



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

January 2026, Volume 50, Number 5

This Month's Presentation by: Mike Lucas

"BUTTERFLIES IN THE WATER" DISCOVERING HYDROPHLOX SHINERS



Hydrophlox – from the Greek for water and flame

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 January 21, 2026
@ 7:00 pm

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- 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

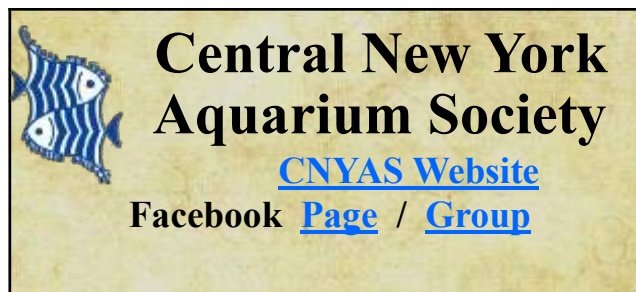
President:	Ron Fabiny CNYASPres@gmail.com
Vice President:	Ron Alexander CNYAS.VP@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mary Teelin
Treasurer:	Bob Kotcher CNYASTreas@gmail.com
Editor:	Doug Hillman Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Michael Flintrop
Clifford Crain
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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
Email: exchange.cnyas@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary: Sue Kotcher
Hosp. & Refreshments: Mary Teelin
Swap Meet: Doug Hillman
Webmaster: Tom Garafalo
Reflector Proofreader: Debbie Walcott





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ron Fabiny

Presidents Message January 2026

Hello all,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Years.
I would like to thank everyone that donated to our family that was in need at last month's meeting.
It was very generous of everyone and greatly appreciated.

As we start this New Year, we have a lot going on.
April we have our annual auction and in June we will have our 50th anniversary banquet.
Details will follow in the coming months.

This month's speaker will be Mike Lucas.
Mike's presentation is titled "BUTTERFLIES IN THE WATER" discovering Hydrophlox Shiners.
Mike is an outstanding speaker, and I am very excited to see his presentation.
I hope to see everyone at this month's meeting, Be safe.

Ron

50th Anniversary T-shirts are here!

Shirts are available at our regular meetings

Cost: \$20.00 each (additional \$2 for 2X or larger)





This Month's Speaker: Mike Lucas

Presenting: "Butterflies in the water"

An eye opening, revelation of a great group of native shiners, perfect for the aquarium, the subgenus *Hydrophlox* which includes the rainbow shiner and several others.



Mike Lucas Bio:

Appreciating, collecting, keeping and breeding fishes began as a young child under the influences of my parents and uncle who were all tropical fish keepers and breeders. My favorite pastime was sitting in my uncle's fish room reading TFH and Aquarium Magazine articles on expeditions all over the world. Not imagining that I might ever get to the Amazon, I started sampling my local water bodies and found our natives were as amazing as any tropicals with the benefit of no head hunters to contend with.

Eventually I discovered and joined NANFA, shocked that there were others keeping natives. I'm currently the Eastern NY NANFA Rep. and have contributed several articles for "American Currents" our group's publication. I'm also the president of UNYKA, Upstate NY Killifish Association and member of several national and regional Aquarium Associations. I've collected in most states east of the Rockies.

Finally, on my retirement, I fulfilled a lifelong dream of a collecting expedition to the wild Amazon. While I enjoy the great diversity of aquatic life worldwide, I remain amazed at what can be found in our native waters and how relatively obscure our native fishes seem to be.



BOARD MEETING

CNYAS Board meeting

12/12/2025

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

1. Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer-Report and budget.
2. AHAP-see Reflector, Issues with data base, Bill working on fixing it, working on updates to AHAP rules.
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 memberships; 51 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. FW has a digital board to advertise the auction. Ron has signed contract. Check to see if we have enough paperwork/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. Rasboras and danios.
8. Webmaster- Tom doing a great job at updating. Most recent handbook on the website. Potential to have articles posted to the website (Bill).
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! 5% off code for Brine Shrimp Direct in Reflector.

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 and 3rd is 20.
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. There were fish that were DOA. Most people were satisfied.
4. 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.
5. Laptop purchased.
6. Ron got 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 Shelby Schwartz talking about Hillstream loaches.
9. Picnic was great success, thanks as always for the Fabiny's for hosting!
10. SWAP meet Oct 4th-Very successfully 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. 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 is not at this meeting.
14. Shop hop on Nov 15th in Albany area. Meet at Canastota thruway, car pool. Going to 3 shops.

New Business:

1. Ham Raffle at December General Meeting
2. Doug said Empire Aquatics would be interested in doing a fish show.
3. 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.
4. Upcoming board meetings-
 - JAN- Clifford
 - FEB- Chip
 - MAR- Bill
 - APR- David
 - MAY- Bob and Sue
5. 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 mic at banquet. Deadline for music, photos ect. Possible videos from old members.
6. Chip to see about making a list about who is breeding what fish?
7. 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.
8. T-shirts: Board voted on David's design, voted on deep blue color. Mary and David to find online order shop, people may order other pieces of clothing.
9. Doug said an old member, Jack McGraw, wants to donate fish room. To discuss.
10. All set for meeting place for next year.
11. David talked about having a CNYAS app. Will demonstrate at next meeting. Board approved.
12. Food drive for Central New York Food Bank was very successful, club and Low Tide Corals donated over 400lbs of food.
13. Killifish meeting Saturday Jan 24th at Doug's house.
14. Dec meeting Clifford to talk about auction software.
15. Mandy Goan, Aquarium club of Maryland asked if we were interested in a demonstration of blackworm breeding.
16. Clifford brought up using Auction Fish and explained to the board. Discussion. David said that maybe we could practice with a mini auction.
17. Start 1900 Ended 2030

12/17/25 CNYAS General meeting

1. Wonderful Christmas party with plenty of delicious food to enjoy
2. 50th Anniversary t-shirts were available for members to purchase
3. Great mini auction- Thanks to all who donated and who auctioneered!



Convention Report: Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza 2025 Part Two: The Shop Hop

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

In last month's *Reflector*, I reported on the Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza convention that has been held every year the weekend before Thanksgiving for the past 31 years. I arrived in Strongsville, Ohio the day before the start of the convention in order to allow time to check out the local fish stores (LFS). Joe Doyle, well-known Pittsburgh-based hobbyist and speaker, arranged the shop hop tour. Joe created and followed a complete itinerary and schedule of the shops and the breakfast break. The schedule was designed to get us back to the hotel by late afternoon in order to not miss the first convention speaker. I was pleased to be able to ride in Joe's car with Dave Costa, president of the Motor City Aquarium Society, and Tom Rizzo, board member and BAP co-chair of the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County. The conversation during the drive was (seriously!) about aquarium societies and fish.

I attended the shop hop for the 2024 OCA Extravaganza and wrote about it in the January 2025 *Reflector*. There was enough different about this year's shop hop that I think readers may be interested to read about it.

For example: our first stop, Something Fishy, owned by David Hale, has changed. David closed the separate retail store that we visited last year and moved it to his existing hatchery and maintenance service location. While his new store is even smaller than the previous one, he really knows how to pack in both supplies and livestock. But his hatchery, which the shop hop group got to inspect, is, in a word, amazing. Located in the basement, its 255 tanks are packed with a wide variety of healthy fish. And I've never seen so many *Cyphotilapia frontosa*. Beautiful!



Fish supplies and customers packed into Something Fishy. This view is about one half of the retail store



A very small part of the basement hatchery at Something Fishy



Another view of Something Fishy's hatchery. It would take about a dozen photos to capture all the tanks in the basement



Frontosas! at Something Fishy

Following a long-standing tradition, the next stop was breakfast at Perkins American Food, aka Perkins Pancake House. As usual, the service and food was great, and Perkins even agreed to provide separate checks. The social aspect of this hobby is, in my opinion, a very important means of transmitting ideas and increasing one's enjoyment and success. I consider the conversations we have at the shop hop breakfast as important as the shop visits. Conversations can get lively, with lots of hand-waving. Mike McKinney, whom I met at the New England Cichlid Association auction in October and was sitting next to me, demonstrated this by knocking over his large orange juice. Not to be outdone, while talking to Mike about the auction, Fish auction website and the recent CNYAS group buy, I knocked over my water. It was an eventful breakfast!

Breakfast concluded, we made our way to RMS, an LFS that has been in business for 40 years and bills itself as "The Aquarium Superstore." This was by far the largest of the stores we visited, and it also features small animals and supplies in addition to fish. It has an eye-popping selection of aquariums of various sizes and styles. I was also impressed with its selection of fish at reasonable prices. I spotted black rams for \$19.50, bucktooth tetras for \$12.99, a big variety of rainbowfish and six kinds of gouramis.



RMS is waiting to sell you this 230 gallon peninsula tank, stand and sump.

I like to support LFSs, and the stores on the shop hop had a great selection of items on my shopping list. At Something Fishy I purchased the 8 ounce container of Xtreme Community Crave flakes and the 10 ounce Xtreme Cichlid PeeWee pellets. With the 20% discount on food that David gave to the shop hop attendees, the food was significantly less expensive than what I could get online.



The gang at Perkins.

Next up was Agnoquatics, another small hobbyist-owned LFS. In business since 2019, and like Something Fishy, the first store we visited, Agnoquatics packs a lot of dry goods and livestock in a small space. They are an Xtreme, Fluval, Oase and Aquarium Co-op dealer. They have the most complete selection of Xtreme foods I've ever seen, including some I'd never heard of, such as beef heart flakes and So-Fly (soldier fly) flakes. I came away with a 3½ ounce can of those So-Fly flakes, which my fish love, at a 10% discount. I spotted an Oase CrystalSkim 600 on the shelf and asked what it did. The owner then took it out of the box and set it up in one of the shop's aquariums. Its purpose is to skim the water surface to get rid of duckweed. Sold! I bought one. I'll report later on how it works.



Extensive selection of Xtreme foods at Agnoquatics

The last shop on the list is Aquatica. I did not visit this store in 2024 because I needed to allow time to see the Ohio Fish Rescue facility that afternoon. I sure am glad I didn't pass up the store this year. One hint that you're in a quality store is if it is selling live food. Aquatica had bags of live daphnia and adult brine shrimp for sale. And frozen food, wow! They even had a separate freezer for the large flat packs. Aquatica is the first store I've been in that carried Hýgger products, which I really like. To prevent its colorful but aggressive adult male Malawi cichlids from fighting, the store keeps them one to a tank; I don't remember seeing that strategy in a fish store before. Seeing piranha for sale for \$11.99 prompted a discussion among New Yorkers whether this fish is illegal to own in New York. I checked the NYS DEC website and could not find it listed in either the "Prohibited" or "Regulated" categories. I also could not find them on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of prohibited species.



Agnoquatics is another LFS that makes good use of limited floor space.



Theme of the day: make efficient use of floor space. Aquatica stacks equipment from floor to its high ceiling



A quality fish store, like Aquatica, keeps its bettas in tanks, not cups

I really enjoyed seeing those four terrific LFSs. Of course I'm not expecting CNYAS members to make the six hour drive to the southern Cleveland suburbs just to see these stores, but if you ever do find yourself in the Cleveland area and have time, these are great places to visit. Let's get a contingent of CNYAS members to Cleveland for next year's Extravaganza (and get in on the special OCA shop hop discounts)!



Proof I wasn't kidding when I said Aquatica has a separate freezer just for its flat pack frozen food



Live food for sale at Aquatica



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 Dec 2025 Reflector and points published in Jan 2026 Reflector

Name	Status	January Reflector	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill Award	165	487	2,986
Spahn	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	1,276
Kotcher	Pen & Quill Award	20	65	916
Teelin-Futterman	Pen & Quill Award	15	15	726
Pitzeruse	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	652
Fabiny	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	561
Hillman	Author's Award	30	215	485
Pomeranz, D.	Author's Award	60	91	226
Rademacher	Author's Award	0	0	215
Futterman	Author's Award	0	85	195
Rafferty	Participant	0	50	145
Baird	Author's Award	0	0	130
Beeman	Author's Award	0	15	120
Cody	Participant	0	40	110
Walcott	Participant	0	45	95
Sager	Participant	0	0	70
Tuori	Participant	0	10	70
Flintrop	Participant	0	10	45
Gibbs	Participant	0	0	40
Newell	Participant	0	30	40
Van Camp	Participant	0	0	30
Pomeranz, A.	Participant	30	30	30
Valdez	Participant	0	25	25
Sumner	Participant	15	15	15
Lindblom	Participant	0	15	15

WAP news!

Congratulations to David Pomeranz: his captions in the December *Reflector* moved him up to *Author's Award*.

A big WAP welcome to Greg Sumner, whose photo and caption have earned him the Participant Award.

Also a big WAP welcome to Amber Pomeranz, whose photos and caption earned her the Participant Award.

Submissions appearing in the December 2025 Reflector:

Crain, "Field Trip Report: Albany," article 20 points, 13 photos, 65 points = 85 points total

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #40," 1 article, 20 points

Crain, "Convention Report OCA 2025, part 1," 1 article, 20 points, 8 photos, 40 points = 60 points total

Hillman, "November CNYAS board meeting," 1 photo, 5 points, caption < 50 words, = 15 points total

Teelin, "Food drive" 3 photos, 15 points

Kotcher, "Think Tank: My favorite fish," 1 article, 20 points

Pomeranz, D. "Club members' fish," 3 photos, caption > 50 words, 20 points = 35 points total

Pomeranz, A. "Think Tank: My favorite fish," caption > 50 words, 20 points, 1 photo, 5 points

Pomeranz, A. "Cover photo," 1 photo, 5 points

Sumner, "Think Tank: My favorite fish," 1 caption < 50 words, 10 points, 1 photo, = 15 points total



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
			Chris Pollard	20	2
<u>Master Breeder</u>			Maxwell	20	2
*Pitzeruse, W.	610	50	Kotcher	10	1
1-2-3-4-7-8-9-11-12-13-14-15-16			Lenny Futterman	10	1
Beeman	640	48	Russell Phelps	10	1
4-7-8-11-12-16			Mary Futterman	5	1
Fabiny	565	50			
1-7-8-11-12-14-15-16					
<u>Expert Breeder</u>			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
Clifford Crain Jr.	305	27	*Indicated Species Classification Award		
1-7-8			^Indicates first spawning		
William Newell	250	23			
8					
Hunter Collins	235	13			
8-11					
Doug Hillman	220	23			
1-8-11					
<u>Advanced Breeder</u>					
David Pomeranz	140	16			
16					
Mike Flintrop	150	15			
11					
<u>Breeder Award</u>					
Wisneski	65	7			
11					
Denise Baird	70	8			
Chris Allen	60	5			
11,14					
Rich Pitzeruse	55	5			

New Additions:

Mike Flintrop

Cleithracara maronni
Danio albolineatus
Xiphophorus pygmaeus
Poecilia wingei
Julidochromis dickfeldi

Doug Hillman

Macropodus opercularis





BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

YTD Scores:

Doug Hillman:	146	Points
Bill Newell:	94	Points
Chloe Gibbs:	21	Points
Denise Baird:	18	Points
Debbie Walcott	1	Point
David Pomeranz	1	Point

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 5 entries for the December Bowl Show!

- A: *Trigonostigma espei* (Lambchop Rasbora) – Third place – Bill Newell – 10 points
- B: *Pethia nigrofasciata* (Black Ruby Barb) – Second place – Bill Newell – 16 points
- C: *Danio choprae* (Glowlight Danio) – Bill Newell
- D: *Puntius conchonius* (Gold Rosy Barb) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points

OPEN:

- A: *Poecilia reticulata* (Purple Moscow) – 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	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			Flintrop	60	6
Fabiny*	940	68	Taylor	50	6
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14					
<u>Master</u>			<u>Participants</u>		
Van Camp*	465	36	Flintrop	45	5
1,7,8,9,11,14			Rademacher	35	2
Lee*	575	42	Janus	25	4
3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14			Smith	20	1
<u>Expert</u>			Additions:		
<u>Senior</u>			Mike Flintrop		
Snead*	460	26	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
2,4,7,10,14			David Pomeranz		
Lioto	285	21	<i>Bucephalandra artemis</i>	(first propagation, cutting)	20 pts
<u>Aquatic</u>			<i>Bucephalandra catherineae</i>	(first propagation, cutting)	20 pts
Newell	215	21	<i>Bucephalandra catherineae</i>	(first flowering)	20 pts
6			<i>Bucephalandra kishii</i>	(first flowering)	20 pts
Kotcher*	185	14	<i>Cabomba pulcherrima</i>	(cuttings)	10 pts
6,10,14			<i>Cryptocoryne lucens</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
Futterman*	180	16	<i>Cryptocoryne lutea</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
Beeman	190	19	<i>Leptochilus (Microsorium)</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
3,4,6,7			<i>pteropus</i>		
Pomeranz	140	8	<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i>	(runner)	5 pts



Photos by: David Pomeranz

Bucephalandra artemis



Cryptocoryne lucens



Photos by: David Pomeranz

Cryptocoryne lutea



Bucephalandra catherineae



WINNIE PITZERUSE: A MOST VALUED MEMBER OF CNYAS

By Sue Kotcher

Winnie passed away on June 1, 2025. She had a varied and illustrious career with CNYAS. I already had a complete register of Winnie's positions in the Club but needed to let our members know the personal side of her journey. I had a great phone conversation with Winnie's son, Rich, who filled me in.

Winnie's husband, Dick and Rich came to their first CNYAS meeting in 1977. Winnie came to the next meeting and was immediately "hooked". Dick held the position of Vice President from 1981 through 1983. He passed away in 1985. I do remember them, they were a dynamic couple. Rich and his sister, Jennifer Lioto, are still active in our Club.

It all started when Rich was young and got a 10 gallon tank. Dick also had friends who were breeding fish. Eventually, Dick and Winnie began to acquire tanks. Dick was interested in the hardware aspects, Winnie, the fish and breeding. Dick built a rack in the basement holding 10 gallon tanks. They established a business called Angel Fish Alley. Dick handled the business and equipment and Winnie, the fish. They supplied local stores with Angels and also Corydoras catfish from 1977 to 1985.

After Dick passed, the family took down the rack but Winnie kept a couple of 55's, some 10's, 20's and a 29 gallon. Rich bought a 135 and they acquired their first Arowana. The Arowana was absolutely Winnie's favorite fish. I remember seeing it at a Board meeting and was completely mesmerized. All in all, Winnie had about 6 of them. Unfortunately, all but one died from jumping out of the tank. The one who didn't jump was a casualty of a voracious Red Tail Catfish. The Arowana got its revenge, though, as the Catfish also died in the attempt.



Winnie loved and kept fish aside from Arowanas. At one time, Rich remembers "millions" of guppies. She loved Licorice and Croaking Gouramis. Winnie also kept a variety of fancy goldfish, Orandas, etc. She did breed them. She had a small kiddie pool for a couple of years that she kept outside in the summer to raise the babies. Then, unfortunately, there was a goldfish disease and the fish started dying.

Winnie was very interested in breeding fish. When they still had the rack in the basement, she bought a pair of African Butterflies that bred. Winnie was “hell bent” on keeping 10 babies alive which she proudly did for BAP points. She was also proud of breeding Farlowella Whiptail Cats. She worked hard, hanging slabs of zucchini in the tanks to feed babies and fish. Winnie also loved and kept Chocolate Gouramis but was not successful in getting live babies from them.

Rich helped his Mom with fish when he was younger. Before Winnie passed, she still had a 135 with an Arowana, Oscar and giant Pleco, 3 10's, a 55, 30, 32 and 20 high. Rich now has the Arowana in a 135 in his home.

Winnie kept fish about 50 years from the mid 70's to 2025. I'd like to thank Rich for his recollections. Finally, there is a list below of all her positions and awards. Winnie was a huge credit to our hobby!

Editor with Sally VanCamp	1981-1982
Secretary	1981-1983
President	2001-2003
Vice President	2003-2006
Board of Directors	1979-1981, 2006-2016
Committee Chairs	
Bowl Show	1980-1982
BAP	2000-2017
Programs	2003-2006
FAAS Delegate	1982-1983
FAAS Awards	1999 and 2002



Winnies Plaques:

BAP and BAP Species Award
 AHAP and AHAP Species Award
 WAP
 2 FAAS Award

The Think Tank

A Monthly Club Write-in

Welcome to the first ever club write in. This is a space for club members to share some of their experiences in the hobby by answering the question of the month. Next months question can be found below, and will be announced at the next club meeting on 1/21/2026.

The question today is: **How and when did you get into the hobby? What was your first set up or fish that you remember keeping?**

My Parents got me interested in animals from a very Early age, and fish keeping became a family activity. We set up a 20 gallon tall, which had some sort of brightly colored gravel and plastic plants. I picked out a few neon tetras, my mom got some albino corydoras, and my dad got a kissing gourami, and in they went. I was less than 10 at the time, so unfortunately between the 3 of us there was no understanding of the nitrogen cycle, or any of the finer points of aquarium health beyond changing the filter cartridges when the package instructed us to. Our kissing gourami certainly killed a lot of the other animals we attempted to add, which I found pretty distressing. After several years our system declined.

Still, that experience got me hooked on the hobby, so I returned to it in my adult life with a lot more knowledge and research under my belt.

-David Pomeranz

I got my first fish(es) at 7 years old. The details are hazy because I was so young, but it was a ten-gallon tank with blue gravel and brightly colored fake plants- basically the "standard" package from any commercial pet shop. My sister and I picked out a bunch of what my mother called "fancy" goldfish. I enjoyed a multicolored calico fish and a blue gray one. My sister liked the inferior plain golden ones. In retrospect they were probably common feeder goldfish because they were standard torpedo/tetra shape. My parents had just sold their dairy farm, and we were transitioning into a scary new life. I think my parents leveraged the novelty of having these goldfish to help give us something concrete to look forward to and be excited about while life was changing.

As I got older I tried different types of fish (mollies, angels, tetras) and my first breeding project was red wag platies.

-Amber Pomeranz

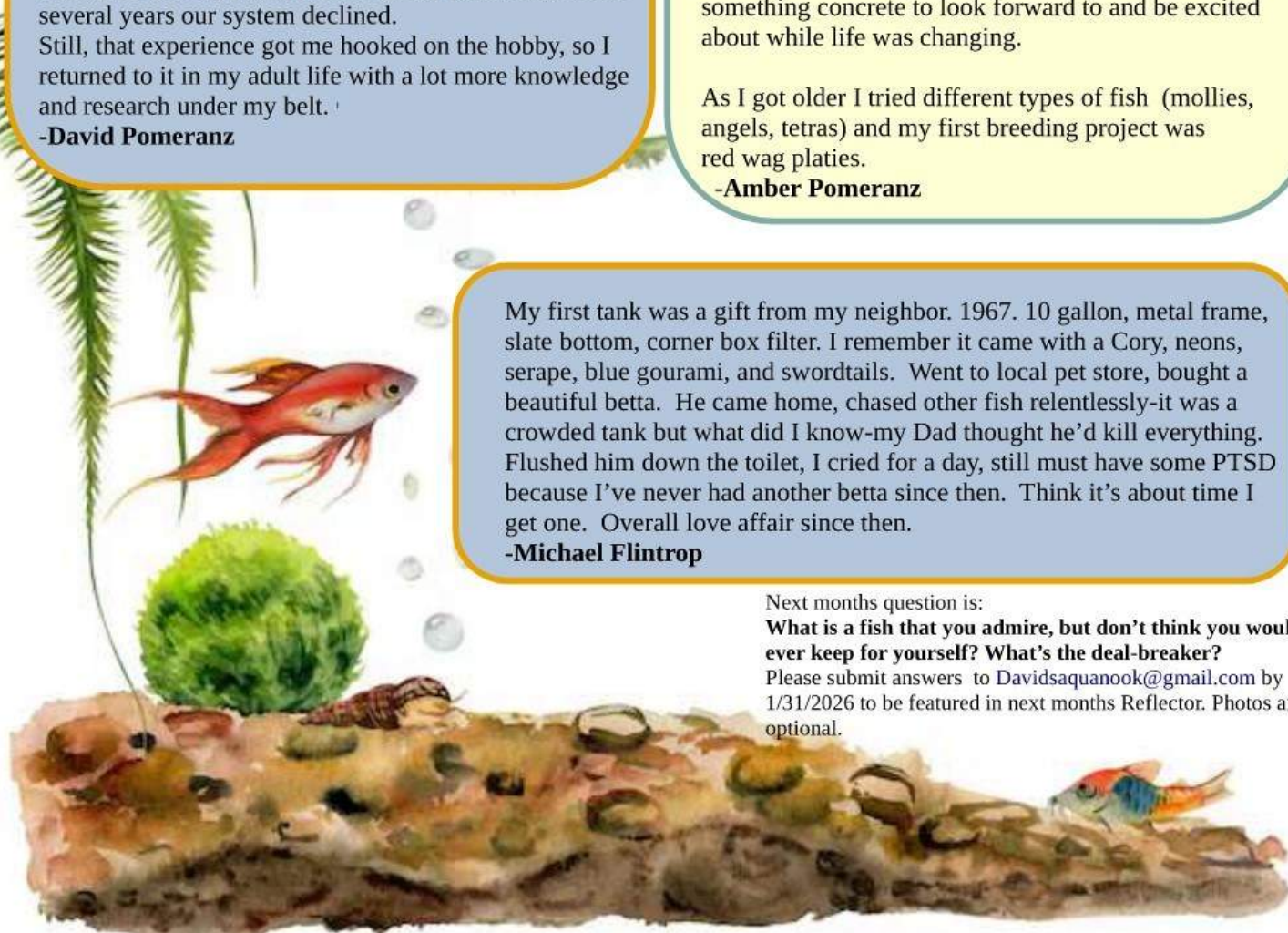
My first tank was a gift from my neighbor. 1967. 10 gallon, metal frame, slate bottom, corner box filter. I remember it came with a Cory, neons, serape, blue gourami, and swordtails. Went to local pet store, bought a beautiful betta. He came home, chased other fish relentlessly- it was a crowded tank but what did I know- my Dad thought he'd kill everything. Flushed him down the toilet, I cried for a day, still must have some PTSD because I've never had another betta since then. Think it's about time I get one. Overall love affair since then.

-Michael Flintrop

Next months question is:

What is a fish that you admire, but don't think you would ever keep for yourself? What's the deal-breaker?

Please submit answers to Davidsaquanook@gmail.com by 1/31/2026 to be featured in next months Reflector. Photos are optional.





FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #41

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.

“Aquarium Gallon Rulers” by Tony Patti

The Buckette, Bucks County Aquarium Society, January 2026

Tony was looking for a way to better quantify his water changes, so he created a “ruler” that he affixed to the aquarium with lines showing how many gallons have been removed. He didn’t just handwrite the numbers on the ruler, no, he’s too classy for that! He used Microsoft Word to print both the ruler lines and numbers. He calculated the space between the numbers by measuring the inside height of the tank minus the width of the bezel, divided by the number of gallons. The article includes a helpful table and images. Thanks, Tony, this idea really appeals to me!

“The Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza 2025” by Dave Costa

Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, January 2026

I’m glad to see that I’m not the only one who writes reviews of conventions. In this article my friend and president of the Motor City Aquarium Society, Dave Costa, reports on something I forgot to mention in my article in last month’s *Reflector*: Best Western has addressed one of the big complaints about the hotel. At great expense, two of the hotel’s elevators have been replaced. The previous elevators, the source of unending grousing, were so slow as to be nearly useless. His article includes an obligatory photo of a guest’s decorated hotel room door. I find it hilarious the lengths people go to in order to attract buyers to their rooms. Tongue in cheek, Dave proposes that the weekend before Thanksgiving be declared a national fish holiday! He wraps up the article echoing something I’ve been saying all along, that the important thing about aquarium societies and conventions is the connections you make with other aquarists. “Overall, it’s a great event, and if you have not been there yet, you should make it a point to go there at least once.” Agreed!!

Reprints and reviews:

None this month.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 14, Board Meeting
Jan 21, General Meeting
Feb 11, Board meeting
Feb 18, General Meeting
March 21, UNYKA Swap Meet

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: Clifford Crain	Feb: Chip Alexander
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!](#)



UNYKA



Tropical Fish & Reptile Swap Meet

10AM - 2PM

March 21st, 2026

10AM - 2PM

Village of Minoa Municipal Building
240 North Main Street
Minoa, NY 13116

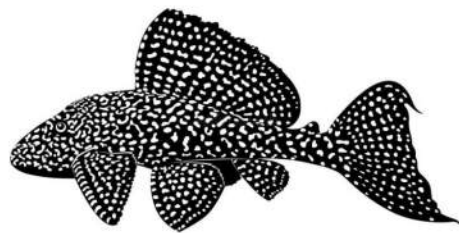
Tables: 1 for \$20, 2 for \$35, 3 for \$45



Contact Mike Lucas @

(518) 986 7186

psalm119.111@gmail.com



Setup 9:00 - 10:00, Breakdown/Clean up 2:00-3:00

Sales are the responsibility Buyer and Seller ONLY..

As this is a swap meet, cash is preferred.

**Upstate New York Killifish Association
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Club [Shirts](#), [Hoodies](#) and [Caps](#) for sale

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- V-neck Shirt (Ladies) — \$20
- Pullover Hoodie — \$30
- Zip-up Hoodie — \$50
- Cap — \$20
- Coffee Mugs—\$5

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Rates for 1 Year (10 Issues)

Business Card- \$30

1/4 Page- \$80

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For information:

**Call Doug @ (607) 226-4669 Or
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!

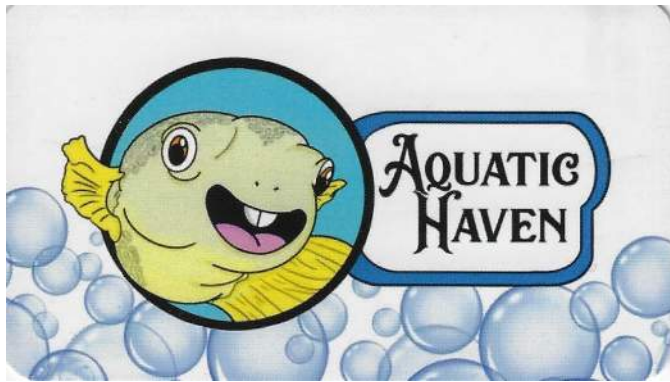
<https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors>

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\$20.00 - Family

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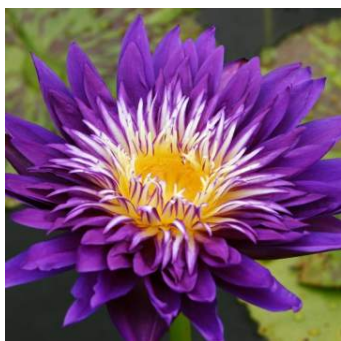
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