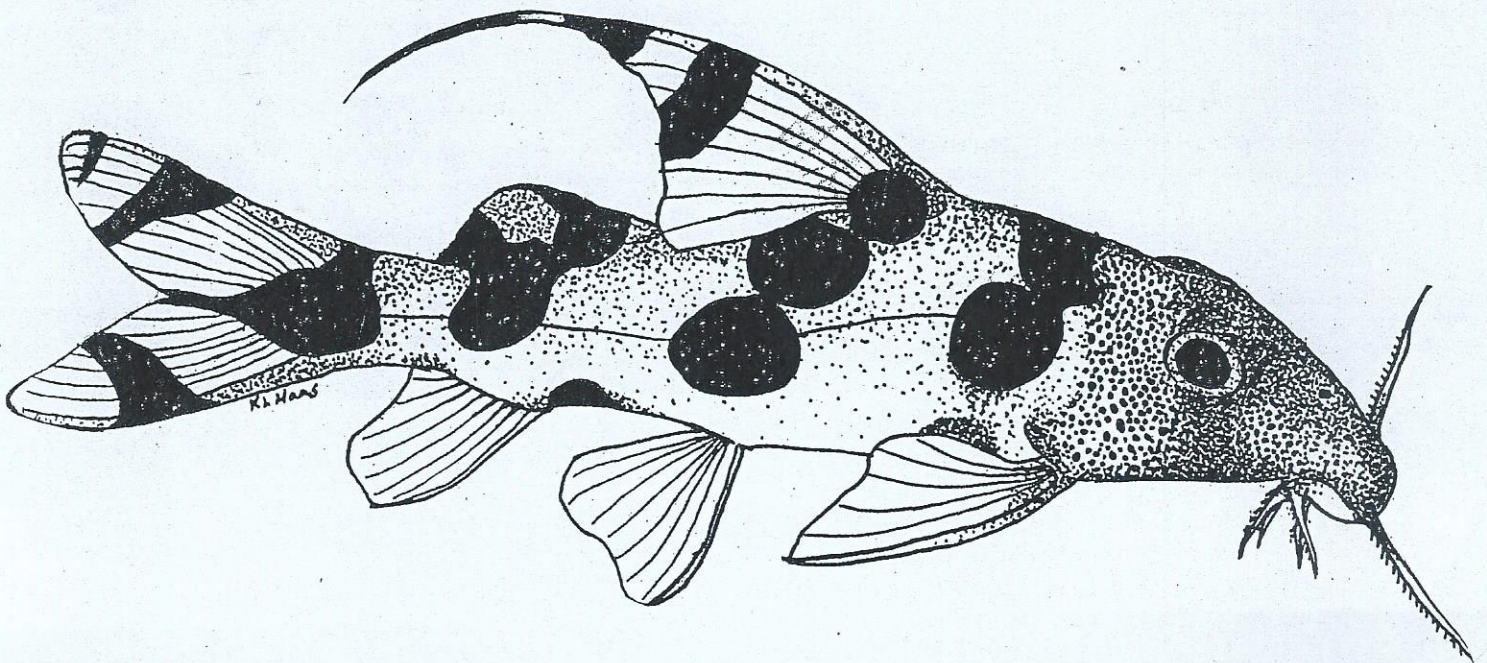


Bucks County Aquarium Society

Membership Handbook



**Bucks
County
Aquarium
Society**



Churchville Nature Center
501 Churchville Lane
Churchville, PA 18966

Welcome to the Bucks County Aquarium Society!

The Bucks County Aquarium Society (BCAS) was established in 1988 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of hobbyists. The society is run by the members for the members.

The members of BCAS meet on the first Thursday of every month at the Churchville Nature Center at 7:30pm. The meetings often include well-known and highly respected speakers on topics to better understand and appreciate the ornamental aquarium and pond hobby. The meetings are a perfect time to develop strong friendships, meet new hobbyists, share stories about fishkeeping and learn something new.

Our purpose of the club has not changed, we are dedicated to learning. We bring together those who are interested in any and all aspects of the aquarium and pond hobby. BCAS is a place where we, as hobbyists, can exchange information in a fun, social, and educational setting. Speakers are chosen based on their expertise and topic. The topics come from members and include freshwater and saltwater aquariums, ponds and natural ecosystems.

BCAS is a democratically run organization guided by a constitution based on the principles established back in 1988. We have elections each year in December and encourage any member interested to become involved. We hold monthly board meetings at a location designated and announced at the monthly meeting preceding it. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend board meetings and participate in the management of the club.

The opportunity to attend the regular monthly meeting and the board meetings are just two ways to appreciate BCAS. We also have a monthly publication, The Bucketette, which includes articles, upcoming events, special announcements and other club information. The Bucketette is an award winning publication produced by the members.

BCAS is always available to help those in need for the care of our aquatic friends. A directory of members listing areas of interest is available for our members to maintain contact and reach out for assistance. Inclusion in the directory is optional. The directory is a great resource to gain personal assistance and learn from other members with experience in your areas of interest.

Constitution of the Bucks County Aquarium Society

Article I Name and Purpose

Section 1.

This society shall be known as The Bucks County Aquarium Society, and shall primarily serve the area of Southeastern Pennsylvania, though membership shall not be denied to any person based solely on their area of residence.

Section 2

The purpose of this society shall be to promote, educate, and share any and all experiences in the aquarium hobby.

Article II Eligibility toward Membership

Section 1

Eligibility for membership in the Bucks County Aquarium Society shall be open to all of those requesting admission, regardless of race, color, religion, sex or age so long as they adhere to this Constitution, its by-laws and remain as active dues paying members.

Article III Eligibility for Voting

Section 1

Any member in good standing who is thirteen years of age or older and who has been a member for at least six consecutive months shall be entitled to one vote.

Article IV Officers of the Society

Section 1

Executive Officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Those eligible for President or Vice President shall be nominated from those having previously held any of the executive or minor offices on the Board of Directors. Secretary and Treasurer may be nominated from the eligible general membership, as described in Article III.

Section 2

Minor Officers of the Society shall be those named to be Chairman of any respective appointed or elected committee, Editor, Webmaster, and a maximum of two Executives at Large.

Section 3

Term of Office: All executive officers shall be elected on a yearly basis. Elections for these offices will be held during the regular December meeting. All minor officers shall be appointed by the President on a yearly basis. These appointees may also be removed by the President.

Section 4

Nominations for all executive offices shall be taken during the regular November meeting. Nominations are considered valid when seconded from the floor and accepted by the nominee. Nominees have until the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting to accept the nomination.

Section 5

Executive officers must win by a majority vote. Nominees shall be given 3 minutes to present themselves to the floor during the election. After all nominees have spoken, a closed ballot shall be taken.

Eligible members who are unable to attend the December meeting may submit an absentee ballot which must be received by the secretary at least one week prior to the election. Absentee ballots will be made available at the November meeting or by request to the secretary.

Article V Duties of the Officers

Section 1

President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society, to enforce observation of the Constitution, to determine points of order at meetings, and to offer for consideration all motions regularly made, and seconded.

The President shall appoint, dissolve, or recall all necessary committees and officers, not otherwise herein provided for and shall have the power to interpret the Constitution.

The President shall make no motion, or amendment, nor vote on such, except in the case of a tie when the President's vote shall be deciding.

The President may sign all BCAS checks.

In the event that the President is unable to complete his term the office shall be declared vacant, and a special election will be held as deemed appropriate by the Vice-President, but no more than two meetings from the resignation of the President. Until said election is held the Vice-President shall act as President and preside over the election.

Section 2

Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to act in the President's behalf upon his absence and act as President should the President resign or leave office until another election is held.

Section 3

Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to be responsible for all financial matters pertaining to the society, and to keep well documented, clear accounts of all the society's transactions.

The treasurer may sign all BCAS checks.

Section 4

Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep accurate minutes of all Board of Directors meetings of the Society. He shall forward minutes to the Editor and President within 5 days of such meeting.

When necessary, he shall act as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Article VI Disability of Officers

Section 1

Any officer other than the President wishing to resign must hand in a written statement of his reasons to the President.

Section 2

Should the President wish to resign he must give the Vice-President written reasons, and it shall be the duty of the Vice-President to bring such to the attention of the Board of Directors.

Should any officer be deemed incapable of any further office for any good or substantial reason, the Society shall hold an election to replace such officer.

Article VII Minor Offices and Board of Directors

Section 1

All committees and Minor Officers shall be appointed by the President, and their terms shall be concurrent with that of the President who appointed them, unless they are recalled by the President.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Webmaster, Executive(s) at Large, and Committee Chairs.
The President shall act as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

A simple majority vote is necessary to pass legislation in the Board.

All members of the Society may attend the meetings of the Board of Directors, but shall have no vote.

Article VIII Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws

Section 1

A proposed amendment to this Constitution and By-Laws shall be in written form, and notice of motion to amend must be made and seconded at a regular meeting at least one meeting before the motion is voted upon. At the meeting after the motion, a 2/3 majority of those eligible members present shall be necessary for adoption.

Section 2

Any motion that has been defeated may be brought up for consideration again at the next meeting following its defeat, provided that at the time of its original submission it received a simple majority in its favor. If such a vote is not then obtained, the proposed amendment must be dropped for at least 12 calendar months.

Section 3

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to duly record any amendment, by-law, or change in the Constitution.

Article IX Ratification

Section 1

All questions of interpretation of this Constitution shall be referred to the Board of Directors and their decision, to be presented at the next regular meeting, shall be final.

Section 2

Each member, upon acceptance into the Society, shall be encouraged to read this Constitution and be granted a copy. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to provide such.

By-Laws of the Bucks County Aquarium Society Founded in 1988

Article I Dues

1. The Bucks County Aquarium Society (BCAS) shall be a dues paying organization operating on a non-profit status.
2. Dues shall be determined by the Executive Board on a yearly basis.
3. Individual members will be charged a set yearly dues fee, as determined by the Executive Board.
 - a. Family members of regular individual members may join the BCAS at a discounted rate, to be set by the Executive Board. This rate entitles family members to all benefits of membership, with the exception of a mailed copy of the Bucketette.
 - b. "Family" (discounted) membership is only available to persons living in the same household as a regular, dues paying member. Family members' names must be listed on the official membership form of the full dues-paying member.
4. Dues are payable at time of enrollment for new members or the first January meeting for renewing members.
5. Renewing members not paying dues by the February meeting will be considered inactive, and lose all privileges of membership.
 - a. Inactive renewing members seeking re-instatement must pay a full year's dues.
 - b. New members joining after June shall pay one half the yearly dues amount for that year.
6. All dues are completely non-refundable.

Article II Meetings

1. The BCAS shall meet on a monthly basis at a time and place so designated by the Board of Directors.
2. General meetings shall deal with topics of general interest, discussions, fund raising, raffles and auctions. General topics of Society business shall also be discussed as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
3. Board meetings shall be held approximately one week following a general meeting with the time and place to be announced at general meetings.
4. Any member in good standing may attend a Board of Directors meeting.

Article III Quorums

1. No quorum shall be necessary to constitute a general meeting.
2. For voting, a quorum shall consist of at least 25% of all members who are eligible to vote.
3. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of one half of its membership.

Article IV Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year of the BCAS shall be concurrent with the calendar year, that being January 1 through December 31.

Article V Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors is defined in the Constitution, Article VII, Section 2.
2. Each board member shall carry one vote in board meetings.
3. Any officer missing three consecutive general meetings and/or three consecutive board meetings may be considered resigned, and the office declared vacant unless a special leave of absence is requested and granted by the President.

Article VI Expenditures

1. The President shall direct any expenditure under \$500.00 at his discretion, but will notify the Treasurer of his intentions.
2. Any expenditure over \$500.00 must be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors.
3. Any expenditure over \$1,000.00 must be approved by a simple majority of all members who are eligible to vote, constituting a quorum at a general meeting.

4. An alternate method of voting (ie. phone, e-mail, etc.) may be employed, if necessary, but complete documentation of tabulations must be provided to the membership for funds approved in this manner.
5. Checks on behalf of the Society may be signed by the Treasurer and/or President.

Article VII Inspection of Books

1. The Treasurer shall prepare quarterly statements and make them available to the membership. The books shall be open for inspection for one week following the distribution of these statements. The treasurer must make available at each board meeting the financial statements from all institutions at which BCAS holds an account.

Article VIII Society Publications

1. The BCAS shall publish a magazine on a monthly basis which shall be known as "The Bucketette".
2. The BCAS shall maintain a website at www.bcasonline.com.

Article IX Amendments and Additions

1. Any additions or amendments to these by-laws must be presented in writing to the President. He shall bring the proposal to the general meeting for discussion.

Article X Official Address

1. The official address of the BCAS shall be that of the President's home address.

Article XI. Dissolution

1. The BCAS may be dissolved by a three-quarter vote of eligible members present at a regular meeting, provided the President notifies all members of such a vote within thirty (30) days of the meeting.
2. In the event BCAS is dissolved, all of the assets of BCAS shall be converted to cash and given to a national hobby related charity or non-profit organization as decided by a two-thirds vote of the active membership that voted for dissolution.

Article XII. Lifetime Membership

1. PURPOSE: In order to establish good will and foster a sense of gratitude toward a fellow member who has devoted a serious amount of time and effort to the Bucks County Aquarium Society the status of Lifetime Member may be awarded. The status of Lifetime Membership shall be considered an honor bestowed upon any such qualified member, and should not be granted frivolously.
2. QUALIFICATIONS:
 - A. Any member proposed for Lifetime Membership must have been a member in good standing for at least five consecutive years.
 - B. Any member proposed for Lifetime Membership must have held at least two years worth of holding a minor or major office.
 - C. Any member in good standing may nominate a candidate for Lifetime Membership provided he/she has met the qualifications of such.
 - D. A simple majority vote of the Executive Committee shall confirm or deny such Lifetime Membership.
 - E. Should Lifetime Membership be denied, that candidate shall not be eligible for one year following the original vote.
3. PRIVILEGES
 - A. Any Lifetime Member shall enjoy all the privileges of membership and shall be forever exempt from paying dues.
 - B. Lifetime Members may voluntarily pay dues at his/her discretion.
 - C. Lifetime Members shall forever have their names printed under those of minor and major officers in The Bucketette.

Bucks County Aquarium Society Breeder's Award Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Breeder's Award Program is to promote the keeping and breeding of aquarium fish, to recognize and motivate achievement in the hobby, encourage research into the spawning of more difficult species, to share knowledge about breeding techniques and publish those techniques in The Bucketette.

Rules and Requirements

- Must be a member in good standing of BCAS
- Each species may be entered only once
- Minimum of 6 fry at least 30 days old must be donated to BCAS for auction (no split)
- Brief article on how the species was conditioned, spawned and reared must be submitted for publication in The Bucketette (no Kuhlikash awarded)
- Rules and requirements may be waived for individual circumstances at the discretion of the BAP chairperson, with Board approval

BAP Committee

Responsible for the review of the ongoing program, assigning proper credit and maintaining records of all members. All aspects of the program are subject to review by the BAP Committee, subject to Board approval.

The BAP committee will maintain records for individual members listing all species spawned, fry submitted, articles submitted, classes credited and points awarded. A roster will be presented in The Bucketette on a regular basis. It is the breeder's responsibility to ensure that they receive the proper credit for their accomplishments.

System of Points

Within each class, fish are divided into point categories based upon the relative difficulty of spawning and/or difficulty in raising the fry. Fish are assigned values of 5, 10, 15 or 20 points. Certain species are also designated as target species. Upon successful completion of a spawning and the completion of all requirements, the breeder is given the appropriate points. The breeder will receive a plaque commemorating their achievement when all requirements for a class are completed. The breeder is given only one plaque per class, but continues to receive points for spawns beyond the completion of the class.

Point Awards

Beginner Breeder - requires 50 points

Novice Breeder - requires 100 points and 1 completed class

Intermediate Breeder - requires 200 points and 2 completed classes

Advanced Breeder - requires 300 points and 3 completed classes

Expert Breeder - requires 500 points and 5 completed classes

Master Breeder - requires 750 points and 8 completed classes, including at least 9 species valued at 20 points and 2 target species.

Grand Master Breeder - requires "Master Breeder" status plus at least 5 of the target species, and completion of all freshwater classes.

Class 1: Livebearers - 5 species

5 points - *Xiphophorus helleri*, *maculatus* and *variatus*, all Heterandria, all livebearers not listed in other point groups

10 points - All species in the family Goodeidae, all *Xiphophorus* not listed elsewhere, all species of the genera *Limia*, *Phallichthys* and *Jenynsia*

15 points - halfbeaks

20 points - *Anableps anableps*, freshwater stingrays

Target - *Anableps anableps*, *Skiffia francesae*

Class 2: Catfish - 4 species

5 points - none

10 points - *Corydoras aeneus* and *paleatus* and all *Ancistrus*

15 points - all other *Callichthyidae*, *Synodontis multipunctatus* and all other cuckoo spawning *Mochokidae*, *Otocinclus* and its allies, *Ricola*, *Sturisoma*, *Sturisomatichthys* and *Farlowella*

20 points - All other catfish

Targets - any Doradid, any Pimelodid, any Panaque, *Liasomadoras oncinus*

Class 3: Barbs and Minnows - 3 barbs and 3 minnows

5 points - all danios, all *Tanichthys*, all *Pimephales*

10 points - all barbs under 7" maximum size, all minnows not listed elsewhere

15 points - all North American minnows not listed elsewhere

20 points - all barbs over 7" maximum size, bitterlings

Targets - Tinfoil Barbs, Bitterlings, Welaka

Class 4: Characins - 4 species

5 points - *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*

10 points - *Hyphessobrycon*, *Hemigrammus*

15 points - *Nematobrycon*, all characins not listed elsewhere

20 points - Piranhas and their allies, Silver Dollars and their allies, all hatchetfish,

Exodon

Targets - Piranhas and their allies, *Phenacogrammus interruptus*, *Paracheirodon axelrodi*,

Distichodus

Class 5: Killifish - 6 species (including at least 2 soil spawners)

5 points - *Fundulopanchax gardneri*, *Aphyosemion australe*, *Epiplatys dageti*

10 points - all mop spawners not listed in other point groups

15 points - *Aphyosemion sjoestedti*, *Epiplatys annulatus*, all soil spawners with incubation of less than 180 days

20 points - all soil spawners with incubations of 180 days or longer

Targets - *Simpsonichthys dolichopterus*, *Roloffia occidentalis*

Class 6: Anabantoids - 5 species (including at least 1 mouthbrooder)

5 points - *Macropodus opercularis*, *Trichogaster trichopterus*

10 points - *Betta pugnax*, all bubblenesting Bettas, all *Trichogaster* not listed elsewhere, *Colisa*, all *Macropodus* not listed elsewhere, *Parosphronemus cupanus*, *Parosphronemus dayi*, all those not listed elsewhere

15 points - all mouthbrooding Bettas not listed elsewhere, *Trichopsis*, *Belontia*, *Helostoma*, *Ctenops*, *Malpulutta*

20 points - all *Parosphronemus* not listed elsewhere, *Ctenopoma*, *Betta macrostoma*, *Betta albimarginata*, *Betta channoides*, *Sphaerichthys*, *Osphronemus*
Targets - *Betta macrostoma*, *Sphaerichthys osphromenoides*, any licorice gourami, any *Ctenopoma*

Class 7: New World Cichlids - 6 species

5 points - *C. nigrofasciatum*

10 points - *Pterophyllum scalare*, *Geophagus steindachneri*, all substrate spawners not listed elsewhere

15 points - *Astronotus*, *Apistogramma* and its relatives, *Acaronia*, *Neetroplus*, *Caquetaia*, *Chaetobranchopsis*, *Chaetobranchus*, *Crenicara*, *Crenicichla*, *Gymnogeophagus*, *Hypselacara*, *Retroculus*, *Tahuantinsuyoa*, *Symphysodon*, *Taeniacara*, *Uaru*, all mouthbrooders not listed elsewhere

20 points -

Targets - *Uaru amphiacanthoides*, *Taeniacara candidi*

Class 8: Old World Cichlids - 3 substrate spawners and 3 mouthbrooders (including at least 1 riverine species)

5 points - *Hemichromis*, mouthbrooders from the genera *Tilapia* and *Sarotherodon*, *Hap. burtoni* and closely related species

10 points - all cichlids from Lakes Malawi, Victoria and Kivu not listed elsewhere, *Neolamprologus brichardi* and its relatives, *Julidochromis*, all West African riverine cichlids not listed elsewhere, *Pseudocrenilabrus*

15 points - all species from Lake Tanganyika not listed elsewhere

20 points - *Boulengerochromis*, *Lamp. compressiceps* and its allies, *Lamprologus sexfasciatus*, *Lamprologus tretocephalus*, Lake Tanganyika 'featherfins,' *Teleogramma brichardi*

Targets - *Cyathopharynx furcifer*, *Lamp. tretocephalus*, Tanganyikan goby cichlids, *Teleogramma brichardi*

Class 9: Rainbows and Rasboras - 6 species, 2 of which must be Rasboras

5 points - none

10 points - *Rasbora trilineata*, *Rasbora borapetensis*, *Melanotaenia axelrodi*, *boesemani*, *lacustris*, *praecox*, *splendida* and *trifasciata*, *Bedotia gayi*

15 points - all Rasboras and their allies not listed elsewhere, all rainbows not listed elsewhere

20 points - *Trigonostigma*

Targets - *Trigonostigma heteromorpha*, *Iriatherina wernerii*

Class 10: All Other Freshwater Fish - 4 species

5 points - goldfish and koi

10 points - *Mogurnda*, *Badis*, *Dario*, *Elassoma evergladei*

15 points - all sunfish not listed elsewhere, all gobies not listed elsewhere up to 6" maximum size, all North American native fish not listed elsewhere up to 6" maximum size, all sticklebacks and fish not listed elsewhere at the discretion of the BAP Chair

20 points - all 'sharks,' all gobies of 6" maximum size, all North American natives not listed elsewhere over 6" maximum size, *darters*, *Enneacanthus*, *Pantodon*, *Polypterus*, leaf fish and their allies, *Nandidis*, *Tetraodontidae*, all botias and loaches, mudskippers, scats, monos and fish not listed elsewhere at the discretion of the BAP Chair

Targets - *Botia macracantha*, *Pantodon bucholzi*, *Epalzeorhynchus bicolor*, *Crossocheilus siamensis*, *Enneacanthus chaetodon*

Class 11: Aquatic Animals - 5 species (at least 2 not snails)

5 points - all freshwater snails, *Daphnia*, *Gammarus*, vinegar eels

10 points - freshwater invertebrates not listed elsewhere

15 points - shrimps, crayfish, solely aquatic frogs

20 points - newts, axolotls and *Pipa pipa*

Targets - axolotls and *Pipa pipa*

Class 12: Marine Fish - 3 species

5 points - none

10 points - pigmy seahorse

15 points - Pomacentridae, neon gobies, tropical seahorses, *Pseudochromis*

20 points - Coldwater seahorses, all species not listed elsewhere

Targets - dragonets, firefish, *Centropyge*

Class 13: Marine Invertebrates - 5 species

5 points - Aiptasia, all bristleworms and their allies

10 points - all soft corals, colonial anemones, mushrooms, brittle starfish, all worms not listed elsewhere

15 points - small polyp stony corals, large polyp stony corals reproduced through budding, univalve mollusks

20 points - large polyp stony corals reproduced sexually, all other invertebrates not listed elsewhere

Targets - bivalve mollusks, cephalopods, echinoderms other than brittle stars