



The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Inc.



[www.northeastcouncil.org](http://www.northeastcouncil.org)

**General Meeting – Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> @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](mailto:daas@northeastcouncil.org), or 1-845-896-4793

## **2009 NEC CALENDAR**

### **January**

16-17 ALAS Show & Auction

### **February**

8 PVAS Auction

15 NEC General Meeting

22 NAS Auction

### **March**

15 JSAS Auction

20-22 NEC Convention

### **April**

19 NJAS Auction

26 NEC BOG Meeting

### **May**

3 DAAS Auction

17 ALAS Auction

### **June**

7 NEC General Meeting

### **September**

13 DAAS Auction

27 NEC General Meeting

### **October**

3-4 NAS Show & Auction

23-25 NJAS Show & Auction

### **November**

15 NEC BOG Meeting (conference call)

### **December**

6 NEC General Meeting

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, then notify the Editor of the new date immediately at [cpolICASTRO1@verizon.net](mailto:cpolICASTRO1@verizon.net)

## President's Message

Happy New Year!!!

Well 2009 is here and the convention is just around the corner, Janine will have more to say on this later. The 1<sup>st</sup> round of club shows and auctions have begun, please remember to support your sister clubs. The web sites look great thanks to Mark and Doug, please check them out. We are planning to have two programs this year at our general meeting, stay tuned....

The next NEC general meeting will be held on February 15, 2009 at the Farmington Marriott, 12:00pm sharp. Please check with the hotel front desk for the room assignment. Hope to see the BOG's and the club delegates at the meetings; let's try to make this meeting 100% attendance....

The next NEC BOG meeting will be on April 26, 2009 at the Farmington Marriott, 12:00pm sharp in the back of the bar. BTW: we conducted our 1<sup>st</sup> conference call BOG meeting this past weekend and everyone in attendance thought it worked well, so we will conduct another one later in the year.

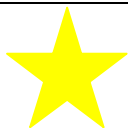
In closing, please remember to send your club contact updates and calendar events to Christine Policastro at [cpolicastro1@verizon.net](mailto:cpolicastro1@verizon.net). Linda Giza is still looking for speakers to add to the NEC list, please send the information to [pvaslinda1@yahoo.com](mailto:pvaslinda1@yahoo.com).

Please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions; it's best to contact me by email at [daas@northeastcouncil.org](mailto:daas@northeastcouncil.org), or you can call me at 1-845-896-4793.

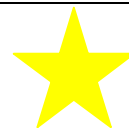
Joe Masi  
NEC President  
01/10/09



Get Well Wishes *are being sent from the NEC to Emil Kupick!*



## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention March 20-22, 2009



Please check out the NEW CONVENTION WEBSITE at [www.northeastcouncil.org/convention](http://www.northeastcouncil.org/convention) for details about the convention! It is straightforward and easy to use. You can [Register Online](#) or download a registration form to mail in, download Auction Rules and Vendor Forms, view the banquet menu, learn details about our speakers & links to their websites, see who our Vendors will be, view the tentative schedule (the schedule is rather different this year!), and learn all about this year's convention on our Convention Website (webmaster Doug Patac)! Please visit the site now, sign up for the Convention Newsletter (a few updates will be sent about the convention) and check back frequently as we are continuously adding information to the site.

**Club Newsletter Editors:** Please download the "Poster" under convention details on the convention website and include it in your newsletter.

**Club Webmasters:** Please include a link to the convention website on your website!

**New This Year:** Your Registration will include a Breakfast Buffet Saturday morning where the NEC awards will be presented and Les Kaufman will be our keynote speaker.

If we have your email address, **you will receive an email instead of the paper registration flier.** *Please reply to this email so we know you received it or we will continue to email you and/or send a paper copy to you in the US Mail!* You will be able to click in this email and be brought directly to the Online Registration page of the website! If we do not have your email address, we will mail a paper registration flier to you as usual.

**Important:** Hotel Rooms will need to be reserved DIRECTLY with the Marriott Reservation line. You will find details on our website, but you must refer to "NE Council Aquarium" (Group code is GIL GENR) when you call the Marriott Reservation Line (888) 236-2427 and reserve your room at the Hartford Marriott, Farmington, CT (hotel code is BDLCT). Do not call the Farmington Marriott, please call the national reservation line at (888) 236-2427. *Please note that it is important to reference the NE Council Aquarium because the hotel's space rental fees (per our contract) are based upon the number of rooms reserved!*

We will have two speakers from abroad and we have one more speaker yet to be confirmed. Please view complete speaker descriptions on the convention website!

**Dr. Wolfgang Staeck** from Berlin, Germany will give two programs: Tropheus from Lake Tanganyika and Tetras. This is his first speaking engagement in the US!

**Dr. Ole Pedersen** from Copenhagen, Denmark will give two programs: CO2 and Algae in planted aquariums.

**Stephan Tanner, Ph.D.** from Ohio (originally from Switzerland) will speak on Catfish Nutrition.

**Karen Randall** from the Boston Aquarium Society will be the Saturday Banquet speaker and will present her trips to Thailand and the relationship between the plants and fish found in different locations.

**Rusty Wessel**, a Fellow of the ACA from Kentucky will speak on Central American Cichlids, Thorichthys.

**Bruce Turner Ph.D.** is a Biology professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He will present two programs: Livebearers and Killifish.

**Les Kaufman** works with Conservation International leading a network of large-scale coral reef conservation experiments. Les is the Keynote Speaker at the Saturday Morning Breakfast (included in your convention registration) presenting The Aquarium Hobby as a Force for Conservation.

Friday night we will have a Plant Only Auction. The Auction will consist of donations from stores, suppliers and anyone may submit up to 15 plant lots to the auction for a 50/50 split or as donations. With three presentations this year on aquatic plants and a meeting of the Aquatic Gardeners Association, everyone interested in keeping plants should come to this specialty auction! Vendors entering lots into the auction must register them at the Convention Registration Table by 8:30pm Friday night! Complete Rules and Plant Lot Registration Forms are available on the convention website.

Sunday Auction Vendors wishing to register their lots before the March 13<sup>th</sup> deadline to receive a 60/40 split may do so Online starting late February! The Auction Lot List will be listed on the convention website as items are registered.

We are still looking for a Local Advertising Coordinator to coordinate advertising on the local TV stations, in the newspapers, etc, as well as distribute fliers and posters to the local Pet Stores. Please contact me ASAP if you can help out!!

There are many exciting events happening during our convention this year. Please check the convention website frequently and watch for your EMAILED REGISTRATION FLIER coming shortly!!

If you want something added or changed on the convention website, please contact me.

Janine

[dbanks@together.net](mailto:dbanks@together.net)

[jbanks@surglobal.net](mailto:jbanks@surglobal.net)

802 372-8716

## A Letter to all NEC Members and Friends

I have had the honor of being the Chairperson of the NEC's prestigious Annual Convention for 14 years. Many memories of the great people who attended, the spectacular speakers we have had and of course the spring snowstorm of 2007 will be mine forever!

Our convention is special because of the flavor the Northeast has and because of the wonderful people who attend. It has always meant a great deal to me to see everyone enjoy themselves, learn about their hobby and share their experiences with others throughout the weekend. I feel that organization is the key to allowing the success and good times to happen, and I have worked diligently to do my part, along with a dedicated committee, to ensure the success of the convention.

I feel that creativity and new ideas are needed yearly to keep the excitement of the convention flowing. Over the years we have had many new people join the convention committee and bring in new blood and I feel it is time now to have a new convention chairperson to bring in their new ideas, their expertise and their enthusiasm. I am looking for a new chairperson to work with me through this convention and through the 2010 convention. As I announced to the BOD during the October meeting, the 2010, 35th Convention will be the last one I chair as I am resigning my post as Annual Convention Chair, effective at the conclusion of the 35th Convention. Please be assured that I will be willing to serve as Speaker Chair or do Registration or whatever the new Chairperson wants me to do, but it is time I hand over the reigns to someone with fresh ideas and a fresh, energetic outlook!

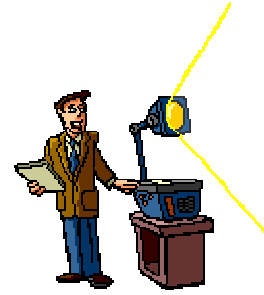
Please make sure all your club members are aware of my decision, and please encourage those that are interested in becoming involved with the convention committee or who are interested in becoming chair of the convention to contact me immediately! We need to get those interested involved so they can see and learn what running the convention entails. It is a very rewarding experience, and I want to make certain that the next Chair is well "trained" and equipped with the knowledge and experience I have gained so they can carry on with their ideas easily and effectively!

I thank you for your support and for your confidence over the past years and I promise to make the next two conventions better than ever! I hope you will all join me at each of them!

Sincerely Yours,  
Janine Banks



## 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.

For several years, many have tried to compile a list of speakers that could be shared with each of our member clubs - but only Linda Giza has been successful in achieving that goal. Thank you Linda for your time, effort and perseverance!

I have attached a spreadsheet with program and contact information, as well as information on using an ACA speaker. 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](mailto:lindagiza@comcast.net) or call her at (413) 301-2803.

**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](mailto:mike@berkshiredesign.com) to be entered into the 2009 NEC Articles Competition.



## NEC William T. Innes Competition

Over the last couple of decades there has been a decrease in the number of tropical fish societies that host a show, and a smaller number of fish entered into those shows. In an effort to generate some interest in joining a local club, and in showing fish, the Northeast Council held our first annual William T. Innes Competition at the 2008 NEC Convention. In an effort to keep the process as simple as possible, we linked the competition to the NEC Exhibitor's Competition that has been in place for many years. The competition is open to all members in good standing of any NEC member club, providing that club is in good standing with the Northeast Council.

From 01/01/07 through 12/31/07 points earned for entries in any NEC member society show were tracked to qualify a member for entrance into the NEC annual William T. Innes Award competition. The NEC member clubs hosting a show provided their results to the Exhibitor Competition Chairperson who calculated the number of points for each show entrant in accordance with the point value of the Exhibitor's Competition; then the points submitted were recalculated in accordance with the point value of the Innes Award Competition. Participation in the show was by invitation only to participants placing in the top 20 with most accumulated points earned for show entries in the local NEC society shows.

Three cash awards totaling \$1,000 and a "winner's cup" trophy were presented to the top three winners. All participants in the show received a certificate acknowledging their participation in the William T. Innes competition. The awards were presented at the annual NEC convention, which provided an opportunity for the Northeast Council to host a small fish show at the annual convention.

Why the William T. Innes award? To some he was considered the "godfather" of the aquarium hobby in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His original edition of *Exotic Aquarium Fishes* published in 1935, has become known as the "aquarists' bible". The Northeast Council thinks it's important to remember, and honor, the pioneer aquarists who did so much to help today's hobbyist – whether they are advanced fish keepers, or just beginners!

Once again this year we hope to have twenty participants entering their "prize" fish in the Innes competition. Show entries can be set up on Friday afternoon through Saturday at 12:00. The room will be opened for public viewing during regularly scheduled hours on Saturday, except during the judging of the fish. Once again we will have a "People's Choice" award voted on by convention registrants. The winners will be announced on Sunday morning just prior to the start of the auction.

# CHANGE TO INNES COMPETITION RULES FOR 2009 PARTICIPANTS

## **Eligibility**

The competition is open to all members in good standing of any NEC member society providing the member society is in good standing with the Northeast Council.

## **Period**

From 01/01/09 through 12/31/09 points earned for entries in any NEC member society show, will qualify a member for entrance into the NEC Annual William T. Innes Award competition. All show entries must be submitted to the NEC Exhibitor Competition Chairperson. The Council will not be held responsible for show results not submitted by a member society.

## **Point Value:**

15 points for Third Place in any NEC member society show  
20 points for Second Place in any NEC member society show  
25 points for First Place in any in any NEC member society show  
40 points for Reserve of Show in any NEC member society show  
50 points for Best of Show in any NEC member society show

## **Process**

The show chairperson must forward a signed and dated NEC Exhibitor Form immediately after the show to the NEC Exhibitor Competition Chairperson. That form must include a list of show participants, their total number of entries, the number of first, second, and third places won, and any Reserve of Show, and Best of Show awards. The NEC club they are affiliated with must also be noted, since show points for non-affiliated entrants are not considered for the Innes competition.

As soon as the standings are forwarded to the NEC Innes Competition Chairperson, they will be recalculated in accordance with the point value listed above. The INNES listing will be updated as soon as the Exhibitor form is received after each show. Each society member who participated in a show should verify their points, and will have 30 days from the posting date to dispute their point total. The show chairperson of the local society having the show, NOT the NEC INNES Competition Chairperson or the NEC Exhibitor Competition Chairperson, will handle all disputes, and resubmit any changes to the Exhibitor Competition Chairperson.

## **NEC Show**

The William T. Innes Show Competition will be held at the NEC Annual Convention. Participation in the competition is by invitation only to those members placing in the top 20 with accumulated points for placing first, second, or third in a show, and winning the Reserve of Show, or Best of Show awards.

Three cash awards totaling \$1,000 (\$500-first place; \$300-second place; \$200-third place) and an award will be presented to the winners. All participants in the NEC show will receive a certificate acknowledging their invitation to the NEC show. The awards will be presented at the convention.

### **Invitations & Responses**

As soon as all submitted points are tallied, requests for contact information for the top twenty participants will be sent via e-mail to the delegate and president of the club listed as the club affiliation for each of the top twenty participants. Invitations will be mailed when contact information is received, along with a packet of show and judging information. An email will follow notifying the participants, delegates and presidents of the participants' clubs that the invitations have been mailed. The invited members must respond within 30 days of that e-mail advising if they will attend. No response will be considered a decline to the invitation, and another person will be asked to compete in the competition in their place.

### **Judging & Show Rules**

Judging will be conducted by NEC certified or recognized judges, in accordance with the point system implemented by the judges and INNES Award Committee.

Rules on entering fish into the NEC show will be provided to all participants. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Policastro at [aquapops@verizon.net](mailto:aquapops@verizon.net), or call him at (609) 371-1195.

Submitted by: Frank Policastro  
1/01/09



## **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](mailto: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](http://northeastcouncil.org/video/listings.php?order_by=title&sortorder=ASC)



We are sad to report that George J. Mundy of Slatersville, RI passed away on Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> at the age of 94. Not only was George a long time member of the Tropical Fish Society of R.I., but he also was a great fish keeper, and friend to many in the club. He will be greatly missed! Please contact Rick Rego for any additional information.



## Club Meeting Notices

### **February 15, 2009**

North Jersey Aquarium Society

**\* NEW MEETING PLACE\***

Lyndhurst Elk's Club

251 Park Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Visit website for directions ([www.njas.net](http://www.njas.net))

### **Giant Memorial Auction**

To benefit family of John O'Malley

Meeting starts @ 7:45 p.m.

**If you would like your clubs meeting advertised, please send me the information by the tenth of each month.**

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.



### **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	EFSSH
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

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### **NEC Board of Governors 2008-2010**

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

Vice President: Dave Giza (PVAS)  
[Shlegal.pleco@verizon.net](mailto:Shlegal.pleco@verizon.net)

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

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

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