



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

October 2025, Volume 50, Number 2

This Month's Presentation by Randy Seufert:

“ The Anabantoids ”

**The
Anabantoids**

Central New York Aquarium Society Oct 15, 2025

CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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CNYAS GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION

The Dewitt Community Center
148 Sanders Creek Pkwy
East Syracuse, NY

DATE / TIME

Wednesday October 15, 2025
@ 7:00 pm

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- 2) The article is reprinted in its original form.
- 3) The original author is credited appropriately.
- 4) An author's copy is provided to the Editor at the time of distribution of the reprint.

Exchanges:

CNYAS will exchange publications with any non-profit hobby related organization with the following stipulations: 1) The request to exchange must be made in writing. 2) The organization informs us of their reprint policy 3) The exchange is mailed to The **Reflector** Exchange Editor upon publication.

CNYAS Background Information:

The Central New York Aquarium Society, Inc. was established in 1976. It is a non-profit organization under section 501 {c} {3} of the Internal Revenue Code. Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. General meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Dewitt Community Hall in East Syracuse. General meetings normally begin with a brief business meeting followed by a guest speaker, refreshments, door and raffle prizes, and a mini- auction of live fish, plants, and other hobby related items.

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Officers

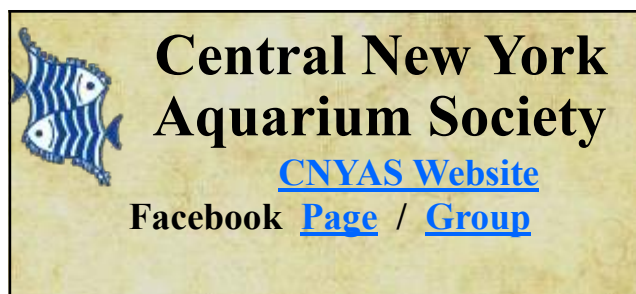
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Michael Flintrop
Clifford Crain
Lenny Futterman
Bill Newell
David Pomeranz

Chairpeople

BAP: Michael Flintrop
AHAP: Bill Newell
WAP: Clifford Crain
Bowl Show: Arnaud Germain
Auction: Ron Alexander & Brian Bowers
Membership: Stefani Pritchard
Exchange Editor: Clifford Crain
Assistant Secretary: Sue Kotcher
Hosp. & Refreshments: Mary Teelin
Swap Meet: Doug Hillman
Webmaster: Tom Garafalo





PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Ron Fabiny

President's Message October 2025

I am writing this early so that when you see this I am hoping that our Swap Meet was a success. I was very happy with the turn out for our first meeting of the year. I would like to thank Clifford for the excellent presentation that he put on. I am sure everyone there has gone through the same trials and tribulations that he went through.

Ron

Note from Membership Chair: Stefani Pritchard

Welcome new members:

Mike Allen, Donna Castle, Christopher Eschbacher, Michael Mikulewicz,
Aubrie Russell, Jack Ruthkowski, and Greg Sumner.

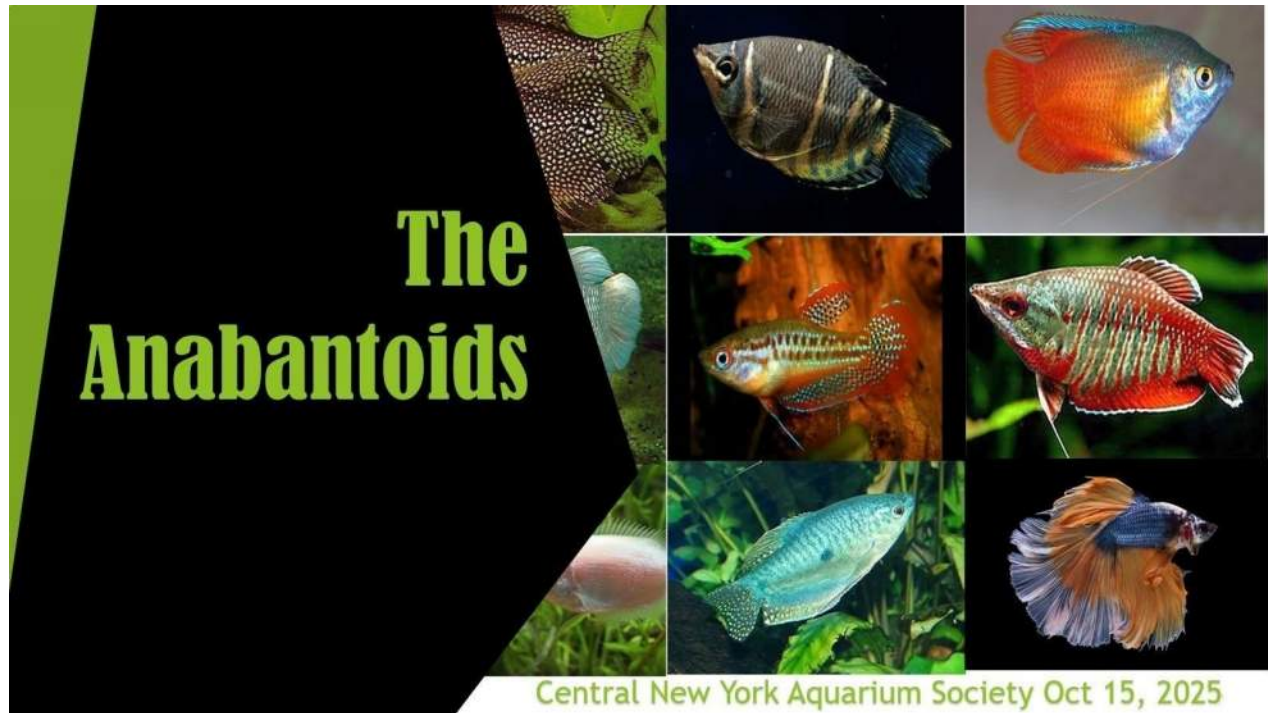
We're delighted that you've joined and hope to see you at the next meeting!

Renewing members, if you haven't already done so, please don't forget to pay your dues for the Sept 2025 – Aug 2026 CNYAS club year. Dues are \$15 for individuals, and \$20 for families, and can be paid in person at the next meeting, by PayPal (send to CNYASTreas@gmail.com as friend and family), or by postal mail to CNYAS Membership Chair; PO Box 291; Clay NY 13041.

Contact Stefani at cnyasmembership@gmail.com if you have any questions about membership or dues.

This Month's Presentation by Randy Seufert:

“ The Anabantoids”



Bio for Randy Seufert,

Randy has been in the hobby for well over 60 years, starting as a kid with a goldfish. After meeting Teri , who had 4 tanks they added more after being married. Joining a fish club and going to auctions they started getting different fish and got to successfully breed many. In 1987 Randy was one of the Founders of the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County and started being an auctioneer for the club auction. Soon he was helping doing auctions for fish clubs in NY, PA, Ohio and Canada. Randy ran a Flower shop with a fish store included in the early 2000's. After closing the store, over 60 tanks of fish and aquatic plants were being housed in our fish room at home.

Teri enjoyed Corydoras catfish and became real good at getting them to lay eggs and raising young. She was the fishroom keeper and Randy was just there to buy new and sell at auctions. In January 2022 Teri was called back home, Randy was ready to get rid of all the fish and close up the fishroom, selling off many pleco's, catfish, and other fish they had been raising. But his 2 children told him to do what he loved, The Fish Club, The Fire Company, Auctioneering and keeping fish. So he picked up the pieces, brought in a few new fish and since, with heavenly help, been enjoying breeding some pleco's, guppies and other fish.

Now at another turn in his life, he has sold his home and moved to an Apartment. This meant the 30 some tanks were emptied and keeping only the fish he really wants to work with. Now with 4 tanks (2 40's and 2 15's). Long Fin Albino Plecos, L519 Plecos (Honeycombs), L393 Pleco (Cheese Creek Bristlenose) and Blue Galaxy Guppies are in the tanks, along with various aquatic plants

The program entitled “Antabantoids” looks at the wide range of labyrinth fish. The species, breeding and keeping of them. Many are colorful, while others are drab and used as food. Randy and Teri have successfully bred many species of Anabantids over the years.

BOARD MEETING**CNYAS Board meeting**

9/10/2025

Attending: Ron Alexander, Len and Mary Futterman (by phone), Doug Hillman, Bob and Sue Kotcher, Bill Newell, Mike Flintrop, Clifford Crain, Ron Fabiny, David Pomeranz

1. Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer-Report and budget. There will be a vote for the budget at Sept General Meeting.
2. AHAP-see Reflector, found members that were in the data base but not on AHAP. Bill corrected and gave Doug info for Reflector.
3. BAP- see Reflector, working on changing # of fry for points, now have BAP computer. Clifford and Mike to work on fry#s. Updated rules and looked at scientific names to update.
4. WAP- see Reflector. Exchange editor points not eligible for Scaly Eraser.
5. Membership- 6 Lifetime members
6. Auction -New tee shirts next year for 50th Anniversary. Projecting fish bag on the screen, Large banner with pictures. Look at getting lightweight banner. Shrimp/ Pleco raffle. VFW has a digital board to advertise the auction. Ron has signed contract. Check to see if we have enough paper-work/cards. Need membership person at the front desk.
7. Bowl show- see Reflector. Ribbons ordered
8. Webmaster- Tom doing a great job at updating.
9. Exchange editor- still getting articles. Cliff doing a great job.
10. Reflector- Doug is doing a great job!

2. Old Business:

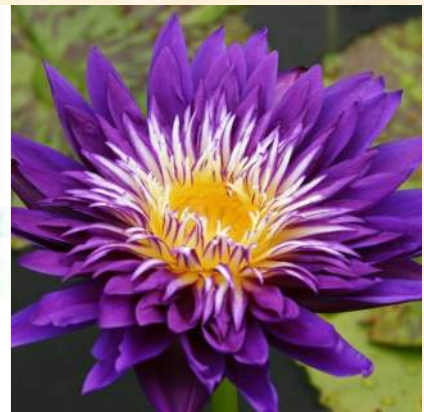
1. Voted to change Superbowl prizes to cash, talk about increasing prize amount next year. Voted to increase prizes to 1st 35.00, 2nd 25.00 and 3rd is 20.00.
2. Send Speaker info to Chip.
3. Cliff brought up doing a group buy of fish on line. Discussed, he will follow up with interest in participation from club. Voted to put this on hold til after the auction as Cliff in not at this meeting.
4. 50th Anniversary of CNYAS in 2026. Sue and Mike to head up a committee for celebration
5. Is the NEC Convention budget worth 600\$? Discuss during the next board meeting. Ask Arnaud to see if NEC could support free hotel room for club reps. Board discussed that the NEC rep for the club will receive the free convention Registration if they attend the required meetings and the club will give them 150.00 to be used to attend the Convention. Passed.
6. Len posted a potential laptop to purchase on group text for Board to see.
7. Ron to get VFW contract signed for 2026 Auction.
8. Much appreciation to all who helped clean out Wayne's fish room.
9. Program- Club members to speak about fish.
10. Picnic was great success, thanks as always for the Fabiny's for hosting!
11. SWAP meet Oct 4th- Chip to get flyers. 3 confirmed tables so far.
12. Len got lamination signs.
13. Board decided that points for WAP that are part of a officers or chairs duties can be posted but not used for Scaly Eraser or any awards, passed.

New Business:

1. Clifford to speak at Sept meeting regarding upcoming events. He is planning another shop hop to Albany. Looking at a Sat in November. Len to contact Mike Lucas and Fred.
2. Clifford to discuss at Sept meeting group purchase from North Coast Aquatics in Florida. David has a contact with Vaska Supplies.
3. SWAP meeting at Empire Aquatics went well.
4. Check given for Buffalo to sponsor a class in their upcoming fish show.
5. Doug said Empire Aquatics would be interested in doing a fish show.
6. David- A question for people to submit answers to in the Reflector might be fun.
7. Upcoming board meetings-
 - OCT- Doug
 - NOV- Mike
 - DEC- Len and Mary
 - JAN- Chip
 - FEB- Clifford
 - MAR- Bill
 - APR- David
 - MAY- Bob and Sue
8. Banquet updates – It will be held on June 13th (a Saturday) at Bella Domani, Sue moved to approve a budget of 4000\$, Bill seconded, approved. Menu to be decided. Sue, Mike and Ron to meet to plan some events.
9. Notes by Sue Kotcher for Mary Teelin.

10/17/25 CNYAS General meeting

1. Various members did talks about fish keeping.
2. 5 new people at meeting.
3. Great meeting with lots of enthusiasm.
4. Mini Auction was a success.
5. Sue discussed 50th banquet.



CNYAS—The Earliest Days in 1976

By Sue Kotcher

Steve VanCamp and his wife, Sally were members of our Club from the first meeting in September 1976. Steve passed away in 2024 after a long career of service to the Club. Sally met with Ron Fabiny, Mike Flintrop and me to fill us in on what she knew of the beginning of CNYAS.

Steve was on the Board from 1976 to 1979. He then became the Vice President from 1979 to 1981. This was followed by the Presidency from 1981 to 1984. Steve became the Treasurer from 1984 through 2019.

Sally was unable to attend the meetings at first since she had small children at home. However, she became the Treasurer from 1978 to 1984. Sally was also the Reflector Editor with Winnie Pitzeruse from 1981 to 1982. From 1982 to 1984, Sally became the sole Editor. Both Steve and Sally held other positions even after these dates.

When I asked how the idea for the Club came about, Sally said that Terry Doyle, the first President and Bill Gottstein, the first Treasurer, were friends who worked together at Bristol and were both avid fish keepers. The idea of a club came about when these two and a couple of other local fish stores began thinking it over. In 1975, Dave Gerber, owner of Mini Pet Shop on Erie Boulevard East got a group together at his store to discuss the possibility of having an aquarium society in Central New York. They got a flyer together and in September 1976 held the first organized meeting of the Central New York Aquarium Society in the basement of the Lincoln First Bank on Genesee Street in DeWitt, NY.

The first meeting had about 30 people and they met on a Saturday. They did move to a weekday after a bit and in 1977 moved to the Liverpool Library where meetings were held for many years.

I attended my first meeting at the Library in February 1981. I heard about CNYAS from a flyer in the fish store that was in Shoppingtown Mall in Syracuse. I had always wanted an aquarium. I joined immediately at my first meeting. I was excited by the energy, the fish, the people and the exciting Club.

Sally had given me a copy of a letter recently, that had been sent to the first members in October 1976, prior to the October meeting. It is included after this article. I want to thank Sally for her recollections of 50 years ago. We can all be proud of our Club, a valuable contribution to the hobby and to the Syracuse area.

October 12, 1976

Hello Fellow Aquarists,

At last we have our own Society! To all of you who attended our first meeting a hearty welcome. Out of that meeting came a Constitution and our first members - a very good showing.

Our Constitution has been passed and we now have a slate of officers (Pro-tem) as follows:

Terry Doyle	- President
John Estess	- Vice-president & Program Chairman
Jim Sweeting	- Secretary
Bill Gottstein	- Treasurer
Donna Melfi	- Editor
Art Edlund	- Public Relations & Membership
Robert Hurd	- Bowl Show Chairman

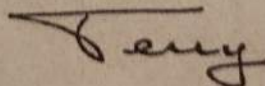
I'd like to say "thank you" to John Estess for his slide presentation on Angel Fish. It was very enjoyable. I hear we've got some great ones coming up too.

Our October meeting will have a program on "Beautiful and Unusual Aquarium Fish" and in November we will have "Tetras for the Community Tank" which I'm sure we'll all find interesting.

How many of you can bring a prospective member to the next meeting? We all know someone in the hobby so let's try. Don't forget, this month's meeting is October 17th at 1:30 PM at Lincoln Bank, E. Genesee Street, Dewitt.

See you then.

Sincerely,



Terry Doyle



Fish Store Visit: Aquatic Haven

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

Late last year the owner of Get Schooled Aquatics, a local fish store originally in North Syracuse and then relocated to Fulton, sold the store to Derrick and Amy Venton. This turned out to be a major win for aquarists in Central New York, as the Ventons, dedicated hobbyists, spent a lot of money to upgrade and improve the shop, which opened in January 2025 as Aquatic Haven. I was so impressed with the change that I ordered some fish food and promised to take notes after the next visit for a store review.

The store is located at 370 W. First Street (a strip shopping plaza on route 48), Fulton. The first thing that one notices is the size: in the store's spacious 3000 square feet, I counted over 100 aquariums holding more than 4200 gallons of water. Each tank features a sponge filter with air supplied by a quiet linear piston pump.

One of the things I look for in a fish shop is the health of the fish. It was no surprise to me the reason why Aquatic Haven's fish look so healthy: each tank gets a 50% water change weekly, and the Ventons manually gravel vac every tank on a two week cycle. Why aren't the goldfish heat-stressed in the middle of July? Because each of the four spacious 60-breeder tanks gets two bottles of ice in the morning and two at night. This, combined with the cooling effect of increased evaporation resulting from a fan blowing air over the tanks keeps the water temperatures down.

Have you ever seen how the big box pet stores keep their bettas? In cups! That's inhumane. At Aquatic Haven each betta has its own filtered and aerated 2½ gallon aquarium. The sides are blacked out to reduce the stress of bettas seeing their sparring partners next door. It's no surprise then that these fish are in prime condition and look absolutely terrific. Derrick and Amy make it a special point to talk to customers about the proper care of bettas.



**Derrick built this custom
betta rack**

Aquatic Haven has 15 saltwater aquariums, and their freshwater tanks have a wide variety of fish from which to choose. What other store carries not one, but four different species of *Geophagus* eartheaters? Aquatic Haven also sports two brackish water tanks containing, among others, archer fish and figure eight puffers. And what about that 50 gallon lowboy that has freshwater lobsters and crabs for sale? Seen that anywhere else?



Where else will you find four species of *Geophagus*?



Aquatic Haven's marine tanks and used aquariums



A 50-gallon lowboy provides a natural setting for lobsters and crabs

One way of enjoying your aquarium is through the beauty of aquascaping it. Aquatic Haven has a unique aquascaping box in its wood and rock section, so you can experiment with the many designs possible for your tank.

I'm a huge fan of Xtreme-brand fish foods, and to my knowledge, Aquatic Haven is the only Xtreme dealer, and for that matter, Aquarium Co-op dealer, in Central New York.

Aquatic Haven carries a full line of the excellent Xtreme foods



If you haven't tried Hobbyist tested and approved Aquarium Co-op products, check out the variety at Aquatic Haven



Speaking of fish food, I feed a lot of frozen food, and I can find a good variety here, including 16 ounce flat packs of brine shrimp, mysis shrimp, bloodworms, spirulina brine shrimp and silversides. The store also sells new and used aquariums. The number one sales category: plants, and there are plenty to choose from not only in the plant tank but in each of the aquariums.

I had an enjoyable fish-nerdy conversation with the owners while paying for my many purchases that day. (I even scored an "Aquatic Haven" tee shirt in my size!) Our conversation covered the nitrogen cycle, new heater and canister filter brands that will be hitting the market soon, fish foods (especially my severe reaction to bloodworms), and the Venton's job of becoming a dealer of aquarium supply brands. Derrick and Amy are serious hobbyists, as is obvious from the fact that their store is open seven days a week. That's a lot of work for just two people. You owe it to yourself to make the trip up to Fulton to check out this fine store.

Aquatic Haven owners Derrick and Amy Venton and their 180-gallon display tank





Central New York Aquarium Society Inc. Writer's Award Program

Chairman: Clifford H. Crain, Jr., Committee member Doug Hillman

Based on submissions to date through the Sept 2025 Reflector and points published in Oct 2025 Reflector

Name	Status	October Reflector	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill Award	65	177	2,616
Spahn	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	1,276
Kotcher	Pen & Quill Award	0	15	866
Teelin-Futterman	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	711
Pitzeruse	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	652
Fabiny	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	561
Hillman	Author's Award	100	150	420
Rademacher	Author's Award	0	0	215
Futterman	Author's Award	85	85	195
Rafferty	Participant	45	50	145
Pomeranz	Participant	0	6	141
Baird	Author's Award	0	0	130
Beeman	Author's Award	0	15	120
Walcott	Participant	0	45	95
Cody	Writer's Award	0	0	70
Sager	Participant	0	0	70
Tuori	Participant	0	0	60
Gibbs	Participant	0	0	40
Flintrop	Participant	0	0	35
Van Camp	Participant	0	0	30
Newell	Participant	20	20	30
Valdez	Participant	0	25	25
Lindblom	Participant	0	15	15

Submissions appearing in the September 2025 Reflector:

Crain, "My Meeting with Paul Loiselle," article 20 points, 1 photo, 5 points = 25 points total

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #37," 1 article, 20 points

Crain, "Heater Failure Frustration," reprinted in *The Buckette*, September 2025, 1 reprint, 10 points

Crain, "In Defense of Frozen Bloodworms," reprinted in *Modern Aquarium*, March 2025, 1 reprint, 10 points

Futterman, "CNYAS 2025 Summer Picnic," 1 photo, 5 points

Futterman, "CNYAS Award Banquet," 16 photos, 80 points

Hillman, "CNYAS 2025 Summer Picnic," 5 photos, 25 points

Hillman, "CNYAS Award Banquet," 14 photos, 70 points

Hillman, "Visit to Low Tide Corals," 1 photo, 5 points

Newell, "Octopus plant with *Pelvicachromis pulcher*, etc.," 1 photo, 5 points

Newell, "Photos by Bill Newell" (plants in tubs), 3 photo, 15 points

13

Rafferty, "Visit to Low Tide Corals," 9 photos, 45 points





BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman - Michael Flintrop
Email: michaelflintrop@yahoo.com

Name	Points	Species	Name	Points	Species
<u>Grand Master</u>			<u>Participants</u>		
*Van Camp	965	77	Spahn	30	3
1-2-3-4-6-7-8-9-11-13-15-16			Domanowski, S	25	4
<u>Master Breeder</u>			Chris Pollard	20	2
*Pitzeruse, W.	610	50	Maxwell	20	2
1-2-3-4-7-8-9-11-12-13-14-15-16			Kotcher	10	1
Beeman	640	48	Lenny Futterman	10	1
4-7-8-11-12-16			Russell Phelps	10	1
Fabiny	565	50	Mary Futterman	5	1
1-7-8-11-12-14-15-16			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
<u>Expert Breeder</u>			*Indicated Species Classification Award		
Clifford Crain Jr.	305	27	^Indicates first spawning		
1-7-8			<u>New Additions:</u>		
William Newell	250	23	NONE		
8					
Hunter Collins	235	13			
8-11					
<u>Advanced Breeder</u>					
Doug Hillman	190	20			
1-8-11					
Mike Flintrop	110	9			
11					
<u>Breeder Award</u>					
Wisneski	65	7			
11					
David Pomeranz	85	11			
Denise Baird	85	6			
Chris Allen	60	4			
11					



BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

YTD Scores:

Doug Hillman:	57	Points
Bill Newell:	11	Points
Denise Baird:	1	Point
Debbie Walcott	1	Point
David Pomeranz	1	Point

BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

The 2025-2026 Categories will be as follows:

September:	Livebearers
October:	Orange and Black Fall Colors
November:	New World Cichlids
December:	Barbs, Rasboras & Danios
January:	Killies
February:	Catfish & Loaches
March:	Bettas, Anabantoids & Gouramis
April:	Old World Cichlids: Africa & Asia
May:	Super Bowl

Don't forget the OPEN category option at each meeting.

All bowl show guidelines are available online in the Members Handbook (pages 5-6)

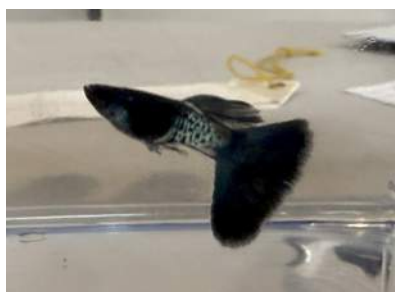
To participate, either bring your fish in person or submit pictures to ag297@cornell.edu before noon on Tuesday before the general meeting. Online submissions will be displayed during the meeting break using the projector for judges to award points.

We had 10 entries for the September Bowl Show! “Livebearers”

- A: *Poecilia reticulata* (Metal Blue Tail Guppy) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points
- B: *Poecilia latipinna* (Male Sail Fin Balloon Molly) – Denise Baird
- C: *Poecilia wingei* (P-Class Black-Bar Endler’s livebearer) – Third place – Bill Newell – 11 points
- D: *Xenotoca doadrioi* (Redtail Splitfin) – Bill Newell
- E: *Poecilia reticulata* (Metal Black Tail Guppy) – Debbie Walcott
- F: *Xenotaenia resolanae* (Leopard Splitfin) – Bill Newell
- G: *Xiphophorus maculatus* (Red Wagtail Platy) – Doug Hillman
- H: *Poecilia reticulata* (Turquoise Guppy) – Third place – Doug Hillman – 15 points
- I: *Poecilia reticulata* x *Wingei* (Tricolor Mosaic Cobra) – David Pomeranz

OPEN:

- A: *Macropodus opercularis* (Bluefinned Red Flame Paradise Fish) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points





AQUATIC HORTICULTURE
AWARD PROGRAM
 Chairman– Bill Newell
 Email: bnewell44@gmail.com



Name	Points	Species	Name	Points	Species
<u>Grand Master</u>			<u>Beginning</u>		
Spahn*	4,015	288	Yard	95	9
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14			Wisneski	65	7
Pitzeruse, W*	1,230	87	Taylor	50	6
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14			<u>Participants</u>		
Fabiny*	940	68	Flintrop	40	4
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14			Rademacher	35	2
<u>Master</u>			Janus	25	4
Van Camp*	465	36	Smith	20	1
1,7,8,9,11,14			Additions:		
Lee*	575	42	NONE		
3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14					
<u>Expert</u>					
<u>Senior</u>					
Snead*	460	26			
2,4,7,10,14					
Lio to	285	21			
Kotcher*	165	12			
10,14					
<u>Aquatic</u>					
Newell	215	21			
6					
Futterman*	180	16			
Beeman	190	19			
3,4,6,7					

DAD JOKE OF THE DAY

Fun fact: Koi fish
always travel in
groups of 4.

If attacked, Koi
A, B, and C will
scatter, leaving behind
the D Koi



FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #38

EXCHANGE REPORT

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

Email: exchange.cnyas@gmail.com

Aquarium society exchange editors: please note the new email address listed above. Remove my personal email address and use exchange.cnyas@gmail.com.

“Allophorus robustus: the Bulldog Goodeid” by Mike Huber ***Newsletter, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., September 2025***

I’ve enjoyed spawning several goodeids, but the Bulldog Goodeid does not sound like one I want to tackle. This fish, one of the largest goodeids at around 8½", has gone extinct in most areas of its habitat in Mexico due to pollution and the introduction of larger non-native fish. Mike’s article starts with a head-on photo of the fish with its many impressive, sharp conical teeth. As you can guess, this is a predatory fish that lies in wait for whatever it can fit in its large mouth. Mike started off with six fry, but the others killed three of them despite being housed in a spacious 40-breeder with lots of hiding spaces and vision breaks. He was successful in spawning them but warns that “the bulldog is a little bit of a challenge to raise and spawn but well worth the effort.”

“Boraras spp.: The Beautiful Dwarf Rasboras” by Mike Hellweg ***The Darter Mini-Mag, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., September 2025***

Here’s how reliable, can’t-miss author Mike Hellweg starts this article: “Miniature fish in planted nano tanks are all the rage right now, and miniature Cyprinids are in high demand.” The six species of rasboras in the genus *Boraras* are very colorful, and Mike found all six species to be easy to spawn once he figured out how to with the first. He starts with a 20-gallon tank containing some driftwood, plants and several handfuls of boiled oak leaves, which he believes is the secret to his success. He conditions the adults with live and quality dry food along with regular water changes. *Boraras* rasbora fry do best when kept in the spawning tank with the adults and feeding on the biofilm on the oak leaves, plants, and driftwood. “I’ve tried spawning the adults in a tank by themselves like you would with most other egg scatterers, but the fry do not do well and I’ve never been able to get them up large enough to eat baby brine shrimp.” Mike helpfully includes photos of all six species of these brightly colored nano fish.

“A Fish Named for a Champion: The Jack Dempsey Cichlid” by Steven Bieda ***Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, September 2025***

The Jack Dempsey cichlid is a well-known, large, aggressive Central American cichlid. It is quite colorful, with a body covered in bright blue spangles. What I liked about this article is that Steven provides some interesting detail about the boxer, yes a professional boxer, that this fish was named after. Dempsey was the world heavyweight champion from 1919–1926, and after retiring operated several high-end restaurants for nearly forty years. He died just short of his 88th birthday in 1983. The fish, like its namesake, is a big, tough fighter. “On the flip side, these beautiful fish are also very intelligent, and I’ve similarly known people who have kept one as a sort-of fish puppy. They recognize their servants, and are known for rushing to the familiar corner of the tank where they are normally fed.”

**“The Beautiful and Fascinating Miniature Jewels of the Genus *Dario*” by Mike Hellweg
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2025**

Nano tanks, and the small fish that inhabit them, are growing in popularity. Mike’s article deals with the nine species of fish in the genus *Dario*, native to India. These small, brightly colored fish look like a cross between a cichlid and an anabantid. Mike’s article presents great photos of all nine species. He deals mostly with the most popular fish, *Dario dario*. And these guys are tiny, with males not quite one inch in length and the females smaller. They should be housed in a heavily-planted tank, as the males can get a bit feisty with each other. Mike has had success with neutral water and no heater needed. Good luck getting them to eat prepared food: Mike recommends a variety of live foods sized for the fish’s mouth. They scatter their eggs in the plants. “With bright color, interesting behavior, and the fact they do very well in the popular nano tanks, the various *Dario* species are a perfect nano fish.”

**“Living in the Mud: Exploring Mudskippers With Zoologist Gianluca Polgar” interview conducted by *The Darter* Editorial Team
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2025**

This is an “everything you want to know about mudskippers” interview with noted zoologist Gianluca Polgar of Italy, who has been studying mudskippers for more than twenty years and operates [The Mudskipper](#) website. Mudskippers are fish that have adapted to highly variable conditions. Gianluca discusses their evolution, respiration, environment, species suitable for aquariums, conservation and basics for maintaining them.

**“Like a Fish Out of Water: Pearse’s Mudskipper” by Steve Coxon
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2025**

This article is a follow-up to the Polgar article reviewed above. Steve has successfully kept the small Pearse’s Mudskipper, *Periophthalmus novemradiatus*. “Probably the biggest challenge is creating mud—a long-term care requirement too often ignored by hobbyists.” Steve explains and includes a very clear illustration how he uses a pump and separate 5 gallon bucket above the 20-gallon tank to create tides. It’s very clever: a pump moves the water from the aquarium up to a bucket, and an overflow returns the water to the tank. This maintains low tide in the tank for six hours. Then a timer shuts the pump off, and a separate hole in the bottom of the tank including a valve set to almost off, returns water to the tank to mimic high tide for six hours. A matten filter keeps the mud and sand in the aquarium from clogging the pump. “A tight fitting lid keeps both humidity and mudskippers in the enclosure. Mudskippers can climb not only décor but also glass—and they will escape, given the opportunity.” Steve includes directions on creating mud (note: *not* sand!) and enough salt to bring the salinity to 1.010. He feeds them live fruit flies, pinhead crickets and blackworms. The tank appears to be about 10% pump/tidal, 25% water and 65% mud. This is an essential article for anyone wanting to keep mudskippers.

Reprints and reviews:
None this month.

CNYAS Volunteers cleaning out Wayne Murray's Fishroom Preparing for the CNYAS Swap Meet





UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 8,	Board Meeting
Oct 12,	ARVAS Auction
Oct 15,	General Meeting
Nov 12,	Board Meeting
Nov 15,	CNYAS Albany Shop Hop
Nov 19,	General Meeting

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and are open to all members who would like to attend.



2025-2026 Schedule

Sept: Ron Fabiny	Oct: Doug Hillman
Nov: Mike Flintrop	Dec: Mary & Lenny Futterman
Jan: Chip Alexander	Feb: Clifford Crain
Mar: Bill Newell	April: David Pomeranz
May: Bob & Sue Kotcher	June: TBD

CNYAS CLUB MEETINGS

Each monthly meeting consists of :

- Short business meeting; program (slide show, movie, guest speaker, etc.).
- Break (refreshments/social gathering)
- Bowl Show
- Mini auction of member items (plants, fish, equipment, etc).
- Raffle (equipment, books, food, magazine subscriptions, etc.).
- Question and discussion session.



CNYAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Witnesses for the BAP and AHAP Programs

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Ron Fabiny	BAP	AHAP
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David Pomeranz		AHAP
Homer (516) 592-9940		

Central New York Aquarium Society



CNYAS is a non-profit educational organization with a goal of furthering the study of all forms of aquatic life. In order to achieve this, we promote the interest in, and encourage the breeding of, aquatic life. Through the exchange of ideas and distribution of information concerning the hobby, we will advance our members' knowledge of the hobby, providing valuable information to those who seek it.

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CNYAS has made our archives of past published Reflectors available online to all members. They go all the way back to 1976, to the inception of our club. The link below will take you to the archive. Enjoy your trip through our fishy past!

<https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors>

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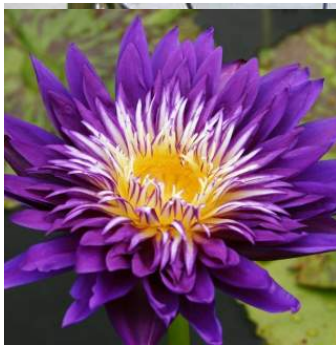


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