



Aquascaping Live! Contest Sanctioned and Presented by: The Aquatic Gardeners Association

Large Tank Category (AGA-Team Invitational):

8 Team entries with up to 5 team members per team will compete in the invitational chosen by the AGA Board of Directors. Deadline to register is September 15, or once 8 team entries are accepted.

Entry fee: \$99 - This cost includes a 3-day pass to the show floor per team member as well as over \$800 worth of merchandise. A 3-day seminar pass is provided at a discounted fee, available on show site. The 3-Day Pass is for the contestant only – any additional persons must purchase a day pass or weekend pass online or show site.

To enter go to: <https://www.wwpia.org/i4a/forms/index.cfm?id=564>

Each team must submit a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 digital images of aquascapes done by members of the team.

Large Tank entrants at Aquatic Experience are provided the following items to use and keep (valued over \$800.00)

- One Fluval F90 Aquarium
- One matching stand for above tank
- One Fluval 2.0 Performance LED Light
- One Fluval 206 Filter
- One Fluval M 150W Heater
- For details on this set up, see: <http://www.fluvalaquatics.com/us/product/15110-fresh-aquarium-and-cabinet-set-f90/#.V3GWOZMrLjC>

Large Tank entrants will receive the following items to use at Aquatic Experience:

- 3-Day Show Floor passes for team members (5 max)
- Discounted 3-day seminar pass, available on show site
- Access to a pressurized CO2 tank **ONLY** if requested on entry form
- Substrate: Eco-Complete Black (up to six 20lb bags) or Pool filter sand (unlimited, but specify number of lbs.), if desired, amount must be included on entry form
- If needed, additional electrical outlets will be available on-site
- Winner's 1st-3rd place will receive cash prizes and ribbons

Rules:

- Teams assume all responsibility for travel expenses
- Aquascaping must be done within the hours listed below so attendees can view the work-in-progress:
 - Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 11:00am - 6:00pm



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- Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 10:00am - 1:00pm
- Judging will take place on the show floor Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 1:00pm-4:30pm
- Teams will be responsible for supplying their own hardscape and plant materials. **These materials may be grown out ahead of time in any way desired by the team, including in a similarly sized tank, and brought to the site, ready to re-assemble**
- Live animals may be used but are not required. It is the responsibility of the entrants to select animals appropriate for the size of the tank
- Teams **MUST** use the tank, cabinet and light provided, but **MAY** use equipment other than or in addition to that listed with the exception of additional lighting
- Teams are responsible for supplying any and all substitutions
- Each team should bring their own CO2 regulator, tubing and diffusion equipment of choice
- Equipment chosen may not alter the overall “look” of the display
 - The aquascape may not extend beyond the footprint of the tank due to space limitations.
- Tank background on these tanks is clear glass, top edge is frosted
- Standard pressurized CO2 canisters are available upon request at the time of entry **ONLY** – these tanks are rentals and must be returned to the AGA booth before you leave Sunday
- Adequate electrical outlets will be available for each tank
- Several micron filters will be available for use as needed by all entrants to clear tanks after set-up. Use of these is not guaranteed as there are limited quantities available
- Sponsorship of any kind (monetary or donation of material must be declared to the contest chairs (Karen Randall or Bailin Shaw) before the start of competition.
- No sponsorship or promotional materials (business cards, signs, flyers, etc.) may be displayed at any time in the aquascaping area
- Team T-Shirt, polo shirts, hats, etc. are okay to wear, but must **NOT** display any sponsorships

Prizes:

1st Place	Trophy, Ribbon & \$1,000.00
2nd Place	Trophy, Ribbon & \$600.00
3rd Place	Trophy, Ribbon & \$400.00
People’s Choice Award	Ribbon & Bragging Rights
*AGA Sportsmanship Award (NEW)	Trophy

- Winners and prize money will be announced and awarded on the show floor Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 5:00pm
- Ribbons will be displayed on the winning tanks through the end of the Show, Nov. 5, 2017.



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- Tanks must be up and operating during ALL show days and hours. You may NOT dismantle your tank at any time before closing of show at 4:00pm on Sunday
- At the end of the Aquatic Experience, any equipment not specifically designated as belonging to contestants and provided by Aquatic Experience are the property of Aquatic Experience and will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to The Coral Restoration Foundation, Pets in the Classroom, and the PIJAC Marine Defense Fund
- Teams may sell their tanks if they choose, in whole or in part, after the competition rather than taking them home and split the funds in any way they desire. There will be specific contact cards for all contestants to place on any tanks for sale after judging. All negotiations and agreements are strictly between the contest team and the buyer. Fluval, Aquatic Experience and The Aquatic Gardeners Association make no warranty regarding the sale. The seller and/or buyer still remains responsible for the removal of the tank from the show floor as stated below
- At close of show Sunday, November 5, starting at 4:00pm, all plants, animals, hardscape materials and equipment (including CO2 equipment) provided and belonging to the entrants may be taken down and removed by them. Any materials not claimed by 8:00pm will become the property of the Aquatic Experience
 - Tanks must be drained and water dumped OUTSIDE as directed by Aquatic Experience Staff
 - All Substrate MUST be removed and put in dumpsters behind the convention hall or taken with you
 - Borrowed CO2 tanks MUST be returned to the AGA booth before you leave. Otherwise, you will be billed for replacement
 - PLEASE be respectful of the rules. Anything not cleaned up by you and your team must be cleaned up by an AGA/CAPS volunteer
- Questions about substitutions or rules, please contact Karen Randall with the AGA at karenran@verizon.net

Rules for Judging:

Overall Impression – maximum 50 points

- Does the aquarium as a whole; plants, animals (if used) and hardscape, create a positive visual impact?
- Do all parts of the aquarium work together to present a harmonious and cohesive whole?
- Do the plants and animals (if any) appear healthy?
- Hardware should be as inconspicuous as possible and the whole area, including tank glass, should be clean



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- If used, the background should add to the impression of the aquascape in a positive way without drawing the eye away from the scape itself
- Water should be clear

Composition: Balance, Use of Space, Use of Color – maximum 60 points

- Is the aquascape laid out well?
- Does the aquarist make good use of differences in color, leaf size and shape, and height (growth habit or trimming) to maximize contrast between groups of plants?
- Does the aquarist use the space effectively, balancing planted areas and negative space?
- Do the species and planting enhance or detract from the sense of depth and scale?

Selection & Use of Plants, Hardscape Materials, and Animals – maximum 50 points

- Has the aquarist selected plants appropriately?
- Do the colors, shape and size of the fish or other animals, if used, harmonize with the plants? Are schooling fish present in sufficient numbers to make a suitable school?
- Are hardscape materials well chosen for character, size and form? Is the hardscape well balanced and in proper scale for the aquascape?

Viability of Aquascape – maximum 40 points

- With appropriate grooming and maintenance, would the plants selected be suitable for use in the aquarium if maintained as-is for a long period?
- If visible, are the fish and other animals likely to grow too large for the aquarium, cause damage to the aquascape, or each other at adult size?
- Please note - Due to the short-term nature of this competition, lack of animals in a tank will NOT be a deduction, although use of appropriate animals, could enhance an aquascape. It is up to the entrants to decide whether or not to use animals in the display, keeping in mind the nature of the competition. Deductions WILL be made for unhealthy animals

***AGA Sportsmanship Award (NEW)** – This award goes to the person who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and the spirit of good will that AGA seeks to encourage in this hobby.

- The winner will be chosen by contest participants, judges, Fluval Representatives and the two contest chairs in both the small and large Aquascaping contest. Team members all vote individually, you may NOT vote for yourself or a member of your own team. In case of a tie, all participants will be asked to vote again for the tied participants