



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

February 2026, Volume 50, Number 6

**This Month's Presentation by:
Jason Den Haese**

**Improving Fry Survival in
Armored Catfishes
(Loricariidas & Corydoradinae)**

CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Table of Contents

Cover: Hypancistrus sp. Fry (L260) By: Jason Den Haese	1
About CNYAS	3
President's Message	4
This Month's Presentation "Improving Fry Survival in Armored Catfishes" : by Jason Den Haese	5
Meeting Minutes	6
Article: "Fish Store Visit (Low Tide Corals)" By: Clifford Crain	8
The Think Tank (Monthly Club Write-in)	11
Writer's Award Program (WAP)	12
Breeder Award Program (BAP)	13
Aquatic Horticulture Award Program (AHAP)	14
Bowl Show	17
Article: "BAP Report-Julidochromis dickfeldi" By: Mike Flintrop	19
Club Members' Fish and/or Aquarium	21
Fish Friends From Afar "Exchange Report" by: Clifford Crain	22
Article: "BAP Report-Peacock gudgeon" By: David Pomeranz	23
Club Info / Coming Events	24
TFCEC Spring Auction	25
UNYKA Swap Meet	26
CNYAS Spring Auction	27
CNYAS 50th Anniversary Online Store	28
CNYAS Thanks our Supporters	29
Classified	31

LOCATION

The DeWitt Community Center
148 Sanders Creek Pkwy

CNYAS GENERAL MEETING

East Syracuse, NY

DATE / TIME

Wednesday February 18, 2026
@ 7:00 pm

The **Reflector** is published for free distribution to members, advertisers, exchanges, and hobby distributors and publishers. The material it contains may not be distributed by computer bulletin boards nor reprinted by profit making organizations without prior written permission of the author. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the society members, its' Officers or Board of Directors.

Editorial Policy:

All original, previously unpublished material will be considered for publication. The preferred method of delivery for articles is via E-Mail in MS Word or Text format to Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com. Alternate means of submitting may be arranged via phone. Articles the Editor deems harmful will not be published. Original articles may be reprinted by other non-profit hobby organizations with the following stipulations:

- 1) The **Reflector** is credited as the original Publisher.
- 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.

Identification Statement:

Publication Title: Reflector

Statement of Frequency: Published ten times per year (monthly except July and August)

Authorized Organization's Name and Address:

The Central New York Aquarium Society Inc, PO Box 291, Clay NY 13041

Email: Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

Officers

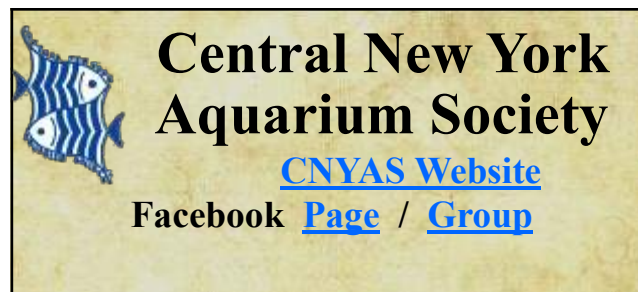
President:	Ron Fabiny CNYASPres@gmail.com
Vice President:	Ron Alexander CNYAS.VP@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mary Teelin
Treasurer:	Bob Kotcher CNYASTreas@gmail.com
Editor:	Doug Hillman Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Michael Flintrop
Clifford Crain
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
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

President's Message February 2026

I hope everyone is staying warm with all this frigid weather and no one has lost power that I heard of that would affect their fish.

This Month's speaker is Jason Den Haese the topic of his presentation is "Improving Fry Survival in Armored Catfishes (Loricariidae and Corydoradinae)." Jason has always come through with a great program and I am sure this will be another.

Ron and Bryan are working on the auction and requesting donations. If anyone would like to help please contact Ron. The auction is April 25th which is right around the corner.

Well I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Stay warm.

Ron

Welcome new members:

Eddie Safdieh and Conor Rose

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

There are a handful of renewing members who have not yet paid 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

Please contact Stefani at cnyasmembership@gmail.com or ask me at the next general meeting if you have any questions about your membership status or dues.

Stefani Pritchard
Membership Chairperson



This Month's Speaker: Jason Den Haese, M.S.

Presenting: Improving Fry Survival in Armored Catfishes (Loricariidas and Corydoradinae)

Biography:

I have a strong and diverse research background acquired from experience in industry, clinical, and academic settings. In industry, I served as the director of gene cloning and research at IMMCO Diagnostics Company where I used my training in molecular biology, microbiology, immunology, and biochemistry to produce two new products for diagnosing autoimmune disease in patients in just under three years. In a clinical research setting, I spent 13 years working at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center (RPCCC), focusing on cancer prevention and leukemia. In an academic setting, I began teaching at D'Youville University (DYU) in the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in 2009. For the next decade until 2018, I worked in two full-time positions, one at RPCCC and the other at DYU.

In 2020, I started my own research program at D'Youville University working with fish from the armored catfish families; Loricariidae and Callichthyidae. The natural habitat of these fish is the Amazon River Basin of South America. I maintain over 100 tanks in my fish research lab. My research focuses on the breeding, growth, and survival of armored catfish fry. To date, I have spawned and produced fry from 32 different species spanning 9 different genera from Loricariidae and 7 different species spanning 4 different genera from Callichthyidae.

In addition to this research, I am also interested in fish conservation. My conservation work focuses on establishing captive breeding groups of wild fish that have been listed as near threatened (NT), vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CR) on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species. Species with these designations could become extinct in the wild. I have established breeding groups for *Hypancistrus zebra* (CR), *Peckoltia compta* (EN), *Leporacanthicus joselimai* (VU) and *Ancistomus wernekei* (NT). If, or rather, when these species on the IUCN red list become extinct in the wild, fry from my captive breeding groups can be made available to both scientists and hobbyists.

My passion for this research is only rivaled by my passion for teaching, service to others, and devotion to my family. I strongly believe in giving back to those in need and am actively involved in volunteering at both DYU and the greater community. When I am not at DYU, I spend time with my wife Charlene, and my seven children, Erick (32), Jason Jr. (29), Summer (28), Chloe (27), Luke (22), Blake (19) and Brody (18).



BOARD MEETING

CNYAS Board meeting

1/14/2026

January 14th
Board meeting

Hosted by:
Clifford Crain



Attending: Len and Mary Futterman, Doug Hillman, Bob and Sue 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. Bill passed out draft of updated 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. Killifish.
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. 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.
4. Laptop purchased.
5. Ron got VFW contract signed for 2026 Auction.
6. Much appreciation to all who helped clean out Wayne's fish room.
7. Program- Chip working on program, Jan Mike Lucas
8. Picnic was great success, thanks as always for the Fabiny's for hosting!
9. 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.
10. Len got lamination signs. Ron is distributing.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Shop hop on Nov 15th in Albany area. Meet at Canastota thruway, car pool. Going to 3 shops.

New Business:

1. Doug said Empire Aquatics would be interested in doing a fish show.
2. 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.
3. Upcoming board meetings-
 - 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 are in!
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. Clifford brought up using auction. Fish.com and explained to the board. Discussion. David said that maybe we could practice with a mini auction. Ron and Cliff could not watch videos.
14. David suggested getting a speaker about aquascaping and bulk order supplies to do at the meeting.
15. David going to do a presentation of Discord at a meeting.
16. Mike Flintrop to see if someone from the new aquarium wants to talk to the club.
17. Club to check out a Canton Woods Senior Center in Bville. \$50 for the day. For the swap meet. Need to pick a date.

1/21/2026 CNYAS General meeting

1. Mike Flintrop gave his entertaining, monthly update on the history of the CNYAS reviewing and reading past published Reflectors in the archives, for our 50th anniversary. (The Reflector Archives can be found on page 32 of this month's Reflector).
2. Mike Lucas did a wonderful presentation on Rainbow Shiners and donated some Rainbow Shiners to our mini auction.
3. Great mini auction- Thanks to all who donated and who auctioneered!



Fish Store Visit: Low Tide Corals

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

We Syracusans are indeed fortunate that Low Tide Corals moved from a small location in Baldwinsville to a larger store on Seeley Road, just off Erie Boulevard, last year. Their expanded freshwater selection, maintained by Low Tide's enthusiastic freshwater specialist Emma Schwartz, features a nice selection of healthy fish. The water in six 60-gallon breeders is kept crystal clear by a 7-foot sump combined with a weekly to bi-weekly water change regimen.

In addition to the large tanks, Low Tide has a number of smaller tanks and is onboard with the trend to nano aquariums, as seen by their selection of smaller fish and equipment that focuses on nano tanks. In addition to two dedicated plant tanks, the plants in each aquarium are for sale. Unique among fish stores in CNY, Low Tide has a nice selection of semi-aquatic, terrestrial plants.



Six spotless 60 gallon breeders



Successful local fish stores don't try to compete with the big box corporate pet stores. For example, what you'll find at Low Tide are high-end, rimless, low iron glass (extremely clear glass) aquariums in standard and non-standard sizes. I noticed too that the equipment and supplies were hobbyist-grade, not the low-end stuff in the big box stores. For example, Low Tide carries the Sisce Scuba contactless submersible heaters that feature no-touch temperature adjustment via a phone app. Emma told me that the store stocks equipment and supplies that Low Tide itself uses in its store.

Photo Left: Generous selection of plants



Large low-iron glass tank already sold awaiting customer pickup



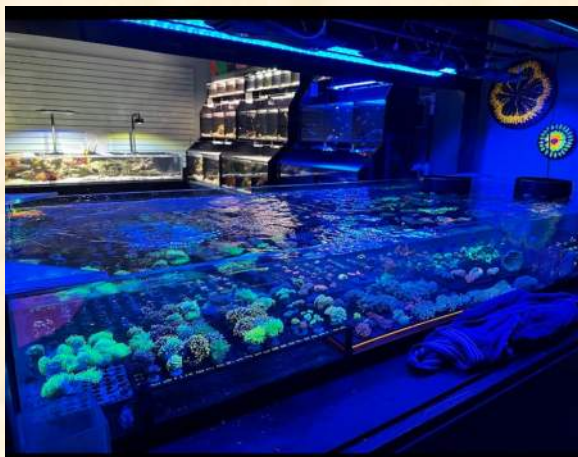
Good selection of quality supplies

With the word “Corals” in its name, you would expect a great marine department, and Low Tide Corals does not disappoint. Open the store’s door and you’ll view a custom 150-gallon marine display tank along with a large frag tank. The store has the largest selection of corals and frags of any in CNY. Zack, the marine specialist, is very knowledgeable and is dedicated to assist the customer in becoming a successful marine aquarist. For example, for a customer that is just beginning in the hobby, he recommends the easier-to-keep corals. And if you’re looking for live rock, Low Tide has the biggest selection around. Low Tide manufactures its own RODI water and salt water, pre-mixed to exactly the correct salinity using a professional refractometer.



High-end equipment for marine tanks

Photo courtesy of Low Tide Corals



Lots of frags in the main frag tank in the saltwater department

Photo courtesy of Low Tide Corals



Frag tank inside front door

Photo taken with a filter to remove blue light

Duplicating what I saw in the freshwater department, the marine livestock were all healthy and active. Zack performs water changes based on bio-load and nitrate levels. He proudly told me that he cleans the glass of each marine tank every day. It's an impressive display. There are two other employees: Efra takes care of all saltwater testing parameters in the coral tanks, and Joe frags (cuts) the corals which reduces the need to harvest them from the ocean.

What's in the future at Low Tide Corals? Owner Thiel Valdes is planning another 180 gallon marine display tank, and a 100-gallon peninsula discus tank will appear in the freshwater section. Harking back to the business's beginnings selling frags from a garage, Low Tide will be expanding its sales of frags online.

Low Tide Corals is not only a shop that caters to hobbyists, but Thiel and his employees have helped the Rosamond Gifford Zoo with their marine program. Thiel states with pride that he has customers willing to travel two hours to his store. While you're perusing this fine local fish store, say "Hello" to Thiel, Efra, Emma, Joe and Zack.



Nice selection of saltwater fish
Photo courtesy of Low Tide Corals



Low Tide Corals Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/1027502091/0416af01a2>



The Think Tank

A Monthly Club Write-in

Welcome to the CNYAS write in. The next question can be found below, and will be shared at the March meeting.

This month, our members were asked:

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

Seahorses have always been a bucket list fish. The dealbreaker for me is maintaining a salt tank, and the extra care they need.
-Lenny Futterman

Freshwater Flatfish, because I never see them in my tanks. They are always hiding.
-Suzie Rafferty

The fish I would love to own but probably never will is the Arowana. I was introduced to it years ago from a visit to Winnie Pitzeruse's home. She kept them for years, as I stated in an article I wrote last month. I was totally awed by how beautiful and majestic they are. They glide through the water and look kind of prehistoric. They are a large fish when fully grown and in a home aquarium won't really have many, if any, tankmates. The reasons I probably won't own one is, first of all, a very large tank is required. I don't have room upstairs and I wouldn't keep it in the basement because I would always want to see it. Also, they are strong and will jump out of the tank. The top must be super secured at all times. I googled it, there are beautiful pictures. They are known as "Dragon fish" symbolizing luck and prosperity in some Asian cultures. Maybe in my next life, lol.
-Suzanne Kotcher

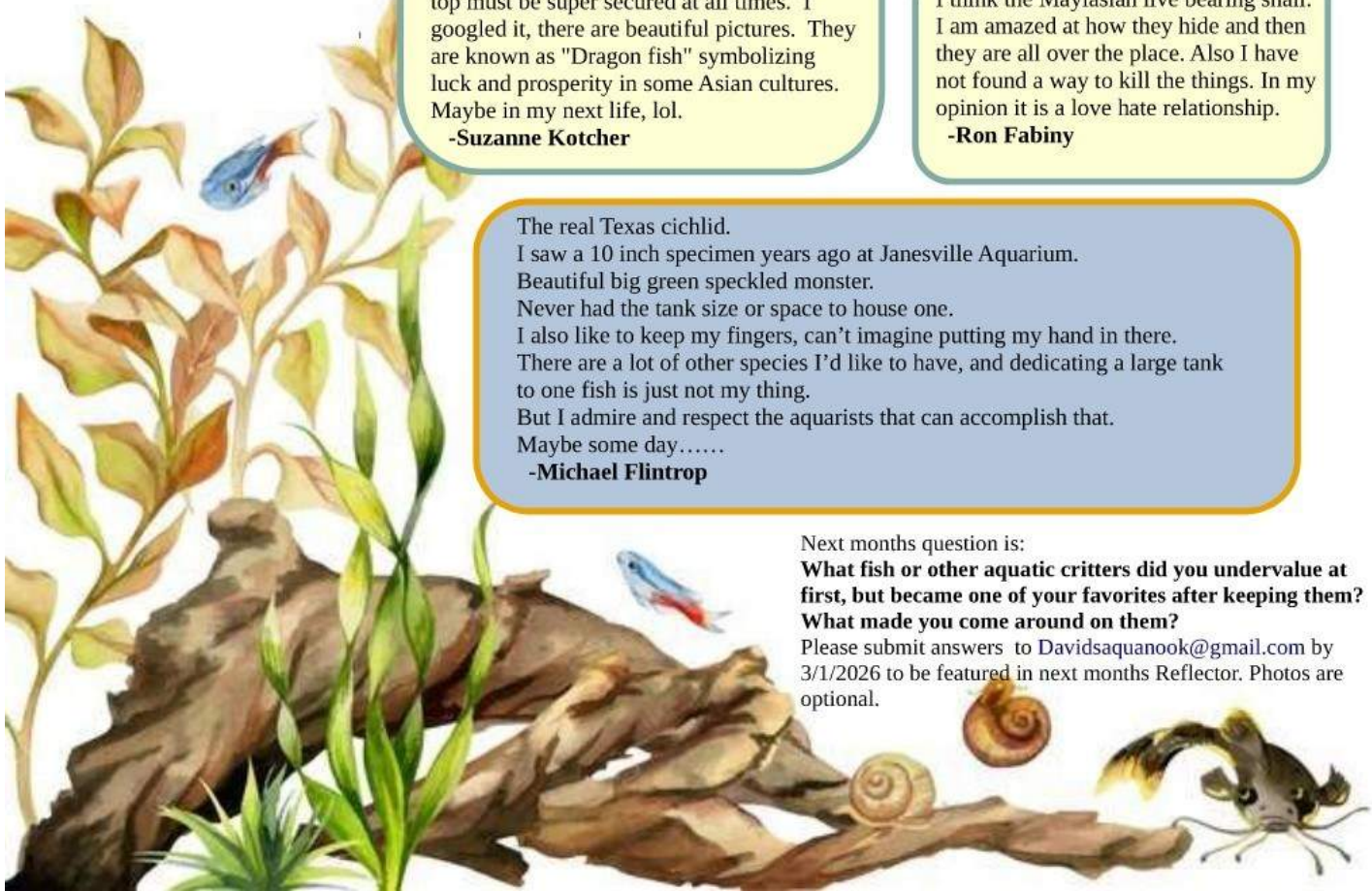
My answer is an octopus! They are so intelligent and interesting but way too over my skill level to keep.
-Mary Teelin

I've always thought that the Moorish Idol was one of the most beautiful fish. Given that they're almost impossible to keep (sponge diet among other things) and go for \$100-\$200 a pop it will never happen for me.
-William Newell

I think the Maylasan live bearing snail. I am amazed at how they hide and then they are all over the place. Also I have not found a way to kill the things. In my opinion it is a love hate relationship.
-Ron Fabiny

The real Texas cichlid. I saw a 10 inch specimen years ago at Janesville Aquarium. Beautiful big green speckled monster. Never had the tank size or space to house one. I also like to keep my fingers, can't imagine putting my hand in there. There are a lot of other species I'd like to have, and dedicating a large tank to one fish is just not my thing. But I admire and respect the aquarists that can accomplish that. Maybe some day.....
-Michael Flintrop

Next months question is:
What fish or other aquatic critters did you undervalue at first, but became one of your favorites after keeping them? What made you come around on them?
 Please submit answers to Davidsaquanook@gmail.com by 3/1/2026 to be featured in next months Reflector. Photos are optional.





**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 Jan 2026 Reflector and points published in Feb 2026 Reflector

Name	Status	February Reflector	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill Award	100	567	3,086
Spahn	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	1,276
Kotcher	Pen & Quill Award	35	100	951
Teelin-Futterman	Pen & Quill Award	0	15	726
Pitzeruse	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	652
Fabiny	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	561
Hillman	Author's Award	0	215	485
Pomeranz, D.	Author's Award	40	131	266
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	Writer's Award	20	30	65
Pomeranz, A.	Writer's Award	20	50	50
Gibbs	Participant	0	0	40
Newell	Participant	0	30	40
Van Camp	Participant	0	0	30
Valdez	Participant	0	25	25
Sumner	Participant	0	15	15
Lindblom	Participant	0	15	15

WAP news!

Congratulations to Amber Pomeranz moved up from Participant to Writer's Award

Also congratulations to Mike Flintrop moved up from Participant to Writer's Award

Submissions appearing in the January 2026 Reflector:

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

Crain, "Convention Report OCA 2025, part 2," 1 article, 20 points, 12 photos, 60 points = 80 points total

Flintrop, "Think Tank: Getting Into the Hobby," article, 20 points

Kotcher, "Winnie Pitzeruse: A Most Valued Member," 1 article, 20 points, 3 photos, 15 points=35 points total

Pomeranz, A. "Think Tank: Getting Into the Hobby," article, 20 points

Pomeranz, D. Plant photos, 4 photos =20 points total

Pomeranz, D. "Think Tank: Getting Into the Hobby," article, 20 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	660	49	Lenny Futterman	10	1
4-6-7-8-11-12-16			Russell Phelps	10	1
Fabiny	565	50	Mary Futterman	5	1
1-7-8-11-12-14-15-16					
<u>Expert Breeder</u>			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
Clifford Crain Jr.	320	28	*Indicated Species Classification Award		
1-7-8			^Indicates first spawning		
William Newell	250	23	<u>New Additions:</u>		
8			Herschel Beeman		
Hunter Collins	235	13	<i>Paracheirodon axelrodi</i> 20 Points		
8-11			Doug Hillman		
Doug Hillman	225	24	<i>Heterandia Formosa</i> 5 Points		
1-8-11			Clifford Crain		
<u>Advanced Breeder</u>			<i>Neolamprologus leleupi</i> 15 Points		
David Pomeranz	140	16	<u>Special Shoot out:</u>		
16			Herschel Beeman for first spawning of the cardinal tetra, and for completing specialty class (6) with 3 tetras		
Mike Flintrop	150	15	Doug Hillman for getting ½ way thru specialty class (15)		
11					
<u>Breeder Award</u>					
Wisneski	65	7			
11					
Denise Baird	70	8			
Chris Allen	60	5			
11,14					
Rich Pitzeruse	55	5			

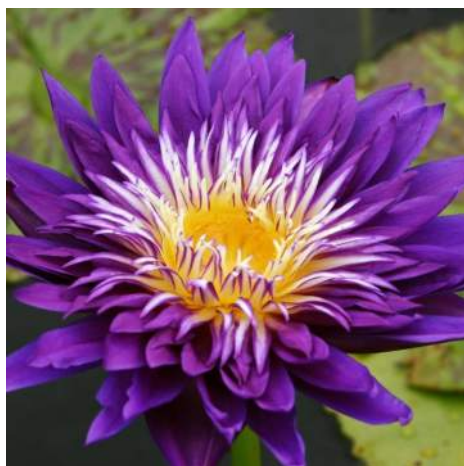




**AQUATIC HORTICULTURE
AWARD PROGRAM**
Chairman– Bill Newell
Email: bnewell44@gmail.com



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			Flintrop	45	5
<u>Master</u>			<u>Participants</u>		
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					
<u>Expert</u>			<u>Additions:</u>		
<u>Senior</u>			David Pomeranz		
Snead*	460	26	<i>Aegagropila brownii</i>	(doubling),	10 pts
2,4,7,10,14			<i>Anubias barteri</i>	(cutting),	20 pts
Lioto	285	21	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	(doubling)	5 pts
<u>Aquatic</u>			<i>Cryptocoryne wendtii</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
Pomeranz	245	17	<i>Micranthemum tweediei</i>	(doubling)	10 pts
Newell	215	21	<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	(doubling)	10 pts
6			<i>Nymphaea stellata</i>	(doubling)	10 pts
Kotcher*	185	14	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
6,10,14			<i>Taxiphyllum barbieri</i>	(doubling)	10 pts
Futterman*	180	16			
Beeman	190	19			
3,4,6,7					



Photos by: David Pomeranz

Aegagropils brownii and
Micranthemum tweediei



Cryptocoryne wendtii



Ceratophyllum demersum



Nymphaea stellata



Photos by: David Pomeranz

Pistia stratiotes



Taxiphyllum barbieri





BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

YTD Scores:

Doug Hillman:	182	Points
Bill Newell:	131	Points
Chloe Gibbs:	22	Points
Michael Mikulewicz	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 10 entries for the January Bowl Show!

Killies:

- A: Rivulus sp. (Columbia) – Bill Newell
- B: Epiplatys roloffi SL99 – Doug Hillman
- C: Aphyosemion australe – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points
- D: Rivulus sp Colombia – Second place – Doug Hillman – 15 points
- E: Fundulopanchax gardneri – Third place – Bill Newell – 11 points

OPEN:

- A: Thayeria boehlkei (Blackline Penguin Tetra) – Third place – Bill Newell – 10 points
- B: Paracheirodon axelrodi (Cardinal Tetra) – Second place – Bill Newell – 16 points
- C: Rubricatichromis exsuli (Turkana Jewel Cichlid) – Chloe Gibbs
- D: Prionobrara filigera (Glass Bloodfin Tetra) – Bill Newell
- E: Caridina dennerli (Sulawesi shrimp "white socks") – First place – Michael Mikulewicz – 21 points

Killifish

A



B



C



D



E



A



Open

B



C



D



E



BAP report-Julidochromis dickfeldi

By: Michael Flintrop

Julidochromis, known collectively as Julies, are a dwarf cichlid group endemic to Lake Tanganyika, one of Africa's rift lakes. The lake- one of the oldest on the planet (9-12 million years) was once connected to the ocean and cut off several million years ago. It is bordered currently by Burundi, DRC, Tanzania and Zambia. Parts of the lake are nearly 5,000 feet in depth. Only Lake Bakal is deeper. Tanganyika is the longest lake on the planet (over 400 miles). It is virtually isolated from other systems, and a collection of unique and diverse cichlid species have developed over the millennia. Limestone rocks and surrounding geology contribute to a very high pH. The enormous length and breadth have allowed several species to develop specific phenotypic appearances (outward visual appearance) that are location dependent. In addition, its size and volume have led to very stable physical and chemical characteristics. Much has been written, many books, videos, and extensive scientific research has been published, and will not be reviewed here.



Julidochromis dickfeldi
By: Baesler, S.

Julidochromis apparently is derived from Latin "Julius" meaning elevated, and "chromis" meaning colorful fish. I also read on a few sites, that it was named after the marine Mediterranean wrasse (*Coris julis*), and that the name means "wrasse – cichlid". I thought the latter might mean I could use this as a marine species BAP submission, but regretfully I am 5-7 millions years too late.

6 recognized species have been recognized to date:

Julidochromis dickfeldi (no nickname yet, the subject of today's BAP report)

Julidochromis marksmithi (in my aquatic lifetime, has never been seen by my eyes)

Julidochromis marlieri (needs no nickname, drop dead gorgeous-my wife's favorite in the fishroom)

Julidochromis ornatus (golden Julie)

Julidochromis regani (convict Julie)

Julidochromis transcriptus (masked Julie)

Why J dickfeldi? Well, the availability of some young fry at the CNYAS yearly auction 4/2024 helped. Locally sourced from our own CNYAS member, Clifford Crain.

I've never written an article for the Reflector and I feel this species needs some love. Look at the others...who wouldn't want the "golden Julie"? The masked Julie? How mysterious! The convict Julie? Who doesn't want a bad boy Julie convict, that would not kill everything in your tank? The J marlieri? I mean, if you have seen one, it's no contest. Really stunning. J marksmithii-well, I'm bidding if they come my way, given I've never had the opportunity to see or keep one. So it appears that J dickfeldi is akin to Jan on the Brady bunch, and has to work to distinguish herself from her accomplished siblings.

This is what happened at my house, and while others may have feelings about the setup-it's just how things unfolded.

4/2024-purchased at the CNYAS, went into a 5 foot tank with a thriving *Neolamprologus multifasciatus* colony. Dithers included (too many) *Ancistrus cirrhosus*, and black mollies. Lots of rocks, pool filter sand, canister filter x 2, fake plants-including some floating plastic plants. It was meant to be a grow out tank. To my surprise, the multis did their thing (> 40 at one point), the plecs reproduced to the point of almost annoyance, and the mollies had several rounds of fry. There appeared to be no predation of any fry.

9/2024-my first trip to the Keystone Clash in PA. I found myself returning with a bag of *J. marlieri*. (my wife loves them, so now I can go to other fish events!). Where to put them? I had only 2 tanks, so into the *Julidochromis dickfeldi* tank they went. Everyone got along, but I was concerned as they matured there would be geographic and territorial limitations. I ended up getting a 20 gallon long. After taking the rocks and decorations out and draining the tank to 2 inches of water, I finally separated out the *dickfeldi* (6) into the 20 gallon long.

5/2025-Into the new home. This time, Syracuse water, Carbi Sea Aragonite sand, heater pre set to 78, a sponge filter, no lighting or plants, and roofing slate. The latter was quite convenient. I have a pallet of that stuff in my basement. Will not affect the pH. Relatively light. Slate is easy to remove when netting out fish, and allowed me to see straight thru to the back. I did put a large piece facing the glass, to keep 50% crevices dark. My water changes could have been more vigorous.

Summer 2025-nothing happened. I decided to change my feeding to include almost daily BBS, along with the previous flakes and frozen BS, bloodworms, etc.

Fall 2025-the first of several small generations of fry appeared. The actual breeding event was not seen. The specific parents never confidently identified. Fed BBS-at this point the only thing fed-as I had concerns about fouling the water. Julie fry are so fascinating, I love that they swim upside down along a cave or rock wall.

No casualties among the adults, although 2 did spend their lives around the sponge filter, with some fry hovering. Never figured out who the parent fish were. It is my understanding that the females can have clutches with several males, while other sites talk about specific pair bonds. Male and female largely look alike-a benefit in that all the fish look cool.

So while my adult density was excessive, several clutches of fry resulted without any adult casualty.

I found my experience with *Julidochromis dickfeldi* a rewarding experience and found them to be a welcome experience in my tanks.



Julidochromis marlieri and *dickfeldi* in perfect harmony, with some annoyed multis closely watching

CLUB MEMBERS' FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Photos by: Marc Tuori





FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #42

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.

“The Mechanics of a Stream Tank” by Mike Hellweg, CFN (Certified Fish Nut) ***The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, January/February 2026**

The January/February issue of *The Darter* is devoted to the highland streams biotope. Mike’s article explains how to set up a tank that mimics this biotope and notes that “the most important thing that makes a tank an optimal stream tank is the flow of the water.” After providing several reasons why a stream tank should be set up for fishes that live in that environment, he explains that the key is to not set up the filter and pump so that it creates a two-way current. In the wild, the current flows in only one direction: “we want to create a flow that is unidirectional. That is a bit more involved.” Mike then provides clear instructions and illustrations on how to achieve a unidirectional flow in an aquarium using PVC pipe to return water from one end of the tank to the pump at the other end of the tank. It’s a straight-forward yet clever approach and makes me wonder why I didn’t think of that. Mike is one of the best writers in the business, and this article should win an award.

“A Livebearer Out of the Past” by Bill Duzen, ***Some Things Fishy*, Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, January 2026**

Bill harkens back to the bygone days when there were many local fish stores carrying many oddball fishes. He remembers one from his pre-teen days that carried the Cuban Limia, *Limia vittata*. This small livebearer does “extremely well in the aquarium with a sponge filter and live plants.” They are easy to spawn, “And if you have enough plant cover you need not remove the fry.” Putting in a plug for aquarium societies, Bill concludes that “so many fishes I remember as a kid are no longer commercially available and can only be obtained from dedicated fish keepers.”

Reprints and reviews:

None this month.

By: David Pomeranz

Tateurndina ocellicauda (Peacock gudgeon) breeding report

For those unfamiliar, peacock gudgeons are a fantastic little nano fish, and one of my favorites. They prefer softer water, though this doesn't seem crucial. They do prefer a densely planted tank, with a variety of different shapes, sizes, and materials for hiding spaces, and they do not seem to do well with boisterous tank mates, even if they are not aggressive. They are fine in normal tropical temperatures, though a little on the warm side seems to help with spawning.

They are cave spawners, and I use 1/4" pvc for this purpose. I have disguised it with moss and gravel that I have attached with silicone, though I'm fairly certain this is more for my sense of aesthetics than any preferences on the part of the fish. Conditioning is best done with live foods, and while they will breed in a tank along with tank mates as mine did. However, they can shy eaters, so in particular when you are trying to spawn them it is best to keep them with fish that will target different food, or with similarly timid natures.

If everything is going well, the female will develop a noticeably bright yellow rounded belly, and the male will find his tiny pvc cave. Courting typically consists of the male displaying his broad side with fins flares, and a bit of chasing the female around. Shortly after witnessing these signs, you should see the female and male tightly pack into their tube, followed by a spawn.



Female, post spawn



Male guarding his cave



Newly transferred eggs

Mine laid clutches of a little over 40. I like to give the male 2 days or so to fan the eggs, and then remove the tube, leaving him in the tank. I will then use a pipette to blow the eggs out of the tube with water into a tumbler. The one shown in the photo is a Ziss product.

They can be extremely prone to getting covered in fungus, so I took the tumbler and set it up in a 5 gallon tank with methylene blue to finish maturing.

Somewhere between the 4 and 7 day mark, which seems to depend on temperature, they will hatch. I raised them initially in the 5 gallon tank I transferred the tumbler into, and fitted it with a mature sponge filter from another tank, a handful of moss, a small heater, and a bunch of snails for clean up.

For the first day or two they live on the yolks. They are initially quite sensitive and small, so after that I fed them a mix of vegetable cultured infusoria and micro worm substrate infusoria. Within a week or so, they could eat vinegar eels and full sized micro worms, and lived off of that diet with small amounts of fry powder for the first 6 weeks.

Out of two clutches I had about a 55% survival rate at the 4 month mark, and they are just starting to show their adult colors. They are still incredibly small even after that much time, so if you spawn these guys be prepared to be caring for fry for quite a long time.

One final quirk worth mentioning is that the males seem very prone to starving and stressing themselves by becoming too focused on spawning, so changing the conditions to discourage spawning attempts might be a smart move. I unfortunately lost the male in my pair this way, so I'll have to pay closer attention to that in my next generation.

Despite a few potentially challenging tendencies, they are a relatively easy and rewarding fish to keep and spawn, and if you are looking for a very small and colorful fish project, it's hard to beat these little guys!



Fry at 6 weeks



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 11, Board meeting**
- Feb 18, General Meeting**
- March 11, Board Meeting**
- March 15, TFCEC Spring Auction**
- March 18, General Meeting**
- March 21, UNYKA Swap Meet**
- April 25, CNYAS Spring Auction**

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!](#)



Come Joins us at

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County (NY)

Lake Erie Italian Club, 3200 S. Park Ave, Lackawanna NY

70/30 Split, 50 Item limit per seller, including a max of 5 Dry goods

Refreshments available

Info at TFCEC.com or Our Facebook Page

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

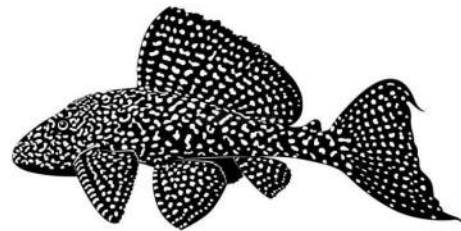
Tables: 1 for \$20, 2 for \$35, 3 for \$45



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

is not responsible for items sold



Tropical Fish

Plants & Aquarium Supplies

Auction



Saturday April 25, 2026



VFW Post 3146

2000 Lemoyne Ave. Syracuse, NY 13028

46th Annual Auction

Sponsored by the Central New York Aquarium Society



Free Admission

Open to the public



All products sold must be used in the fish hobby!

Cash/Credit Card No Checks ATM Available

Registration Starts at 9:00 AM and Auction Starts at 11:00 AM

For more information contact: cnyasannualauction@gmail.com

30 / 70 Split for non-member sellers

To register for a seller ID contact: cnyastreas@gmail.com

Visit our website for rules at: www.cnyas.net



**CNYAS 50th Anniversary items available at our online store in a variety of colors
FREE US Shipping for Orders \$70+**

<https://www.teepublic.com/t-shirt/85138991-cnyas-50th-anniversary>



The Central New York Aquarium Society would like to Thank these Companies and Individuals for their contributions and support

Please support those who support the CNYAS

Jason Den Haese
 Empire Aquatics
 The Blue Lagoon
 Creature Comforts
 Pet World
 The Fish Place
 CAK Aquatics
 That Fish Place
 Low Tide Corals
 The I Fish Store
 M & D's Fish
 Aquatic Haven

Spectrum Brands
 Zoo Med
 Marine Pure
 Brine Shrimp Direct
 API
 Central Garden & Pet
 Aquarium Co-op
 Danner MFG
 Bulk Reef Supply
 Seachem
 Carib-Sea





Brine Shrimp Direct
5% Discount Code 05114



Spectrum
Brands



50th Anniversary T-shirts are here!

Shirts are available at our regular meetings

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



CLASSIFIEDS

Club [Shirts](#), [Hoodies](#) and [Caps](#) for sale

- Regular T-Shirt — \$15
- V-neck Shirt (Ladies) — \$20
- Pullover Hoodie — \$30
- Zip-up Hoodie — \$50
- Cap — \$20
- Coffee Mugs—\$5

ATTENTION LOCAL MERCHANTS

Advertise in the Reflector!

Rates for 1 Year (10 Issues)

Business Card- \$30

1/4 Page- \$80

1/2 Page- \$100

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!

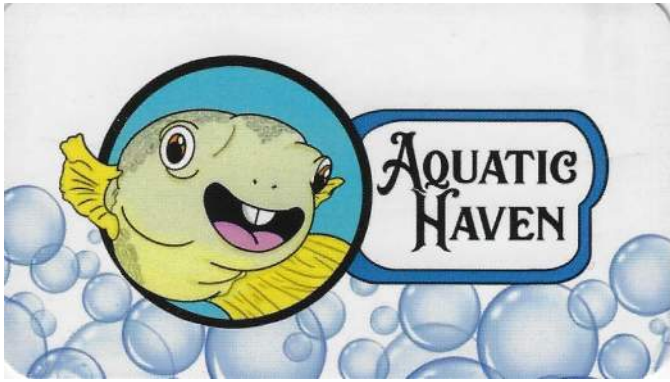
<https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors>

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15.00 - Individual

\$20.00 - Family

**Send to: CNYASTreas@gmail.com on
Paypal.com (send as friend & family)**



Shop with us for all your Aquarium needs!

WE CARRY:

- Fish!
- tanks and lids
- frozen and flake foods
- cleaning and filter supplies
- lighting
- Accessories
- medicine and water treatments
- And so much more!



PHONE: 315-887-5035

Like us on Facebook  @Aquatic Haven



EMPIRE AQUATICS
Tropical fish supplies & Equipment

Open 6 days a week
Call for hours

 @Empire Aquatics
(315)684-9858
Email us: Spoiler321@aol.com

Pet World


Ridgemont Plaza
(585) 225-8700
2833 Ridge Rd. West
Greece
Mon-Sat 9-9; Sun 10-6

Country Club Plaza
(585) 381-3870
Fairport Rd. @ Marsh Rd.
M-F 10-9; Sat 10-8 Sun 11-5

www.PetWorldRochester.com
or visit us on Facebook at
Pet World Rochester



MON.-SAT.: 12PM-8PM
SUNDAY: 12PM-6PM


THE BLUE LAGOON PET SHOP
TROPICAL FISH • REPTILES • PET SUPPLY

794 FRENCH RD
CHEEKTOWAGA NY, 14227
716-771-1001



M&D'S FISH
www.MANDSFFISH.COM
mosBETTAFISH@gmail.com
(716)378-8099

FISH BREEDING AND SHIPPING



Northgate Plaza
1250 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
607-723-2666
www.ccpetstore.com

CREATURE COMFORTS
Your Pet's Super Store!



David's Aqua Nook

David Pomeranz
 Davidsaquanook@gmail.com
 Aquatic Plants
 Grown without CO2
 Nanofish & Shrimp
 Medakas

Follow us on Facebook!



Shipping to the continental US or local pickup in Homer, NY



THE GUPPY FATHER

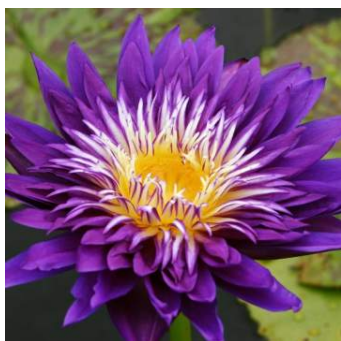
WWW.THEGUPPYFATHER.COM



FINS & FLORA

Find us on **Morph MARKET**

Shelbie Schatz
 502 West Creek Rd.
 Saint Marys PA 15857
 Shelbie25846@Gmail.com
 (814)-512-2033




FloridaTM
 AQUATIC NURSERIES

Crypt Keeper Aquatics



   *Grow Crypts - Raise Critters - Share Joy*