

Fincinnati

May-June-July-
Aug 2014

**The
OFFICIAL
Bi-Monthly
Publication
Of the
Greater Cincinnati
Aquarium Society**



Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

Fincinnati

Inside this issue:

GCAS Meeting Schedule	2
Fishy Calendar of Events	2
Club Officers/ Chairperson	3
A Visit to the Newport Aquarium Jerry Riegel	4-11
Snow Days are Abundant, and We're Still "Staying in Schools" Mark Johnson	12-14

GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2014

2014

August 24th -

September 28th

November 16th -

December 6th - [Christmas Banquet](#)

Calendar of Events 2014

Greater Akron Aquarium Society www.gaas-fish.net

Fall Auction Nov.2, 2014

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Club www.gcas.org

Fall Auction Oct. 25, 2014

Champaign Area Fish Exchange <http://www.champaignfish.com/>

Circle City Aquarium Society www.circlecityaqclub.org/

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts <http://columbusfishclub.org/>

CAFÉ Fall Auction Oct. 4, 2014

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association <http://www.gcca.net/>

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society <http://greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org/>

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society <http://www.gpasi.org/>

Fall Auction

Great Lakes Cichlid Society's <http://www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net/>

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County <http://aclcpa.org/>

Medina County Aquarium Society <http://www.mcas-fish.net/>

Michiana Aquarium Society <http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/>

Michigan Cichlid Association <http://www.michigan.cichlid.freesevers.com/>

Fall Auction Oct 18, 2014

Milwaukee Aquarium Society www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com

Missouri Aquarium Society <http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.com/>

Motor City Aquarium Society <http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com/>

Auction Nov. 8 , 2014

North East Ohio Fish Club (NEO) <http://www.neo-fish.com/>

Auction - September 20, 2014

Ohio Cichlid Association <http://www.ohiocichlid.com>

OCA Extravaganza Nov. 21-23, 2014

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society www.swmas.org

Stark County Aqua Life Enthusiasts

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County <http://www.tropical-fish-club-of-erie-county.com/home/>

Spring Auction

Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society <http://www.yatfs.com/>

National Conventions 2014

Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention

American Cichlid Association www.aca-convention.com

**North American Native Fish Association—
American Killifish Association Convention—**

All-Aquarium Catfish Convention

Club Information

GCAS Officers

President	Todd Leising	todd.leising@gcas.org
Vice President	Glen Mason	glen.mason@gcas.org
Treasurer	Brantley Berry	765-914-9712
Secretary	Barbara Garcia	barbara.garcia@gcas.org

GCAS Chairpersons

Auction	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
FAAS Rep	Jerry Riegel	jerry.riegel@gcas.org
Breeders Award Program	Mike Roberts	gcasbap@gmail.com
Horticulture Award Program	Klaus (Al) G Eaton	@gcas.org
Fincinnati Newsletter Editor	Steve Smith	steve.smith@gcas.org
Membership & Donations	Cindy Weeden	cindy.weeden@gcas.org

Program & Speakers

Swap Meet	Eric Jacobsen	jake1@insightbb.com
Webmaster	Ramon Garcia	webmaster@gcas.org

The Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote the interests of the aquarium hobby.

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of each month at Winton Wood's Visitors Center, located at 10245 Winton Road at 7:30pm. The meetings usually include a program or a guest speaker, and a fry auction for the Breeders Award Program. Guests are welcome to attend any two of these meetings before joining GCAS.

Annual memberships are \$10.00 for an individual or family. As a member of GCAS you may attend the monthly Meetings, the spring and fall Auctions (you can register early for the auctions too) and the Christmas Banquet, and you will receive our bimonthly newsletter, Fincinnati.

A Visit to the Newport Aquarium Jerry Riegel (GCAS)

This past Sunday my family visited the Newport Aquarium. It had been about three years since I had last been there. We took advantage of the free pass for kids and saved a few bucks. It cost the adults 23\$ plus tax. A little pricey but worth it for me.

In the past, I had basically sped through the aquarium and saw all that I needed to see in about an hour to an hour and a half. This time we spent almost three hours there. I guess the combination of the grand kids and the fact that it had been awhile since I had been there contributed to the extent of our stay.

I did really enjoy myself and I think everyone else in my party did also. We had a great time. The exhibits were well kept and the viewing areas are well defined with plenty of room to stop and enjoy yourself.

Mighty Mike, the largest alligator in captivity, was awesome to see. No movement, of course, but still I would not want to be closer to him than I got. He is quite robust. The same goes for the Albino Alligators. They stayed pretty still but I was amazed to see an albino and the setting



Aquatics and Exotics is located on Hamilton Avenue (US-127) about 1/2 mile North of the Reagan Highway (SR-126), just before Compton Road. If you're coming from the Northern suburbs, you can get off I-275 at exit 36 (Hamilton Ave) and go South for about 6 miles. After you cross Compton Road, we are on the right.

Store Hours			
Mon	12-8	Sat	11-6
Tue	Closed	Sun	12-5
Wed	12-8		
Thu	Closed		
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We are located in the Mt. Airy/ Grosbeck area of Colerain Ave across the street from the Mt. Airy Kroger store. This is 1 mile South of Ronald Regan Highway on the Left.

6520 Colerain Ave Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-5538

The Store is 4 miles South of I-275. You will pass NorthGate Shopping Center, Ronald Regan Highway, Galbraith Rd (1 mile) and we are on the Left.

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Our Store Hours are:

Monday - Friday	10 AM until 8:00 PM
Saturday	10 AM until 5:30 PM
Sunday	Noon until 4:30 PM

was great with outdoor light shining in and green grass growing in the exhibit. It felt real good in January.

The shark petting tank was well done. I think that might have been the favorite place for us. There was a steady stream of people, adults as well as kids, petting the sharks. We stayed there for quite awhile and actually came back later for more. We all left with well drenched shirt sleeves.

The old standby's were there also. I love the circular Mbuna tank in the very first gallery. The Tanganyikan tank with the slope of rocks mimicking the shoreline, the Cardinal Tetras in the Vallisneria, and the Piranha tank all stood out for me.

The Theater is now just a huge viewing area of the large ocean tank. The benches are there for sitting and viewing. There is a ledge right in front of the tank that the kids sat on and watched the fish. It was as close as you can get to swimming with a variety of fish, including six to eight foot sharks.

The collection of sharks has increased. I know everyone has heard about the Shark Rays kept



there (and the fact that one is now pregnant), but there were also several other species there. They had a Nurse Shark with yellow markings and spots that I know is new since the last time I was there. I was very surprised at the continual number of sharks in the viewing area of the Theater. Maybe that is where they feed them?

The Plexiglas tubes and floors are engineering marvels and allow you to access views of the fish in a very unique way. I know that this has been around for awhile but it is still a show stopper. I also like the porthole windows. They make you feel like you are diving in a submarine.

These are just a few of the features of the Aquarium. There were many more and they do deserve credit. However, both my memory and the length of this article are limited. I hope I gave the reader a feel for what I saw. I do know that I really liked my visit to the Newport Aquarium. It was an enjoyable visit and I know I will do it again.



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Saturday	11:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday	Noon - 4:00pm

Directions

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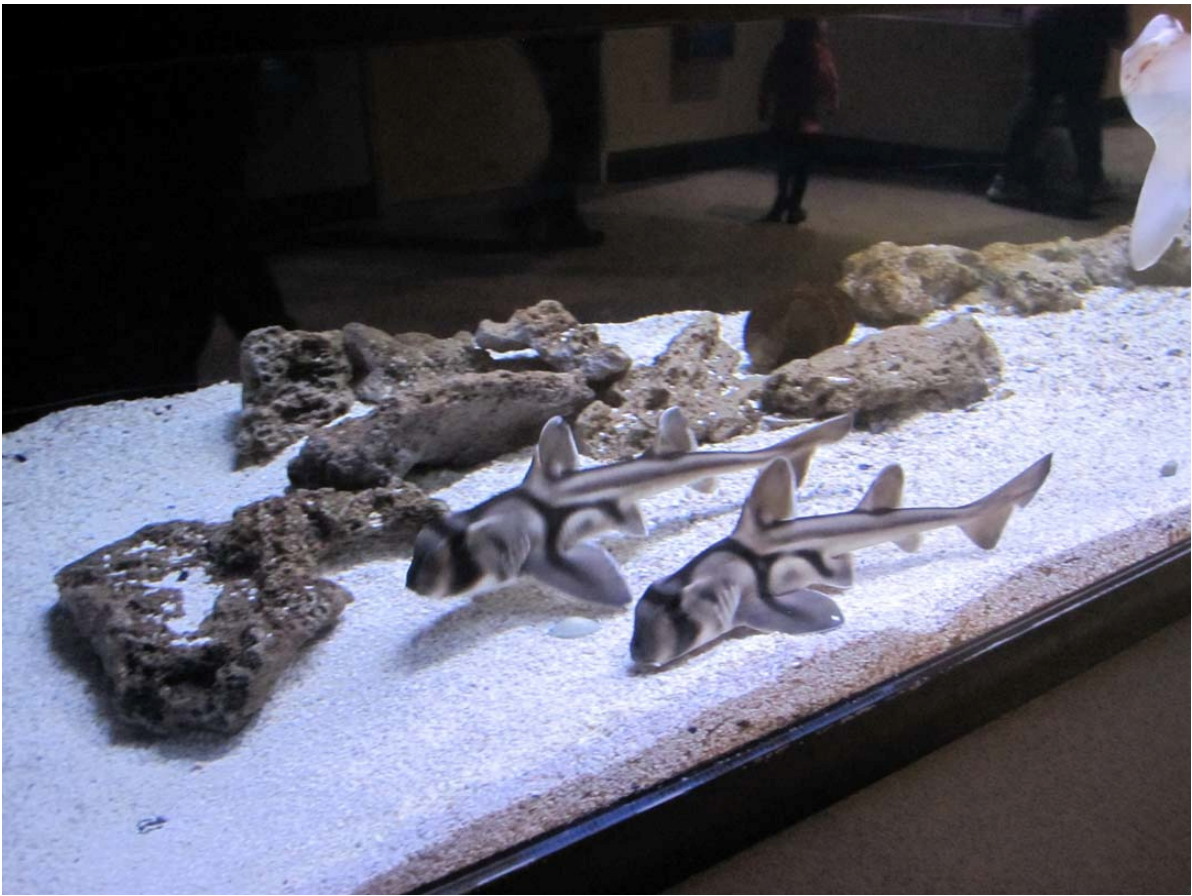
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**Monday– Friday 11am-9pm
Saturday 10am-9pm
Sunday 12pm-6pm**









Snow Days are Abundant, and We're Still "Staying in Schools" Mark Johnson (GCAS)

As I sit here working on my lessons and adjusting them because of another school day, I decided to take some time to reflect and update the Club on the "Stay in Schools Program." First off, for those of you that may be new to the club, the "Stay in Schools Program" is an attendance incentive for students to (be like fish and) stay in schools. The Club has generously voted to sponsor this program for a number of years in Northern Kentucky, and in Boone County Schools, where I have been teaching middle school for the last ten years. Each grading period, or quarter, students that have had perfect attendance, get their names put in a drawing to have a chance at winning a complete ten gallon setup and a gift certificate for the purchase of some fish from World of Pets, here in Florence. With the next tanks about to be given away, we will have now given students nearly forty different aquarium setups, including: tank, lid and light, gravel, filters, heater, thermometers, and a variety of additional gifts (water test kits, artificial plants, chemicals); all courtesy of the generous members of GCAS. I have a new Administrator in my building this year and he was thrilled to learn of this program. He loves the fact that I have pets in my classroom and also kept fish as a child. He also loves that fact that I put all of the winners on the announcements and give credit to the Club for their support.

Each year, I try to change up the program and vary the types of accessories that we give to the kids. I try to keep it exciting and interesting, as we all are in this together to insure the future of this wonderful hobby of ours. One year, I added GCAS shirts, purchased from Brantley. With each setup, I also give away a stack of magazines and fish books, all donated by GCAS Club members. A couple of years ago, I decided to start adding ten-dollar gift certificates to allow students to purchase a couple of fish of their choosing. Within the last two years, I upped the value of the gift certificate to twenty-dollars to allow the students an even better selection when looking for those first couple of fish, of which we hope, will lead to many following.

Marcus and I have talked recently about adding a C.A.R.E.S. spin on the program and trying to incorporate fish in the program that are only on the C.A.R.E.S. list. I have been talking to my science teachers and trying to get them on board. They all teach their endangered species and conservation unit near the end of the year and thought it would be cool to get some of those species of fish in to the classes and then let kids take them home as school finally gets out this year. We are still working on the final details, but will look for more donations and gently used equipment for that adventure. This twist can still be incorporated after the Spring Auction, as we will be in school for a while still, due to the number of snow days this year.

Through the course of this program, I have kept a twenty gallon tank in my classroom and spawned different species of fish for my students to take home, changing from numerous shell dwellers, to guppies, and small cichlids. I'm legendary for not turning fish in for BAP points; averaging one bag, every two or three years. I normally give my fry away to the students because they are so excited when there are babies in our classroom tank. So for those of you looking for an article with pretty pictures and spawning tips, I'll let you know, this is not that type of article. Wait for one from Jerry Riegel or Steve Smith.

Every meeting I go to, I walk out with something that someone hands me and says, "Give

this to the students.” I leave each gathering with fish, books, magazines, food, plants, water kits and conditioners, or a different type of food and samples. I get e-mails and “pm’s” on the website each month, wanting to know if I will be at the next meeting or auction because someone has an abundance of corries or guppies and wants to know if I can “give them to the kids.” The generosity of the members of this club never ceases to amaze me. My students can’t hardly believe that strangers will just give them fish.

While I’m updating the Club, let me just pause and give thanks to many members. Some of you probably haven’t an idea of how wonderful your fellow (male and female) club members have been to the program. First off, let me thank the Board for voting to continue to sponsor this program over the years. After that, let me thank the members of the club for voting to continue and bring it up for sponsorship. I have lost track over the last few years of everyone that has donated items, like just last week Jerry gave be some of the books he still had from the Swap Meet. Speaking of, I finally made it to my first Swap Meet. I didn’t buy anything for myself, other than a glass lid for a ten gallon, but instead, bought more books for my students. Jerry has also met my own daughters at several auctions and ACAs, and somehow always manages to give them fish and still wants to know why they don’t have tanks in their room. (Ask their mother.) They think he’s the nicest guy in the club (next to me). Mark M. recently dropped off a stack of magazines from a donor at the last meeting. I had even more magazines promised to be delivered to the auction, thanks to conversations with kyhokie, on the web page. Mike (kyhokie) has also given the kids Mickey Mouse Platys and Pineapple Swords. Chris and Mandy Mayfield donated Blue Moon and Red Wag Platties. Phil and Jan gave me cases of magazines a few years ago and I stored them in my garage until my classroom supply dwindled from students taking them home. Glen walks by me about every other meeting and drops his door prize off at my chair to pass it on to students. “It’s a beautiful container of food, beautiful food!” (He doesn’t really say that.) Candy has given my kids (students) guppies and even White Cacatuoides. Dan and Jamie Ellis met me in a grocery store parking lot one evening and gave me tanks and sponge filters, a shrimp tank setup with plants and shrimp. They drove down from West Chester and I live in Florence! They also donated buckets full of black sand, gorgeous shells and shell dwellers. My students went crazy over those! Dan even had his parents bring back more filters from West Chester and I met him one evening to pick up more supplies.

Wormie has given my several types of fish over the years. Tony Anderson donated guppies, along with tiger barbs from Chuck V. Mike (Bubbles) has had me over on several occasions to pick up extra fish and odds and ends in his tanks to give to the kids. Mark M. just sent me home with a bag full of zebra danios that have already found a new home. The list goes on and on, and I know I’ve forgotten some or not mentioned a few people. I don’t even know everyone’s name because of our “mysterious” screen names. I have people walk up to me at meetings asking if I’m the school program guy and then hand me a bag of fish and say, “Can you give those to the kids?” I realize this sounds like a “Thank you” acceptance speech at the Oscars and the orchestra is staring to play; but the Club’s generosity is never ending.

So as of now, tomorrow we will be back in school. This is the worst winter that we have had in over thirty years. We have missed more school this year than in the last ten years. We

are now in school until June 12th and spring isn't even here for three more weeks! But it will wind up being a great year and the Stay in Schools Program will continue. I didn't even approach the Board this year for a renewal of funding; they came to me and said that they had already approved it and wanted to know if I would continue to oversee it. I accepted. How could I not? I can't believe how far this has come since a side-bar conversation between Phil and me, trying to figure out how to get some new blood in the hobby. We are now in our sixth year of running a successful program. I've talked to numerous former winners. Many still keep fish, or have passed them on to younger brothers and sisters as they have gone on to college. Some of them graduated to bigger tanks and now maintain the family tank. I had one student bring me his equipment and fish back when he graduated and asked me to give it away as a bonus tank one year. It's the gift that keeps on giving. We've (meaning GCAS) have also had national recognition with an article published in Aquarium Fish Magazine (Dec. 2009). I've had e-mails from members of other clubs from across the country with questions and advice. I think this is my third or fourth article in The Fincinnati over the years. I've enjoyed it, continue to do so, and will continue to oversee it as long as the Club gives its support. Thanks to everyone involved, everyone's support, and the amazing support and generosity of GCAS. Happy fish keeping.

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