

# Welcome to G.P.A.S.I.

The Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. is an organization for those with an interest in increasing their enjoyment and knowledge of the hobby of raising, breeding, or exhibiting tropical fish, aquatic plants, and other forms of aquatic life. This includes both individual hobbyists as well as dealers. The club promotes a common meeting place for hobbyists to exchange ideas, information and broodstock; provides educational programs, including lectures, films, exhibits, demonstrations, panel discussions, field trips, etc.; and sponsors public exhibitions and shows.

GPASI membership comes with many benefits for our members:

## **MEETINGS**

The club hosts monthly membership meetings 11 times a year at the Crafton VFD Station 128, 8 Stotz Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with social time and the opportunity to participate in the meeting activities. Those activities include a 50/50 raffle, a prize raffle, and a monthly auction where members can offer fish, plants and other aquatic-related items. The meeting centers around nationally and globally renowned aquatic-themed speakers, round table discussions or other activities.

Typical meeting agenda:

6:30 – 7:30 – Social time, register BAP and AHAP entries, purchase raffle tickets, check out auction entries

7:30 – 7:45 – Welcome by the club President along with any news, notes and announcements

7:45 – 9:00 – Guest speaker or group event. Nationally and globally recognized speakers typically add about a half an hour to the presentation length.

9:00 – 9:15 – Break

9:15 – 9:30 – 50/50 and raffle drawings

9:30 – 10:00 - Auction

The club holds monthly Board of Directors meetings that any current member may attend. The Board handles club business, makes decisions about club events and discusses ways to improve the club for our members. Non-directors may request to be recognized by the club president to provide input. If you are interested in attending a B.O.D. meeting, contact the club president for details.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

All current members that provide an email address receive a monthly newsletter via email, generally about a week before the monthly meeting. The newsletter is filled with information, photos and articles. Any member can also offer content for the newsletter and have an opportunity to receive a reward if it is published. Additionally, members also receive newsletters from other clubs that participate in a newsletter exchange.

## **CLUB PROGRAMS**

The club has several programs such as the Breeder's Award Program (BAP) for breeders, the Aquatic Horticultural Award Program (AHAP) for aquatic plant keeping and propagation, and CARES fish preservation program for people interested in promoting endangered species. The club also has a members-only BAND app page where members can sell fish and products and exchange other information.

## **EVENTS**

Spring and fall auctions are the big events for the club where large numbers of club members as well as the public come together to sell and buy all kinds of fish, aquatic plants and other aquarium-related goods.

Holiday party time is mid-January, complete with a holiday meal, gift exchange, and fish raffle.

Summer brings a club picnic with food, raffles and even some fishing if you like.

Halloween comes to the October meeting with a costume contest, goodies from the club and all the regular monthly meeting activities.

## **WEB ACCESS**

Check out the rest of our website at [GPASI.org](http://GPASI.org) for more information, the calendar of events, contact information, previous articles, speaker videos, auction information and rules, program information, and don't forget to support our sponsors!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES**

All members are highly encouraged to be active participants in their club. Volunteers are needed for various committees and programs as well as many hands needed to make the big auctions successful. Ask any club officer or Board of Directors member how you can help. Participation adds to the success of the club while enhancing the individual experience.

## **ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?**

If you are not receiving your monthly newsletter or need any other information, please let us know by sending a message in the contact section of the site.