

Aquarium Beautiful Competition Handbook

Adult & Youth

IMPORTANT DATES

Online or Paper Entry Form deadline	NEW NOTE EARLIER DEADLINE Friday, December 14, 2018
Deliver items to the Florida Center — located at the Florida State Fair. (see page 4)	Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
	Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
	Monday, February 4, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
	Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Items exhibited	February 7 - 18, 2019
Entry pickup	Tuesday, February 19, 2019 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact
Competitive Exhibit Coordinator

Brenda Gregory

Phone: 813-734-2810

Email: brenda.gregory@floridastatefair.com

Aquarium Beautiful Coordinator

Bill Shields

Phone: 813-310-4212

Email: tbasbill@aol.com



Benefits of Competing?

The Florida State Fair is proud to showcase the bounty of talented people from around the state. Not only do we provide you the opportunity to win ribbons and prize money... it's also a great way to share your talent with a larger community. **In appreciation... all exhibitors receive a FREE ticket to attend the fair.**

Competition Overview

Entry Fee:

Adult & Professional Division \$3 per entry

Youth Division **FREE**

Youth entries are sponsored by the Tampa Bay
Aquarium Society at www.tbas1.com

Entry Fees are non-refundable

All information regarding **Creative Living
Competitions** can also be found at
www.floridastatefair.com.

How to enter online – page 4

General Rules – page 5

Paper entry form is available on the last page.

**Exhibitors are encouraged to read this handbook
in its entirety, as some rules have changed.**

Eligibility & Guidelines

- The **Hobbyist Adult & Professional Adult Divisions** are open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up.
- The **Hobbyist Youth Divisions** are open to Florida residents in grades 1 – 12, as of September 1, 2018.
- The **Saltwater Open Division** is open to all Florida residents ages 6 and up as of Sept. 1, 2018.
- **All entered items must be on display for the entire duration of the Fair.**
- **Exhibitors may enter as many classes as they like.**
- **Tank dimensions must be included in registration due to space restrictions.** There is no upper or lower limit on the size of the entered item, but due to space limitations, those tanks over 55 gallons will need approval by Bill Shields. Entered items will be assigned space on a first-come, first-served basis. If space is unavailable for all entered items, the Fair will notify those affected.

Eligibility & Guidelines (continued)

- Each exhibitor will provide a tank complete with all accessories to include light, filter, and a drop cord with three-way plug. Only one electrical outlet will be provided for each tank. Electricity, water, and a table to place the tank on will be provided.
- The Fair will provide professional care of all entered items during the Fair, but assumes no responsibility, either actual or implied for any mishaps or fish loss, which may occur. Fish will be fed once a day with standard flake food.
- No late entered items will be permitted. Claim Receipts will be issued at the time you deliver and set up your display

Judging & Awards

The Fair ensures that the judges we employ are knowledgeable in the division in which they are judging and will be impartial. Judges reserve the right to reassign entries to a more appropriate division or class. Judging will be done using a scorecard to assist in keeping decisions as objective as possible. **The decision of the judge(s) is final.**

If, at the Judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the Judge shall give no award under any circumstance. This rule applies whether there is one or more exhibits in the Class.

Awards Information

Hobbyist Adult, Professional & Saltwater Open

- First Place** – State Fair Ribbon **\$50**
- Second Place** – State Fair Ribbon **\$40**
- Third Place** – State Fair Ribbon **\$30**
- Best of Show** – State Fair Ribbon **\$150**

Hobbyist Youth

- First Place** – State Fair Ribbon **\$35**
- Second Place** – State Fair Ribbon **\$25**
- Third Place** – State Fair Ribbon **\$15**
- Best of Show** – State Fair Ribbon **\$75**

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded, at the discretion of the judge(s).

Final results and exhibit display will be revealed during Fair time.



Definitions

Nano tanks: Natural freshwater or saltwater tanks less than 10 gallons with the emphasis on small scale inhabitants. Plants and fish should be chosen from the smaller species. They will be judged on their ability to be maintained long term in the Nano set up.

Freshwater w/ Live Plants: Any freshwater aquarium with live plants excluding artificial plants.

Freshwater w/o Live Plants: Any freshwater aquarium without live plants.

Freshwater Biotype: All fish, plants and décor from the same geographic habitat.

Novelty: Any creative set up with artificial décor. Themed set ups usually place better than random set ups.

Saltwater: Any saltwater aquarium including reef tanks.

Judging Criteria

The following awards are determined on both the fish and the tank appearance.

Fish Judging (50% of total score): health, size, finnage, behavior, category and compliance

Tank Judging (50% of total score): lighting (especially when live plants are used), water, clarity and overall appearance

Division Definitions

Hobbyist Adult Division: Adult (age 18 or older) who have purchased or raised their fish.

Professional Division: For those who are professionally involved in the sale or maintenance of aquariums or aquarium fish, including wholesale and retail markets.

Hobbyist Youth Division: Youth must be a student in grades 1 – 12 as of September 1, 2018.

Saltwater Open Division: Open to all hobbyist adults, professional and hobbyist youth.

Aquarium Beautiful – Divisions & Classes

Aquarium - Hobbyist Adult Division 10.101

Class Description

- 1 Nano Tank
- 2 Freshwater w/ Live Plants
- 3 Freshwater w/o Live Plants
- 4 Freshwater Biotype
- 5 Novelty

Aquarium - Professional Division 10.201

Class Description

- 1 Nano Tank
- 2 Freshwater w/ Live Plants
- 3 Freshwater w/o Live Plants
- 4 Freshwater Biotype
- 5 Novelty

Aquarium – Saltwater Open Division 10.601

Class Description

- 1 Saltwater

Aquarium - Youth (age 6-10) Division 10.301

Aquarium - Youth (age 11-13) Division 10.401

Aquarium - Youth (age 14-18) Division 10.501

Class Description

- 1 Nano Tank
- 2 Freshwater w/ Live Plants
- 3 Freshwater w/o Live Plants
- 4 Freshwater Biotype
- 5 Novelty



The Aquarium Beautiful Best of Show was Ricardo Cervantes from Ruskin.



The Hobbyist Youth Best of Show was Ethan Skidmore from Tampa.




The Aquarium Beautiful Exhibition will be held in the Florida Center during the Florida State Fair. The exhibit will be open for your viewing pleasure.

How to Enter Online

We encourage you to enter online, using ShoWorks. The Florida State Fair has implemented ShoWorks, an on-line entry program. ShoWorks is an industry standard used by over 50 fairs nationally. This user-friendly program can be trusted to accurately enter you into our competitions and allows for efficient communications via e-mail. We are excited to have ShoWorks to better facilitate entering Florida State Fair competitions.

- **Take a moment to look through this Competition Handbook to see which division and class your entry is eligible to compete in.** Then, follow the easy steps listed below to enter the competition you have chosen.
- **To Enter Online using ShoWorks.**
Go to www.floridastatefair.com and at the top of the home page select the **State Fair** TAB and you will see in the dropdown list a link for **Creative Living Competitions**. Select the **Enter Online** button at the top of that page.
- **Everyone must register as a new exhibitor each year.**
- **Note that sessions expire after 20 minutes** of inactivity, so “save the cart” if you plan on leaving the computer for more than 20 minutes.
- When registering, please verify that all information that you entered into ShoWorks is correct. Please pay special attention to capitalization, full names of cities/counties and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).
- You can pay fees with a credit card or mail in a check.

Mailing Paper Entry Forms

- **Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 14th, 2018.** 
Failure to complete any portion of entry form may result in disqualification.

Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competitions – Aquarium Beautiful
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to:

Florida State Fair Authority

Delivery & Setup of Entries

- **All entries must be delivered to the Florida State Fair Authority and setup their aquariums on either:**

Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, February 4, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Deliver entries to:

Florida State Fair Authority
Florida Center Bldg.

Attn: Bill Shields

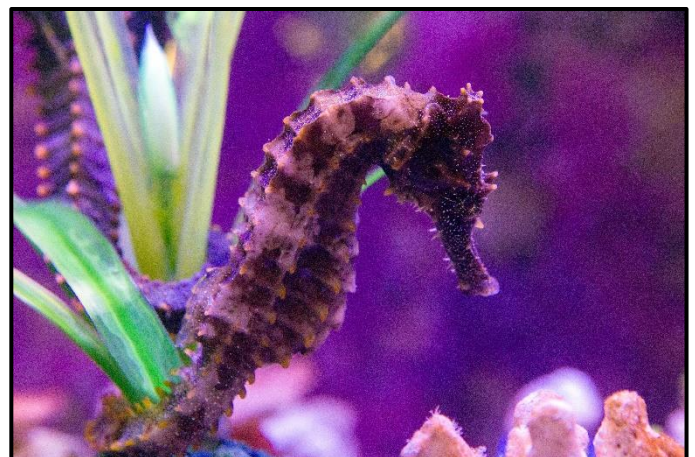
Enter off of Orient Road thru the Service entrance on the west side of the fairgrounds.

Map with directions to the Florida Center available on the **Creative Living Competitions** webpage.

- Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after Delivery may be disqualified.

Retrieving Entries

- See the calendar for Pick Up dates, times and locations (page 1).
- Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for special pick up appointment by emailing brenda.gregory@floridastatefair.com.
- All entries not claimed by February 23, 2019 will be donated through our program department.



General Rules

Disclaimer

Please be advised that competitive exhibits are entered at the exhibitor's risk. The Florida State Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries, even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors. If the exhibitor desires insurance coverage, this coverage should be secured from a personal insurance agent prior to entry and the policy written to cover the period of exhibition and transportation. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits. Unauthorized persons are not permitted in the building after closing hours.

Division/Class Cancellation

The Florida State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

Entry Errors

Florida State Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for any and all errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The Florida State Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the Florida State Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

Substitution

Substitutions changes if necessary, must be within the same department by the original exhibitor. Substitutions must be completed the last day of the entry delivery period. The Florida State Fair or its judges may disqualify entries, or reclassify an entry to the correct class if it is not a true representative of the division or class in which it is entered. You cannot transfer your entry to another exhibitor.

Previously Entered Entry

Any entry that has been exhibited at a previous Florida State Fair is not eligible for entry in this year's Florida State Fair. This excludes Horticulture & Aquarium Beautiful entries.

Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the Florida State Fair has received submitted entry forms and fees must include a self-addressed/stamped envelope when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation code once entries are submitted.

Responsibility

The Florida State Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All still exhibits or display elements remaining on the Fairgrounds after the designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1st of the same year.

Removal of Entries

An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the Florida State Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the Fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the Florida State Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

Dishonored Checks

A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check in payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for penalty payment.

Design

The Florida State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of all exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the Florida State Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by Florida State Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

Aquarium Beautiful Entry Form



Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 14th, 2018.
 Failure to complete any portion of entry form may result in disqualification.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Exhibitor #	_____
Total Fee	_____
Paid	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> MO <input type="checkbox"/> Check
	Check No. _____

Please print legibly

Exhibitors Name (First, Last)		Organization
Mailing Address		County
City	State	Zip Code
Phone ()	Email	

Please indicate Age Group	Age as of SEPT 1, 2017 _____	Date of Birth _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hobby Adult (18 +)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (age 6-10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (age 11-13)
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional (18 +)		<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (age 14-over)

Entry Fee: Adult, Professional & Saltwater Open Division \$3 per entry | Youth Division FREE
Exhibitors may enter as many classes as they like.

#	DIVISION #	CLASS #	Tank Size & Length of Tank	Fee
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
Total Amount Due				\$

I hereby certify that I have read the Florida State Fair General Rules for the Competitive Exhibits Program (Page 5) and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the Florida State Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in the Competitive Exhibits Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation

Signature of exhibitor _____ Date _____

Signature of parent/guardian (Youth ONLY) _____ Date _____

Mail Entry Form to:
Creative Living Competitions – Aquarium Beautiful
 Florida State Fair
 P.O. Box 11766
 Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority