional

This \$449 program is a superset of Adobe Acrobat Standard. It includes an entirely separate forms design application (Adobe Designer) and the ability to perform batch operations on files.

For most clubs, I believe Acrobat Standard is adequate, but I have made extensive use of Acrobat Professional to produce forms that our club uses often such as our on-line auction form (see <http://www.gcca.net/auction.htm>).

If you use a professional page layout program—such as Adobe InDesign—you already have built-in, high-quality PDF generation.

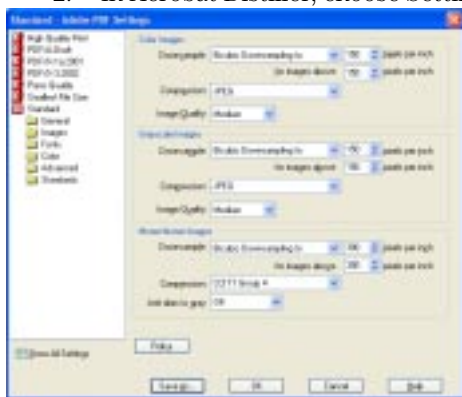
PDF VERSIONS AND SETTINGS

You want the PDF you post on your website or email to be as small as possible, but still maintain good optical quality. Further, it is important to understand that there are various versions of the PDF format. Your PDF settings adjust both of these parameters. The default settings that ship with Adobe Acrobat do a good job in most cases. These settings do the following:

- Create an Acrobat 5.0 (PDF 1.4) version file to ensure compatibility with older versions of the Acrobat.
- Offer a good balance of quality versus file size.

For the geekier among you, I think we can do a bit better! To get an even smaller file, that I believe looks a bit better, do the following:

1. Start up Acrobat and choose Advanced ⇒ Acrobat Distiller.
2. In Acrobat Distiller, choose Settings ⇒ Edit Adobe PDF Settings.

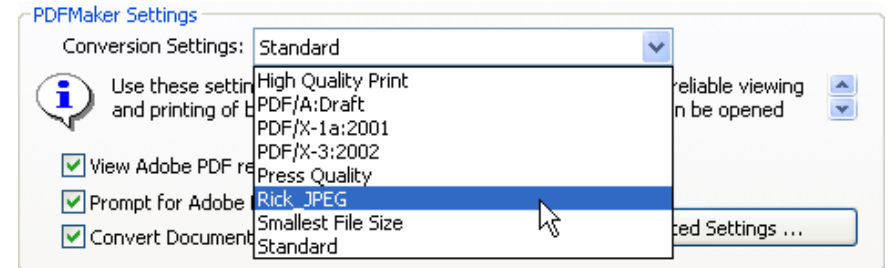


3. Click the Images folder in the panel on the left.
4. Set your settings the same as in Figure 3 below:
5. Click OK to save your new setting.

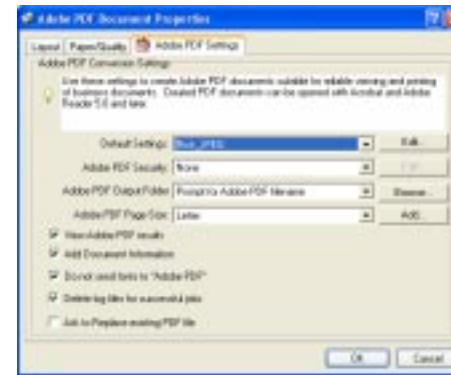
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Using the settings depends on the application you use to create PDFs.

- If you use Microsoft Word, go to Adobe PDF ⇒ Change Conversion Settings and choose the new setting.



- If you use any other software, choose File ⇒ Print and choose the Adobe PDF driver. Then click properties to change the screen below.

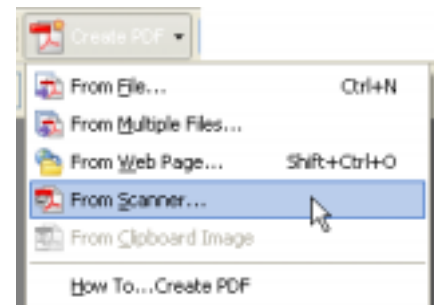


CREATING PDFS FROM PAPER DOCUMENTS

Older publications that only exist on paper can also be converted to PDF. You will need a TWAIN or ISIS (standard scan driver) scanner. To convert a paper document:

1. Make sure your scanner is turned on and plugged into your computer.
2. Launch Adobe Acrobat Standard or Professional
3. Put the paper document in your scanner.
4. Click the Create PDF Button and then choose From Scanner.
5. Check Recognize Text using OCR

Acrobat will scan in your document and add an invisible searchable layer of text on top of the document.



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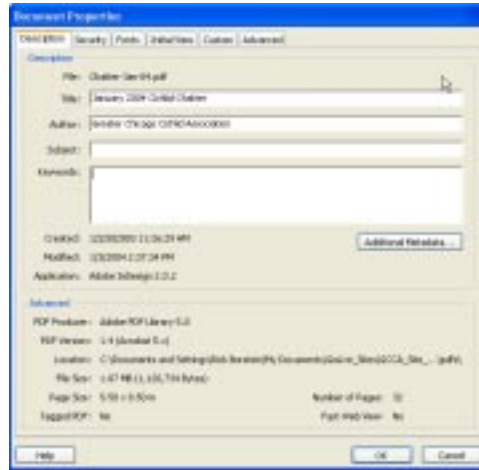
If you are looking for a great document scanner, consider the Fujitsu ScanSnap. This small machine scans fifteen, double-sided pages per minute directly into PDF format. The input bin accepts up to fifty pages at a time.

In fact, the ScanSnap comes with a full version of Acrobat 7.0 Standard for about \$400, so it is a great way to get into Acrobat inexpensively.

CHECKING FILE SIZE AND VERSION

Before posting a PDF on your website, it's a good idea to make sure it is the right version and that the file size is small. To check these settings, choose File → Document Properties and click on the *Description* tab.

If you need to change the version of PDF or make it smaller, choose File—Reduce File Size and choose Acrobat 5.0



WEB SITE AWARDS UPDATE

Judging will begin later this month for the FAAS Website Awards. Sorry for the delay!

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.

A PLEA FOR CONTENT

I would like to add relevant content to the FAAS.INFO website. Do you have old copies of the *Federation Report* or information you would like to see posted on the FAAS website? Please send it on to me. I can scan paper documents, so please send them to me at R. Borstein, 337 Ronnie Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089. You can also fax me at 847 478 8119.



**Delegate's Council
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Office provides in forwarding, for a period of time, your mail if you move (and fill out the appropriate change of address forms). The last Delegates Council e-mail I sent out had one “bounce” — I got the following message for Alan Robbins: error: nouser User account disabled (reason: 550 5.1.1 User unknown) (expanded from: <alanr@brightdsl.net>) Now, Alan Robbins is on the Board of Directors of FAAS and is also the Secretary of the Cleveland Aquarium Society. So, I went on the websites of both FAAS and of the Cleveland Aquarium Society and both showed an e-mail address for Alan Robbins of alanr@brightdsl.net. Since that is the e-mail address that I sent Alan's copy of the last Delegates Council report to, I had no where to turn for a correction. (Alan, if you're reading this, please send me your correct e-mail address!)

O.K., now it's up to you to discuss this issue. I know that some fish clubs have already moved to an electronic-only newsletter, or have an electronic version available as an alternative to a print version, with members deciding which one they prefer. But, is this appropriate for an organization such as FAAS? Please let me hear from you.

SENT TO:

- Asoci de Acuáristas de Aguadilla Carmelo Matos carmelo.matos@hp.com
- Champaign Area Fish Exchange Carie Nixon cnixon@uiuc.edu
- Cleveland Aquarium Society Alan Robbins alanr@brightdsl.net
- C.O.A.S.T. Brian Downing monicabrian@email.msn.com
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- Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association Marti Horan mjhoran@msn.com
- Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society Jerry Riegel jriegel@cinergy.com
- Greater Chicago Cichlid Association Rick Borstein (*also FAAS Webmaster) borstein@yahoo.com
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- Tri-County Tropical Fish Society Tony Berry Roghfish@aol.com
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- Jeff Senft FAAS Sales Chair senft5611@blazenet.net
- Scott Tetzlaff Breeders Award Program thefishguy@prodigy.net

Expired Or Expiring Memberships

A

Auarista Metro Este Pr 9/05

Colorado Aquarium Society 9/05

Desert Fish Club 9/05

Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies 8/05

Greater Chicago Aquarium Society 3/05

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. 12/04

Medina County Aquarium Society 7/05

Minnesota Aquatium Society 6/05

Nassau County Aquaroum Society 9/05

Northeast Philadelphia Aquarium Society 6/05

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society 6/05

Tri-County Tropical Fish Society 8/05

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



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please use the following addresses:

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Judi Petetson – jpeter30@tampabay.rr.com

Rick Bornstein – bornstein@yahoo.com

Committee Update

Advertising

nothing to report this month

Aquatic Photography Awards

no response received

Awards

no response received

Breeder's Award Program

no response received

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

nothing to report this month

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 Sept/October 2005

Publishing

nothing to report this month

Sales

no response received

Show Sanctioning

no response received



**President's Message
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Is your group represented on the Delegates council yet? If so, that is great, it gives you the best opportunity to stay in touch with what's happening in the fastest most efficient manner. If you group is not a member please take a minute to drop me a note and explain why your not taking advantage of this forum. You can drop me the note at the address on the inside cover of the FR. As always I would urge you to find a member of your group to participate in this ongoing discussion forum.

Please take a minute to let us know what you think. All of us working together can make the aquarium hobby strong and vital for years to come.



Calendar Of Events

August 2005

August 20 - 21, 2005

**Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society
Whale of a Show 2005**

Avalon Inn & Resort
9519 East Market Street Warren, Ohio 44484
59 Classes, Cash Prizes Banquet Saturday Evening 6:00 p.m. Cost
\$5.00 per person Banquet reservations must be made by August 10
to Tom DiCola 330-758-3043 _mruaru2@aol.com_
(mailto:_mruaru2@aol.com_) For complete information check our
web site: [_www.YATFS.com_](http://www.YATFS.com_) (http://www.YATFS.com_)

October 2005

October 9, 2005

**Allegheny River Valley Aquarium Society
Annual Auction**

John Ash Community Center
12:00 noon at the , 112 N. Barry , St., Olean, NY 14760.
Registration 11:00 a.m.; 70/30 split; 10 table system. For more
information and seller pre-registration contact Carol 716-372-
2096, _Fish716@localnet.com_ (<mailto:Fish716@localnet.com>) or
Wilma at > 716-373-2639, _Wilmaches@hotmail.com_
(<mailto:Wilmaches@hotmail.com>) .

October 16, 2005 - Sunday

**Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society
Fall Auction**

2005 Lordstown Administration Building
Lordstown, Ohio 70/30
Split Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Auction starts at noon.
Check [_www.YATFS.com_](http://www.YATFS.com_) (http://www.YATFS.com_) for directions
and more details

F.A.A.S.

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