



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

Entry fee: \$99 - This cost includes day passes to the show floor and education seminars as well as over \$800 worth of merchandise.

To enter go to: <https://www.wwpia.org/i4a/forms/index.cfm?id=559>

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 at Aquatic Experience receive the following items to use at Aquatic Experience:

- Access to a pressurized CO2 tank **ONLY** if requested on entry form
- Substrate (dark or light, if desired, amount must be included on entry form)
- If needed additional electrical outlets will be available on-site.
- Show Floor/Education Seminar day passes for all three days of the event
- 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. 4, 2016 12:00(noon)-6:00pm
 - Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 10:00am-1:00pm
- Judging will take place on the show floor Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 1:00pm-4:30pm



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- 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.**
- 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.
- Live animals may be used but is not required. It is the responsibility of the entrants to select animals appropriate for the size of the tank.
- 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.
- Tank background on these tanks is white, top edge is frosted.
- Standard pressurized CO2 canisters and adequate electrical outlets will be available for each tank.
- Several micron filters will be available for use as needed and to be shared by all entrants to clear tanks after set-up.

Prize Money:

1st Place	\$1,000.00
2nd Place	\$600.00
3rd Place	\$400.00

People’s Choice – Bragging rights!

- Winners and prize money will be announced and awarded on the show floor Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 5:00pm.
- Ribbons will be displayed on the winning tanks through the end of the Show, Nov. 6, 2016.
- 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 3:00 pm 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, in whole or in part, after the competition rather than taking them home if they so choose, 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.



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- At the close of Show at 3:00pm on Sunday, November 6, 2016, all plants, animals, hardscape materials and equipment (including CO2 equipment) provided by the entrants belong to the entrants may be taken down and removed by them. Any materials not claimed by 8:00pm on Sunday November 6, 2016 will become the property of the Aquatic Experience.
- Questions about substitutions or rules, please contact Karen Randall with the AGA at krandall@rdcpa.biz

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 appear healthy?
- Hardware should be as inconspicuous as possible, and clean.
- 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



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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.