

The Federation Report

September/October 2004



The Federation Report
11308 Donnymoor Drive
Riverview, FL 33569

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

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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

Where did the Summer go! School is beginning again soon if it hasn't already in your area. Life should be getting back to more of a normal routine for many of us. I hope your summer was as enjoyable as mine has been. If you did anything related to the Hobby this summer and might have a few pictures that you are willing to share, please contact the Program Committee Chair (me) to discuss the opportunity.

Please remember that the position of FAAS Delegate is the critical link between the national group and your Society. It is through your hard work and attention that your group will get the most out of its membership. Please don't forget to keep your Society informed of their opportunities for individual recognition of your members through participation in the Publication, Breeder, Aquatic Horticulture and Aquatic Photo Awards programs. If any addresses have changed, PLEASE be sure to update the contact information for you club with the Membership Chairman and myself.

This Spring I asked for help in finding worthy hobbyists for recognition by FAAS. I have not received even one inquiry or nomination up to this date. PLEASE Help. Take a couple minutes to look at the handbook and see if any of your members could possibly be eligible for consideration for this honor. Let Roger Halleen and I know if you believe FAAS should consider any of the hobbyists in your club or area for recognition. It is difficult to learn of worthy individuals without the local clubs assistance. Please take a minute to consider if anyone you know might be qualified, then let us know.

As always I would like to encourage any club not already on the Delegate Council to find a willing member and begin participation in the ongoing discussion taking place there. Also be sure that when officers and addresses change that you let FAAS know immediately to insure that we are able to keep in touch with your club.

Getting more involved in the aquarium hobby is fun. Lets all work to help keep it a going strong and enjoyable for the next generation of aquarists.



Calendar Of Events

October 2004

October 15 – 17, 2004 (con't) Sacramento Aquarium Society 4th Annual FINDIG

social mixers. Please contact Modesta Stevens, FINDIG Chairwoman, (916) 369-0546 Kimberly Beckham, President, (916) 684-8981 or www.SacramentoAquariumSociety.org.

January 2005

January 15,2005 - Saturday Champaign Area Fish Exchange Winter Auction

Urbana Civic Center 108 Water St Urbana IL Doors open at 8am, Auction begins at 10:30 am Anything related to the Aquarium hobby may be presented for sale at this event. Fish, plants, food, equipment, pond related items, etc will most likely be there. For 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.



Your Societies Event Could Have Been Listed Here

Calendar Of Events

October 2004

October 3, 2004 - Sunday
Medina County Aquarium Society
Fall Auction

Wadsworth Masonic Temple, 660 High Street, Wadsworth, Ohio. For more information contact John Clark at tpaj@neo.rr.com or 330-723-4748, Ken McGill at fishy@neo.rr.com or 419-688-7452, or Rich Serva at rjserva@juno.com or 330-630-4613.

October 9, 2004 - Saturday
Tri-County Tropical Fish Society
Fall Auction

Limestone Community High School in Bartonville, IL for more information please contact, Roger Halleen, 301 Baylor, East Peoria, IL, 61611 or rogfish@aol.com, rogfish@insightbb.com or phone (309) 699-7394

October 10, 2004 - Sunday
The Allegheny River Valley Aquarium Society
Annual Auction Auction

J A Community Center, 112 N Barry Street, Olean, NY 14760. Starting at 12 noon. For more information please call 716-372-2096

October 15 – 17, 2004
Sacramento Aquarium Society
4th Annual FINDIG

Friday, October 15th **5pm – 12pm**
Saturday, October 16th **9am – 12pm**
Sunday, October 17th **9am – 5pm**

Marriott Hotel 11211 Point East Drive Rancho Cordova, California 95742 (916) 638-1100 Rooms: \$79 per night. Admission required for Friday and Saturday General: \$30 per person (\$35 at the door) SAS Members: \$25 per person (\$35 at the door) Students: \$15 (with valid student ID) (\$35 at the door). FREE Admission on Sunday. The event will feature freshwater and saltwater speakers from across the

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Delegates' Council Report

Al Priest
Chair, FAAS Delegates' Council



The Delegates Council is currently discussing one issue, that of awards for society websites. All delegates voicing an opinion felt that this was a good idea, but questions were raised regarding specifics. FAAS webmaster Rick Borstein put together recommendations for judging criteria on the FAAS website at: <http://www.gcca.net/faas/webjudge/web-judging.htm>

Basically, Rick is recommending websites be judged in six categories:

- 1- Functionality
- 2- Design
- 3- Club Content
- 4- Hobby Content
- 5- Originality
- 6- Professionalism and Effectiveness

So far, all delegates responding have agreed with those recommendations. (And, I want to add my thanks to Rick for tackling this job!) The one stumbling block has been that several delegates wanted the Delegates Council itself involved in the judging in one way or another. As I mentioned in my last Report, current FAAS judging rules for both the Photo and Publication Awards specify that: Judges are selected by the Committee Chairman with the following restrictions:

1. No one may judge a category in which they or any member of their family has an entry.
2. No one may judge a category in which any member of any FAAS society that they are affiliated with has an entry.
3. No one may judge a category in which any FAAS society they are affiliated with has an entry. In instances where a member society is handling any part of the judging they are restricted from judging any category in which they or any of their members has an entry.

I felt that the Website Awards, if approved, should have the same restrictions, not because I agree with those restrictions for the Photo or Publications Awards (as a personal aside, both Rick and I think these criteria are a bit overly restrictive), but simply to be consistent.

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**Delegate's Council
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But, if the website awards adopted these restrictions, and if the Delegates Council were involved in judging, websites of the societies of all the delegates would be automatically disqualified! Tampa Bay Aquarium Society delegate Bruce Lilyea suggested that "Webmasters (including asst. webmasters) and their family members with an entry should be excluded from judging, however other members of that society would be permitted to act as a judge. This rule would be in keeping with Rule #1 from the existing Photo and Article rules ("No one may judge a category in which they or any member of their family has an entry"), but eliminate rules #2 and #3."

As webmaster myself, I do not want to appear to push this discussion in any specific direction. Personally, I would feel more comfortable were the website awards (should they become a reality) to be judged by totally disinterested parties, and not have the Delegates' Council involved at all. And, while I think that Rick would be the appropriate person to chair a Website Awards committee, since he is the FAAS webmaster, I also think this is something best left to the Board to decide. I can come up with no valid reason why criteria for judges for the website awards should differ substantially from the criteria applicable to judges of either the Photo or Publication awards. (While I understand that there may be technical computer issues involved in judging websites, there are artistic and literary issues involved in judging the other two awards, and the judging of any of these awards requires, or assumes, a certain degree of expertise in specialized areas.)

I am going to ask for comments one last time. Unless informed otherwise, I will assume that we have a consensus on using Rick Borstein's judging criteria. Now, I am asking for comments on criteria for judges. I would like to recommend to the FAAS Board adoption of website awards using the criteria developed by the FAAS webmaster. I would like to leave the questions of who will do the judging, and the qualifications of those judges, to the Board. (I assume that the criteria for judges would be the same as for the Photo and Publication awards, although this would be for the Board to decide.) However, I will abide by the opinion of the majority.

This message is also being sent to Judi Peterson for publication in the FAAS Report, so anyone not currently on the Delegates Council

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Committee Update

Advertising

nothing to report this month

Aquatic Photography Awards

nothing to report this month

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

nothing to report this month

Legislation – USA

see article

Membership

see article

Nominations

BOD Nomination Deadline 3/5/04

Programs

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

Publication Awards Program

nothing to report this month

Publishing

see article

Sales

no response received

Show Sanctioning

no response received



Breeder's Award Program

Scott Tetzlaff

Chair, Breeder's Award Program

The listing of the Breeder's Award Program will continue next month as space allows.



Membership Committee



Judi J. Peterson
Chairman

We are always pleased to have new members join the Federation of American Aquarium Societies. The stronger our membership is, the more that we can accomplish in influencing the industry as a whole. I would like to welcome our newest members into FAAS. They are:

Acuarista Metro Este PR

Maribel Medina
P.O. #9022852
San Juan, PR 00791
787-312-2640
mgris_98@yahoo.com

Desert Fish Club

William Carpenter
68290 Modalo road
Cathedral City, CA 92234
760-770-7647
ecotek@earthlink.net

Northeast Philadelphia Aquarium Society

Schuyler D. Sloane
5733 Charles Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135
267-259-9568
phillyfishclub@yahoo.com

If you have not already joined the Delegates' Council, please do so. Your input is important in helping guide the direction of FAAS. Also, let me know of any upcoming events so that they can be published in the newsletter and remember to get your club members involved in the various award programs. Again, welcome.



Legislation
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All the above information was taken out of the **MAC News 2nd Quarter 2004** dated July 12, 2004



Delegate's Council
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mailing list (and you only need send me an e-mail to join!) can still comment. If you do comment on this e-mail, please remember to respond to "all" so that everyone on the Council gets the benefit of your thoughts, not just me.

Finally, please note that the Delegates' Council is intended to be a forum for discussion of issues relating to FAAS. Once we finalize recommendations on website awards, we currently have no more issues to discuss. If that means that everyone is happy with the way FAAS is serving the needs of his or her society, that's great. But, if you think that FAAS can help your society in some way, or your society is unhappy with the way FAAS does something, then THIS is the place to discuss those issues.

Assuming we dispense with website awards, does anyone have any thoughts about awards for packaged programs? By this I mean, an award given to someone who submits slides (or a Powerpoint) aquarium society presentation, along with a related script. All presentations would become the property of FAAS and could be loaned to member societies. Just think about this, and when you comment on the website awards, let me know your thoughts on this.

SENT TO:

Asociacion de Acuaristas 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
Colorado Aquarium Society Jane Scott-Kukul jsk01@canada.com
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Tampa Bay Aquarium Society Bruce Lilyea lilyea@technomaze.com
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On The Web



Rick Borstein
FAAS Web Master

In the last *On the Web*, I discussed how to choose a tool to produce your club's website. I also discussed my proposal for the Website Awards.

In this column, I'm going to cover talk about how to avoid SPAM and revisit the web site

awards.

Who likes Spam?

I know I don't!

Spam is unwanted "junk" email. Various estimates on the web indicate that somewhere between 50 and 80% of all email is spam.

Most clubs post the names of their board or key members on their web site. I think this is a great idea, but...

Spammers use "spiders" or "spambots" which troll the web and harvest email addresses from web sites. The spambots run 24/7 and harvest hundreds of thousands of email addresses daily.

If you add a mailto link on your website, that email address could be harvested by a spammer very easily!

Email Addresses in the Clear

Here is the source code of an ordinary mailto link, which is probably what you are using on your web site:

```
<a href="mailto:bob@aol.com">Email Bob</a>
```

If you put this on a page, you'll see a link (in blue): [Email Bob](#). When user clicks the link, it will launch their email program.

The full email address is "in the clear" in the code above. Ack!

Spammers look for the "at sign" which makes it easy to harvest a nice address to add to their database!

How to Hide an Email Addresses

A number of techniques use a combination of JavaScript and coded characters that do a good job foiling the spambots.

For example, a coded version of the [Email Bob](#) link (see above) might look like this:

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Legislation For September and October 2004



Roger Halleen
*Legislation-USA
Chairman*

Really things on the legislative side have been real slow, I guess everyone is out working on their reelection. Well that's better for us anyway, I hope. I would like to report a little this month on what the MARINE AQUARIUM COUNCIL has been up to lately

To help train collectors to meet the MAC Standard for Collection a manual on the, Standard for Collection, Fishing and Holding (CFH) has been completed and field-tested. It is divided into eight modules that cover an introduction to MAC, dive safety, collecting gear and methods, post-harvest holding and packing techniques, and documentation. The MAC collectors training manual is a living document. Following its initial use in 2004, the manual will be revised and updated.

MAC has been busy in many country's in the Philippines, Indonesia, Pacific Islands and Europe they have been working on every thing from better training of collectors, training collectors to dive safer and get MAC information printer in there receptive country's language. This is all being done to produce better Maine fish for the hobby and preserve the Coral Reefs and our natural environment.

MAC also made their presence felt here in North America also they were in attendance at, Backer Spring Show in Atlantic City in April and at the second annual International Marine Aquarium Conference (IMAC) in Chicago in May. In June, MAC Executive Director Paul Holthus visited four East Coast hobbyist clubs. Long Island Reef Association, Boston Reef Society (BRS) Brooklyn Aquarium Society (BAS) and the Washington DC Area Marine Aquarist Society (WAMAS) were included in the Society's that MAC officials met with.

For more information on MAC please visit <http://www.aquariumcouncil.org>

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Treasurer's Report

Accounting Summary August 31, 2004

Balance forward from Previous Treasurer	\$4,028.26
Income	
Dues	210.00
Expenses	
Bank Charges for Checks & Deposit Slips	27.00
Total In Bank	\$4,211.26

Since I did not receive any information as to what the previous balance should be allocated to, I will wait until the beginning of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies new year to computerize the financial reports.

Respectfully submitted
Judi J. Peterson
Treasurer



Expired Or Expiring Memberships

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County 11/04
Calgary Aquarium Society 11/04
Colorado Aquarium Society 9/04
Greater City Aquarium Society 11/04
Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. 12/04
Houston Aquarium Society, Inc. 7/04
International Betta Congress 10/04
Medina County Aquarium Society 7/04
Milwaukee Aquarium Society 11/04
Nassau County Aquarium Society 9/04
Ohio Cichlid Association 10/04
Rockey Mountain Cichlid Association 5/04
Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society 6/04
Tampa Bay Aquarium Society 10/04

On the Web
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```
<script type="text/javascript"> var sb1='il'; var sb2='ma'; var sb3='to:.'; var sb4='&#121;&#111;&#117;&#114;&#64;&#101;&#109;&#97;&#105;&#108;&#46;&#99;&#111;&#109;'; var sb5='&#77;&#121;&#32;&#78;&#97;&#109;&#101;'; var sb6=''; document.write('<a href="'+sb2+sb1+sb3+sb4+''' onfocus="if(this.blur)this.blur();">'+sb5+'</a>'); </script>
```

That's a lot of code to write yourself! Fortunately, there are easy to use alternatives.

Free Email Encoding Tools

My favorite free tool is Hiveware's Enkoder. This tool is free to use. You can find it at <http://automaticlabs.com/products/enkoderform/>.

Simply fill in the email address, the text you want on the web page, the title of the link and it will generate the code you need to use.

The Hiveware tool makes virtually unbreakable mailto links. It creates more larger, more complex code than the example I used above. I use it on faas.info. The only downside is that the code is quite large, so if you have lots email addresses to hide (more than twenty), your page byte count will grow larger and take longer to download.

Hiding Email Addresses using GoLive or Dreamweaver

If you use one of these programs, plug-ins (extensions) are available that are nicely integrated with the application. These plug-ins make it easy to insert and update encoded email addresses.

Adobe GoLive—SpamBlocker — <http://golive.werk01.de/SpamBlocker/>

Macromedia Dreamweaver—Ultimailto— <http://www.colmgallagher.com/ultimailto.asp>

Website Judging Award Discussion

There has been much discussion among the delegates about the website awards. The good news is:

1. Everyone agrees we should have website awards
2. Four awards were proposed:
 - a. Best overall society website
 - b. Most informative society website
 - c. Most innovative or unique society website
 - d. Best website as a resource for the aquarium hobby
3. The proposed point-based system used to determine the

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On the Web
con't from page 7

winners (see last month's Federation Report) did not generate any objections

4. The FAAS Webmaster will chair the judging process and will not vote.

There has been quite a spread of opinion as to who should judge. I favor a lenient system, which would allow anybody to judge, but not vote on their own site. Other folks felt that this process could skew the results and/or open the process to favoritism. Some people felt that only totally, unbiased, outside parties should judge.

See my complete proposal elsewhere in this issue.

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.



Publishing Committee



Judi J. Peterson
Chairwoman and Editor

First, let me apologize for the excessive delay in getting this newsletter out. With all of the storms hitting Florida and getting stranded in Las Vegas for an extra week, I am really running late. On top of that, I have also just changed jobs, but am still working on a services rendered basis on my old job.

Working for a new company, that buildings are not even completed and everything including computers, budgets and programs have to be installed and set-up, has left me trying to find myself.

Second, I would like to thank the clubs that are sending me events for the Calendar of Events, hopefully, more of you will do so in the future.

I would also like to thank all of the people that are submitting articles for the newsletter and to urge more of you to do so. This newsletter is for the benefit of all the member clubs and a larger representation from everyone would not only help the publication, but all of the members as well.

Program Committee



Jerry Montgomery
Chairman

In the last Delegate Council message Al brought up the idea of an award possible being created for a slide program presentation or PowerPoint presentation. I think this is a great idea and hope that it is pursued and will give it my full support to the BOD. This would possibly also help all of the clubs by providing new materials for other FAAS member societies to have available for presenting a program to the local club.

I am still looking for individuals that would be willing to assist me in revising or creating new presentations for FAAS. Please contact me directly at the address listed in the committee section if you have any questions or would be possibly interested in getting involved with this worthy endeavor.

Some of us have had our fish outside "on vacation" this summer. As you start to bring them back in try to get some pictures of them to share with FAAS to be used in new programs. The color is always so much more intense and vibrant than fish that have been kept inside. I am hoping to be able to get some of the ones I had out myself.

If you have an idea for a program or know of any sources of material that could possibly be purchased by FAAS I would also like to hear about that as well.

