

The Atlanta Area Aquarium Association Presents

The

2008 American Cichlid Association Convention

July 17,18,19,20 2008

Atlanta Airport Hilton Hotel

Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta Area Aquarium Association
1781 Barbercreek Rd.
Statham, Georgia 30666-2005

Oct. 31, 2006

American Cichlid Association
To: The Board Of Trustees

Hello,

The officers and members of the Atlanta Area Aquarium Association (AAAA) would like to thank the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to bid on the 2008 ACA convention. The proposed dates for the convention would be Thursday, July 17, through Sunday, July 20, 2008 at the Atlanta Airport Hilton.

The host club, The Atlanta Area Aquarium Association was formed in 1995 from the remains of the Georgia Aquarium Society and the Advanced Aquarist of Georgia. Starting with only a handful of people meeting in members' homes we have grown to a large vibrant club in just 11 years. With a strong cichlid base and numerous ACA members we feel Atlanta is a perfect place to hold ACA 2008.

With Atlanta being a convention center, having an international airport, three major interstate highways converging into Atlanta, easy access to the Airport Hilton, and good southern hospitality we feel everyone would have a grand old time in our town.

We are sure you will find our proposal acceptable and look forward to the possibility of receiving the bid for ACA 2008!

Thanks again,

Ken Davis
2008 ACA Convention Chair

Convention Proposal

The Atlanta area has a large and dedicated cichlid following. Many members of the AAAA have attended previous ACA conventions. We hosted a very successful ACA convention at the same hotel in 2002. We look forward to doing it again, with the same core group of folks, who worked the 2002 convention, and with three times the membership we had in 2002.

Atlanta is a thriving metropolis with many attractions to fill the needs for a family vacation. Other attractions include:

The Georgia Aquarium
The Atlanta Braves
The Atlanta Zoo
Stone Mountain Park
The Georgia Museum of Natural History
The High Museum of Art
Six Flags Over Georgia
The Cyclorama
Centennial Olympic Park
Underground Atlanta
The Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Carter Presidential Center
Fernbank Museum of Natural History
Martin Luther King Jr. Historic Site
Road to Tara Museum
World of Coke

We hope to have a very successful convention and have everyone come on down and have a great time! Ya'll come back!

Convention

The AAAA is recommending a registration fee of \$35.00 (\$60.00 for non ACA and AAAA members) for all meetings, presentations, and will pre-register all attendees for the auction (Buyers and Sellers). With high quality speakers, a great fish show, and great location, attendance should be high. The speakers, banquet and hospitality suite will be available only to registered attendees. The fish show (for public viewing, you must be registered to show fish) and auction will be open to the public.

Accommodations

The Atlanta Airport Hilton Hotel in Hapeville Georgia is a fine upscale hotel 3 minutes from the Atlanta International Airport. Easy access and superior accommodations made it a clear choice for ACA 2008.

We have a confirmed rate of \$109.00 per night for each room of up to 4 people with a \$10 per room night rebate to the host club (Split 50/50 with the ACA). The meeting and banquet rooms will all be provided free of charge if we meet 80% of our reserved hotel rooms (which the ACA always does!).

All speakers guest rooms will be provided free of charge.

Facilities

Featuring 503 Large comfortable rooms, 57 Alcove suites, and 5 deluxe master suites.

4324 sq. ft. ballroom for fish and art show room.

6776 sq. ft. ballroom for meetings, banquet and auction. (Which seats 600 for dinner and 800 for auction)

Amphitheater that seats 74 and workshops (Very Nice!)

Three, 800 sq. ft., adjoining rooms for Venders tables. Conveniently located between the show and speaker/auction rooms.

ACA &, AAAA Sales and Membership Table areas.

Large Double Registration booth provide in lobby

Free airport shuttle and free shuttle to anywhere within 3 miles of hotel.

Delta Baggage Check- in located in lobby. Check bags and fish boxes before you leave the hotel for the airport if you fly Delta

Olympus Gym, Indoor and Outdoor Pool, Finish Line Sports Bar with 30 monitors

Barbershop and Hair Salon, Lighted Outdoor Tennis Courts, Gift Shop, and Valet 1 hour Pressing and Dry Cleaning

Cafe Magnolia- Breakfast and Lunch

Andiamo- Italian Dinning at Night

Coffee Pavilion- Coffee, Liquors, Pastries, and Sandwiches

Atlanta is a convention center so the hotel is very easy to work with. The Hilton exceeds all requirements as set forth in the ACA bid guidelines.

Speakers

Besides the fish show, the speakers are a major draw to the convention. The AAAA has contacted and received verbal commitments from the following:

Rusty Wessel
Ad Konings
Dr. Wayne Leibel
Juan Miguel Artigas Azas

We also plan to try and make it a more diverse field and introduce some new speakers.

Fish and Art Show

The AAAA has scheduled, a twenty class, cichlid only fish show, and a four class, art and photography show. The show will be open to anyone who is a registered attendee and pays the \$3.00 per entry fee and abides by the show rules. 'The' very nice hand carved first place trophies will be awarded with plaques going to second and third place fish show entries. (Shaped like Georgia of course) The show room will be open to the public.

Tours

Several tours have been scheduled on a prepaid reserve basis:

The Georgia Aquarium- The largest Aquarium in the world. A day trip to Atlanta, for a behind the scenes tour, of the Aquarium.

Sun Pet International Aquatics- Sun Pets is a huge wholesaler of salt and freshwater fish. Imports of wild caught fish from around the world go through their doors. An informative, guided tour, will be given of their facilities, by the owners, Bob and Connie Olson.

Also combined with the Sun Pet tour we will visit the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

Auction

The auction will be held on Sunday with seating for 800. Entry will be free and open to everyone who wishes to attend. Registration will start at 7:30 a.m., with the dry goods auction at 9 a.m. followed by the fish auction.

Banquet

A private **buffet style** dinner banquet will be held on Saturday evening. A choice of three entrees with all the fixings, dessert, and beverage will be served on a prepaid basis in the banquet room. A cash bar will be available. The schedule of events will include, dinner, award presentation, preview of ACA 2009, and a speaker on **cichlids**. There will be a charge of \$42.00 per person for the banquet.

Workshops

There will be four workshops that will run concurrently with the speaker program on Saturday. Workshops on fish photography (Gary Lange), fish health (Vickie Burnley), RO Systems and reconstituting RO water (Ted Judy) and planted cichlid tanks (Brian Revennaugh) will be given.

ACA 2008 Convention Staff

Convention Chair	Ken Davis
Registration/Publications Chair	Andrew Hebert
Auction Chair	Brian Revenaugh
Showroom Chairs	Dave Ramsey
	Ron Reisinger
	George Libby
Program Chair	
Vendor Show Chair/	
Convention Treasurer	Mark Barnett
Awards	Mark Powell
Judge's Coordinator	Alan Opdyke
Local Pet Shop Liaison	Dave Casey
AAAA & ACA Sales Table	Ken Shear
Guy Jordon Bulletin Board/Silent Auction/	
Guy Jordon Donations	Tanner Bitbat
Field Trip Organizer	Tom Koranda
Manufacturer's Donations	Mark Barnett
Publicity & Advertising	Mark Thomson
T-Shirt Design and Sales	Esther Clair
AV Equipment	Randy Ice
ACA Liaison	Ken Davis
Convention Web Master	Mark Barnett
ACA 2008 Photographers	Brian Revenaugh/Gary Lange
Sergeant of Arms	Dino Hicks

Events Schedule

A tentative schedule of events is listed below:

Wednesday, July 16, 2008	8:00 a.m.	Fish Room Setup
Thursday, July 17, 2008	8:00 a.m.	Show and Vendor Check-in Opens
	9:00 a.m.	Prepaid Trip to Sunpet/Fernbank
	10:00 a.m.	Vendor Room Opens
	7:30 p.m.	Speaker #1
	9:00 p.m.	Speaker #2
	10:00 p.m.	Study Group #1
	11:00 p.m.	Study Group #2
	10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens
	12:00 a.m.	Fish Room Closes
Friday, July 18, 2008	8:00 a.m.	Fish and Art Show Check-in Opens
	9:00 a.m.	Prepaid Trip to Georgia Aquarium
	10:00 a.m.	Vendor Room Opens
	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Show room closes for Judging
	7:30 p.m.	Speaker #3
	9:00 p.m.	Speaker #4
	10:00 p.m.	Study Group #3
	11:00 p.m.	Study Group #4
	10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens
	12:00a.m.	Fish Room Closes
Saturday, July 19, 2008	8:00 a.m.	Fish room opens
	10:00 a.m.	Vendor Room Opens
	10:00 a.m.	Speaker #5
	10:15 a.m.	Workshop #1
	11:15 a.m.	Speaker #6
	11:30 a.m.	Workshop #2
	1:00 p.m.	Workshop #3
	2:00 p.m.	Speaker #7
	2:15 p.m.	Workshop #4
	3:15 p.m.	Speaker #8
	4:00 p.m.	Fish room closes
	4:30-7:00 p.m.	Siesta
	7:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet and Speaker #9
	10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens
	10:00-12:00 a.m.	Show room open for viewing winners
Sunday, July 20, 2008	7:30 a.m.	Auction Registration
	9:00 a.m.	Dry Goods Auction
	10:00 a.m.	Cichlid Auction
	12:00 p.m.	Show Room Closes

Proposed Budget for ACA 2008 in Atlanta:

Income

Hotel rebate @ \$10 a room night		750	\$7,500.00
Registration Fees (early)	\$ 35.00	300	\$11,500.00
Registration Fees (late)	40.00	100	4,000.00
Banquet	42.00	300	12,600.00
Show Entry fees	3.00	300	900.00
Fish Auction Sales	15.00	1000	15,000.00
Guy Jordon Donations	20.00	200	4,000.00
Vendor Room Registration	250.00	20	5,000.00
Hydrosponge Filters	3.50	500	1,750.00
Holding Tank Rental Fees	10.00	200	2,000.00
Show Tanks 10 gallon	6.00	480	2,800.00
Show Tanks 20 gallon	20.00	20	400.00
Advertising			2,000.00
Show Sponsorships (25 classes@50.00 class)			1,250.00
Patron			500.00
Total Income			\$60,300.00

Expenses

Speakers Expenses			
Fees			\$1,000.00
Travel (Air Fares)			3,000.00
Lodging			0
Banquet	\$30.00	8	240.00
Printing and Postage	1.00	2500	2,500.00
Banquet	30.00	300	9,000.00
Show Tanks 10 gallon	5.00	480	2,400.00
Show Tanks 20 gallon	11.00	20	220.00
Awards		79	4,000.00
Auction Sellers Share	10.50	1000	10,500.00
Guy Jordon Freight and Sales			4,750.00
Sponge Filters		500	1,250.00
Equipment Rental (AV)			1,000.00
Tank Stand/Truck Rental			600.00
Hospitality Suite Refreshments			1,000.00
Supplies/Sundry/General Expenses			3,000.00
Total Expenses			\$44,460.00
Show Profit			\$15,840.00