



The Greater Seattle Aquarium Society CARES Member Information Packet





The Aquarium Hobby CARES Preservation Program

PREFACE

www.CARESPreservation.com

Claudia Dickinson
CARES Preservation Program Coordinator

CARES was built on the principle of allowing *everyone*, whether they are a beginner or advanced hobbyist, to be given a chance to play a role, be a part, and feel as if they are making a difference in the positive future of at risk fishes.

In recent years, conservationists and scientists have come to realize that captive maintenance and procreation of species at risk, both within the country of origin and outside the country of origin, has become the quintessential answer for both short-term and long-term preservation goals. This has been successfully undertaken by aquariums and zoos. However, these facilities lack the necessary space and staff to come to the aid of all of the species in need of immediate help. It became apparent that this is a role in which we as hobbyists, with our combined total of thousands of tanks and shared experiences, can make a significant difference.

To their great misfortune, and ours, the reality is that if we are not to dedicate our tanks to these fishes *now*, and form the base stock of a reliable source of established at risk species within the aquarium hobby, many will become extinct as, sadly, have over 400 species of cichlids of Lake Victoria, with numerous species of Madagascar and Central America following (too) closely behind.

Along with providing universal education and awareness, as well as hands-on conservation efforts, the CARES goal is to distribute these species nationally and globally within our tanks to save them from extinction due to the destruction of their natural habitats. When they are gone from the wild, scientists will have our hobby stock as a resource for research, and we, and our successors, will have them to appreciate, as we would have those 400 species of Lake Victoria cichlids had we acted sooner. For those fishes it is too late. They are gone...never to be seen again but in photographs. If we act together, now, this reality will not come to those species that remain.

Claudia

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One person cannot save them all, but we can each save at least one.
Together, we *can* and we *are* making a difference!

*Thank you for your invaluable contribution
towards preserving our fishes for generations to come!!!*



The Aquarium Hobby C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program INTRODUCTION

www.CARESpreservation.com

Claudia Dickinson
C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Coordinator

There is not a continent on earth whose waters and fishes have not been affected by the devastation and destruction caused from deforestation, pollution, agrochemical run-off, overfishing, global warming, and political unrest, all to the great misfortune of those fishes that remain in their natural habitats. As these tragedies to earth are occurring more rapidly than even the most paramount attempts at intervention can match, captive breeding of species at risk, both within the country of origin and outside of the country of origin, has become the quintessential answer for both short-term and long-term preservation goals.

It was but a decade ago that when asked what we, the hobbyist, could do to aid in worldwide aquatic conservation efforts, the general consensus was that our monetary donations would bring about the greatest hope for positive change. While our financial donations are still essential today in order to assist in areas over which we are not able to participate personally, through the sovereign work of dedicated scientists, such as conservation champion Dr. Paul Loiselle, the hobbyist now plays a critical role in the favorable outlook of our fishes.

Take a look around the room during your aquarium society meeting and count the heads of your fellow hobbyists. Add to that, the clients of your neighborhood aquarium shop, the students on the college campus, and the organized hobby on a national level. Think of what we can do as a team! Envision each one of us making room in an existing tank, or setting up just one new tank, with the intent of devoting that aquarium space to a species of fish that we would most enjoy working with whose future in its natural habitat is currently in the distressing situation of being at risk or threatened, if it is not already extinct in the wild. We will have the enjoyment of the fish, and the fish will be preserved for the future while their natural environment degenerates beyond that which is able to support their life.

Yes, that reality is sad, and there are those who are striving to manage the delicate mission of environmental conditions and socioeconomic situations. Yet, we each play our role in conservation, and as hobbyists this is ours. Once we research, work with, and develop an in-depth understanding of the conservation priority species we are maintaining, it will naturally follow that some of us will expand our interests into the environmental field to join in with hands-on conservation efforts. Hope has been found for a future that seemed bleak for countless species, through the diligence and care of concerned hobbyists such as you.

Founded in 2004, the **C.A.R.E.S. (Conservation, Awareness, Recognition and Responsibility, Encouragement and Education, Sharing and Support) Preservation Program** is based on the critical and timely significance of Conservation, Educating the public and bringing Awareness as hobbyists to the issues involved, public Recognition of members, our

Responsibilities as fishkeepers, member Encouragement, Sharing of fish and data, and Support for those who take part in playing a vital role in ensuring a positive future for species at risk.

The **purpose** of the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** is to encourage hobbyists worldwide to devote tank space to one or more species at risk and distribute offspring to fellow qualified hobbyists, while forming an information network between aquarists, scientists, and conservationists. The **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** may be implemented by societies, educational institutions, and independent aquarium retailers, as **all** are encouraged and welcome to participate. Whatever one's level of expertise, there is a fish for you. Please plan to begin with a species that you are most comfortable working with, and a support team will be ready to assist, guide, and counsel you as needed.

The foundation for any program relies on the strength in its roots, which results in a solid base for growth and enrichment as we move into the future. For the hobbyist, the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** is intrinsic as the aquarium hobby does, in fact, truly **care**.

The **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** has **four** major **objectives**:

- a) to bring **AWARENESS** to the critical situation of fish in nature, while **EDUCATING** the public and stressing the importance of our roles as **RESPONSIBLE** aquarists;
- b) to **RECOGNIZE, ENCOURAGE**, and offer **SUPPORT** to hobbyists who maintain species at risk;
- c) to **SHARE** fish as well as data and experiences through notes and manuscripts so that others may learn to maintain those identical and similar species; and
- d) to **PRESERVE** species at risk for future generations.

There is no greater feeling of self satisfaction than to walk into your fishroom to be greeted by fish that are flourishing, faces pressed against the glass, begging for food, their vibrant colors glistening and reflecting the light, with the bittersweet knowledge that this species will no longer be seen in its natural environment, and were it not to be in your tanks...well, it just would not be at all.....

Well, almost no greater joy—for that is the day that you walk in to discover a miraculous spawn from your species at risk, and for that sight a warmth as no other floods over you in knowing that this species shall continue on well after its natural habitat is beyond the capabilities of sustaining life. And then, as we look around again, and catch each other's eye, we share another sort of warmth in knowing that we have succeeded. Please, clear a tank, save a fish—we, and those who follow, shall **all** be glad you did!

*Thank you for your invaluable contribution
towards preserving our fish for generations to come!!!*

The C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program is about fish, and it is about people.
We are one team, working together. Please, clear a tank ~ save a fish!
Because of you, we **are** making a difference!

Claudia

Claudia Dickinson

C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Founder and Coordinator

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One person cannot save them all, but we can each save at least one!



GSAS CARES Outline

www.CARESPreservation.com

*A warm welcome to the Greater Seattle Aquarium Society!
Thank you for your participation in the
C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program!*

- 1) The **C.A.R.E.S. (Conservation, Awareness, Recognition and Responsibility, Encouragement and Education, Sharing and Support) Preservation Program** is based on the critical and timely significance of **Conservation**, **Educating** the public and bringing **Awareness** as hobbyists to the issues involved, public **Recognition** of members, our **Responsibilities** as fishkeepers, member **Encouragement**, **Sharing** of fish and data, and **Support** for those who take part in playing a vital role in ensuring a positive future for species at risk.
- 2) The **purpose** of the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** is to encourage hobbyists worldwide to devote tank space to one or more species at risk and distribute offspring to fellow qualified hobbyists, while forming an information network between aquarists, scientists, and conservationists.
- 3) The **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** has **four** major **objectives**:
 - a) To bring **AWARENESS** to the critical situation of fish in nature while **EDUCATING** the public and stressing the importance of our roles as **RESPONSIBLE** aquarists;
 - b) To **RECOGNIZE**, **ENCOURAGE**, and offer **SUPPORT** to hobbyists who maintain species at risk;
 - c) To **SHARE** fish as well as data and experiences through notes and manuscripts so that others may learn to maintain those identical and similar species; and
 - d) To **PRESERVE** species at risk for future generations.

4) The **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** may be implemented by societies, educational institutions, and independent aquarium retailers, as *all* are encouraged and welcome to participate!

5) Within the **GSAS**, a **CARES Support Team** has been formed, consisting of dedicated individuals who are willing and ready to assist you in any manner possible to be certain that your experience with maintaining species at risk is a positive one.

With your help, members of your **GSAS CARES Support Team** are also encouraged to participate in networking on a larger scale in the sharing of your data (with your permission) with others. The status of species at risk is under constant change as a result of the rapid degradation of the natural habitat. Your help and skills will be invaluable in developing intercommunications to move the **CARES Program** forward with speed and efficiency in the rescue of conservation priority fish from global extinction.

As You Embark On GSAS CARES

6) You will receive a copy of the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Introduction** – *(Pages 3 – 4 of this packet)*

7) You will receive a copy of the **CARES Outline** – *(Pages 5 – 8 of this packet)*

8) You will receive and have access to current updates of the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Conservation Priority Species List**.
www.CARESPreservation.com

How To Get Started

9) Enter all species on the **GSAS CARES Species Registration Form** which are listed on the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Conservation Priority List**. Please be prepared to enter where or from whom you obtained your fish, and the approximate date of acquisition. Please note that it may be necessary to provide further species identification, either physical, or by photo, at a future meeting.

10) Enter all species on the **GSAS CARES Search List** that are found on the current **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Conservation Priority List**, and for which you would like more information about, or assistance in locating.

11) The GSAS CARES Support Team will be reviewing your submissions for CARES registration. You may receive a **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species Journal** for each species accepted into CARES, or an electronic version will be made available. This journal provides easy-to-follow suggestions and space for recording observations and data on your conservation priority species.

As soon as you receive your first CARES Species Journal...

Congratulations!!!

You are now a Member of GSAS CARES!

12) A master copy of the GSAS CARES Membership/Species Information Book is made available to the general membership. This book contains current member and species registration information, and may also share data and experiences through notes made in the **CARES Species Journals** in order that others may learn to maintain those same and similar species.

13) Recognition of GSAS CARES Members is made through the **GSAS CARES Membership/Species Information Book**, as mentioned above, which is kept in prominent view at the front table during meetings, and by regular publication on the website if applicable. Other creative means arrived at and agreed to by the **GSAS CARES Support Team** may also be put into use to give members due recognition.

14) A CARES Certificate of Recognition is awarded annually for each species registered and accepted into **GSAS CARES** within that year.

15) Four colored seals—gold, green, blue, and red—are presented annually and added to the **CARES Certificate of Recognition** for further recognition of ultimate achievements.

◆ **A Gold Seal** is awarded for the achievement of setting aside space in your tanks that is dedicated to maintaining a CARES conservation priority species and registering that species in **GSAS CARES**. The gold seal is automatically awarded with receipt of the **GSAS CARES Certificate of Recognition**.

◆ **A Green Seal** is awarded for compiling the notes that you have entered into your **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species Journal** and sharing the knowledge that you have gained regarding your CARES conservation priority species through the submission of an article to the editor or webmaster and the subsequent publication of that article.

◆ **A Blue Seal** is awarded for sharing fry of your registered **GSAS CARES** species at risk with a member of the **GSAS**, and having those fry registered into **GSAS CARES** by the new owner, *or* for donating fry of your registered **GSAS CARES Species** to a Species Maintenance Program (SMP).

◆ **A Red Seal** is awarded for sharing fry of your registered **GSAS CARES** species at risk with a hobbyist from *another* society or educational organization who has instituted the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** and having those fry be registered into *that* organization's **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program**. (i.e., **Aqua Havens CARES, ACA CARES, HCCC CARES, QCFK CARES**)

16) For each succeeding year that you continue to maintain a species enrolled in **GSAS CARES**, a small **Red Longevity Seal** is added, forming a line across your **GSAS CARES Certificate of Recognition**.

A certificate with four colored seals, gold, green, blue, and red, and a solid row of small red longevity seals is the ultimate level of **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Membership Achievement** per **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species**.

17) All eligible fry of **registered** **GSAS CARES** species will be awarded 5 additional points in the **GSAS Breeders Award Program**.

18) The **GSAS CARES Member of the Year Award** is presented annually. This achievement is awarded to a member of **GSAS CARES** who excels in outstanding overall contributions which help to ensure a positive future for conservation priority fishes, openly shares knowledge with others, and altruistically assists fellow hobbyists in their **GSAS CARES** endeavors.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Before you embark on the **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program**, as responsible aquarists it is essential that you familiarize yourself with U.S. federal and state wildlife laws, or those of your country of residence.

The **C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program** strives to recognize only those fish that are within the bounds of domestic laws.

With Warm Regards,
Claudia

Claudia Dickinson
C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Founder and Coordinator

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We are one team, working together. Please, clear a tank ~ save a fish!
Because of you, we are making a difference!*