

# FAAS Report

As I am writing this I am reminded that I need to get to work. All our entries for the FAAS Publication Awards need to be completed by the end of January. Sure it sounds close, but it will be here before you know it. I am hoping to see a lot more original articles in the Pisces Press in the coming months. That means that James needs YOU. You get it? You need to write articles for your magazine. All of our members have information that they can share with other members. Give it a try.

And, when you are finished writing your articles, and hey, you can submit artwork as well, then you can get out your camera and take some pictures for the FAAS photo contest. All entries for that must be submitted by the March meeting. There are many different categories, and media that you can use. It just requires some time and some originality in set-

ting up your photo shoots. I know we have a lot of camera buffs out there.

Finally, the FAAS nominations for the website awards have been submitted. One thing that FAAS needs is some judges. If you have an interest, just contact me, or Mike and let us know. We will submit your information on to FAAS. While FAAS has tried to provide a variety of awards and programs for its members, it does require our help to keep these programs going. In the meantime, if you haven't checked out our NCAS website, what are you waiting for? Visit us at <http://www.ncasweb.org>

Get busy getting ready to win some photo awards and publication awards in 2005. You have to enter though in order to win.)

## Local Happenings

**Big Apple Guppy Group:** BAGG will be Meeting the LAST Thursday of each month at the Queens Botanical Garden. **No meeting January and February 2005** Contact Don Curtin (718) 631-0538

**Brooklyn Aquarium Society:**  
Second Friday of each month at the New York Aquarium.  
Call Fish Phone (718) 837-4455

**East Coast Guppy Association:**  
Meets the first Thursday of each month at the Queens Botanical Garden.  
Contact Gene Baudier (631)345-6399

**Greater City Aquarium Society:**  
Meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Queens Botanical Garden. Look for information in this publication about our upcoming Auction!  
Contact Joe Ferdenzi (718) 767-1691

**Jersey Shore Aquarium Society:**  
Meets the second Monday of each month at the Knights of Columbus in Freehold, NJ.

Contact [shine@hoqub.att.com](mailto:shine@hoqub.att.com)

**Long Island Aquarium Society:**  
Meets the third Friday of each month at the Holtsville Park and Zoo.  
Call Vinny (516) 938-4066

**Long Island Herpetological Society:**  
Call (516) 884-LIHS for information

**Long Island Killifish Association:**  
Contact Bill Adams (516) 333-5048

**Metropolitan Killifish Association:**  
Call (201) 386-1937 for more information

**North Jersey Aquarium Society:** Meets the third Thursday of each month at 8:00. Call the hotline number (908) 541-1392

**Windows to the Sea Marine Aquarium Society:**  
Meets the second Sunday of each month.  
Contact Jerry Riedler (908) 753-1434

If you know of any other society events, contact the editor, James Quattropani, with the information. Information can be sent to: [bestestboss@msn.com](mailto:bestestboss@msn.com) , [forfins@optonline.net](mailto:forfins@optonline.net) or [guppyghost@hotmail.com](mailto:guppyghost@hotmail.com) )

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Next you can consider your fish. There are a variety of categories just for fish entries, it might be salt water, catfish, guppies, you name it. For Bruce...even a fish stamp can be an entry in their all other category. But, you have to be in it to win it...so if you don't have your photos ready...You still have time. Start taking those pictures today.

If you didn't get a release form at the January Meeting, we will have them available at the next two meetings. )

You need to write articles for your magazine. All of our members have information that they can share with other members. Give it a try-

when you are finished writing your articles, and hey, you can submit artwork as well, then you can get out your camera and take some pictures for the FAAS photo contest. All entries for that must be submitted by the March meeting. There are many different categories, and media that you can use. It just requires some time and some originality in setting up your photo shoots. I know we have a lot of camera buffs out there.

Now that the Publication Awards have been finished, FAAS will now be starting to look at the Web Site Awards. Anyone interested in helping to Judge for FAAS should send an email to either Mike at [forfins@optonline.net](mailto:forfins@optonline.net), or me at [guppyghost@hotmail.com](mailto:guppyghost@hotmail.com). FAAS has prepared all of these awards to help our clubs, why not see if there is some way you can help FAAS. By the way, did you know FAAS even has slide programs available for rental?

Finally, calling all photographers: Where are your pictures?

The 2005 Photo Awards deadline is in March. There are so many categories you can take pictures in. To begin with, you can take black and white or color photos, or you can take color slide or JPG pictures.

Finally, the FAAS nominations for the website awards have been submitted. One thing that FAAS needs is some judges. If you have an interest, just contact me, or Mike and let us know. We will submit your information on to FAAS. While FAAS has tried to provide a variety of awards and programs for its members, it does require our help to keep these programs going. In the meantime, if you haven't checked out our NCAS website, what are you waiting for? Visit us at <http://www.ncasweb.org>

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# FAAS Report -March 2005

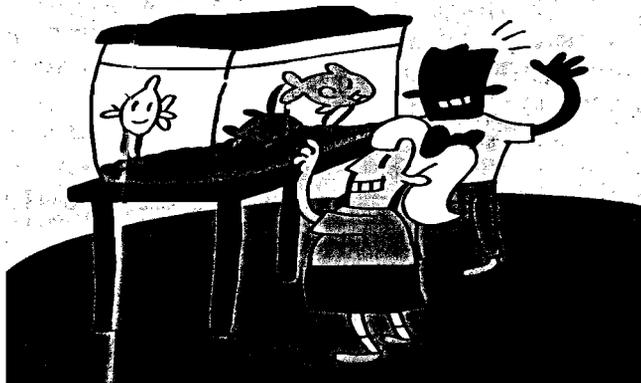
We are coming up on the deadline for the FAAS Photo Contest. I am hoping that many of the members will have picked up their cameras over the cold winter months and taken some pictures for us to enter. I think most of my entries this year will end up being in the "all other" category. One of the things I have pictures of are fish on stamps. Now, if you want more information on fish on stamps in the US, just speak to Bruce. For several years, Bruce has been lobbying for more fish on US Postage Stamps. If you have never looked at the variety of fish that are available on stamps in other countries, you should check it out. The stamp varieties are endless. For one thing, did you know that countries like YEMEN produce stamps strictly for collectors? I know the US would like many of our stamps to just be collectables, but that isn't always the case. That is why un-cancelled stamps are usually worth more than the cancelled ones. But, back to the topic at hand. All you need to do is take pictures of your fish, in either black and white or color prints, color slides or jpg files. It is that easy. In each of these classes there are about 26 subcategories, such as catfish, marine fish, livebearers, or killifish. How easy is that! Your pictures have to be in it to win it!

Our society's web site has also been entered into the FAAS' latest venture. Web Site Awards... The same criteria will be used to judge these sites as applies to the Publication Awards.

FAAS offers societies more than just these awards. They also have a reserve of programs that can be rented, and a list of potential guest speakers. We also get from them a list of manufacturers to contact in hopes of getting much needed donations for the society meetings.

Finally, they give us the FAAS medallion which our society uses to honor one of our members who has done a lot to help the society. Our winner of the 2004 FAAS medallion was Fred Bellise. Fred has been an active member for several years and in addition to keeping the club treasury in order, he has assisted Mike in all of the auctions and arranging for the auction by setting up the hall, helping to bag fish and anything else that might be needed. Congratulations, and thanks for all the time you donate to keep our society running.

As FAAS delegate, I try to find nominations of members who have not had the honor in previous years. Unfortunately, not all of the members who donate a considerable amount of time have always been recognized. We only give one award a year, but your time and effort is always appreciated and helps our society to run smoothly.



found there. One of them is the "Trading Post" While this issue lists several types of fish, including Angel Fish that are for sale, the web site lists Grindel Worm Cultures and has a fish list for one of their members, Dennis Heltzel. Ed Keene, another member also has "Almost Natural Fish Food" as well as Louisiana Bog Wood.

In this same issue there is a reprint from an article found online at [http://www.aquahobby.com/tales/e\\_possum.php](http://www.aquahobby.com/tales/e_possum.php) on a website called "The Age of Aquarius" It is a short article about not giving up too quickly on a sick fish. One interesting thing about the Delaware County Aquarium Society is the easy access to their web site. WHEN you visit their site (you will note that I said when, not IF) you will see a button to find out more about their Home Tank Show. I know that this is an area that Mike would be more interested in pursuing in the future. For a home show, the judges go to the homes of the entrants, and take pictures or videos and do their judging. The following month, the slideshow or video is shown to all the members and the winners are announced. Make sure you revisit the website in April to get the rules and regulations about home shows. Let Mike know what you think of the idea. And, while visiting other web sites is always interesting, don't forget to visit our web site, <http://www.ncasweb.org/> and drop a note to the web master and let him know what you think. Joe does a lot of hard work to keep our page current. Be sure to use it.

As always, if you see an interesting exchange bulletin that we don't know about, let us know. You can reach me through the web site, at [exchange@ncasweb.org](mailto:exchange@ncasweb.org)

## FAAS REPORT-April 2005

The Nassau County Aquarium Society has sent in entries to the 2005 Photo contest in a variety of media. We have entries in slides, black and white photo, color photos and jpg files. Good luck to all the members who sent in their entries. To those who didn't get them to me, try for next year. I am sure we have many members who enjoy using their cameras. There is even a category for fish related photos, for those who don't want to take pictures of their fish.

Legislation this month was primarily concerned with a bill in Illinois that would affect changes in what needs to be done to sell fish. If you are interested in this bill, even though it might not affect us in New York, you can access the information on the web at <http://www.ilga.gov>, and search for HB0707. The primary concern is that it changes the wording from "pet shop operator" to "animal caretaker" which includes anyone, including private individuals who perform an function of an animal caretaker as listed.

Since this could also include the small hobbyist, and it would raise violations from a class c to a class A for anyone who does not provide 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. This is quite an extensive list and leaves a lot of room for interpretation. It could include any hobbyist who keeps, sells fish or ships fish to Illinois. FAAS is urging Illinois members to contact their state Representatives to amend the bill to exclude hobbyists.

FAAS also has a BAP program that members might be interested in participating in. I will give Harry more information on their program.

Email me, at [guppyghost@hotmail.com](mailto:guppyghost@hotmail.com) if you need more information about FAAS.

**FAAS Report- May 2005**

Rick Borstein, the FAAS webmaster has offered to assist any club that would like a critique of their website, or advise on how to improve it. This is coming in connection with the FAAS new-est award area...Web pages. The web is definitely something that requires the participation of aquarium Societies. More and more people go to the web for information and clubs need to have a visible presence there. Thanks again to Joe, the NCAS Webmaster, who has done so much work to revamp our website and maintain it. NCAS has entered their website in the FAAS awards program.

Under legislation, Roger Halleen reported a proposed change to the Animal Welfare Act in the state of Illinois. This change would replace the term, "pet shop operator" with a much more liberal term..."Animal caretaker" The implications of this change would mean that ANY person who sells, offers to sell, or exchange, or offer for adoption with or without charge or donation any animal currently obtained as pets. This would include local hobbyists as well. While it is a consideration for the state of Illinois, it is something that should be seriously watched to be sure similar bills do not develop in other states. FAAS has requested that Illinois residents write to their local representatives to protest this change.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLES NEEDED!**

All NCAS members are asked to submit original articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles must be legibly written or on a disk. Remember to include your name, address and the title of the article. Computer users are requested to submit their copy on a disk labeled with the program used (i.e., Word Perfect 7.0) and a hard copy if possible. **Articles can be either emailed to the editor or brought to the next meeting.**

**Articles can be e-mailed to: [editor@ncasweb.org](mailto:editor@ncasweb.org)**

**We would like to thank the following members who donated items to the club for the April auction!!!!**

**Jeff Bollbach**

**Harry Faustmann**

**Harold Lutz**

**Ed Naughton**

**James Quattropani**

**Tony Tero**

**Ed Vukich**



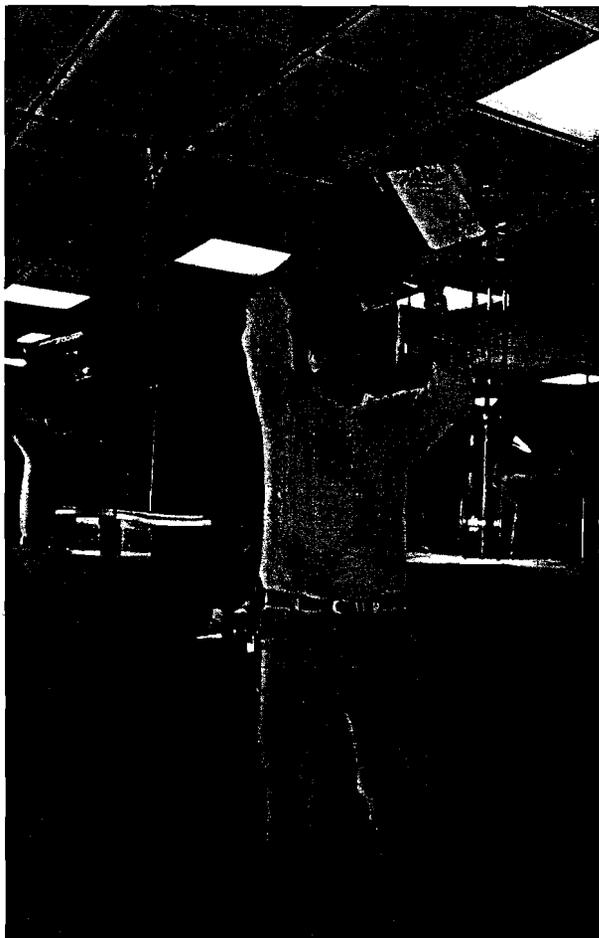
Gary or Rose  
(352) 694-7855

**G & R Tropicals**

*Breeders of Quality Discus*

E-Mail: [grtropicals@ocala.com](mailto:grtropicals@ocala.com)





**Vice president, Dan Dubins handles the April's meeting auction tasks.**

#### **FAAS Report - June 2005**

**In his last delegate's report, Al Priest brings up a very valid and important fact. FAAS exists to help aquarium societies. In order to do that, and meet the needs and expectations of all societies that are members of FAAS, input from these societies is important. As the FAAS delegate for NCAS, if there is any suggestions or recommendations that should be submitted to FAAS, please let me know. And, in order for FAAS to function properly, it requires the assistance of all societies.**

**If you go to the FAAS homepage, <http://www.gcca.net/faas/>, you will see that our auction has been posted on their site. FAAS offers many programs in addition to the Publication and Photo awards. FAAS also has a BAP program, which offers recognition for individual society members who breed fish and a HAP program, to recognize the achievements of society members who propagate plants. FAAS maintains a listing of speakers and programs available to member societies. So, knowing all the benefits of FAAS membership, remember we cannot sit back, and expect FAAS to come up with the ideas and methods of implementing them without the cooperation and support of all its members. Submit your thoughts and ideas about how FAAS can serve your society better.**

**Letter from the Editor:**

Well hello and welcome back from a long and hot summer. I hope you all survived along with all your fish. We are now entering the last few months of the year and we are hoping these next few months will bring good attendance at the upcoming meetings and good member participation.

I was unable to attend the NCAS Fish Auction due to a death in the family, but I heard that it was a great success. Between all the members that showed up to help, along with all the great fish and supplies, we raised a nice sum of money for the club treasury. I would like to thank them all for making it a great event.



Now on to club business—I guess everyone had a relaxing summer since I haven't received any articles for the Pisces Press. I have to stress that articles are badly needed to keep the newsletter going. In the future I may have to go back to 12 pages if there are no articles submitted.

I have worked over the summer to try to make the next few issues easier to read and refer to with one type setting and bolder print. Any articles I receive will be formatted to Arial type size 10. I have also searched the web for new and better clip art to keep the newsletter fresh and new. If any members have any pictures they want to submit, just give them to me at the next meeting or email them to the editor@ncasweb.org.

Don't forget that elections for club are coming up, maybe you might want to run for a position. Stay tuned for a current list of expiring positions and openings for Board Members within the NCAS organization.

Okay, well that's all for this month. Don't forget that next month is our silent auction. So start collecting all those unused items and bring them down in October.

**James Quattropani-editor**

### **FAAS Report- September 2005**

Well, it really is hard to believe the summer is almost gone. I still haven't found a job for the fall, so most of my time has been taken up in the pursuit of employment. FAAS has been very busy this summer discussing the issue of sending out the FAAS Report. Being sent out regular mail is costly, and the printing costs are ever increasing, as all societies know. One of the discussions is how to effectively send it out through the internet. The conversion to PDF file was a primary concern and the ability of clubs to download these files was also considered. In today's ever increasing email exchange, this could be a great cost reduction for FAAS.

I know I have been trying to increase the number of E-exchanges that we do with the NCAS Pisces Press. Not only would it cut down on the cost of printing for the exchanges, but also it would reduce the cost of our postage. The other problem that going to a PDF format might create is the need to switch to an 8 ½ X 11 publication size in order to simplify the PDF conversion. FAAS will discuss its possibilities and results will be in a later issue. Discussion in the Federation Report focused on the use of PDF, what is needed, and what can be accomplished with it.

Also discussed in the last Federation Report (May/June 2005) was information on using video on your website. While this may not be something we are looking into at the present, it was a very interesting article if anyone is interested.

## October FAAS Report

In August, the FAAS delegate's discussions focused around the discontent of some clubs with the way FAAS is handling things. One society complained that the Publication Awards took too long and their society only participates in the Publication Awards program. While winning awards is nice and all clubs want to win, this should not be the only reason to join FAAS. There are several programs to participate for awards, and since FAAS members in various parts of the country are doing them, it takes time, and it isn't really fair to FAAS to condemn the society for taking too long for judging.

In addition to awards programs, there are listings for speakers, programs for rent and manufacturers to contact for donations. These are also valuable tools, worth membership.

The frustration felt by FAAS board members is equal or greater than that of the societies who want immediate results from all FAAS programs.

Now it is time for the hard part. Where are these clubs when it comes to volunteering for positions in FAAS? Just as individual societies have a hard time getting members to fill positions, so does FAAS. Publicly criticizing working members of FAAS for being slow only serves to increase frustration. It is more important to consider the ways that you, or members of your society can possibly help improve FAAS, and help get programs running smoothly.

So, now that you all know where I am going with these comments, I am looking to you, members of Nassau County Aquarium Society, to consider helping FAAS. In 1982, NCAS had three members on the BOD for FAAS. Today, we have none. Our membership is due now, and with our renewal, we get a new FAAS medallion. This medallion is just one of the benefits of being a FAAS society member. NCAS uses this award to honor one of our members who has made significant contributions to the tropical fish society.

We need to all be active members of our society, and we need to support organizations such as FAAS to make them run properly. Just as it is "your" club, FAAS is "your" support organization. If you would like to become more active in FAAS, contact me at [Guppy137@yahoo.com](mailto:Guppy137@yahoo.com).

On a lighter note, the FAAS awards were presented at our September meeting. Congratulations to all winners. For those members who might think, "Why did one person win more than the others?" I would like to remind them that this is YOUR magazine, and I personally would love to read YOUR articles in it. I am sure there are many other members who feel the same way. I am hoping to see a LOT more names called for next year's winners.

While we do get some time during refreshments to chat, we can't find out everything that is going on in your fish room. Let us know about fish you are breeding, how you bred them, and how you are raising the fry. Remember, if you are in the BAP, you can obtain extra points just by writing about them.

### **Attentions All Members:**

**We all know that the NCAS is always looking for original articles, pictures or member experiences to use in the Pisces Press. Maybe it's an article on breeding or just your most recent tank mishap-all articles are used and printed. So lets keep the momentum going so we can have a great year ahead.**

**All articles will be published in the coming issues of the newsletter. Articles can be given to the editor at the next meeting or emailed to [:editor@ncasweb.org](mailto:editor@ncasweb.org)**

**OK -SO THAT'S IT -START WRITING- I AM WAITING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**FAAS Report November 2005**

**By Pat Smith**

FAAS will be losing two members of its staff at the end of this year. John and Judi Peterson have resigned from all positions within the organization effective at the end of 2005. They both have served with dedication and energy during their time in office. FAAS and their dedication to the organization will be sorely missed.

This is going to leave FAAS with some critical positions to fill. John and Judi are both currently on the BOD so there will be 2 openings there. John is also currently the Publications Award Chairman and this position needs to be filled before this year's Publication awards need to be submitted. Judi is currently Treasurer, and also holds the Committee Positions of Publishing, FAAS Report Editor, Advertising and Membership.

FAAS is at a point where it is critical to get some new energy and ideas and these openings will give some new people the opportunity to step up and serve the Hobby that we all love so much. Please consider possibly accepting one of these openings and help FAAS continue to serve the Aquarium Hobby.

We cannot expect FAAS to run without the support of all the member clubs. I have submitted my name as a Board member, but do not feel I can dedicate more time at the present. I considered Publication Awards Chairman, but realized that the home society could not be entered into the competition. I believe this is an area that may need to be amended, since I think most clubs want to enter the Publication Awards Competition.

If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please email Mike or I to get more information. If we want to get past the question, "What can FAAS do for our club?" we have to recognize that FAAS needs the support of all the member clubs. FAAS tries to reach out to assist all clubs; we need, as a FAAS club, to help other clubs see that there IS a need for FAAS, the same as other groups like the Northeast Council.

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**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:**

**IF NO ONE STEPS FOWARD TO TAKE OVER THE  
REFRESHMENTS THEY WILL BE DISCONTINUED**

**DECEMBER 31,2005**

## FAAS Report- December 2005

Nominations are in, and election ballots must be returned by member societies by December 31. There are seven nominees for four positions on the Board of Governors. Additional openings for FAAS are membership, chairman of advertising, and Treasurer. If any members of NCAS are interested in becoming more involved in the everyday activities of FAAS, please contact me at [guppy137@yahoo.com](mailto:guppy137@yahoo.com). The more clubs that take active roles in assisting FAAS to run efficiently. It is very difficult to run local clubs without assistance. Just imagine that job, but on a larger scale. While many clubs want to know what they can get out of FAAS membership, it is far more important to consider ways of joining together to help FAAS run smoothly.

Other discussions in the recent FAAS Report were on scanning back publications to give the club more easy access to club records, and purchasing digital projectors and screens. NCAS has already recognized the fact that power point presentations are much easier for many hobbyists to plan programs with, and purchased a digital projector. Scanning too is an issue that NCAS has considered. Few members have access to older club records and it would be far easier to access if all publications can be scanned into pdf files that can be easily sorted and would be available with the click of a button.

## X-change it! December 2005

By Pat Smith

The North Jersey Aquarium Society **Reporter** is always a treat. I picked up the July issue and opened to the inside back cover. On page 26 there was a short article titled; "*Which one are you?*" It was meant to get members to stop and think about their personal views of the hobby and their role in it. It is something that I think everyone needs to consider at different points in time. Do you think of yourself as an Ichthyologist, or as behaviorist?

The article lists six categories:

1. A Breeder is primarily interested in breeding. This category includes breeding for fun, and breeding for profit.
2. A behaviorist who just likes the pleasure of watching their fish.
3. An amateur Ichthyologist is someone who is concerned with the details of the hobby, such as learning Latin names and scientific aspects of the hobby.
4. A home aquarist is one who keeps community aquaria for family pets.
5. An exhibiting aquarist is one who enjoys the show circuit.

An Organized hobbyist is one who can enjoy club politics and management as much as the hobby itself.

Another one page article was found on page 7. Response Requested simply asks one question, one that asks members to consider what fish, up to five choices, have or have had the most effect on the freshwater hobby and why. The author also lists his five choices.

**The Colorado Aquarist: The Ofishal publication** of the Colorado Aquarium Society, in their Winter 2005 issue offers several interesting articles. "*The Lighter Side of Tropheus*" by Dave Ball was fun. "*Doing it Right-Building a Fish Room*" by Richard Rice was reprinted from the London Aquaria Society October 1991. If you are considering doing any work in your fish room, or just interested in starting a fish room, you may get some ideas worth considering.