



ACA NEWS

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The ACA Convention was a great success from what I have heard. All who attended had a great time. Unfortunately, after the ACA left, the weather turned nasty and many tragedies occurred in the San Antonio area of TX. Our condolences to any of you that lost family or friends in the terrible flooding.

Rusty Wessel has provided a note to all the convention sponsors, workers and attendees. Without further ado:

Hello all,

I want to thank everyone involved in the Texas Convention. It was certainly a team effort to pull this off. I will add that next year will even be better in Lexington June 25-28, 2026 with ACA, ALA and IBC. We have in-hand a hotel contract second to none.

Let me first start with a few people who need to be individually thanked. First, **Dave Schumacher**. Without Dave we certainly could not have done this in the first place. His help with housing the product and rounding-up volunteers was instrumental in our success. Second, is **Megan McGuire** who not only contributed cash but she handled name badges, signs and many other valuable services. **Angie LaVoy** did an amazing job keeping Registration on target. **Daryl Hutchins** did our first ever digital and printable Program Booklet that was flawless with zero mistakes etc. That has never happened before! **Tim Hopkins** fielded hundreds of questions by me and others on the website itself that worked to perfection. **Clay Trachtman** did an amazing job of organizing the tours and the Vendors room. Clay pays great attention to detail which was often needed. All the fish room volunteers need a pat on the back as well, along with the auction participants on Sunday. If I missed someone by name please keep in mind that it was a team effort that made it successful.

Our Industry people were exceptional as well. No doubt **Zoo Med** is our number one contributor. Without Zoo Med conventions are not possible at this level. **Cobalt** Staff shirts were a gift and their team helped with the design. **Greater Chicago Cichlid Association** and **Prestige Aquatics** were Gold Stars – not once, but twice! **Aqueon** donated all the rental tanks and the KICK deco tanks. **CARES** came in late and helped enormously. **Hikari**, **Aquamojo**, **Finspiration**, **Swiss Tropicals**, **Fritz**, **Wet Spot**, **Close Up Images**, **Goliad**

Farms, Cunningham Clchids, Jose Gonzales, BABES all helped out. I hope I didn't miss anyone, if so, my apologies.

No doubt we had a few hiccups and we will strive to do it better next year. If there is anything that you would recommend for next year, please pass the info on. Also, if you want to volunteer for help in Lexington, just drop me an email. I would like to add that the Marriott Hotel was one of the nicest we have held events in but the staff tried to nickel and dime us at every turn; I fought them at every level.

Some quick stats: Approximately 334 in attendance. ACA led the charge with 154 attendees. ALA came in second with 66. AKA 64, FOTAS 15, Hill Country 28 and IBC 7. We obviously ordered too many shirts but still managed to not lose money even with the additional \$683 tariff invoice. We also had an unexpected \$953 towing invoice on the bus that has been expensed, but litigation may happen in the future to recover the expense. Banquet pricing increased drastically but we only lost a few dollars.

Again, *thank you all!*

Rusty Wessel

Convention 2026

Next year's convention will be in Lexington, KY at the Clarion Hotel. June 25th through June 28th. I hear that quite a good line-up of speakers and events is already being planned. I'll provide you with that information as it becomes available.

BB

Don't forget that *BB* still needs articles. Paul Loiselle was *BB's* most prolific author. His absence will be hard to make up for. Please consider writing an article, or two, for *BB*.

Museum of Aquarium History

Look for the 100th episode of Gary's series to come out soon. These videos bring back a lot of memories to us older guys. You new guys watching them must say "What the heck was that?" for some of the items. I can't say that I miss the slivers of actual spun glass in my fingers after changing filters. Or the tingle of electricity from the stainless steel hoods and incandescent bulbs. Just enough electricity coursing through you to wake you up.

Have a great end of the month.

Alan