



NEWSLETTER

SEPT 2025



SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

Table of Contents

3. SMAS Mission Statement
4. Board of Directors
5. President's Message
6. New Website and Social Media
7. September Meeting Preview
8. Speaker Bio
9. Upcoming Event
10. June BAP Report
11. 2025 BAP Standings
12. Overall BAP Standings
14. 2024 BAP Winners
15. Treasurer Report June 2025
16. Membership Update
17. Trading Post
18. Club Sponsors



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Mission Statement

The mission of the Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society is to have fun, educate, and promote conservation in the fish keeping hobby.





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

Board of Directors

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



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed there summer and time off. Now back to the fishes we go with fall upon us. Swaps, auctions, meetings are all starting back up again!! Tonight we have a special treat as we host Ben VanDinther owner of Watercolors in Grand Rapids, Michigan educate us on Easy and Attainable Killifish; My Top 5 Favorite. This is a talk you will not want to miss!!!

In October on the 25th we have our Fall Auction. Please mark your calendars, we will need all the members to help again from setup to teardown, running bags off fish, pulling cards, check-in, etc. Please let the board know if you are able to assist.

Make sure to check out the upcoming events on page 10 and on our website at <https://www.southeasternmichiganaquariumsociety.org/smasupcomingevents>.

We now have club t-shirts, mugs, and hats for sale hese can be purchased at the club meeting or club event.

Don't forget, breeding fish? Why not participate in the BAP program and have a chance to spread your fry around and give 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 2024!! Check out what your missing on page 15. Also, be sure to see the rules for BAP here <https://www.southeasternmichiganaquariumsociety.org/bap>.

In closing I would like to thank the members that have joined so far and the members. Without the members there is no fish club.

Josh Cunningham

SMAS President



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society New 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.southeasternmichiganaquariumsociety.org/>





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society September Meeting Preview

Come out tonight and hear Ben Vandinther from Watercolors give us a great presentation on Easy and Attainable Killifish. My Top Five Favorite.

MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKER

BEN VANDINTHER

COME JOIN US
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM
ALLEN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6835 PARK AVE, ALLEN PARK, MI 48101

Ben VanDinther, owner of Water Colors Aquarium Gallery, hosts a podcast that recently hit 200 episodes. His passion for fish began at age 8, ignited by seeing a Clown Killi. His studies in Art and Biology have significantly influenced his work.

WWW.SOUTHEASTERNMICHIGANAQUARIUMSOCIETY.ORG

The poster features a central photograph of Ben VanDinther, a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt with "WATER COLORS" printed on it. He is standing with his arms crossed in front of a green background. To his left and right are images of aquarium tanks filled with various fish. The Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society logo is in the top left corner. Large white quotation marks are on the left side, framing the bio text. The event details are in yellow text on the right, and the website is at the bottom.



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Speaker Bio Meeting Preview

Ben VanDinther is the owner of the Water Colors Aquarium Gallery and host of the Water Colors Aquarium Gallery Podcast, which just celebrated its 200th episode. He started keeping fish when he was 8. It was not until he saw a picture of *Psuedepiplatys annulatus*, the Clown Killi, that the hobby became an obsession. Ben's background in both Art and Biology set the foundation for who he is today. Ben believes aquariums are the perfect blend of art and science. The Water Colors Aquarium Gallery's main goal is to change the perception of aquariums. They are not just glass boxes in which to keep things alive but also living breathing works of art. He is a fellow of the Grand Valley Aquarium Club in Grand Rapids Michigan and holds top honors in the Horticulturist Award Program. Ben's motto is "Keeping it real and keeping it fun."

Born out of the boredom of COVID Ben also hosts a Podcast. Grown with liquid courage and an overgrown sense of importance. Why do we think we know more... because we have microphones! The internet is full of confusing information on what this hobby is all about. We like to add to the confusion. Welcome to the Water Colors Aquarium Gallery Podcast. Deep dives into intense topics and fun explorations into new ideas. Different perspectives on how to keep it fun and do it right. Freshwater, saltwater, aquatic plants, conservation, sometimes we even talk about cichlids. Ben, the owner of The Water Colors Aquarium Gallery, is joined by Amy and Calder as well as a flood of other random guests to discuss the aquarium hobby and enjoy a nice pint or two in the process.



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Upcoming Event

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Come out on October 25th and let's SELL and BUY some Fish!!! If you are able to help with the auction setup, teardown, running, pulling fish, pulling cards, etc we need the help!!! Anyone want to try auctioneering?? Now is your chance!!!!

The poster has a dark blue background with a large, vibrant orange fish (likely a Tang) swimming towards the right. In the top left corner, there is a small circular logo identical to the one at the top of the page. The main title "2025 FALL AUCTION" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, in smaller white capital letters, is "SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY". The date "SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025" is written in large, bold, green capital letters. To the right of the date, the location "Location: Allen Park Presbyterian Church" and "6835 Park Ave, Allen Park, MI 48101" is listed in white. In the bottom left, the text "SCAN ME!" is written in large, bold, green capital letters next to a QR code. A large green arrow points from the QR code towards the bottom left. In the bottom right, there is a paragraph of white text: "Join us for our annual Fall Auction! Whether you're a seasoned aquarist or just getting started, this is a great opportunity to buy, sell, and connect with fellow aquarium enthusiasts. Don't miss out on rare fish, plants, equipment, and more!" and "For more details and updates, visit our website or contact us directly. We look forward to seeing you there!"

2025 FALL AUCTION
SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

Location: Allen Park Presbyterian Church
6835 Park Ave, Allen Park, MI 48101

SCAN ME!

Join us for our annual Fall Auction! Whether you're a seasoned aquarist or just getting started, this is a great opportunity to buy, sell, and connect with fellow aquarium enthusiasts. Don't miss out on rare fish, plants, equipment, and more!

For more details and updates, visit our website or contact us directly.
We look forward to seeing you there!



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

BAP Report

June 2025

Member Name	Species Name	Points
Rick Love	Steatocranus casuarius "Buffalo Head"	15
Rick Love	Xenotoca Doadrioi "San Marcos" Goodeid	15
Rick Love	Protomelas Steveni "Taiwan Reef"	10
Rick Love	Neocaridina Davidi "Blue dream"	5
Rick Love	Neocardina Davidi "Bloody Mary"	5
Rick Love	Haplochromis sp. Kyoga Flameback	10
Rick Love	Cyrtocara Moorii "Blue dolphin"	10
Mike Post	Ancistrus sp. "Longfin Red Calico"	10



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

2025 To Date

Member Name	Total
Rick Love	150
Bill McCabe	80
Quang Nguyen	60
Scott Kaiser	50
Steve Stapleton	20
Josh Cunningham	15
Mike Post	10
Bill Jennfeldt	5



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society

BAP Report

Overall BAP Standings

Member Name	Total
Quang Nyguen	310
Bill McCabe	250
Scott Kaiser	210
Rick Love	175
Mike Post	95
Josh Cunningham	90
Bruce Croft	70
Steve Stapleton	60
Angie Theis	55
Dalton Torres	30



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society BAP Report

Overall BAP Standings Continued

Member Name	Total
Terry LaPrad	10
Michael Koszuta	10
John Hodgson	10
Bill Jennfeldt	5



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society 2024 BAP Awards

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





Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Treasurer Report

June 2025

Opening Balance		\$2,875.00
Section	Cash In	Cash out
Membership	\$30.00	
Raffle	\$45.00	
Auction at meeting	\$0.00	
BAP	\$8.00	
Donations	\$22.00	
Shirts/ hats/ Cups	\$10.00	
Supplies		
Good Standing MI (July)		\$20
Subtotals	\$115.00	\$20.00
Ending Balance		\$2,970.00

Prepared:
by:
Bill McCabe
SMAS Treasurer
(June 2025)

Reviewed
by:
Josh Cunningham
SMAS President
(June 2025)



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Membership Update

New Members

Membership's Expiring



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Trading Post

Any Fish or Fishy Related Items For Sale

email smastradingpost@gmail.com



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors



10% off all orders for paid members.



11% off all orders for paid
members.



Southeastern Michigan Aquarium Society Sponsors

Agnoquatics
Tropical Fish & More




Method
A Q U A T I C S



15% off all orders for paid members.



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