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# NEWSLETTER

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MAR 2026



**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY**



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

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# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Board of Directors

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
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 the TRIFECTA meeting last month. A special thank you to Scott Kasier, Rick Love, and Steve Stapleton for their engaging presentations on breeding various species, including egg scatters, cichlids, and corydoras. We hope everyone had a great time at the meeting.

This month we have Steve Stapleton presenting on "Conservation Through Aquariums: The Role of the CARES Fish Program." We'll learn how aquarists like us can play a crucial role in preserving threatened species in the wild.

Additionally, our own Bill McCabe will be presenting for the Greater Detroit Aquarium Society on Friday, March 20th. The Greater Detroit Aquarium Society will also be hosting an upcoming auction on Saturday, March 21st. Don't miss out on these exciting events! Let's get out and support our other Michigan Aquarium Societies.

Thanks to everyone that came out and supported our swap meet on February 21st. From feedback I think it was another successful event. Thanks for all those who helped setup and teardown as well. Everyone's support is appreciated and important to our success.

To stay updated with other aquatic events in our area, check out the other aquatic events page on our website: <https://www.southeasternmichiganaquariumsociety.org/upcoming-other-aquatic-events>

## [Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:](#)

- Winter Auction on March 28, 2026 (see pages 9-10)
- Fall Auction on October 24, 2026

We now have club t-shirts, mugs, and hats available for purchase at the club meeting or club event.

Don't forget about breeding fish! Why not join the BAP program and spread your fry around, giving other members a chance to raise and breed them too. Oh, and did I mention you can win some awards as well? Congratulations to all the BAP Winners for 2025! Check out what you're missing on page 17. Also, be sure to see the rules for BAP here: <https://www.southeasternmichiganaquariumsociety.org/bap>.

In closing, I would like to thank the members who have joined so far. Without the members, there wouldn't be a fish club.

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 March Meeting Preview

Join us tomorrow night, this Friday, where Steve Stapleton will be presenting on “Conservation Through Aquariums: The Role of the CARES Fish Program”. We will learn how we play a critical role as aquarists when it comes to preserving threatened species in the wild.

## SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

**March 13th, 2026, Friday  
Monthly Meeting at 7 PM**

In his presentation, “Conservation Through Aquariums: The Role of the C.A.R.E.S. Fish Program,” Steven shares how aquarists can play a critical role in preserving threatened fish species by maintaining, breeding, and documenting them in the aquarium hobby.



**TOPIC**

**FEATURED SPEAKER:  
STEVEN STAPLETON**

Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society meets at the Allen Park Presbyterian Church, 6835 Park Ave, Allen Park, MI 48101.



[WWW.SOUTHEASTERNMICHIGANAQUARIUMSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHEASTERNMICHIGANAQUARIUMSOCIETY.ORG)



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

## March Meeting Speaker Bio

**Steven Stapleton** is a lifelong aquarist, conservation advocate, and one of the founding members of the **Southeast Michigan Aquarium Society (SMAS)**, where he currently serves as the club's BAP Chairman and also helps coordinate raffles, donations, and club refreshments. He is a longtime member of the **American Cichlid Association (ACA)**, the **American Livebearer Association (ALA)**, and the **North East Cichlid Association (NECA)**. Steven also serves as the Midwest Club Coordinator for the **\*\*C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** and was honored as the organization's *2024 Member of the Year*.

Steven's passion for aquatic life began early. As a toddler, his parents kept two **Oscar (Astronotus ocellatus)** in an aquarium in his bedroom, sparking a fascination that would last a lifetime. By age ten he maintained multiple aquariums, and since 2003 he has operated a dedicated fishroom. Today, he maintains more than 70 aquariums along with 10 outdoor summer ponds.

Growing up in **Allen Park, Michigan**, Steven spent much of his childhood at the local pet shop **Critters Pet Shop**, where his interest in aquatic life continued to grow. Over the years he has kept everything from community fish to Central, South American, and African cichlids, as well as a variety of unusual and rare species. His search for rare "holy grail" fish eventually led him to the conservation-focused mission of the C.A.R.E.S. program.

Through his work with NECA alongside **Peter George**, Steven has helped coordinate several international fish imports and collection efforts from regions such as the **Dja River, Cross River, Lake Barombi Mbo, and Lake Kivu**, as well as multiple import projects from Germany, Denmark, and Sweden.

Outside of aquariums, Steven is also deeply involved in reptile conservation, particularly with turtles and tortoises. He is a member of the **Turtle and Tortoise Preservation Group (TTPG)** and holds an educational background in environmental biology.

A lifelong resident of Allen Park, Steven is also dedicated to his local community. He is husband to his wife Megan and father to four children—three daughters and one son. He serves as Softball Director for the local **Allen Park Athletic Club**, Treasurer for the **Allen Park Bulldogs Junior Football League**, and volunteers as a youth sports coach for baseball, basketball, and soccer.

In his presentation, "**Conservation Through Aquariums: The Role of the C.A.R.E.S. Fish Program**," Steven shares how aquarists can play a critical role in preserving threatened fish species by maintaining, breeding, and documenting them in the aquarium hobby.



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Auction Preview

Join us this month, on Saturday, March 28th, for our Annual Winter Auction. Support the club by purchasing and selling aquatic items, and enjoy a day with fellow fish enthusiasts!

**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY**  
**SMAS ANNUAL WINTER AUCTION**  
**- 2026 -**  
**MARCH 28TH**  
**11AM - TILL LAST BAG SOLD**  
**ALLEN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6835 PARK AVE, ALLEN PARK, MI 48101**



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Auction Rules

## Next Auction is SMAS Spring Auction 3/28/2025

### Auction Rules

- Registration for both Buyers and Sellers begins at 9:30 am. Registration for Sellers ends at 12:30 pm.
- Auction begins at 11:00 am.
- Bids will be in dollar increments or in two-dollar increment depending on auctioneer.
- **\$3 EXPRESS BIDS:** After 12 pm, buyers/sellers may pay a \$3 cash fee to have the item auctioned off immediately during the auction. NAR (New & Rare) items are excluded from Express Bids.
- Any items not claimed or left behind become the property of SMAS.
- **NO PRIVATE SALES. NO RESALE OF PURCHASED AUCTION ITEMS.** Please know what you're bidding on before bidding, as all sales are final. Buyer Beware. SMAS does not guarantee any item and is not responsible for any loss or accidents.
- SMAS reserves the right to refuse sale of obviously sick/deformed fish, fish that are too small/young, or fish/plants/invertebrates regulated by the state of MI.

### Bidder Rules

- All Bidders wishing to set up a Tab **MUST** register. A valid driver's license or acceptable photo ID is required to be held by SMAS until the Tab is paid in full.
- You will be given a Bidder Number, which must be written on every winning item slip and initialed by the Bidder.
- If you are paying cash when winning each item, there is no need to register for a Tab and Bidder Number. (You can still fill out a registration form to ensure that you get notifications for future auction events.)
- Accounts must be paid in full before you leave the auction.
- Payment Options: Cash, Check, or Credit Card. SMAS reserves the right to refuse a check for any reason. \$50 fee for bounced checks. There will be a 3% charge for credit card payments due to the charges that the club incurs for the processing
- Should a Bidder leave the auction without paying for their Tab, SMAS reserves the right to recover said charges, up to and including court costs, lawyer fees, and legal prosecution. This information will be shared with other clubs.
- When checking out, please make sure you have your ID before leaving, as this can happen.

### Seller's Rules

- All sellers **MUST** register **BEFORE** taking your items to the "Check In" tables.
- Beginning with the March 2025 auction sellers may set a minimum bid on higher value items (e.g. high end plecos, rare fish) - there will be a \$3 surcharge for a minimum bid. If you do a minimum bid item and it does not sell and you chose not to have it sold for a lesser amount the item will be returned to you however the \$3 fee must be paid.
- A 3-Color Dot system will be used to assure a fair mix of different items, provided at check in - color order will be posted at check in
- For Members, split is 75% to the seller and 25% to SMAS. For Non-Members, split is 70% to the seller and 30% to SMAS. For bags that sell for \$1, the split is 0% seller, 100% SMAS.
- Auction items may consist of Fish, Plants, and Invertebrates. **NO HYBRIDIZED SPECIES ALLOWED OR SPECIES PURPOSELY BRED WITH DEFORMITIES.** We reserve the right to reject any bag for these reasons.
- Bags and items are to be labeled with a numeric/ alphanumeric numbering system (e.g., 123-1, 123-2).
- When registering online for pre-registration or checking in, a number will be assigned to you — this number will also be your bidder number for purchases.
- All bags containing water **MUST BE DOUBLE BAGGED** and fairly firm, no exceptions. Strongly recommend that the second bag be placed in the opposite direction, to help eliminate corners and pinch points that trap fish.
- All mature cichlids over 3 inches are to be bagged separately, to help avoid aggression during transport.
- All bags **MUST HAVE A LABEL**, either printed or neatly hand-written. No bags will be accepted that use sharpie or magic markers directly on the bag as a label. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Labels can be placed between bags to avoid water damage or covered with clear tape. Labels can be printed directly from the pre-registration page.
- If pre-registering, the default label printed is acceptable with the information printed. If not pre-registered, labels should include:
  - Your Name (separately from an email address)
  - Phone Number and Email Address
  - Scientific name of Fish
  - Common Name (if applicable)
  - Actual number of fish in bag (to expedite the check-in process)
  - Bag numbers/seller ID will be printed at check-in.
- Sellers **MUST** bring items to be auctioned off to the "Check In" tables. Do not place bags and items on any colored tables directly — auction staff will do so. Any issues spotted will be addressed at that time.
- Sellers are limited (per household) to **5 BAGS OF ANY SPECIES OR COLOR/FIN TYPE OR ITEM TYPE.** This will be enforced! Extra bags/items will **NOT** be sold. A maximum of 50 bags per Seller.
- Appropriate terminology:
  - PAIR: 1 male, 1 female of the same species.
  - MATED PAIR: A pair that has spawned.
  - TRIO: 1 male, 2 females of the same species.
  - REVERSE TRIO: 2 males, 1 female of the same species.
- All fish **MUST** be housed in tropical fish bags/buckets. **NO Ziplocs, Baggies, twist ties, zip ties, or buckets without lids.** Bags should be appropriately filled and inflated. Large fish should be placed in buckets with a lid to prevent spillage.
- **\$3 RE-BAGGING FEE** for fish improperly bagged or bags that leak and need to be re-bagged during the auction.
- Sellers may not remove items placed in the auction after they have been checked in.
- Seller's proceeds check will be mailed to the address given to SMAS at the registration table, usually about 2 weeks after the auction there will be a 1 dollar charge for check mailings.
- Auction sellers who stay until the end can receive payment at the end of the auction if chosen.
- Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society reserves the right to modify auction rules.

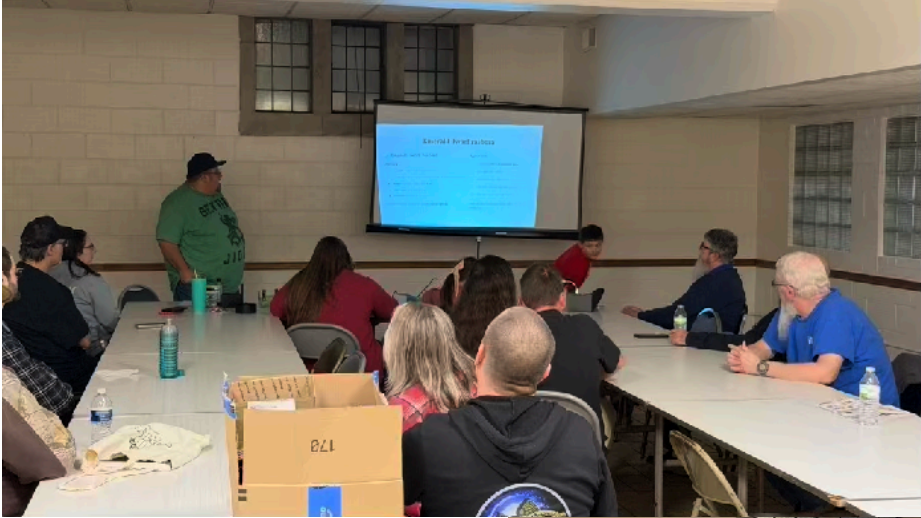


# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society February Meeting Fun



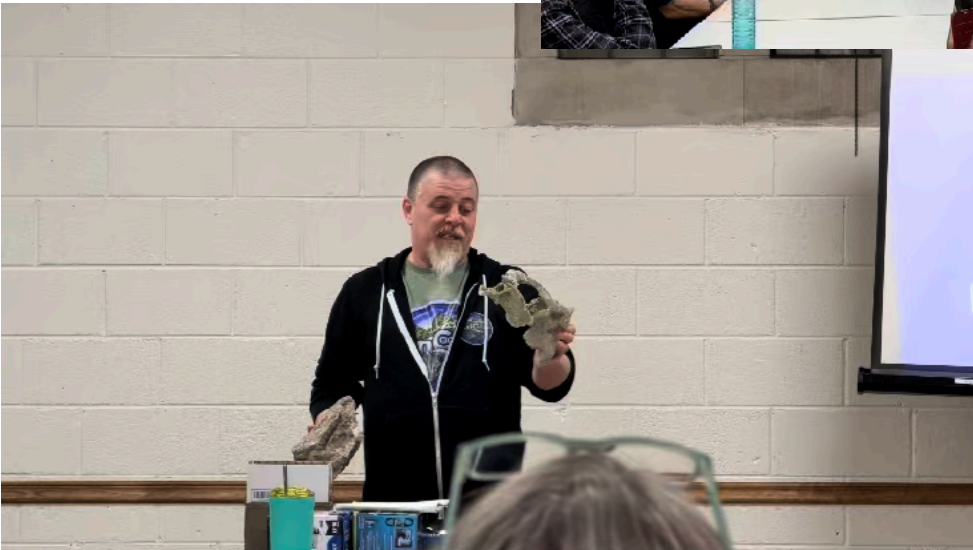
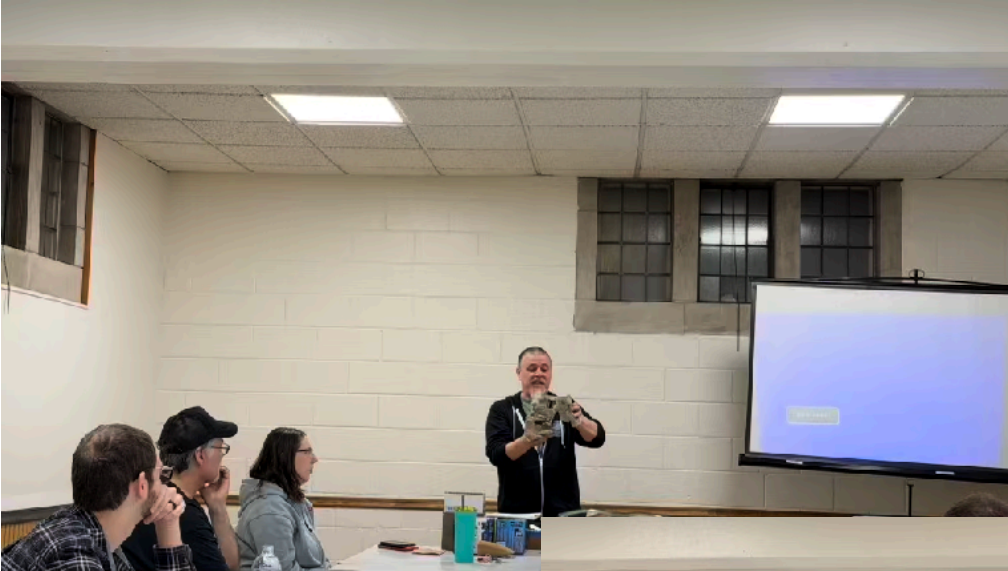


# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society February Meeting Fun





# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society February Meeting Fun





# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

*February 2026*

<b>Member</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Points</b>
Rick Love	Cryptoheros Cutteri	10
Rick Love	Xenotoca Doadroi "San Marcos"	17
Rick Love	Poecilia reticulata var. "galaxy albino"	5
Rick Love	Thorichthys Aureus	15
Rick Love	Neolamprologus Caudopunctatus	10
Rick Love	Poecilia Wingei "Santa Maria Endler"	5
Rick Love	Astatotilapia Calliptera	10
Rick Love	Poecilia Sphenops var. "Gold dust Molly"	5
Scott Kaiser	Osteogaster Schultzzi "Black Cory"	10



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

*2026 To Date*

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
Rick Love	112
Scott Kaiser	10
Bill McCabe	5



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

## *Overall BAP Standings*

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
Rick Love	387
Bill McCabe	336
Quang Nguyen	315
Scott Kaiser	256
Josh Cunningham	105
Mike Post	85
Bruce Croft	70
Steve Stapleton	62
Angie Theis	55
John Hodgson	10
Michael Koszuta	10
Terry LaPrad	10



# 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

*February 2026*

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>\$3949</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Section</b>	<b>Cash In</b>	<b>Cash out</b>
Membership	\$45	
Membership at Swap	\$85	
Raffle	\$45	
BAP	\$6	
Donations	\$8	
Supplies/ equipment		<b>\$201</b>
Merch Sales	\$36	
Swap tables	\$295	
<hr/>		
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$201</b>
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<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$4268</b>
<hr/>		

Prepared:  
by:  
Bill McCabe  
SMAS Treasurer  
(March 2026)

Reviewed  
by:  
Josh Cunningham  
SMAS President  
(March 2026)



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Membership Update

**Welcome New SMAS Members!!!!**

**Joseph Romam II  
Tayna/ William/westbrook MacJarrett  
Karen and James Fuerst  
Glen Bolling  
Alyssa Stauder**

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



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Trading Post

Any Fish or Fishy Related Items For Sale

email [smastradingpost@gmail.com](mailto:smastradingpost@gmail.com)



# Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



**Agnoquatics**  
Tropical Fish & More





## Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



15% off all orders for paid members.



**CUNNINGHAM  
TROPICALS**





## Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish  
Specializing in the rare cichlids and catfishes of Africa

10% off all orders for paid members.

**FLUVAL**®

**Method**  
AQUATICS



## Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



11% off all orders for paid members.

