



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

November 2025, Volume 50, Number 3

CNYAS FOOD DRIVE

Donations to Benefit
The Food Bank of Central New York

At our November Meeting
Wednesday, November 19th



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 November 19, 2025
(@ 7:00 pm)

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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

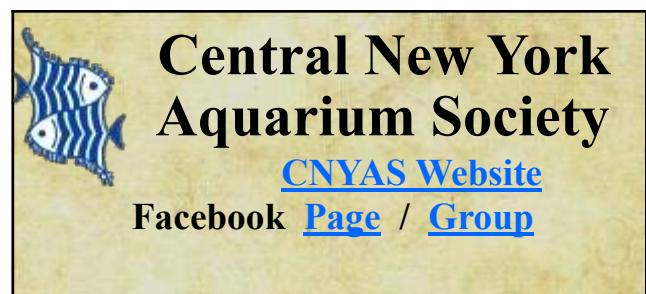
President:	Ron Fabiny CNYASPres@gmail.com
Vice President:	Ron Alexander CNYAS.VP@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mary Teelin
Treasurer:	Bob Kotcher CNYASTreas@gmail.com
Editor:	Doug Hillman Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

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Clifford Crain
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WAP: Clifford Crain
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Assistant Secretary: Sue Kotcher
Hosp. & Refreshments: Mary Teelin
Swap Meet: Doug Hillman
Webmaster: Tom Garafalo





CNYAS Food Drive



Donations to Benefit



The Food Bank of Central New York

**The Central New York Aquarium Society Food Drive
at our November Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

Please bring, as a donation, non-perishable food items to our November meeting to help feed individuals and families in our local community.

We suggest the Following Preferred items:

**Canned Tuna, Cereal, Oatmeal, Canned Beans,
Dried Beans or Legumes, Soups & Stews, Peanut Butter,
Canned or Dried Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Pasta, Rice & Grains**





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ron Fabiny

President's Message November 2025

I was very happy with the turn out for our meeting and the interest we are receiving. I would like to thank Randy for the excellent presentation that he put on. I am thinking of trying to breed Anabantoids starting next year.

Ron's working on our speaker at this time and we will update that information on Facebook and our web site when we get it. This is also November and we will have the great turkey raffle as always. Hope to see all there.

One last thing for our 50th banquet at the end of the year, please send Lenny any music requests you would like to hear and any photos of club events. We have decided on a T-shirt design for our 50th and I am hoping to have it available at the December meeting for Christmas. If anyone needs a size larger than 2X please notify Mary or Lenny.

Ron

Note from Membership Chair: Stefani Pritchard

Welcome new members:

Mary Guthrie, Shelly Holdridge and Judy & Tom Newton

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 to CNYAS:

- in person by cash or check 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 status or dues.

This Month's Presentation

By: Shelbie Schatz

Owner of Fins N Flora

Finsnflora.com
Follow her of Facebook



Fins N Flora

My name is Shelbie Schatz, I'm 32 years old and I started keeping fish well over 25 years ago. I started off with just a simple 20 gallon community tank when I was in grade school and I had tanks on and off until I went to college and ended up taking a break for about 7 years. I always really enjoyed aquariums and decided during COVID that I was going to jump back into it and really focus on breeding, learning genetics and producing high quality fish. Well after I did some research, got a couple racks set up and running, I started with 8 different guppy strains and just as many shrimp colonies. That quickly led to the problem of what to do with all the extra fish and shrimp. I started looking to see what my options were and by chance, I stumbled across the flyer for an auction in Olean NY. I decided to take up some fish and see how these auctions worked and if they would even be worth the time and effort it took to get everything ready. Turns out, people really liked what I brought up and it snowballed and turned into attending several auctions, swaps and shows every year and I have no intention of stopping. Guppies, shrimp and mollies were my starting fish but I have dabbled in several other species along the way. I've changed up strains, decided on new species, called it quits on species, rearranged tanks multiple times and it's all been worth every minute. I currently have 23 tanks up and running with several different breeding projects including bristlenose plecos, reticulated hillstream loaches, platies, mollies, shrimp, several strains of guppies and more. My ultimate goal is to take this hobby and somehow mold it into something bigger and better. What is bigger and better? I can't say for certain yet ideas have been thrown around and those could turn into plans!

Albany Shop Hop...And More!

Join us **Saturday, November 15** when we're off to Albany to visit fish stores and a fish room. We start off with a visit to Fred Behrmann's fish room in Athens, NY. Fred, a well-known and knowledgeable aquarist, is an expert killifish guy who also has experience with many other kinds of tropical fish. After that it's lunch at Don Juan's Mexican Grill and Cantina. We have found from previous shop hops that socializing at the lunch stop is an important and enjoyable component of the trip.

Then it's up the road to our first fish store: Eddie's Aquarium in Latham, NY. We next go to our second store, Buckley's Fishroom in Ballston Spa. Finally, it's back down to Albany to see what Benson's Pet Centre has for us.

We expect the visits to the fish room, lunch and three fish stores will take all day. If you can't spare that much time, you could return to CNY after the Buckley's Fishroom visit, expected to end in mid-afternoon.

We will be meeting at the Thruway Park and Ride lot next to the International Boxing Hall of Fame at the end of the exit ramp for Thruway exit 34 in Canastota. The carpool to Albany will leave at 9:00 AM.

If you are interested in what promises to be a very enjoyable Saturday, please contact Doug Hillman at editor.cnyas@gmail.com.

Schedule, November 15, 2025

- **Meet at the Thruway Park and Ride lot**, Thruway exit 34, Canastota
- **9:00 Depart for Fred Behrmann's house**
- **11:30 Arrive Fred Behrmann's house** for fishroom visit
- **12:15 Depart for lunch at Don Juan's Mexican Grill and Cantina** (690 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham 12110)
- **1:00 Arrive for lunch**
- **2:15 Depart for Eddie's Aquarium Centre** (1254 Loudon Road, Cohoes 12047)
- **2:30 Arrive at Eddie's Aquarium Centre** (store)
- **3:15 Depart Eddie's for Buckley's Fishroom** (store), 2031 Doubleday Ave., Ballston Spa
- **3:45 Arrive at Buckley's Fishroom** (store)
- **4:15 Depart for Benson's Pet Center**, 197 Wolf Road, Albany
- **4:45 Arrive Benson's Pet Center** (store)
- **5:15 Depart for Canastota** Thruway exit 34
- **7:00 Arrive exit 34 Thruway Park and Ride lot**



BOARD MEETING

The October board meeting was held at Doug Hillman's house Pictured from left to right:

Ken Lindblom, Honey and President Ron Fabiny

Photo by Sue Kotcher



CNYAS Board meeting

10/8/2025

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

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;33 memberships total. Can get rid of the paper membership as long as the PDF is backed up per Board.
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. . Can get an auction flyer together soon- Chip to work on. Auction locked in for 4th Sat in April 2026.
7. Bowl show- see Reflector. Ribbons ordered. Orange and Black fish
8. Webmaster- Tom doing a great job at updating.
9. Exchange editor- still getting articles. Cliff doing a great job. Cliff made an exchange editor email.
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. 14 members submitted orders, 53 items. Many different fish and plants ordered. Would need to be picked up in Rochester. Club will pay \$50 for shipping. Cliff to be reimbursed for gas, tolls, parking from members who ordered (10 % discount).Cliff to pick them up the day before the meeting next week.
4. 50th Anniversary of CNYAS in 2026. Sue and Mike to head up a committee for celebration.
5. Len posted a potential laptop to purchase on group text for Board to see.
6. Ron to get VFW contract signed for 2026 Auction.

7. Much appreciation to all who helped clean out Wayne's fish room.
8. Program- Chip working on program, Nov to be Randy Suefert . Oct to be Theil.
9. Picnic was great success, thanks as always for the Fabiny's for hosting!
10. SWAP meet Oct 4th- Chip to get flyers. Very successful SWAP meet! Great attendance and good profit for the club! Bill made motion and Sue 2nd to give Doris 100\$ from the SWAP meet from Wayne's fish room. Passed. Doug to sort out what's left from SWAP meet.
11. Len got lamination signs. Ron is distributing.
12. 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.
13. Shop hop on Nov 15th in Albany area. Meet at Canastota thruway car pool. Going to 3 shops

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. Doug said Empire Aquatics would be interested in doing a fish show.
4. David- A question for people to submit answers to in the Reflector might be fun. David to pose the questions and collect the answers and get to Doug to be posted in the Reflector.
5. Upcoming board meetings-
 - NOV- Mike
 - DEC- Len and Mary
 - JAN- Chip
 - FEB- Clifford
 - MAR- Bill
 - APR- David
 - MAY- Bob and Sue
6. 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. David working on 50th Anniversary tee shirt design. Design almost done. Sally has lots of historical information from the early days of the club, Sue to write an article. Selection 5 for the menu. Getting the soda bar too. Will be a cash bar too. Having a photo booth. Mike to continue taking about the early reflectors. Pictures will be in one part of the room. Banner to be set up as a background. Ron to look into getting a stand. Also 3 posters of deceased members, sponsors and local stores. Prices for boards- \$140 a piece. Len to ask if anyone can take pictures for us. Len looking for pictures for the slide show. Len to organize songs. Members to give suggestions for music. Doug to ask in the Reflector. Cost for banquet to be \$15 for all past and current members. Awards program. ? Open mike at banquet. Deadline for music, photos ect. Possible videos from old members.
7. Doug to put an ad in the want ads for Reflector for Sigi.
8. Chip to see about making a list about who is breeding what fish?
9. There is a FB page and a group, do we need both? Ron to look at the page to see if we can get rid of it.
10. Meeting started 1905, ended 2040

10/15/25 CNYAS General meeting

1. General Business meeting
2. Great program on Anabantids by Randy Seufert, President of the TFCEC. Thanks Randy!
3. Great mini auction!

My Halloween Tale of Terror

By: Bill Cody

A week ago Wednesday I pulled maintenance on my 4ft x 2ft x 2ft African cichlid tank and said to myself, this tank looks magnificent! Lo and behold Murphy's Law was about to humble my hubris.



Tank before noticing the leak

Days later my wife complained of a strong cat urine smell emanating by my tank in the downstairs den. I tackled the wet spot with enzymes and chemicals, but the foul smell would not abate. Sadly, I was on that river in Africa de-Nile concerning the real issue at hand. That Sunday at work, my wife called me to tell me she had good news and bad news. Good news it wasn't my geriatric cat's bladder; bad news was the 120-gallon tank had a tell-tale drip, drip, drip. The horror!!!!!!



Draining the Tank

I began making calls, who had a tank of the 4ft x 2ft dimensions? Anyone? One shop called back and said they would put a rush order in and a new tank would arrive mid-week. Hooray! Wednesday in prep I emptied the tank, emptied a ton of dirty gravel and jammed all my fish into an already crowded 90g tank. Friday, I had my 2 brawny sons help. Old tank out the door, new tank ready to roll. No wait! Does the new tank look like its of a different size? Nooooo, I was sent a 4ft x 54inches x18inches tank. UGH! We put the new tank on the old stand (new location in basement on concrete), the new tank was taller but not as wide. Is that an issue that could lead to an even greater fiasco? I don't know and don't wish to find out. Anyways, no turning back, I need a tank asap so I can't return it so I bought a jack to support the middle of the stand while my son added other supports. The tank is now filled and some of the fish have been returned looking good. Now I'm only left with the lingering smell that I hope will finally cease and all will be right in my fish world.



New Tank!!!



An Auction Report Two-Fer!

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

ARVAS Auction: “I’ll Be Home in Time for Dinner”

This Spring my fish were busy spawning. Fry witnessed and BAP forms turned in, it’s now time to unload the parents and fry to make room for new adventures. Auctions are the easiest way to accomplish this, and there are several auctions in the Fall within a four hour drive of Syracuse. Disposing of the cichlids won’t be a major problem, as there are two auctions showcasing cichlids on the horizon: the New England Cichlid Association in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and the Ohio Cichlid Association in Strongsville, Ohio. Included in the batch of fish to be disposed of are the final two livebearers I spawned in order to complete my livebearer BAP class. Normally I would take these to the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County auction, but The Chief and I found ourselves in Austin, Texas that weekend celebrating the first birthday of our youngest granddaughter. There were schedule conflicts with all but one of the other non-cichlid auctions (hey, retired life is a busy life), so I chose to attend the Allegheny River Valley Aquarium Society auction in Olean, New York.

The ARVAS auction is not one that is well attended by CNYAS members. In fact, when I asked around, I could not locate a single other member who has been there. Well, I went for the first time, and since the ARVAS auction is not well-known in CNYAS circles, I thought members would appreciate hearing about it.

As with any big auction, I know from experience not to wait until the morning of the auction to catch the fish, especially when the auction is a three hour drive away. I prep for these auctions by setting up a portable table, laying out all the needed supplies such as bags, rubber bands, labels, tape, scissors, pen and styro. I do water changes the two days leading up to the bagging day and remember not to feed the fish to be sold. For fish that are time-consuming to catch because their tank is full of rocks, I move them the day before the auction into bare tanks where they would be easier to catch and bag. Having completed all this prep work, I was able to fill 11 bags of livebearers and cichlids in about two hours on the Sunday morning of auction day. (It helps that I’m a “morning person” who typically gets out of bed at 4 AM. On the downside, it’s a job staying awake after 9 PM.)

The three hour drive to Olean was actually enjoyable, with no traffic and the colors of the leaves at their best. The route is straight-forward: Thruway to Geneva, country road south to Penn Yan and skirting the east side of Keuka Lake (one of the Finger Lakes) and picking up I-86/route 17 at Bath, NY. All you see from Bath to Olean is trees and mountains. And no traffic.

Arriving in Olean and after navigating numerous roundabouts/traffic circles (I think Olean has more than the entire city of Syracuse), I found the auction location, the John J. Ash Community Center. The first thing I noticed was a lack of parking, despite my having arrived early. After unloading my stuff in a designated loading zone, I asked where I should park. I was told to park in a restaurant parking lot across the street and to ignore the numerous scary “No parking! Violators will be towed!” warning signs.

ARVAS being one of the smaller aquarium clubs, I was not surprised to find that the auction room itself was a smaller version of the one CNYAS uses at the Mattydale VFW. ARVAS uses the “ten table” numbering system but requires only two tables per number (20 tables total) while the CNYAS auction requires three (30 total). This is why I was able to tell The Chief that I would be home in time for dinner despite the three hour drive.



The John J. Ash Community Center



The auction room prior to the start of the auction



The Community Center's small, crowded lot



The community center kitchen which ARVAS kept fully staffed and busy

I felt right at home at this auction. The ARVAS members all wore their blue ARVAS shirts, and I think the whole membership pitched in to help, as there were a lot of blue shirts! The auctioneers were the well-known Randy Seufert and “Wild Bill” Wroblewski duo. There was no shortage of runners, and as usual I volunteered for that job to stave off boredom and get some exercise after being cooped up in a car for three hours.

One difference compared to CNYAS: while ARVAS uses the “ten table” method, it doesn’t select the tables following table two in random order, as CNYAS does. Instead, bags are selected in strict table number order. Not surprisingly, table 10, which was auctioned last, had some of the lower value items. Speaking of values, there were three bags of adult axolotls in the auction, and they all went for more than one hundred dollars. All of my *Ameca splendens* and *Limia islae* livebearers sold (mission accomplished!), and I was overall satisfied with what I got for my fish, realizing that this was a smaller auction.



Wilma and Wayne Chesnut

I counted about 80 people in the crowd, and most of them hung around for three hours. The auction concluded after about 4½ hours.

I met the ARVAS president, John Clark and a number of members praised the hard work of Wilma and Wayne Chesnut. Wayne managed the cashbox at the auction, and Wilma was a dynamo, doing whatever needed to be done during the day.

The ARVAS auction is always held on the day before the Columbus Day holiday. Mark your calendar for 2026, enjoy the beautiful drive and meet the friendly members of the Allegheny River Valley Aquarium Society.

NECA Auction: “Bring (or Make) Lotsa Money”

The New England Cichlid Association holds its auction at the Windsor Locks, Connecticut VFW. Since it's a four hour drive from Syracuse, I had to make sure all my prep work was completed the day before in order for me to arrive by the 10:00 start time. It helped that the change to standard time occurred that morning, giving me an extra hour to bag the fish. The drive is straight-forward and scenic, taking the NYS Thruway to the Mass Turnpike to I-91 south into Connecticut. I ran into heavy fog through the Mohawk Valley with 27° temps.

The hall is considerably smaller than any of the ones we use in upstate New York, and vendors rent space along the back and one of the side walls. The other side holds the auction items. To fit everyone in, the chairs are close together with limited legroom, no tables, and some of the audience stood in the back. NECA utilized a food truck to provide sustenance for the bidders.



NECA auction venue, smaller than what we see in New York



One of the vendors. Kinda like having a mini swap meet with your auction



NECA used a food truck to keep everyone fed

Unlike the upstate New York clubs, NECA does not utilize the “ten table” auction method. Instead, sellers log on to the website auction.fish to register their fish. The website assigns lot numbers on a first-come, first-served basis. An advantage of this auction is that sellers can attach photos of their fish, which are displayed on a screen when the lot is being bid. Sellers place their bags on tables marked “Tanganyikan,” “Malawi,” “American,” “All other” and “Plants.” All buyers run a tab, so the runners don’t have to handle cash or chits. (Yes, I volunteered to run at this auction.) Since the winning buyer’s bid is entered online at the time of sale, the buyer’s purchase total is complete when it’s time to cash out. This speeds up the payment process. The NECA people I talked to were very enthusiastic about the free auction.fish process.



Auction audience, with money to spend!

While a typical upstate New York auction would have maybe 5% cichlids, I estimated the NECA auction featured about 25%–35% cichlids (and no dry goods). One thing I noticed right away was that the prices were much higher than what we see in the typical NY auction. For example, I was pleased that my six *Julidochromis marlieri* fetched \$70. I bought a bag of *Amatitlania myrnae* fry, which I’ve never seen at a NY auction, and a bag of assassin snails for a reason you can guess. Prices stayed high for about four hours. Due to the long drive, I left about an hour before the auction ended. I estimate the total auction length was 5–5½ hours.



And here's what was on the menu

This was my second time to attend the NECA auction. It’s a whole different cast of characters compared to what we see at our New York auctions, but they are the same enthusiastic fish nuts that we are. It’s a worthwhile trip if you want to buy or sell cichlids, especially breeds that are seldom seen.



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 Oct 2025 Reflector and points published in Nov 2025 Reflector

Name	Status	November Reflector	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill Award	75	232	2,691
Spahn	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	1,276
Kotcher	Pen & Quill Award	25	40	891
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	30	180	450
Rademacher	Author's Award	0	0	215
Futterman	Author's Award	0	85	195
Rafferty	Participant	0	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	Participant	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	0	20	30
Valdez	Participant	0	25	25
Lindblom	Participant	0	15	15

Submissions appearing in the October 2025 Reflector:



Crain, "Fish Store Visit: Aquatic Haven," article 20 points, 7 photos, 35 points = 55 points total

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #38," 1 article, 20 points

Hillman, "CNYAS Volunteers Cleaning Out Wayne Murray's Fishroom," 6 photos, 30 points

Kotcher, "CNYAS: The Earliest Days 1976," article, 20 points, 1 photo, 5 points = 25 points total



BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman - Michael Flintrop
Email: michaelflintrop@yahoo.com

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



BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

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

YTD Scores:

Doug Hillman:	104	Points
Bill Newell:	22	Points
Chloe Gibbs:	21	Points
Denise Baird:	18	Points
Debbie Walcott	1	Point
David Pomeranz	1	Point

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 11 entries for the November Bowl Show!

- A: *Poecilia latipinna* (Orange Male Balloon Molly) – Denise Baird – 1 point
- B: *Poecilia latipinna* (Orange and Black Male Balloon Molly) – Denise Baird
- C: *Xiphophorus helleri* (Female Swordtail) – Third place – Doug Hillman – 10 points
- D: *Puntius conchonius* (Gold Rosy Barb) – Doug Hillman
- E: *Xiphophorus maculatus* (Platy) – Second place – Doug Hillman – 16 points
- F: *Pangio kuhli* (Kuhli Loach) – First place – Chloe Gibbs – 21 points

OPEN:

- A: *Boraras maculatus* (Dwarf Rasbora) – Bill Newell
- B: *Hyphessobrycon flammeus* (Flame Tetra) – Bill Newell
- C: *Corydoras* sp. (Gold Laser Cory) – Second place – Denise Baird – 16 points
- D: *Hydrophlox chrosomus* (Rainbow Shiner) – Third place – Bill Newell – 11 points
- E: *Poecilia reticulata* (Pink Grass Guppy) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points





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



Name	Points	Species	Name	Points	Species	
Grand Master						
Spahn*	4,015	288	Hillman	90	7	
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14			Yard	95	9	
Pitzeruse, W*	1,230	87	Wisneski	65	7	
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14			Taylor	50	6	
Fabiny*	940	68	Participants			
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14			Flintrop	40	4	
Master						
Van Camp*	465	36	Rademacher	35	2	
1,7,8,9,11,14			Janus	25	4	
Lee*	575	42	Smith	20	1	
3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14			Additions:			
Expert						
Senior						
Snead*	460	26	<i>Anubias barteri</i> (doubling)	20 pts		
2,4,7,10,14			<i>Anubias barteri</i> (flowering)	20 pts		
Lioto	285	21	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> (doubling)	5 pts		
Aquatic			<i>Lemna minor</i> (doubling)	5 pts		
Newell	215	21	<i>Lomariopsis lineata</i> (doubling)	10 pts		
6			<i>Microsorum pteropus</i> (doubling)	15 pts		
Kotcher*	185	14	<i>Najas guadalupensis</i> (doubling)	10 pts		
6,10,14			<i>Vallisneria americana</i> (runner)	5 pts		
Futterman*	180	16	Sue Kotcher			
Beeman	190	19	<i>Cryptocoryne wendtii</i> (runner)	15 pts		
3,4,6,7			<i>Vallisneria americana</i> (runner)	5 pts		

by: Bill Newell

Anubias barteri flowering
in Doug Hillman's fish room





FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #39 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.

**“Breeding Zebra Danios the Easy Way” by Chuck Bremer
*The Darter Mini-Mag, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., October 2025***

Chuck had no problems spawning livebearers and some cichlids, but he shied away from spawning egg scatterers because of the reputation they have of their fry being so small, they’re hard to feed. He put well-conditioned adults in a bucket with only an inch of water covering several layers of marbles. The low water level “prevents non-spawning adults from catching the eggs after they are laid.” After the adults spawned, they were removed and the water in the bucket was poured into a 5½ gallon aquarium containing well aged water and daphnia. The daphnia (and other micro-organisms in the tank) were sparingly fed baby food. After a week, the free-swimming fry were visible, and after they ate the baby daphnia they were removed to their own tank to prevent them from finishing off the entire daphnia colony. (*The Darter Mini-Mag* is available free of charge to anyone; just go to the Missouri Aquarium Society web page and sign up.)

**“Blackworms: Steak for Tropical Fish” by Jules Birnbaum
*Modern Aquarium, Greater City Aquarium Society, October 2025***

Jules ends his article: “Live Blackworms are the best food I have found for my tropical fish. They are the steak of all fish foods.” Jules feeds his fish flake foods and reserves black worms for a three-times-a-week treat. Jules proves there is more than one way to successfully cultivate blackworms: he keeps his in 12" x 8" shallow flat container and rinses it daily with cold water. I keep mine in an aquarium with a sponge filter. Either way, “When maintained properly they can live in the container for several months.” I definitely agree with Jules that “your fish have a pinhead for a brain, yet when the worms enter the tank water, they go crazy for them!” Starter blackworm cultures are available at several local fish stores in Central New York.

**“An Aquarium Journey” by Jean-Michel Doire
*Modern Aquarium, Greater City Aquarium Society, October 2025***

OK, I’m a sucker for reading about other people’s setups. Jean-Michel’s is so different from mine. He was looking for a large tank for his living room, but the tanks the big box stores sell weren’t shaped the way he wanted and came with flimsy stands. “These stands, made of MDF wood, don’t inspire me, first because water and MDF don’t do well together. Plus the look was hardly enticing for a central piece of furniture.” (Readers take note: stay away from aquarium stands made of MDF!) He ended up getting a 145 gallon high tank with sump, stand and light from Aquadream USA in Washington state. The big disadvantage of large tanks is, they’re heavy as all get out. Jean-Michel lucked out: “The delivery truck left 2 big crates...for a total weight of 400 lbs on the curb. I was lucky to have workers in the basement at the time of delivery, so they helped setting up the aquarium in the living room (4 strong men necessary!).” After plumbing the sump and adding lights, he added a 3D background held on by strong magnets. (I’ve always wondered about the water that gets behind the background: does it turn stagnant and affect the overall water quality of the aquarium?) Before adding the fish, he used the trick of cycling the tank with “dirty” filter media from an established tank. He’s taking a step-by-step approach to adding fish.

“Product Review: Betta Leaf” by Stephen Sica
Modern Aquarium, Greater City Aquarium Society, November 2025

OK, I'll admit that I did not know that bettas like to rest on leaves near the water's surface. Several manufacturers, including CNYAS supporter Zoo Med, make plastic betta leaves that are held in place with “plastic suction cups that last a few weeks.” Stephen “replaced two with Zoo Med's magnetic Mag-Clips that [he] had in his spare parts box.” He “used silicone glue and needle-nose pliers to force the nose of the leaf into the magnetic lip.” My experience agrees with Stephen's; suction cups are pretty worthless in an aquarium while magnets work much better. So do bettas actually recline on these plastic leaves? Stephen found that some do, and some don't. The leaves are pretty cheap, so you may want to try them.

Reprints and reviews:

“In Defense of Frozen Bloodworms” by Clifford Crain, *Reflector*, March 2025, reprinted in *Modern Aquarium*, Greater City Aquarium Society, November 2025.

By: Bill Newell

*Prionobrama filigera (Glass Bloodfin Tetra),
Vallisneria americana, and Lemna minor in Bill Newell's fishroom.*



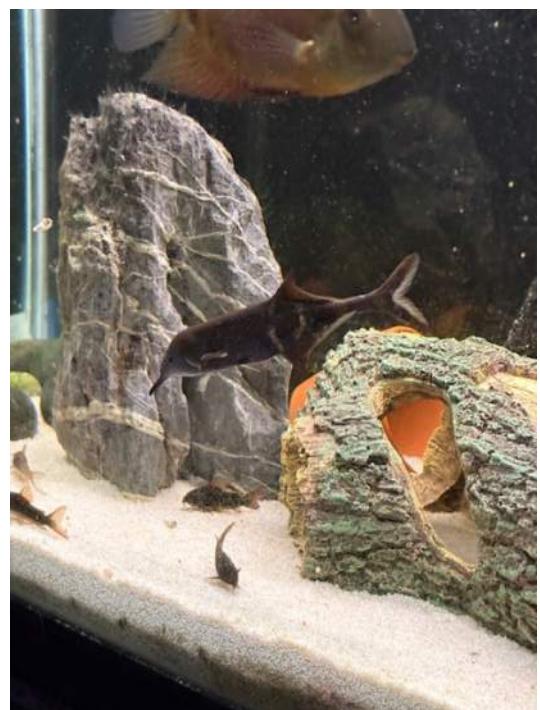
CLUB MEMBERS FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Mike Flintrop: Hoping 3rd times a Charm

Keyhole Cichlids brood No.3, Day 7



Marc Tuori





Group Buy Report

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

In my capacity as the CNYAS Exchange Editor, I read all the publications that other clubs send us. I noticed that the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County occasionally sponsors a group buy: the club selects a vendor, members tell the person in charge of the group buy what they want, the orders are combined and submitted to the vendor, the buyers pay for what they ordered and the club picks up the shipping cost. In May 2025, for example, the ACLC group buy vendor was Brine Shrimp Direct. I thought it would be interesting to try a group buy as a CNYAS member benefit. I volunteered to facilitate this.

Our first experience with group buy is now complete and it was, well, quite an experience. We ordered fish, plants and filters from First Coast Tropical Fish in Middleburg, Florida, just south of Jacksonville. We were impressed by their reasonable prices. Our purchases were made from First Coast's stock list of October 1, with the order to arrive in New York on the day of our October meeting, Wednesday, October 15.

First Coast ships Delta Air Cargo because it's fast and a lot cheaper than next day air service. The downside is that the buyer has to come to the airport to pick up the shipment. No problem, right? I live only 10–15 minutes from Syracuse Hancock International Airport. But several weeks prior to the ship date, First Coast discovered that the Delta Air Cargo at Hancock does not accept live animal shipments. First Coast would have to ship to Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport.

Fourteen members placed a total of 53 orders, amounting to \$1,015 excluding shipping. I kept track of the orders on a spreadsheet. By the time we placed the order, the total had shrunk to \$820 due to stock-outs (fish that were available at the time of the October 1 stock list but sold out by the time we submitted the order prior to the ship date). I placed the order and paid with my personal credit card.

On Thursday, October 9, First Coast sent me the booking summary. This is the paperwork I would need in order to track and pick up the shipment. It stated that the shipment would come in three large (28"x19"x17") boxes and one small (17"x17"x11") box. (The fish were in the three large boxes and the plants were in the smaller box.) It also stated that the total weight was 75 pounds.

The shipment left Jacksonville on Tuesday for JFK airport in New York City. It left on time from JFK to Rochester. I had a tracking number, and when I saw that it had left JFK, I left for Rochester. Having never been to the Rochester Airport, I entered Delta Air Cargo in Google Maps, and it pointed to one of the terminals. That couldn't be right. On airport grounds Google Maps identified the Southwest Airlines Air Cargo building, but not the actual Delta Air Cargo location. I called Delta Air Cargo, and a very pleasant representative, who was not familiar with the Rochester airport but had instructions on getting to the Delta Air Cargo location, explained where it was. Getting to the building involves turning into what appears to be the back entrance to the airport and going through a tunnel. Wait a sec, I don't see any tunnels. But yes, you actually do drive through a tunnel under one of the runways! Turns out Delta Air Cargo is housed in a small part of the Southwest Airlines Air Cargo building.

Upon arriving, I showed my paperwork and driver's license to the Delta representative. She had me pull around to the loading dock where I lifted the boxes into the back of my Subaru Outback. That shipment sure did feel a lot heavier than 75 pounds though.

Fellow CNYAS member Joe Marascalchi called me before I left for the airport and volunteered to assist me with the sorting of the bags. I hadn't planned on anyone helping me, but wow, Joe was a godsend. After I brought the boxes in and set them on my ping pong table, the first thing we did when Joe arrived was weigh the boxes, as I was suspicious of the 75 pounds total weight amount on the booking summary. Turns out each of the big boxes weighed 55 pounds; that's a total of over 165 pounds!

I printed out everyone's order and laid the pages out on the ping pong table. Each of the fish boxes had a heat pack in them. We opened the first box and were dismayed to find that the fish in the first bag were dead. The water did not feel cold or warm, just room temperature, so I don't think temperature did the fish in. As we unloaded the boxes, we placed the bags with live fish on that person's printed order on the ping pong table, and we put the bags with dead fish back in the styro. If the bag had a mix of dead and living, we filled an empty bag with clean water from one of my tanks and put the living fish in that bag. I made notes on the fish that arrived dead, and Joe helped me take photos of every bag of dead fish. After all the fish and plants were accounted for and sorted, we put the fish bags in large paper bags and stapled the buyer's order sheet to the bag, and put them in the two remaining large styros. I took the purchases to the CNYAS meeting, distributed the bags to the buyers and collected money from them. The buyers paid for the live fish only.



Group buy purchases ready to be distributed to CNYAS member buyers



Three big fish boxes and a plant box on my ping pong table

I contacted First Coast about the DOA and followed up the next day with a spreadsheet detailing what arrived alive and what arrived DOA. I also emailed him all the photos I took of the DOA bags. The First Coast owner told me he would reimburse me for the DOA, and to his great credit, he did. As I mentioned above, I don't believe temperature was the reason for the losses. I'm suspecting the fish were just in the bags too long.

This was our first time trying a group buy. I will be discussing with the CNYAS board the future of the group buy member benefit.

CLUB MEMBERS FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Photos by: David Pomeranz

A range Pleco in front of its favorite hide



A Crystal Red shrimp colony in a 5 gallon



A school of White Cloud Mountain minnows in a rocky stream tank





UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 12, Board Meeting
Nov 15, CNYAS Albany Shop Hop
Nov 19, General Meeting
Dec 10, Board Meeting
Dec 17, 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

Sue Kotcher	BAP	AHAP
Clay (315) 622-9668		
Ron Fabiny	BAP	AHAP
Clay (315) 440-5806		
Len Futterman	BAP	AHAP
East Syracuse (315) 560-0955		
Herschel Beeman	BAP	
Chittenango (315) 663-8694		
Bill Newell		AHAP
Liverpool (315) 440-9513		
Mike Flintrop	BAP	
Manlius (315) 415-1471		
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.

[CNYAS is now on Facebook!](#)

**The Central New York Aquarium Society
would like to Thank these Companies and Individuals for their
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Low Tide Corals Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/1027502091/0416af01a2>



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For information:

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 email editor.cnyas@gmail.com**

REFLECTOR ARCHIVES

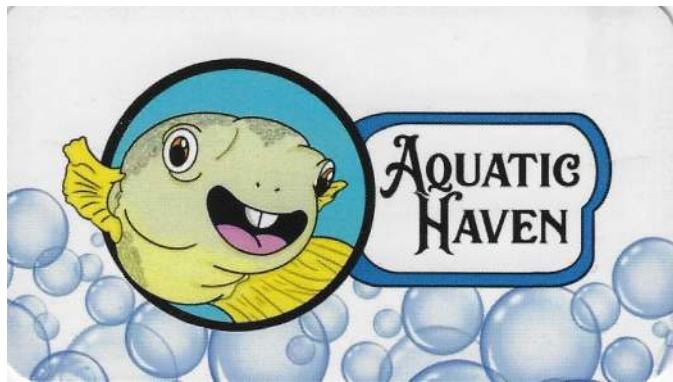
CNYAS has made our archives of past published Reflectors available online to all members. They go all the way back to 1976, to the inception of our club. The link below will take you to the archive. Enjoy your trip through our fishy past!

<https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors>

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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