



The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Inc.



www.northeastcouncil.org

board Meeting – Sunday, april 26th @12:00 p.m.

at the Marriott Hotel in Farmington, CT.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Joe Masi at daas@northeastcouncil.org, or 1-845-896-4793

2009 NEC CALENDAR

April

19 NJAS Auction
26 NEC BOG Meeting

May

3 DAAS Auction
17 ALAS Auction

June

7 NEC General Meeting

September

27 NEC General Meeting

October

3-4 NAS Show & Auction
11 DAAS Auction
18 NHAS Auction
23-25 NJAS Show & Auction

November

8 TFCB Auction
15 NEC BOG Meeting (conference call)

December

6 NEC General Meeting

2010 NEC CALENDAR

February

14 PVAS Auction

November

***Please note: American Livebearers Association annual convention is April 23-26. On Friday morning (4/24), Northeast Livebearer members will be carpooling – if interested in joining them, please contact Rit Forcier at 860-582-1801 or at rit4cr@aol.com.**

The NEC does not coordinate dates for club events, but does publish a monthly calendar for your convenience. Prior to selecting a date for your club's next event, please check the NEC calendar for availability, and then notify the Editor of the new date immediately at cpolicastro1@verizon.net.

Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act – HR 669

As a follow-up to the 4/6/09 e-mail sent on behalf of Rick Rego (NEC Legislative Chairperson) relative to the above captioned legislation, I am including additional information on what each hobbyist and pet owner should do to help prevent the implementation of this act. Please share with all of your club members!

What is HR 669?

H.R. 669 stands for House Resolution 669 and is titled "The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act". It is a bill currently before Congress that if passed will change the way that the US Government classifies animal species that are not native to the United States. H.R. 669 will make it illegal to breed and sell many animals that are very common in the pet trade.

Why should you care about HR 669?

This bill will affect anyone that keep fish, birds, reptiles, or small mammals. This bill will affect any store or company that sells products or services for aquarium fish, birds, reptiles or small mammals. Almost all fish kept in an aquarium are not native to the U.S.; most pet birds are species not native to the U.S.; most reptiles kept as pets are not native to the U.S.; Hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs and ferrets are not native to the U.S.!

What can you do to stop HR 669?

Pet owners support the concept of a risk-based approach to non-native imports, unfortunately H.R. 669 as drafted does not provide a constructive way forward. You can help by standing up and making your voice heard. Let your Representative know that you oppose H.R. 669 as drafted and the financial and/or emotional effect it will have on you, or your friends, or your family members if it passes.

You can use the sample letter below, or visit the website on the next page and follow their link to find out who your representatives are, and then use their link to send the sample letter directly to Congress!

April 15, 2009

Dear Representative,

Please join me in opposing, H.R. 669, the Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act. This Bill is being advanced by powerful special interest groups and creates an unworkable process, which is designed to fail. The government simply does not have the resources to evaluate the thousands of nonnative species already in this country for years and meet the unrealistic listing criteria and timeframes in the law, and such a process is unnecessary for controlling truly invasive species. There is absolutely no evidence to suggest that banning the import, sale, and trade of the vast majority of these animals will have any positive effect on the economy, environment, or human or animal species' health. In fact, if passed as drafted, H.R. 669 would destroy many families and businesses. It would have a decidedly negative impact on an already ailing economy by destroying a vital and growing industry at a time when our country is in need of jobs and growth.

Pet lovers such as myself support a legislative solution that targets species, which may actually be invasive, rather than every species not originally native to the U.S., including thousands of species that have been in this country for decades without adverse impact. This Bill is a disaster to American business owners as well as pet owners who care deeply about their pets and face having to dispose of them because of a flawed law.

Please do not pass H.R. 669 without addressing these flaws.

Sincerely,

Mr. John/Jane Smith

1001 Main St

Anytown, ST 12345-0000

President's Message

Hello Everybody,

The 34th NEC Convention is over and from the feedback and comments at the convention, was one of the best yet. I want to personally thank all those that helped and attended the convention this year. We are already planning the 35th convention, so please respond to the on-line survey sent to all attendees this year. I am still looking for someone who would be willing to “shadow” Janine during the planning stages of next year’s convention - eventually taking over as chairman of the convention committee. If you are interested, please contact me....

Since I haven’t heard back from anyone regarding an available hall to hold the July auction, I’m going to table this project for now. This is something we need to look at as a fundraiser for the NEC; so if something comes up, please contact me....

The next NEC general meeting will be held on June 7, 2009 at the Farmington Marriott, 12:00pm sharp. Please check with the hotel front desk for the room assignment. All club delegates and members of the BOG, including committee chairman should plan on attending. **This meeting will be a President’s meeting, so I am inviting all of the club presidents to attend. There will also be a presentation given by John Todaro. John will address topics related to dealing with your local pet shops and fundraising.**

The next NEC BOG meeting will be on April 26, 2009 at the Farmington Marriott, 12:00pm sharp in the back of the bar. **ALL** members of the BOG, including committee chairman should plan on attending and reporting on their respective committees. We will be critiquing the 34th convention, reviewing the survey feedback and financial results.

In closing, please remember to send your club contact updates and calendar events to Christine Policastro at cpolicastro1@verizon.net. Linda Giza is always looking for speakers to add to the NEC list, please send the information to pvaslinda1@yahoo.com.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions; it's best to contact me by email at daas@northeastcouncil.org, or call me at 1-845-896-4793.

Joe Masi
NEC President

04/11/09

REMINDER TO ALL CLUB EDITORS:

Please send your publication monthly or quarterly to Michael Liu, 14 Indian Hill, Florence, MA 01062 or mike@berkshiredesign.com to be entered into the 2009 NEC Articles Competition.

2009 NEC Convention Recap

Well the NEC did it again - another wonderful convention! This year was very different than in the past as we included a breakfast and changed not only the layout, but the schedule too. It seems that most people really liked the changes, especially the Saturday morning breakfast and the expanded Vendor Room, as the compliments were flying and everyone seemed to be smiling! From on-line registration to the Sunday Auction, the atmosphere was one of anticipation at what was around the next corner.

Congratulations to Rich Pierce for winning the \$100 gift card from the Special Package raffle! Many, many thanks to Aquatic Wildlife for donating the 14 gallon Oceanic BioCube tank won by Joan Most from NJAS and the Puppy Center & Aquarium for the 75-gallon tank & stand setup won by Rob Hintze from TFCB!

A surprise to everyone was the appearance of the 501st Connecticut Garrison for the banquet! We raised just under \$300 for the American Diabetes Association and had a great time doing it (see the "501st Picture" on the website). Check out the 501st on their website www.connsquad.com. Also, the NEC Conservation Committee raised over \$500 for Conservation Fisheries (www.conservationfisheries.org) through their silent auction of fish and books. We appreciate everyone who donated to these worthwhile causes!

The Committee certainly deserves a big thank you, as without them there would be no convention! First I'll mention my husband David – you can imagine all the work HE does, being my husband and all.... Doug Patac (who is also the unofficial NEC Photographer and part-time auctioneer) did a simply incredible job building the new and very informative convention website (pictures from this year and other interesting tidbits are posted on the website now) and I think the website will continue to be of great value to us for the future. Penny & Al Faul developed a great Vendor Room with much more space for everyone, Nancy Villars-Hallgring did her utmost to bring in a good showing of manufacturers donations and ran the registration table during the convention and Joe & Fran Masi took care of the t-shirts, worked the registration table all weekend and were instrumental in a variety of ways at the Sunday Auction. What a great crew!!

More than ever before, volunteers came out of the woodwork and many hands truly make a difference. We had many new volunteers who I hope to see back again next year as they really did so much to make the convention run smoothly. I really appreciate the great efforts from Leslie Dick, Frank & Christine Policastro (relentless attention to details and collection of funds due), Joan Most, Eric Olson (he comes from WA state to run the technology side of the weekend) Brian and Tami Candib, Christopher Boulanger (the 501st was his brainchild), Dave Hardenbrook (always behind the scenes and so reliable), Gary Wong (a great job on the program booklet), Tim Nurse, Ghazanfar Ghori, Bailin Shaw, Allan Mott, Barb DeCross (our enthusiastic new Bingo Chair) Dave Giza and Rich Litsky (how seriously they took their job of running the Sunday Auction Fish Room!), Sarah Eastman, Chuck Pixley, Maryanne Naylor and all the runners at the two auctions (many of whom I did not even know), and last but not least is our Auctioneer, name badge producer and Photo Contest Chair, Jim White!

Next year is the 35th NEC Convention and I promise to make it one you will not be able to miss! I offer my sincere, heart-felt thanks to everyone who made this weekend so special for all who attended. Your efforts are much appreciated and I look forward to working with you again next year!

-Janine



NEC Award Winners

Betty Mueller Honorees

David & Linda Giza

William T. Innes Competition

Judith Weinberg - 1st Place

Frank Policastro - 2nd Place

Richard Pierce - 3rd Place

Judith Weinberg - People's Choice

Exhibitor Competition

Larry Jinks - 1st Place

Loretta Heinsohn - 2nd Place

Richard Martucci - 3rd Place

E.J. Schildnecht - Junior Award

North Jersey AS - Excellence Award

Breeder's Participation Program

Bill Cole - 1st Place

Dave & Janine Banks - 2nd Place

Leslie Dick - 3rd Place

DAAS - club with most points

TFSRI - club with greatest number of participants

Photo Contest

Class 1. Individual Fish/Fish Identification, Advanced Class

1st Place - Doug Patac, "Green Laser cory"

2nd Place - Gary Lange, "Pelvicachromis sp. affinis subocellatus"

3rd place - Richard Pierce, "Four spined Stickleback"

Class 2. Individual Fish/Fish Identification, Open Class

1st Place - Tim Nurse, "Neolamprologous helianthus"

2nd Place - Tim Nurse, "Neolamprologous similis"

3rd place - Tim Nurse, "Nimbochromis venustus"

Class 3. Underwater Life (Group or Tank Photos), Advanced Class

1st Place - Gary Lange, *Melanotaenia parva* Group"

2nd Place - Gary Lange, "Feeding Frenzy"

3rd place - Richard Pierce, "Paraguay Loricariids"

Class 4. Underwater Life (Group or Tank Photos), Open Class

1st Place - Tim Nurse, "Neolamprologous callipterus"

2nd Place - Tim Nurse, "Tropheus brichardi"

3rd place - No Entry

Class 5. NEC Activities / People Pictures

1st Place - Richard Pierce, "Captain Jinks"

2nd Place - Gary Lange, "Buck an Ear Kingfish"

3rd place - Richard Pierce, "Rich Paulus"

Article Competition

Breeder Articles

1. The Case of the Hanging Cichlids	Frank Fallon	GCAS	4/08
2. Breeding A South American Killifish	Harry W. Faustman	LIAS	5/08
3. A Different Kind of Betta	David L. Banks, Jr.	TFCB	3/08

Humor Articles

1. Unheard (Of) Fishy Conversations	Jannette Ramirez	GCAS	5/08
2. Dumb Luck	Pat Smith	LIAS	9/08
3. Coming Home A Winner	Elliot Oshins	GCAS	9/08

Open Articles

1. A Greater City Memoir	Joseph Ferdenzi	GCAS	11/08
2. A New Star in the Galaxy: The Celestial Pearl Danio, <i>Celestichthys margaritatus</i>	Alexander A. Priest	GCAS	12/08
3. Easy Home Aquarium Photography: How to Get the Results You See On Line	Tim Nurse	NECA	05/08

Continuing Columns

1. Undergravel Reporter	Alexander A. Priest	GCAS
2. From The Editor	Dan Radebaugh	GCAS
3. Wet Leaves	Susan Priest	GCAS



NEC Slide and Videos Program

All video and slide presentations are available to any NEC club to use as their monthly meeting program. Any other use should be discussed with the NEC slide and video chairman prior to the request. Please make requests as far in advance as possible to allow for scheduling and regular mail delivery. The NEC club requesting the program is responsible for actual shipping charges in both directions. Failure to return the program will result in a \$50 replacement charge. Please return programs within 14 days after the scheduled meeting.

Requests should be made to:

David Banks
315 US RT 2
Grand Isle, VT 05458
dbanks@together.net or 802-372-8716

To view the list of available programs online visit:

http://northeastcouncil.org/video/listings.php?order_by=title&sortorder=ASC



The Northeast Council members send our wishes for a speedy recovery to Winnie Binbeutel who was recently in the hospital. Let's keep John and Winnie in our thoughts and prayers!



NEC Exhibitor Competition

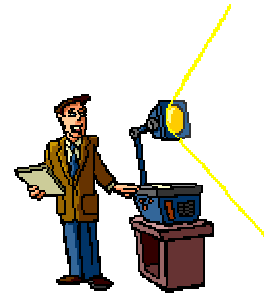
REMINDER TO ALAS MEMBERS:

Please send me the show results from your January 2009 show. If you need another form, please have your show chairperson contact me at cpolicastro1@verizon.net

Thank you,
Christine
NEC Exhibitor Chairperson



NEC Speaker Program



One of the purposes of the Northeast Council is to assist member clubs in remaining a viable and successful aquarium society. I know from previous experience, that one of the hardest jobs in any club is that of the Program Chairperson - who has the responsibility of providing a succession of experienced and entertaining speakers, on a variety of topics, with little or no budget.

I will be sending a revised program and contact list, as well as information on using an ACA speaker in a separate e-mail. This is a "work-in-progress", so after you have reviewed both items, please contact Linda with any corrections or additions you have at lindagiza@comcast.net or call her at (413) 301-2803.



Club Meeting Notices

April 16, 2009

North Jersey Aquarium Society
Mo Devlin
"Big Cichlids"

May 5, 2009

Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society
"Behind the scenes tour" @ Exotic Fish & Pet

May 15, 2009

Long Island Aquarium Society
Rich Levy
"Fish room Challenge"

April 17, 2009

Long Island Aquarium Society
Tony Pinto
"Collecting Trip in Borneo" Bettas/Gouramis

May 8, 2009

Brooklyn Aquarium Society
Spring Auction
Freshwater/Marine , corals, plants, dry goods

May 21, 2009

North Jersey Aquarium Society
Tony Orso

If you would like your club's meeting advertised, please send me the information by the tenth of each month.



Club Special Events



North Jersey Aquarium Society

Sunday April 19, 2009

Tropical Fish, Plants, & Dry goods Auction

Lyndhurst Elks Club

251 Park Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Vendors, silent auction, door prizes, food

Registration of auction items @ 9:00 a.m.

Viewing of auction items from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Auction starts @ 12:00 p.m.

www.njas.net

(732) 541-1392 or (201) 497-6222

Danbury Area Aquarium Society

Sunday May 3, 2009

Tropical Fish, Plants & Dry goods Auction

Carmel Firehouse

94 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512

Cuisine provided by CIA Graduate Rod Rigby

Registration of auction items 8:30a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Viewing of auction items 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Auction starts from 11:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

www.northeastcouncil.org/daas

(845) 228-0372 or (845) 896-4793

Aqua Land Aquarium Society

Sunday May 17, 2009

Tropical Fish, Plants & Dry goods Auction

The American Legion

154 Porters Pass Kensington, CT 06037

Featuring the return of Joe's Kitchen

Set-up and viewing from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Auction starts around noon

www.aqualandtropical.org

If you would like your club's special event advertised, please send me the information by the tenth of each month.

NEC MEMBER CLUBS:

Aqua-Land Aquarium Society	ALAS
Boston Aquarium Society	BAS
Brooklyn Aquarium Society	BASNY
Danbury Area Aquarium Society	DAAS
Exotic Fish Society of Hartford	EFSOH
Greater City Aquarium Society	GCAS
Jersey Shore Aquarium Society	JSAS
Long Island Aquarium Society	LIAS
Nassau County Aquarium Society	NCAS
Norwalk Aquarium Society	NAS
New England Cichlid Association	NECA
New Hampshire Aquarium Society	NHAS
Northeast Livebearers Association	NELA
North Jersey Aquarium Society	NJAS
Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society	PVAS
Pioneer Valley Water Garden & Koi	PVWG&K
Tropical Fish Club of Burlington	TFCB
Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island	TFSRI

NEC Board of Governors 2008-2010

President: Joe Masi (DAAS)
daas@northeastcouncil.org

Vice President: Dave Giza (PVAS)
davegiza@comcast.net

Treasurer: Frank Policastro (NJAS)
aquapops@verizon.net

Recording Secretary: Fran Masi (DAAS)
Franc21alliance@optonline.net

Corresponding Secretary: Christine Policastro (NJAS)
Cpolicastro1@verizon.net

Past President: Christine Policastro (NJAS)

Corporate Agent: Sue Bush (ALAS)

Members At Large 2008-2010

- Linda Giza (PVAS)
- Dan McKercher (ALAS)
- Chuck Pixley (NECA)
- Rick Rego (TFSRI)
- Nancy Villars (JSAS)
- Jim White (PVAS)



Standing Committees:

Constitution & By-Laws	Joe Dinho
Programs (Slides & Videos)	Dave Banks
Judging & Standards	Anne Broadmeyer
Legislation	Rick Rego
Raffles (Fund Raising)	Dave Banks
Workshop	Janine Banks

Non-Standing Committees:

Articles Competition	Mike Liu
Betty Mueller	Penny Faul
Breeder Participation Program	Rich Pierce
Conservation	Jim White/Bill Maier
Historian	Penny Faul
Newsletter	Christine Policastro
Sunshine	Fran Masi
Webmaster	Mark Broadmeyer
Photo Contest	Jim White
Exhibitor Competition	Christine Policastro
Innes Cup Award	Frank Policastro
Club Speakers	Linda Giza

Please bring an item or two from your clubs for our "mini" auction at our general meetings. The proceeds are used to offset the cost of the meeting, and your items can be auctioned either as a 100% donation or a 50/50 split with your club.