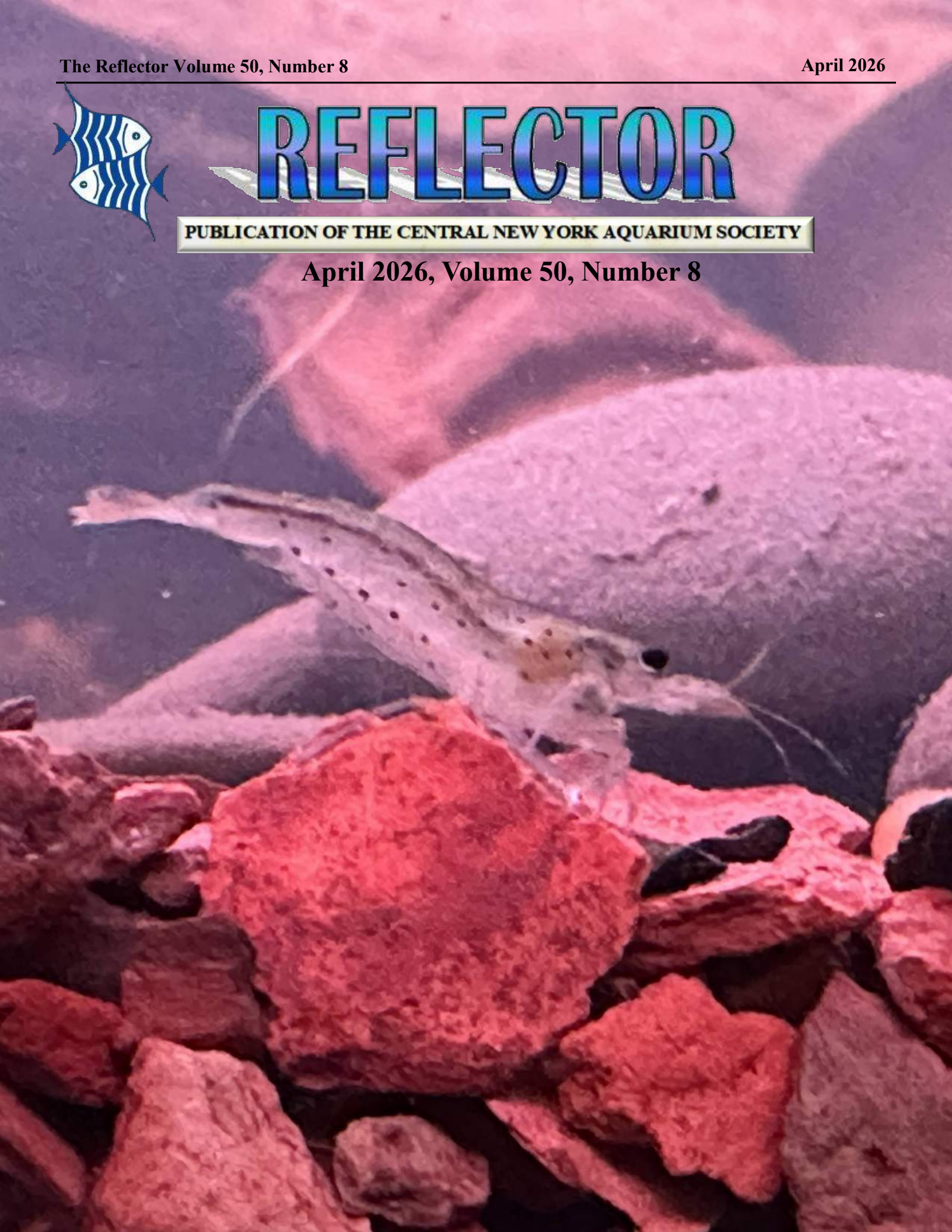




REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

April 2026, Volume 50, Number 8



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 April 15, 2026
@ 7:00 pm

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- 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.

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Officers

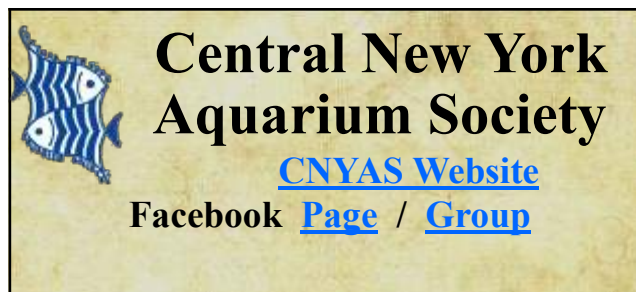
| | |
|------------------------|--|
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| Vice President: | Ron Alexander CNYAS.VP@gmail.com |
| Secretary: | Mary Teelin |
| Treasurer: | Bob Kotcher CNYASTreas@gmail.com |
| Editor: | Doug Hillman Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com |

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





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





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ron Fabiny

President's Message April 2026

I heard last month's meeting was a success. David did a great job. Let's start using Discord as a forum specifically for our club. I think this can be quite advantageous to the club.

A reminder that at April's meeting there is going to be a presentation by Mandy Goan on her black worm breeder box with a work shop on it after. If you did not already reserve and pay for the Blackworm breeder box Mandy may have additional boxes for purchase.

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. I am requesting everyone's assistance with the auction since this is what enables us to get these great speakers we had this past year.

Well, I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Remember, nominations for offices are this month.

Ron

CNYAS ELECTIONS FOR 2026-2027

At the April general meeting, the first round of nominations for Officers and Board members will take place. According to our Club Constitution, in order to be eligible to run, a person must be 18 years of age or older and a member in good standing for at least 6 months prior to elections. That means being a paid member by October of 2025. Within those parameters, anyone can be nominated and can run. A nominee must agree to be nominated.

The first round of nominations will be posted in the May Reflector. At the meeting in May, a final round of nominations will be taken and voting will take place. The following positions will be open for nomination:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Editor
- 5 positions for Board of Directors

The duties of the Board are to assist in the business of running the Club. Board members are expected to attend monthly Board meetings and share in hosting a Board meeting.

If you have any questions, contact Sue at 315-382-5139.

Sue Kotcher, Election Chair



This Month's Speaker: Mandy Goan

The Blackworm Breeder Box Method Presentation & Workshop

Hello, my name is Mandy Goan, and I am the president and founder of the Aquarium Club of Maryland. Under my leadership, our club has thrived and grown into a hub for fishkeeping enthusiasts. I have extensive expertise in the hobby, particularly in the realm of live fish foods and various plants.

I have developed an innovative technique for culturing black worms, a method that is gaining recognition throughout the live foods community. In addition to black worms, I have experience with several other live foods, including peanut beetles, brine shrimp, black soldier fly larvae, earthworms, micro worms (several ways), vinegar eels (on instant potatoes), Walter worms, and banana worms. My talks can be tailored to focus on any three live foods of your choice, and I can also incorporate a brief version of my black worm presentation as one of the choices.

Beyond live foods, I have been experimenting with various carnivorous plants and native fish to create a unique approach to summer tubing for natural bug control, with surprising and impressive results.



50th CNYAS ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

2026 marks the 50th anniversary of CNY Aquarium Society! In place of a June general meeting, we will host the party and dinner on Saturday, June 13th from 6PM to 10PM at Bella Domani Restaurant, 5988 E. Taft Rd. No Syracuse 13212.

The dinner will be a buffet including Chicken Francaise, Sirloin Tips & Mushrooms over noodles, Fried Fish, Penne Pasta with Vodka Sauce, Rice Pilaf, Green Bean Almondine, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Tea. There will also be a vegetarian option and a self-serve soda station.

Alcohol will be served as a cash bar.

The cost of the banquet is only \$15 per person. You must sign up and pay in advance.

The deadline for signing up and payment will be the May general meeting.

I WILL BE TAKING SIGNUPS AND MONEY AT BOTH THE APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS.

It should be a great time. Club awards will be presented, followed by a picture presentation, a photo booth, recognition of past and deceased members, Sponsors who have contributed to our Club over the year and others who will be attending. Of course, there will also be time to socialize.

At this time, I would like to thank my committee members, Mike Flintrop and Ron Fabiny.

Mike was instrumental in helping to contact former members and giving a short, interesting talk before each meeting about the events of the Club in the Reflectors and for the times, in general, over 50 years. Ron provided wise advice and counsel.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 315-382-5139.

Sue Kotcher
Anniversary Chair





BOARD MEETING

CNYAS Board meeting

3/11/2026

Attending: Ron Alexander, Len and Mary Futterman, Doug Hillman, Bob Kotcher, Bill Newell, 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 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; 59 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.
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. Ron to look at do we need both a facebook page and group.
2. Previous member Jack McGraw wants to donate fish room, more to come.
3. Clifford presented a potential app for auction- Auction. Fish.
4. 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. Sue, Mike and Ron to meet to plan some events. 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, sponsers 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. Len to do a slide show with interactive slides. Have attendees be acknowledged for when they joined.

New Business:

1. David volunteer to present on Discord.
2. Need payment for people coming to the banquet.
3. Mandy Goan, Aquarium club of Maryland will be demonstrating blackworm breeding at April meeting. Breeding kits are \$25, pre order in March.

Archives:

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. 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.
3. 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.
4. Upcoming Board meetings:
MAR- Bill
APR- David
MAY- Bob and Sue
JUNE- need place
5. David set up Discord to use as a communication app for the club.

3/18/2026 CNYAS General meeting (Sue Kotcher taking notes this meeting)

1. Chip Alexander VP running meeting for Ron Fabiny.
2. Susie R looking for new pictures from members.
3. Sue K gave a short report about Banquet and Elections.
4. Chip looking for volunteers for auction- runners, set up and tear down.
5. UNYKA Swap meeting Sat 3/21, 10:00 Minoa town hall.
6. Herschel Beeman gave oral presentation about Cardinal Tetras for BAP requirements and on South American Killis, peat spawners.
7. David Pomeranz gave talk regarding Discord app and algae.
8. Chip asked for plecos and shrimp for the auction- donations.
9. Mini auction was held.





Product Comparison: Fluval 307 and FX2 Filters

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

I'm a big sponge filter guy. They're inexpensive, last a long time, require minimal maintenance and best of all, do a great job of harboring the bacteria that are needed to provide biological filtration. And I already have a linear piston pump, so I have plenty of air to run them in all of my tanks.

However, if your tank is overcrowded (not that that ever happens) or has fish that eat a lot and therefore poop a lot, your tank will quickly look pretty messy. You need mechanical filtration in addition to the sponge filter's biological filtration. On my three largest, most heavily-stocked tanks, I found that a canister filter does a great job removing the fish waste.

I first purchased a Fluval 307 and found it to be well-designed and effective at its job. When a second tank required this level of filtration, I bought another 307. Then I purchased a bunch of *Chromidotilapia guntheri* fry without realizing how big and hungry they get. The 307 on that tank, a 60 breeder, wasn't cutting it, so I bought a new Fluval FX2. I'd like to give you my impression of these filters, in case you are considering buying a canister filter. Both filters are very well-designed and great at the job they're meant to do. I have found some differences that may impact your decision on which to purchase.

Before getting into the details of these filters, I have two recommendations. First, place the filter on a pan with a lip on it and put a water leak alarm on the pan near the filter. If the filter leaks, the alarm will alert you. Second, record the date whenever the filter is cleaned. You'll be amazed how many months go by since the last cleaning. You won't remember the date unless you write it down. At first I wrote it on a piece of paper attached to the filter, but I found that the paper would get wet and hard to read and write on. Now I stick some dry-erase tape to my basement refrigerator and write the date on that. I'm in that refrigerator every day for brine shrimp eggs, so it's easy for me to see the date stuck on the freezer door.

Fluval 307 Canister Filter

The 307 is the smaller of the two filters. I found it to be perfectly adequate for tanks up to 75 gallons as long as the tank is not jam-packed with fish, or contains fish that eat a lot and make a mess when they eat. The flow rate is appropriate for tanks of that size. The filter is well-designed and made of quality materials and runs silently. Note that the filter container and hoses for this filter (and the FX2) do not allow for an inline heater. The directions are thorough and clear, with one exception: during setup the user must install an o-ring around the inner circumference of the filter lid. The directions are not clear where to install this. I installed it in the wrong place, and the filter leaked. A lot. I called Fluval customer service, and to their credit, they helped me find the correct location to attach the o-ring. The fact that the o-ring doesn't go where it looks like it should go can be seen that I made the same mistake when I was setting up my second 307! Either that, or I'm a slow learner with a poor memory.

Maintaining the 307 is easy. The "Aqua-Stop" valves, which when closed prevent the water in the input and output hoses from draining all over your floor during cleaning, are easy to shut, and the lever that disconnects the hoses from the filter is also easy to move. One nice feature is that once you attach the hoses correctly during initial setup, it is impossible to reverse them (*e.g.*, putting the output hose in the input hole of the filter) during maintenance.

Once the hoses are disconnected, the next step is to lift the filter out from under the tank and take it to the sink for rinsing. The filter filled with water weighs 20 pounds. The filter comes with coarse and fine sponges for mechanical filtration, and three baskets for biological and chemical filtration. These are easy to clean, and the sponges have shown almost no wear despite years of use. I squeeze the detritus out of the sponges under running water. There's no need to worry about the chlorine killing the bacteria, since the baskets holding the biological filter media can be rinsed separately in a bucket of aquarium water. The filter comes with activated carbon, which I don't use, and Fluval BioMax ceramic rings. I recommend placing the rings in a filter bag so they don't fall out when being rinsed. The filter comes with sponges for one of the baskets for additional mechanical filtration. I put the rings in the second basket and a Fluval phosphate pad and Purigen chemical media in the third basket.



What you find when you open a filthy 307. Sponges on the left, filter baskets under the gray cover on the right. Lid on the floor with impeller visible.



Sponges in their holder with three baskets holding ceramic rings and phosphate pads. Not visible: Purigen bag and additional sponges under the phosphate pads.

After rinsing, the media is placed back in the canister and the canister can be taken back to the tank to be re-attached to the hoses. The instructions state that the canister must not be filled with water, which is great since I don't want to lug that 20 pounds back to the tank and contort myself positioning it. After opening the valves and waiting for air in the canister to be ejected into the tank, I can turn the filter back on, and we're back in business. The process of ejecting the air and turning the filter on causes, in both the 307 and FX2 filters, crud that is in the hose to be spat out into the tank. It looks messy for a few moments, but I assume most of that crud gets sucked back up by the filter.

Well-designed and manufactured, and easy to maintain, the Fluval 307 gets a big thumbs up from me.

Both 307s installed and happily running. Note the gray latches that keep the lid tight against the canister body. Also note the water leak detector at the bottom of the photo.



Fluval FX2 Canister Filter

As mentioned, when I found that the 307 wasn't adequately handling the waste generated by the fish in the admittedly overstocked 60-breeder, I purchased the FX2, which is the smallest of the FX-series of filters. Besides being smaller and therefore having less filter capacity than the FX4 and FX6, it also lacks a drain at the base of the filter that aquarists can use to perform a water change through the filter. That's a feature I didn't need or want to pay for, since I already have, if I do say so, a pretty nifty manual water changing setup that utilizes PVC drain lines attached to the aquarium stands that lead to a floor drain.

Like the 307, the FX2 is a quality-manufactured product with clear instructions. The Fluval canisters typically cost a bit more than their competitors, but this is a case of getting what you pay for.

Maintaining the FX2 is, in my opinion, more difficult than the 307.

When cleaning the filter, keep the output below the water line to maintain the siphon. This will eliminate the need to prime the filter after it's been cleaned and put back in place. In other words, clean the filter first, turn the FX2 back on, then do the water change.

One of my biggest complaints with the FX2 is the difficulty in turning the AquaStop valves. Unlike the 307, where you shut the valves by lifting a lever, for the FX2 you must turn two valves, one for the input and one for the output, and man, are they ever hard to turn! I have to grab the valve handle with pliers in order to give me enough leverage to turn the darned thing. Not only that, but it's difficult to know which direction to turn them. I had to tape a piece of paper to the body of the valve reminding me which direction is "Close."

The FX2, being larger than the 307, is also 50% heavier; filled with water, it weighs 30 pounds. You'll feel that weight when you're on your knees, reaching under the aquarium to pull out the FX2. Once you heave the FX2 over to the sink, you'll need to unscrew six clamps (more time-consuming than the two levers to lift up on the 307), but cleaning the filter media is not much different from cleaning the filter media in the 307; there's just more of it, of course.

Besides the sponges that ring the circumference of the filter, the FX2 has two filter baskets, each with its own sponge filter and room for biological or chemical filtration in the basket beneath the sponge. I like to throw a phosphate pad in one basket and a Purigen chemical filter bag in the other basket along with bags of Fluval BioMax ceramic rings for my biological filtration. I rinse the rings in aquarium water and the sponges in tap water. Even if some of the bacteria are destroyed by the tap water, I have large sponge filters in the tanks that perform biological filtration in addition to the ceramic rings in the filter.



What you find when you open a filthy FX2.



Now nice and clean! Sponges around circumference and on top of both baskets, with a phosphate pad (left) and Purigen bag (right). Not visible: ceramic rings under the black sponges.

Once the cleaning is done, I take the filter with the top not attached back over to its spot under the aquarium and pour 1.4 gallons of water into it, per the instructions. Priming the filter this way eliminates the need of carrying and wrestling with 30 pounds of a water-filled filter. After the lid is seated those clamps must be tightened. One time I tightened all but one of the clamps, and sure enough, the dang thing leaked when I opened the valves. Unlike the 307, which is designed to make it impossible to attach the intake hose to the output of the filter, care must be taken not to cross the hoses on the FX2. The next step is for sweat beads to form on your forehead while you struggle to turn those *#@! valves back on. Surely Fluval could design valves that are not so hard to turn!

The FX2 has a priming sequence built in. The filter runs for one minute after being restarted, then takes two minutes off to purge any air in the filter. It is designed to stop every twelve hours for one minute to ensure air never gets into the filter. The priming sequence just described starts over any time power is cut off.

Fluval recommends cleaning the impeller of the FX2 yearly. I have never cleaned the impeller on my 307s but decided to try it on the FX2. The first step is to remove three screws that hold the impeller housing to the canister. Pay close attention to the screws, as they can easily fall out while doing this. Mine did, and it took me a few minutes on my hands and knees scouring the floor in search of them. I cleaned and reinstalled the impeller. When I turned the filter on, I got a humming noise that went away after a few days. My recommendation is: don't clean the impeller unless you're experiencing a problem.



**The FX2 is installed under its aquarium.
Note the handwritten note taped to the
output valve indicating which way to turn
the red AquaStop valve.
Not visible: the identical input valve.**

**Slightly
dirty
impeller**



Conclusion

Both filters are well-designed and manufactured; they are quality products. As you have probably noticed, I found the Fluval 307 much easier to maintain than the Fluval FX2. My guess is that most aquarists will find the 307 (or its larger brother, the 407) perfectly adequate to filter tanks up to 75 gallons in size. For larger tanks or heavily overstocked tanks, the FX-series would be more appropriate.

The Think Tank

A Monthly Club Write-in

Welcome to the first ever club write in. Next months question can be found bellow, and will be announced at the next club meeting on 4/15/2026.

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?**

Discus.

I had my first while in high school; a big 6 inch wild caught brown discus (15\$ lol) just stunning. It lived on a well with hard water, and eventually got the dreaded hole the head disease. This was before the internet. I had a few books but not enough knowledge to save him. Fast forward 30 years - I kept a tank of them on RO water and were my pride and joy.

-Michael Flintrop

The biggest hurdle that I cleared was in keeping my ossa (trumpet) knife fish. I plan to write this story up in more detail in the future, but the short version is that I kept my first one in a small isolation tank far too long because she was eating well in there and I wanted to be absolutely certain her final destination was thoroughly conditioned and ready. After about 6 months, she mysteriously became weak and I couldn't nurse her back. I narrowed it down to a lack of environmental gradients. I was relatively confident in my assessment and decided to try again after the initial shock of the loss. Now I've had 2 of them in my 150 gallon tank for 2 and 3 years respectively, and they seem to be thriving! I look forward to many more years with them. Also, sometimes they cuddle as pictured to the right.

-David Pomeranz

For me this would be bristlenose plecos. Many years ago I had a very hard time getting these things to spawn. I wish I could tell you what hurdles I overcame to be successful, but I didn't really change what I was doing. After a few years of trying different plecos, something certainly changed. Now I can't stop the things from spawning and almost every tank I have is swarming with plecos.

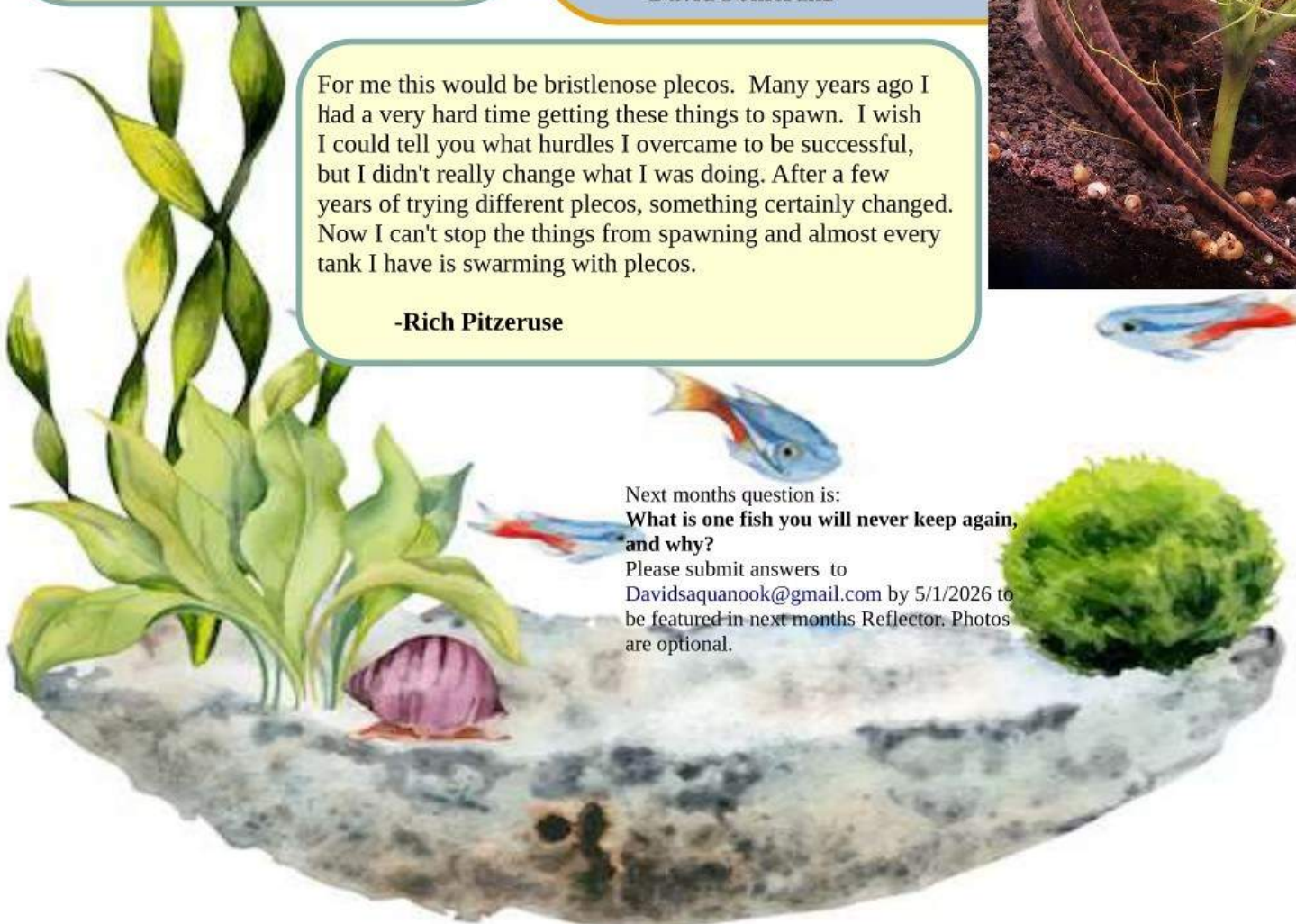
-Rich Pitzeruse



Next months question is:

What is one fish you will never keep again, and why?

Please submit answers to Dauidsquanook@gmail.com by 5/1/2026 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 March 2026 Reflector and points published in April 2026 Reflector

| Name | Status | April Reflector | Scaly Eraser | Total |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| Crain | Pen & Quill | 50 | 642 | 3,201 |
| Spahn | Pen & Quill | 0 | 0 | 1,276 |
| Kotcher | Pen & Quill | 0 | 120 | 971 |
| Teelin-Futterman | Pen & Quill | 0 | 25 | 736 |
| Pitzeruse | Pen & Quill | 0 | 0 | 652 |
| Fabiny | Pen & Quill | 0 | 10 | 571 |
| Hillman | Wordsmith | 45 | 265 | 535 |
| Pomeranz, D. | Author | 0 | 191 | 326 |
| Rademacher | Author | 0 | 0 | 215 |
| Futterman | Author | 0 | 95 | 205 |
| Rafferty | Participant | 35 | 95 | 190 |
| Baird | Author | 0 | 0 | 130 |
| Beeman | Author | 20 | 35 | 140 |
| Cody | Participant | 0 | 40 | 110 |
| Flintrop | Author | 0 | 65 | 100 |
| Walcott | Participant | 15 | 60 | 110 |
| Tuori | Participant | 0 | 30 | 90 |
| Sager | Participant | 0 | 0 | 70 |
| Pomeranz, A. | Writer | 20 | 70 | 70 |
| Newell | Participant | 0 | 40 | 50 |
| Gibbs | Participant | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| Valdez | Participant | 0 | 40 | 40 |
| Sumner | Participant | 0 | 15 | 15 |
| Lindblom | Participant | 0 | 15 | 15 |

WAP news!

Congratulations to Doug Hillman! His two articles have moved him up to Wordsmith status!

| | | | |
|--|---|----|----|
| Number participating in the Writer’s Award Program | 6 | 18 | 24 |
|--|---|----|----|

Submissions appearing in the March 2026 Reflector:

Beeman, “Think Tank,” 1 article, 20 points

Crain, “Fish Friends From Afar #43,” 1 article, 20 points

Crain, “Don’t Put Lead Into Your Tank!,” 1 article, 20 points, 2 photos, 10 points = 30 points total

Hillman, “David Pomeranz’s Fish Room,” article, 20 points

Hillman, “Think Tank,” 1 article, 20 points, 1 photo, 5 points = 25 points total

Pomeranz, A. “Think Tank,” 1 article, 20 points

Rafferty, cover photo, 5 points

Rafferty, “David Pomeranz’s Fish Room,” 6 photos, 30¹⁵points

Walcott, crystal red caradina shrimp photo, 5 points

Walcott, Club Members’ Fish and/or Aquarium, 2 photos, 10 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 |
| 1,4,6,7,8,11,12,16 | | | Russell Phelps | 10 | 1 |
| Fabiny | 565 | 50 | Greg Summer | 10 | 1 |
| 1,7,8,11,12,14,15,16 | | | Mary Futterman | 5 | 1 |
| <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 | | | Welcome to BAP Greg Summer ! | | |
| Hunter Collins | 235 | 13 | (tied for rookie of the year !) | | |
| 8,11 | | | <i>Oryzias woworae</i> 10 points | | |
| Doug Hillman | 235 | 24 | Welcome back to BAP Jennifer Lioto | | |
| 1,8,11 | | | <i>Beta splendens</i> 10 points, 9/2002 | | |
| <u>Advanced Breeder</u> | | | <i>Pterophyllum scalare</i> 10 points, 5/2005 | | |
| David Pomeranz | 140 | 16 | <i>Neolamprologus multifasciatis</i> 15 points, 6/2007 | | |
| 16 | | | <i>Poecilia reticulata</i> 5 points, 12/1/2008 | | |
| Mike Flintrop | 150 | 15 | <i>Pelvicacheomis pulcher</i> 10 points | | |
| 11 | | | Bill Newell | | |
| <u>Breeder Award</u> | | | <i>Apistogramma cacatuoides</i> 15 points | | |
| Wisneski | 65 | 7 | Herschel Beeman | | |
| 11 | | | <i>Simpsonichthys constancie</i> 15 points | | |
| Denise Baird | 70 | 8 | <i>Melanotaenia boesmani</i> 10 points | | |
| Chris Allen | 60 | 5 | <i>Macropodus opercularis</i> 10 points | | |
| 11,14 | | | | | |
| Rich Pitzeruse | 55 | 5 | | | |
| Jennifer Lioto | 50 | 5 | | | |

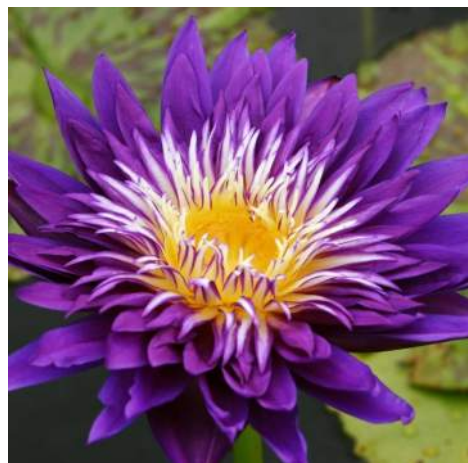




**AQUATIC HORTICULTURE
AWARD PROGRAM**
Chairman– Bill Newell
Email: bnewell44@gmail.com



| 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 | | | | | |
| <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> | | | Additions: | | |
| Pomeranz* | 390 | 28 | David Pomeranz | | |
| 2,3,7,9,10,13 | | | <i>Alternanthera reinekii</i> | (cutting) | 10 pts |
| | | | <i>Bacopa caroliniana</i> | (cutting) | 10 pts |
| | | | <i>Cryptocoryne spiralis</i> | (doubling) | 15 pts |
| | | | <i>Echinodorus bleheri</i> | (cutting) | 15 pts |
| | | | <i>Ludwigia ovalis</i> | (cutting) | 10 pts |
| | | | <i>Ludwigia peruensis</i> | (runner) | 10 pts |
| | | | <i>Marsilea hirsuta</i> | (doubling) | 15 pts |
| | | | <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> | (runner) | 10 pts |
| | | | <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> | (flowering) | 15 pts |
| | | | <i>Pontederia (Eichornia)</i> | | |
| | | | <i>Crassipes</i> | (doubling) | 15 pts |
| | | | <i>Rotala rotundifolia</i> | (cutting) | 10 pts |
| | | | <i>Vesicularia montagnei</i> | (doubling) | 10 pts |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Senior</u> | | | Bill Newell | | |
| Snead* | 460 | 26 | <i>Hygrophila difformis</i> | (doubling) | 5 pts |
| 2,4,7,10,14 | | | <i>Leptochilus (Microsorium)</i> | | |
| Newell | 235 | 23 | <i>Pteropus</i> | (cutting) | 15 pts |
| 1,4,6 | | | | | |
| Lioto | 285 | 21 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Aquatic</u> | | | | | |
| 6Kotcher* | 185 | 14 | | | |
| 6,10,14 | | | | | |
| Futterman* | 180 | 16 | | | |
| Beeman | 190 | 19 | | | |
| 3,4,6,7 | | | | | |





BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

YTD Scores:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Bill Newell: | 235 | Points |
| Doug Hillman: | 219 | Points |
| Chloe Gibbs: | 22 | Points |
| Michael Mikulewicz | 21 | Points |
| Denise Baird: | 18 | Points |
| Debbie Walcott | 12 | Points |
| Stan Domanowski | 11 | Points |
| David Pomeranz | 1 | Point |
| Greg Summer | 1 | Point |
| Cheryl Poorman | 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 11 entries for the March Bowl Show!

- A: Betta splendens (Mustard Gas Betta) – First place – Bill Newell – 21 points
- B: Macropodus opercularis (Bluefinned Red Flame Paradise Fish) – Doug Hillman – 1 point
- C: Macropodus opercularis (Blue Paradise Fish) – Third place – Bill Newell – 15 points
- D: Betta splendens – Cheryl Poorman – 1 point
- E: Betta splendens – Second place – Debbie Walcott – 11 points

OPEN:

- A: Xenotaenia resolanae – Third place – Stanley Domanowski – 11 points
- B: Corydoras panda longfin – Doug Hillman
- C: Poecilia reticulata (Black Moscow Guppy) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points
- D: Kryptopterus macrocephalus (Striped Glass Catfish) – Bill Newell – 1 point
- E: Ancistrus sp. L144 (Long-Fin Snow White Bristlenose Pleco) – Second place – Doug Hillman – 15 points
- F: Pnaqolus maccus (Clown Pleco) – Bill Newell



The (Pearl) Danio Bucket Basket Challenge

By: Michael Flintrop

Alert-this is NOT the Celestial Pearl Danio (*Danio margaritatus*), aka CPD's and Galaxy Rasbora.



The Pearl Danio *albolineatus*-latin: translation the white lined danio. Other common names include the pearl danio or spotted danio. Fun fact: it was an official stamp of Vietnam (1987).

These are small fish, although not quite nano fish. They generally don't exceed 2 inches in size. Females are a bit larger and fuller, with males being slightly smaller and slender. Their overall appearance is otherwise similar. They are incredibly active fast swimmers and readily form shoals if given the opportunity. I have about 50 in my 5 foot tank and they are a delight to watch. Overall, they are very peaceful and don't bother other fish. They are surface feeders and spend most of the time near the surface. Their native diet includes insects and zooplankton. Looking closely (difficult to do, these fish are incredibly fast) would find an upturned mouth and 2 barbels. Apparently, all danios have a small stomach ending in a muscular pyloric caeca, which then leads to the intestine. There is no real ability to store food. Danios are always hungry.



I think they would make an excellent dither fish.

They were imported in approximately 1910 (along with zebra and giant danios). Today most specimens are commercially bred (for over 100 years). They originate from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Sumatra. They are found in cool flowing highly oxygenated streams. I think one could consider them for an unheated tank. Pearl danios reportedly do poorly when temps approach or exceed 80 degree F. They tolerate a wide pH.

Inspiration: Web site of "*Keeping Fish Simple*". In depth reading suggestion: *A Deep Dive into Danios*. Dr Ted Coletti: TFH magazine Nov/Dec 2024 (available on line for free).

Onto my BAP submission:

All danios are egg scatterers (non-adhesive eggs), and danios are always hungry. Danio eggs are definitely on the menu! How to proceed? There are many avenues and methods to explore.

I used a 5 gallon bucket, a sponge filter (anticipating using the bucket to grow out fry), no snails, no plants (at first), a bare bottom, and a heater pre set to 78 degrees F. A piece of clear plastic to keep fish from jumping out completed the basic setup.

To this I added a black plastic plant basket often used for water lilies. It has tiny grid on all 4 sides and the bottom, to hopefully allow eggs to fall through, and keep the parents separated. It fits perfectly into the top of the bucket, and is just pushed down a bit, to get about 4 inches of water into the basket. A clump of coconut fiber and some floating duckweed completed the basket.



9" x 9" Plastic Plant Basket



Coconut Fiber

Attempt No 1. I introduced 6 random danios (I had purchased 10). There appeared to be sufficient room in the basket for activities to commence. They had been housed in a 2.5-gallon tank, fed heavily with a variety of frozen and flake foods. I had not separated the males and females with Attempt No 1. I waited 2 days and removed them, back into the 2.5-gallon tank. Waited, waited, and waited. Conclusion: Attempt No 1 an abject failure.

Attempt No 2. I separated the males and females into separate containers. In fact, the males went back into the bucket basket, and the females into the 2.5-gallon tank where I could ascertain their size and readiness. Both were fed heavily. Eventually the females went back into the basket to join the males. Fast forward. Conclusion: Attempt No 2 a total failure. Males and females back into the 2.5-gallon tank.

Time to regroup--back to the internet. Most sites suggested I could use this technique on other egg scatterers. So, I tried Cherry barbs-and after that White Cloud minnows. Okay, these are both NOT danios, so you would not expect any good results. And I didn't have any good results.

Attempt No 3. Back into the basket went some more conditioned female pearl danios along with the males. It's the definition of insanity to expect different results even though nothing was essentially changed. But this time, I left them in for a week, having taken a long-needed week off to see family in NJ and PA.

When I returned, I was surprised and thrilled to find a horde of tiny fry all over the bucket. I estimated 40. So, into the 2.5-gallon went the parents, and off to figure out NOW what to do. The fry looked smaller than BBS. I added a fair amount of Java moss, sponge filter grunge, some vinegar eels, and pulverized tiny bits of a hard-boiled egg. They were eating BBS in a few days. Looking back, I think I had a few different clutches, as the fry were different sizes after a few days, and more were appearing each day. So I had to use all sorts of food for several days. Eventually, it approached 100.

Why my success?



Set-up with Basket in the Bucket



Pearl Danio Fry

Shear ignorance? That may play a role. The bucket was on the floor in my mechanical room, but on the way to the fridge, the slop sink for water changes on my other tanks, etc. So, there was movement around this bucket most days. Perhaps my time away helped?

No feeding? Previously I fed fish in the bucket basket. Danios always seem hungry. Maybe a pause in feeding was a trigger?

No water changes? Seems counter intuitive to all one reads in books and online.

Temperature too warm? I used those pre set heaters you can find in a big box store pre set at 78.

I have not tested my hypothesis yet, but I think it was the light. Specifically, sunlight. My brine shrimp hatchery is 5 feet from the bucket, close to the slop sink, concrete floor—all the usual reasons. I kept a small 4 watt LED light on the hatchery, to improve hatches 24/7. My hatchery was off while I was away. So when I went on vacation, the room was only lit by a small eastern facing typical basement window. In addition, I forgot to put the plastic cover on top of the bucket (FYI, to date there have not been any airborne casualties with the fry, having ditched the plastic cover). Did the plastic lid filter out some specific wavelengths of light needed for a trigger?



Bucket Full of Fry

At least with Zebra danios (*Danio rerio*), fish often are noted to spawn with the first rays of light. Sometimes described within minutes. My prior danio attempts were notable for a small but apparently significant light 24/7. No diurnal variation existed.

My reading on danios (specifically Zebra danios) also mentions that there are pheromones that each gender secretes. The combination of pheromones, visual sighting of each other (yes, someone studied this with *D rerio*) and morning (non-artificial light?) appear to be significant triggers to spawn.

My prior rather limited experience with cichlids sometimes prioritizes compatibility, lines of sight, tank size, dithers, other species acting with aggression—in addition to all the usual water parameters, nutrition etc.

I think I have learned with danios that external triggers are important to produce spawning activity. I can try to do everything right, but without the triggers, nothing might happen.

Or, I should just leave them alone and let them do their thing.

I am looking forward to trying my hand at other danios, in the Danio Bucket Basket challenge. Early spoiler alert, the tiny but very attractive ringed danio (*Danio tinwini*) escaped through the openings in the basket on several occasions. I will need to find a basket with even smaller openings!

CLUB MEMBERS' FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

By: Debbie Walcot

Recently setup tank with mangrove (purchased at local fish store, Low Tide Corals),
fluorite substrate, smooth rocks, botanicals,
mostly mature live plants, Ember tetras, and Amano shrimp.



CLUB MEMBERS' FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

By Debbie Walcott

**This is the setup I created in the tank my daughter won at the last CNYAS banquet.
It houses Crystal Red Caridina shrimp and live plants.**



CLUB MEMBERS' FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Photo by: Mike Flintrop
Microgeophagus altispinosa





FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #44

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.

“Acclimating Fish to a New Tank” by Timothy Brady ***Tank Tales, Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, March 2026***

Many years ago, as a beginning aquarist, I was told to float a bag of fish in the aquarium for 15 minutes to equalize temperatures. As Timothy Brady explains in this informative article, “You need to be concerned about more than just temperature. The aquarium water chemistry is just as important as the temperature when it comes to acclimating fish.” He describes in detail the three methods commonly used to acclimate fish: the floating bag method; the bucket method; and the drip method. Timothy recommends placing fish in a quarantine tank whenever possible to reduce the risk of spreading disease. I agree with another recommendation of keeping the lights off when introducing fish, to reduce stress. Timothy’s articles are known for their thoroughness, and this one is no exception.

“*Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor multicolor*: The Dwarf Egyptian Mouthbrooder (DEM)” by Mike Hellweg CFN (Certified Fish Nut) **The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society, March/April 2026**

Here’s another of Mike Hellweg’s great articles. The Egyptian Mouthbrooder is “one of the earliest known exotic fish in the aquarium hobby,” brought to Europe in the late 19th century. These small fish “make excellent additions to the lower regions of a planted community tank.” They “are not at all picky in regards to water parameters.” They are easy to spawn, so feed them well and “they will spawn regularly for you without you having to do anything else.”

“Water Piglets: The Botidae [sic]” by Sam Fernald **The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society, March/April 2026**

When I think of loaches, the Clown Loach comes to mind. It turns out there are nine families of loaches comprising 107 genera and over 1200 species. Sam Fernald first relates the fascinating history of how Europeans came across loaches. He then details the various families and presents photos of some of the many varieties. The remainder of the article focuses on the Botiidae family of loaches. This family of loaches has suborbital spines that project from behind the eye socket. “The spines are used for many things: foraging, moving objects, self-defense, sparring, and making a sharp ‘clicking’ sound when alarmed or excited.” The spines are very sharp and can cause serious injury to the aquarist. “All loaches have sensory organs called ‘barbels’ around their mouths” and are “one of nature’s many aquatic radar systems, used for hunting invertebrates in aquatic substrate.” As far as maintaining Botiidae in the aquarium, they “are hyper-social and require the company of more Botiidae.” Sam’s Botias love Bug Bites, pest snails, earthworms and most any live, frozen and quality dry food. Keep in mind that “large loaches produce a lot of waste—the same levels as plecos and goldfish—so be wary of skipping water changes.” Sam really loves these fish as shown in this informative article.

**“The River Monsters” (no author listed)
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society, March/April 2026**

This is a comprehensive article dealing with the divisive practice of keeping monster fish. While the article discusses the fish and their feeding, equipment, furnishing, costs, aquarium weight, physical risks to the aquarist, it also includes an entire page on the ethics of keeping such fish. Interestingly, the Missouri Aquarium Society has an official “Monster fish policy.” It “does not allow the sale...of fish or other animals that grow to an adult size in which they cannot live comfortably in a 200 gallon aquarium.” An exception is made for koi that live in large ponds. The article concludes with a helpful chart of which fish to substitute for monster fish. For example, instead of a Giant Gourami, choose a Kissing Gourami.

Reprints and reviews:
None this month.

Welcome new members:

The Mathis family, the Tomaino family, the Poorman family, and Juliano Macera.
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 \$11 for juniors, \$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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 8, Board Meeting**
- April 15, General Meeting**
- April 25, CNYAS Spring Auction**
- May 13, Board meeting**
- May 20, 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: 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 Clay (315) 622-9668 | BAP | AHAP |
| Ron Fabiny Clay (315) 440-5806 | BAP | AHAP |
| Len Futterman East Syracuse (315) 560-0955 | BAP | AHAP |
| Herschel Beeman Chittenango (315) 663-8694 | BAP | |
| Bill Newell Liverpool (315) 440-9513 | | AHAP |
| Mike Flintrop Manlius (315) 415-1471 | BAP | |
| David Pomeranz Homer (516) 592-9940 | | AHAP |

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!](#)

**CNYAS 50th Anniversary items available at our online store in a variety of colors
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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

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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!

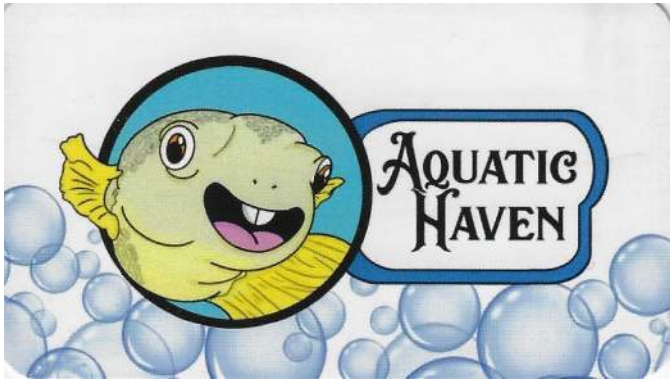
<https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors>

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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