



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

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Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Board of Directors

Name	Position
Josh Cunningham	President
Toni Mackenzie	Vice-President
Angie Theis	Secretary
Bill McCabe	Membership Chairman and Treasurer
Steve Stapleton	BAP Chairman, Raffle and Donations, Club Refreshments
Scott Kaiser	Member at Large
Terry LaPrad	Member at Large
Rick Love	Member at Large
Mike Mackenzie	Member at Large
Sheryl Pastor	Member at Large



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed Angie Theis's talk last month on Introduction and Discussion on Freshwater Nano Aquariums. It was a fantastic deep dive into mini-ecosystems, nano-tank options, and—of course—some truly creative fish names (El Chopo still swims laps in my mind). We hope everyone had a great time at the meeting.

Our next meeting will be on the third Friday, May 15th, so please mark your calendars as we welcome Sean Kaley from the Michiana Aquarium Society, who will be giving a presentation on Dutch Aquascaping. If planted tanks make your heart-*thump*, this is absolutely a meeting you won't want to miss. See page 8 for Sean's full speaker bio.

The Northwest Ohio Aquarium Society is hosting their annual auction this Saturday, May 2nd at the Methodist Church in Maumee, Ohio at the Untied Me. Come out and support a fellow club—you might even net a rare fish or two. Looking ahead, from June 25–28, the Bluegrass Bash in Lexington, KY will host the annual conventions for the American Cichlid Association, American Livebearer Association, and the International Committee of Betta. For more information, visit the convention website: <https://aca-convention.org/>

To stay updated on aquatic events in our region, check out the "Other Aquatic Events" page on our website:

<https://www.southeasternmichianaquariumsociety.org/upcoming-other-aquatic-events>

Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

•Fall Auction — October 24, 2026

We now have club t-shirts, mugs, and hats available for purchase at meetings and club events. Show your colors and represent the school!

Don't forget about breeding fish! Join the BAP program and share your fry with other members—helping others grow their skills is a great way to keep our hobby thriving. Plus, you can earn awards along the way. Congratulations to all the 2025 BAP Winners! See page 17 for details, and review the BAP rules here:

<https://www.southeasternmichianaquariumsociety.org/bap>

In closing, I want to thank all the members who have joined so far. Without you, there wouldn't be a fish club—just an empty tank. Thanks for helping us keep the hobby swimming strong.

Josh Cunningham

SMAS President



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Website and Social Media

After a long awaited time, the Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society now has a website and also for those on instagram we have a instagram page as well. Please use the below links and check out the website and make sure to follow southeastern_mich_aqua_society on instagram.

<https://www.southeasternmichianaquariumsociety.org/>





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society May Meeting Preview

Come out Friday, May 15, and see Sean's presentation and use this as the perfect chance to soak up inspiration from someone who's been crafting lush, competition-level Dutch aquascapes for years. His passion for plants, eye for design, and ability to break things down in a friendly, approachable way make this a talk that will leave you excited to grow—both your skills and your tanks.

MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKER
SEAN KALEY
COMING SOON!

- Aquarium hobbyist since 2008
- Dutch Aquascaping Specialist
- Secretary of Michiana Aquarium Society

**2024 AGAIAC DUTCH AQUASCAPING
COMPETITOR**

Join us for an inspiring talk on aquascaping!

FRIDAY, MAY 15 • 7:00 PM
ALLEN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
www.southeasternmichianaquariumsociety.org



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society May Speaker Bio



SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

— MONTHLY SPEAKER EVENT —

MAY 2026

FEATURING

SEAN KALEY

Dutch-Style Aquascaper | Aquatic Plant Specialist
Secretary, Michiana Aquarium Society (MAS-IN)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sean Kaley has been active with aquariums since 2008 when he was in middle school. Primarily focusing on cichlids until 2021, a change in enthusiasm led him to his passion for aquatic plants. Primarily focusing on aquascaping in the Dutch style, his passion is truly aquatic plants and creating aquascapes with hardscape materials.

This has led him to where he currently is, maintaining 4 high-tech planted tanks with plans to expand his plant availability by adding 5 more high-tech planted tanks.

Besides plants, he still loves fish and has begun to collect fish in the subfamily Corydoradinae.

Sean is the Secretary for the Michiana Aquarium Society (MAS-IN), a former member of the Chicago Aquatic Plants Society (CAPS), and an active member of the Aquatic Gardeners Association (AGA), where he competed in the Dutch category in the annual AGA International Aquascaping Contest (AGAIAC) in 2024.



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society April Meeting Fun





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society April Meeting Fun





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Auction Statistics

Auction	Mar-25		Oct-25		Mar-26	
Bags		220		330		286
Total Sales	\$	2,790	\$	3,153	\$	4,385
Average Selling Price	\$	12.74	\$	9.76	\$	15.33
Max Bid	\$	53	\$	48	\$	60
Express Bids			\$	6	\$	3
Raffle			\$	375	\$	534
Merchandise			\$	70	\$	100
Cash Donations			\$	7	\$	3



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

April 2026

Member Name	Species Name	Points
Bill Jennfeldt	Poecilia reticulata 'Purple dragon guppy'	5
Bill Jennfeldt	Poecilia reticulata 'Yellow tiger guppy'	5
Bill Jennfeldt	Poecilia reticulata 'Wheat Penny guppy'	5
Rick Love	Neolamprologus Pulcher 'Daffodil'	10
Rick Love	Rubricatachromis Exsul 'Turkana jewel'	10
Rick Love	Herotilapia multispinosa 'Rainbow cichlid'	10
Rick Love	Pundamilia sp. 'Crimson tide'	11
Steve Simison	Poecilia reticulata 'Blue Japan guppy'	5
Steve Simison	Neocardinia davidi var. 'Blue velvet'	5



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

2026 To Date

Member Name	Points
Rick Love	200
Steve Stapleton	60
Scott Kaiser	30
Bill McCabe	5
Bill Jennfeldt	20
Steve Simison	10



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

Overall BAP Standings

Member Name	Points
Rick Love	475
Bill McCabe	336
Quang Nguyen	315
Scott Kaiser	276
Steve Stapleton	122
Josh Cunningham	105
Mike Post	85
Bruce Croft	70
Angie Theis	55
Dalton Torres	30
Bill Jennfeldt	25
John Hodgson	10
Michael Koszuta	10
Terry LaPrad	10
Steve Simison	10

Let's Welcome Steve Simpson to the BAP Program!!



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society 2025 BAP Awards

Member Name	Award
Rick Love	1st Place Breeder of the Year
Bill McCabe	2nd Place Breeder of the Year
Scott Kaiser	3rd Place Breeder of the Year
Rick Love	CARES Breeder of the Year
Scott Kaiser	Catfish Breeder of the Year
Rick Love	Cichlid Breeder of the Year
Bill McCabe	Crustaceans and Invert Breeder of the Year
Rick Love	Livebearer Breeder of the Year
Rick Love	Tropical Fish Breeder of the Year
Bill McCabe	Tropical Fish Breeder of the Year





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Treasurer Report

April 2026

	Cash In	Cash out	
Starting Balance			5778.22
Membership			
Raffle	99.00		
BAP	3.00		
Donations	9.00		
Auction			
Supplies - BAP Certs		44.90	
Subtotals	111.00	44.90	
Ending Balance			5844.32

Prepared:
by:
Angie Theis
SMAS Secretary
(April 2026)

Reviewed
by:
Josh Cunningham
SMAS President
(April 2026)



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Membership Update

Welcome New SMAS Members!!!!

Thanks for joining and look forward to seeing you at a future meeting or event!



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

Looking for a summer aquarium adventure? The Bluegrass Bash in Lexington, KY is shaping up to be one of the biggest hobby events of the year! With national-level speakers, rare-fish auctions, and three major aquarium organizations all under one roof, it's the perfect chance to learn, connect, and bring home something truly special. Whether you're into cichlids, livebearers, bettas, or just love the energy of a big convention, this is one event you won't want to miss.





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Trading Post

Any Fish or Fishy Related Items For Sale

email smastradingpost@gmail.com



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



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Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



15% off all orders for paid members.



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