



January, 2006

vol.2 no.1

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a good holiday whether you were throwing confetti or watching Dick Clark. I want to thank Lori DeLorenzo for all her hard work to establish this newsletter last year. I have accepted the Corresponding Secretary position and will be publishing the newsletter this year. If you have anything that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, I would be glad to accept. Please contact me at freshfins@aol.com.

Cristy Keister, Corresponding Secretary

Dues Reminder

The 2006 PVAS Membership dues are due. The membership period is based on the calendar year. To make it as easy as possible we have online registration through PayPal on our website www.pvas.com.

Payments may also be provided to the Membership Chairman, Jamey Novotny at the monthly meetings. Also, dues may be mailed to:

PVAS
PO Box 664
Merrifield, VA 22116-0664

Please support the club. We need your membership dues to make our speakers and events possible.

Outgoing President's Message

Thanks to everyone who helped make PVAS a great club for the last three years! I really enjoyed my tenure as President of the club and appreciate everyone's effort to help make it a great club. It was extremely valuable for me to have served the club. Suffice it to say I could never be doing what I'm doing without PVAS and having learned as much as I did about the aquarium hobby and business through serving in various positions in the club whether as a newsletter editor, auctioneer, board member, vice president or president.

Please don't take this as a farewell though. I'm not going anywhere. In fact, we still have the All-Aquarium Catfish Convention 2006 coming up this October and I'm looking forward to making it a great event with all of the folks from inside and outside of PVAS helping to make it come together. Of course I'll still be at meetings, auctions and other events and activities, too.

I'm proud of our accomplishments over the last few years. Of course, the 2004 catfish convention is the icing on the cake. Through that convention, I think we proved that the Washington, DC metro area is a great place to host aquarium conventions. Along with the catfish

Calendar

Monthly Meeting	Jan 9
Monthly Meeting	Feb 13
Monthly Meeting	March 13
Monthly Meeting	April 10
Monthly Meeting	May 8
Monthly Meeting	June 12
Monthly Meeting	July 10
Monthly Meeting	Aug 14
Monthly Meeting	Sept 11
Monthly Meeting	Oct 9
2006 All-Aquarium Catfish Convention	Oct 20-22
Monthly Meeting & Elections	Nov 13
Holiday Dinner & Awards	Dec 11

Bowl Show Classes for January

Class I: Poecilia:

Guppies & Mollies

Class II: Barbs & Rasboras

Class III: Aquatic Plants

Other Events

Feb 17-19

Catfish Study Group Annual Convention Wigan, England
www.catfishstudygroup.org



Feb 24-26

Raleigh Aquarium Society
Workshop
www.raleighaquariumsociety.org

March 24-26

Greater Pittsburg Aquarium
Society Show & Auction
www.gpasi.org

April 7-9

Northeast Council of
Aquarium Societies Annual
Convention featuring "An
Evening with the Legends"
www.northeastcouncil.org

April 8

Chesapeake Marine
Aquarium Society Spring
Event www.cmas-md.org

April 8-9

Chesapeake Guppy Club
Annual Show
www.chesapeakeguppyclub.org

April 28-30

American Livebearers
Association
Annual Convention
www.livebearers.org

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convention, the American Killifish Association, the Aquatic Gardeners Association, and the Marine Aquarium Council of North America have all their national conventions here. We can't take all the credit for those events having come here, but I think it's safe to say that we helped changed the perception of our area, which hadn't seen a national event in many years before last.

It was also exciting to see so many new faces at PVAS meetings and events over the last few years. For those people who joined while I was President, thank you, and I hope that you'll continue to find value in your membership in PVAS and that you'll be interested in serving the club in some capacity as well.

Of course there are challenges for the club to overcome, and those still remain. First among these is money. While we invested heavily in resources in tangible goods necessary for the operation of the club, the fact remains that many of our fundraising activities simply are not bringing in enough to cover our increasing costs of operation. Auction receipts have historically been our primary means of income. Unfortunately, they are no longer and the club needs to find other creative ways to support its activities. On the other hand, we now own a digital projector and fish show equipment including stands, tanks and life support, none of which we had on hand before my tenure.

Because the auctions are not bringing in the revenue they once did, the PVAS board elected to cut back the number of auctions held each year. We'll have two next year, one in the spring and one associated with the catfish convention. In addition, the board elected to alter the mini-auctions in an attempt to defray costs. The current policy has been for the PVAS share of the items sold to be one dollar *per seller*. The total revenue from mini-auctions has typically been five to ten dollars per meeting, total. The new policy will be for PVAS to retain 25% of each item sold. We hope that these measures will help to mitigate the costs of operating the club.

Other challenges remain as well. The face of the aquarium hobbyist landscape is changing as our economy and culture changes. I need not ramble on with musings on the topic but would encourage everyone to help PVAS pursue its mission of "furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and the promotion of good fellowship among the members by organized activities and competitions." The new leadership including Duane and the other board members, officers and committee chairs are going to need a lot of help to continue the operation of the club. I hope that the volunteer spirit that I found to be so helpful and encouraging will remain in the club.

I will remember these last three years very fondly and am genuinely appreciative to all who helped make them so rich. PVAS is a great club with a great core of people in it. Thank you all once again for the opportunity to have served the club and I'll see you again soon at one of our events.

Andrew Blumhagen