



# REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

June 2026, Volume 50, Number 10

**CNYAS 50th Anniversary Banquet**

**Saturday, June 13, 2026**

**6:00 -10:00**

**Bella Domani Banquet Hall**

**5988 East Taft Rd, North Syracuse, NY 13212**



# 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 Sept 16, 2026  
@ 7:00 pm

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### 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All original, previously unpublished material will be considered for publication.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 Articles the Editor deems harmful will not be published.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.

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**Email:** Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

### Officers

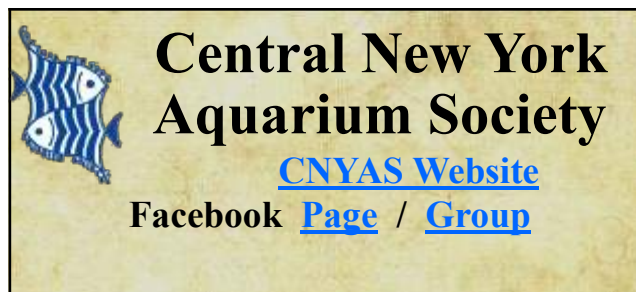
<b>President:</b>	Ron Fabiny CNYASPres@gmail.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ron Alexander CNYAS.VP@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mary Teelin
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bob Kotcher CNYASTreas@gmail.com
<b>Editor:</b>	Doug Hillman Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

### 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 June 2026**

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's meeting that was presented by Christian Kline. I was surprised that he is breeding Apistos in 5 gallon tanks.

This month there is no meeting at the Community Center. We will be having our 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Banquet on June 13<sup>th</sup>. You must have been signed up last month to attend.

As you all now know this is my last President's message. I would like to thank all of the members that made my job a little easier throughout the years as President. I am positive that Doug will do a fantastic job as our new President and I will be there if he needs any help. I will also be assisting Ron with our annual auction. You can't get rid of me that easy.

Well I hope to see everyone at the banquet. Also remember that the family picnic is August 1st. Please bring a chair and towels if you would like to swim. Inside the Reflector is the picnic flyer. Please contact me if you have any questions.

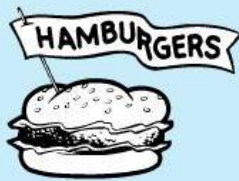
Ron

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### **CNYAS Officers and Board Members for 2026-2027**

PRESIDENT:	Doug Hillman	VICE PRESIDENT:	Ron Alexander
SECRETARY:	Mary Teelin	TREASURER:	Bob Kotcher
EDITOR:	Doug Hillman		
BOARD MEMBERS:	David Pomrtsnz Clifford Crain Mike Flintrop Bill Newell Greg Sumner		

# CNYAS FAMILY PICNIC



August 1<sup>ST</sup>  
1PM to ???



Ron Fabiny's House  
5237 Cremona Trail, Clay, NY

Directions from North and South: Exit 81 on Route 31 west go approx. 2 miles at flashing yellow light turn left (south) on Caughdenoy Rd. Got to first left, turn on Navara Rd. Go to end turn right on Rizzo, Go to third street on right and turn on Cremona Trail. From East: Take Route 481 to Exit 11 Caughdenoy Rd. At exit go straight to your first right, turn on Navara Rd. Go to end turn right on Rizzo, Go to third street on right and turn on Cremona Trail.

Bring a dish to pass, bathing suits, towels, and a chair

The club will supply meat & soda. Please contact Ron if you are attending by July 27<sup>th</sup> so that we can get the proper amount of food.

**Family**

**Fun**

**Food**

**Games**



## BOARD MEETING

### CNYAS Board Meeting

5/13/2026

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

#### 1. Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer-Report and budget.
2. AHAP-see Reflector, 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. Average of 7 people write each month for the Reflector. Change rules to 20 points.
5. Membership-6 lifetime memberships; 67 memberships total.
6. Auction –Auction was a huge success! Hard good raffle, Shrimp and Pleco raffles did really well. Many tee shirts were sold. Great time was had by all. Chip is doing a great job! Len and Mary to get new auction cards printed
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 13<sup>th</sup> (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, 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. There will be door prizes and programs. Will present members that passed away and moment of silence

**Archives:**

1. Voted to Change SuperBowl prizes to cash, talk about increasing prize amount next year. Voted to increase prizes to 1<sup>st</sup> 35.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> 25 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:  
    JUNE– Ron Fabiny  
    SEPT—Doug Hillman
5. David set up Discord to use as a communication app for the club.

**New Business:**

1. Sue will chair more nominations for Board in May and hold elections.
2. Discussed the banquet and how it will run. Sue, Bob, Len and Mary to put together physical program and will get it copied. Mary to get the awards made at Pen and Trophy store.
3. Clifford to plan a field trip to Rochester in the fall. Will go to local pet stores and have lunch. Looking for fish keepers to possibly tour their fish rooms.
4. Voted on Aquarist of the year.
5. Clifford looking into another fish buy, more to come.

**5/20/2026 CNYAS General meeting**

1. Reviewed all Auction information- great job Chip!
2. Christian Kline presented a great program regarding apistogrammas. Thanks Christian!
3. Successful mini auction.



# The Think Tank

A Monthly Club Write-in

This is the last question of the year. The first question next year will be emailed to the club in August. Today's question is: **Any exciting aquarium or pond plans for this summer? What is your next project?**

Me personally, I am trying to revive the endangered *Ivanacara bimaculata*. Due to their limited distribution and decreasing habitat quality, wild populations are estimated to have declined by approximately 30% over the last decade,  
**-Jaytin Gately**



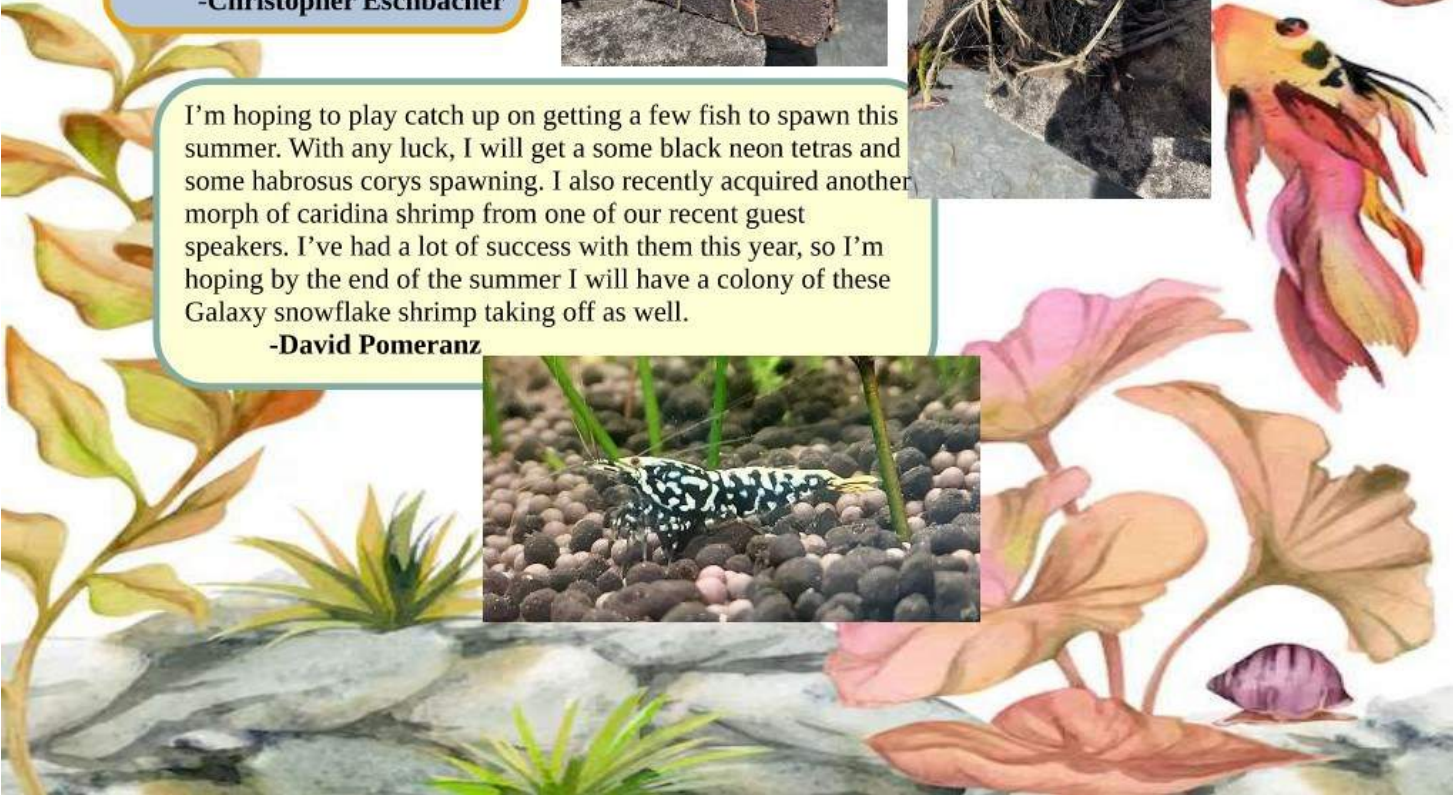
I have an outdoor pond 16 inches deep. I have been successful in bare rooting in pots(no soil) Hosta attached to large rocks (which produced flowers), and pickleweed over the past 2 years; not even in the pot, just sitting on the pond bottom in a mass of roots-(also flowered). This year I am going to bare root water lilies attached to a brick.  
 I hate fertilizing water lilies, after a few years the pot soil always seems firm as concrete. My original interest was to freely allow plant roots to maximize extraction of nitrates from the water column, as does pothos.  
 I can't find anything on the internet with water lilies. Some have told me the lily will grow but not flower. An experiment worth pursuing. I will report back in September.  
**-Michael Flintrop**



I plan on getting pufferfish this summer. 6 thiland pea pufferfish in the tank.  
**-Christopher Eschbacher**



I'm hoping to play catch up on getting a few fish to spawn this summer. With any luck, I will get a some black neon tetras and some habrosus corys spawning. I also recently acquired another morph of caridina shrimp from one of our recent guest speakers. I've had a lot of success with them this year, so I'm hoping by the end of the summer I will have a colony of these Galaxy snowflake shrimp taking off as well.  
**-David Pomeranz**





## Another Method of Hatching Brine Shrimp

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

“Oh no, Crain, not another article about brine shrimp!” Yes, in the past 4+ years I have written three articles about brine shrimp for the *Reflector*. But I recently made a change to how I hatch the little guys, and the title of this article is the same as the title of the very first article I ever wrote about brine shrimp. It appeared in the Summer 1980 edition of the *GPASI Journal*, published by the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. I was responding to an article by a fellow GPASI member that appeared in the Spring issue. I appreciated his approach, but I thought I had a better way of doing things. It’s so ironic that I have modified my method to now match his in most respects.

How things have changed. Forty-six years ago I recommended using a milk jug to hold the hatching solution instead of pop bottles; now I use Ziss hatchers. (I reported the advantages of Ziss hatchers in the January 2022 *Reflector*.) I recommended using an airline tubing to drain the hatcher; now I use ¼" ID tubing for faster draining. I recommended using “ordinary rock salt leftover in the garage”; now I use whatever non-iodized salt is available.

I still agree with one thing I wrote back then: “Probably the biggest problem in hatching shrimp...is keeping the water sufficiently warm. If you have a heated fishroom...then you have no problem. My tanks, however, are located in a corner of our cool basement.” Five house moves later, and my tanks and hatchers are still located in a cool room in the basement. For several reasons, I didn’t care back then for the fellow club member’s idea of placing the hatchers in an aquarium half-filled with heated water. My idea was to put the hatchers in a Styrofoam fish box, heated with a light, and the lid mostly on in order to keep the heat in.

I used the Styrofoam box method successfully for years. Last winter I noticed that cold air was coming in the window above the hatcher box, despite the window being constructed of glass block. I can’t figure out how that air is seeping in, there’s no wood frame around the window that I could use to hold an insulating shrink film that covered the window, and I really don’t have another spot in my small fishroom to put the hatchers. The compact fluorescent bulb I was using for heat, despite being on 24 hours, was not quite keeping up with the cold air. What to do?

In an ironic twist, I adopted the very idea that I had gently criticized 46 years ago. I figured that if I put the hatchers in an aquarium with a low-wattage heater and tight-fitting top, I could keep the hatchers warm and save on electricity, since I would only need the very low wattage LED light for about seven hours per day.

The first task was to find an aquarium that would fit in the very limited space available. An aquarium with a 20"x10" footprint would fit just fine. That’s a standard 10-gallon tank. But that size tank is too short; the hatchers would stick out the top. What I needed was a 15-gallon high tank, which has the same footprint but is 19" tall. Unfortunately, this size is no longer manufactured. Fellow CNYAS member Chip Alexander came to the rescue: he had an empty one which he traded me for a group of adult breeding Bolivian rams. (Do you see the value of an aquarium society membership?) He also custom-made a tight-fitting acrylic top with openings just big enough for the heater cord and two airlines. I added nine inches (about 8 gallons) of water, a 25-watt heater and an inexpensive, small LED light on top (brine shrimp require some light to hatch). This setup keeps the hatchers buttoned up and warm while using minimal electricity. Now if I could only figure out how to keep that cold air out in the first place....



**15-gallon high tank holding two Ziss hatchers**



**Ziss hatcher removed from the tank with shrimp ready to be siphoned through the brine shrimp net**



## Central New York Aquarium Society Inc.

### Writer's Award Program

**Chairperson: Clifford H. Crain, Jr., Committee member: Doug Hillman**

Based on submissions to date through the May 2026 Reflector and points published in Jun 2026 Reflector

Name	Status	June Reflector	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill	40	20	3,316
Spahn	Pen & Quill	0	0	1,276
Kotcher	Pen & Quill	0	0	971
Teelin-Futterman	Pen & Quill	0	0	736
Pitzeruse	Pen & Quill	0	0	652
Fabiny	Pen & Quill	0	0	571
Hillman	Wordsmith	0	0	535
Pomeranz, D.	Wordsmith	50	50	411
Rademacher	Author	0	0	215
Futterman	Author	0	0	205
Rafferty	Participant	0	0	190
Flintrop	Wordsmith	50	50	225
Beeman	Author	0	0	140
Baird	Author	0	0	130
Walcott	Participant	0	0	135
Cody	Participant	0	0	110
Tuori	Participant	0	0	90
Sager	Participant	0	0	70
Pomeranz, A.	Writer	0	0	70
Newell	Participant	0	0	50
Gibbs	Participant	0	0	40
Valdez	Participant	0	0	40
Pitzeruse, R.	Participant	0	0	20
Eschbacher	Participant	20	20	20
Sumner	Participant	10	10	25
Lindblom	Participant	0	0	15

#### WAP news:

Welcome Christopher Eschbacher to the WAP!

Congratulations to David Pomerantz! He moves up to Wordsmith status!

#### Submissions appearing in the May 2026 Reflector:

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #45," 1 article, 20 points

Crain, "Remembrance: Brian Bowers" 1 article, 20 points

Eschbacher, "Think Tank" 1 article, 20 points

Flintrop, "Think Tank" 1 article, 20 points

Flintrop, "The Failed Barb Bucket Basket Challenge" 1 article, 20 Points, 2 photos, 10 Points = 30 points Total

Pomerantz, D., "Club Members's Fish and/or Aquarium, 6 photos, 30 points

Pomeranz, D., "Think Tank," 1 article, 20 points

Sumner, "Think Tank" caption < 50 words, 10 points



**BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM**

**Chairman - Michael Flintrop**  
**Email: [michaelflintrop@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelflintrop@yahoo.com)**

Name	Points	Species	Name	Points	Species
<b><u>Grand Master</u></b>			<b><u>Participants</u></b>		
*Van Camp	965	77	Greg Sumner	35	4
1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,11,13,15,16			Spahn	30	3
<b><u>Master Breeder</u></b>			Domanowski, S	25	4
*Pitzeruse, W.	610	50	Chris Pollard	20	2
1,2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16			Maxwell	20	2
Beeman	695	52	Kotcher	10	1
1,4,6,7,8,11,12,16			Lenny Futterman	10	1
Fabiny	565	50	Russell Phelps	10	1
1,7,8,11,12,14,15,16			Mary Futterman	5	1
Clifford Crain Jr.	335	29			
1,7,8			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
<b><u>Expert Breeder</u></b>			*Indicated Species Classification Award		
William Newell	275	25	^Indicates first spawning		
8			<b><u>New Additions:</u></b>		
Hunter Collins	235	13	Mike Flintrop		
8,11			<i>Julidochromin marlieri</i>		15 Points
Doug Hillman	235	24			
1,8,11					
Mike Flintrop	200	18			
11					
<b><u>Advanced Breeder</u></b>					
David Pomeranz	140	19			
16					
<b><u>Breeder Award</u></b>					
Wisneski	65	7			
11					
Denise Baird	70	8			
Chris Allen	60	5			
11,14					
Rich Pitzeruse	55	5			
Jennifer Lioto	50	5			



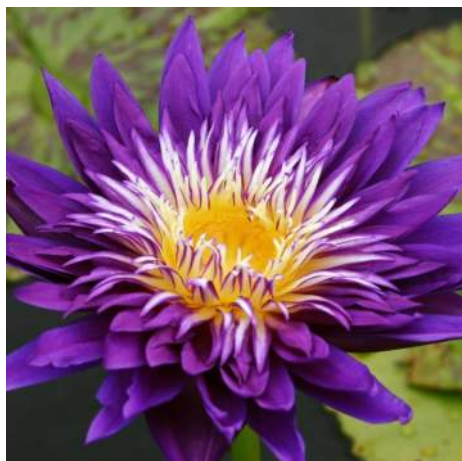


**AQUATIC HORTICULTURE  
AWARD PROGRAM**

**Chairman– Bill Newell  
Email: bnewell44@gmail.com**



<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Species</b>
<b><u>Grand Master</u></b>			<b><u>Beginning</u></b>		
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					
<b><u>Master</u></b>			<b><u>Participants</u></b>		
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					
Pomeranz*	465	36			
2,3,7,9,10,13					
<b><u>Expert</u></b>			<b><u>Additions:</u></b>		
			NONE		
<b><u>Senior</u></b>					
Snead*	460	26			
2,4,7,10,14					
Newell	250	24			
1,4,6					
Lioto	285	21			
<b><u>Aquatic</u></b>					
Kotcher*	185	14			
6,10,14					
Futterman*	180	16			
Beeman	190	19			
3,4,6,7					



## AHAP 2025-2026 Year End Report

Participation in the AHAP program has gradually grown following the Covid hiatus but made a large jump in the 2025-2026 program year.

Year	Members Submitting	Number Species	Points Earned
22-23	1	1	15
23-24	2	7	50
24-25	2	9	85
25-26	5	48	730

It was especially exciting to see four species reported that had not been propagated by club members before and two species reported with a first flowering.

Four of those who made submissions this year achieved new award status. Doug Hillman, a first-time participant, is now a “Beginning Horticulturalist.” Mike Flintrop went from “Participant” to “Beginning Horticulturalist” and Bill Newell went from “Aquatic Horticulturalist” to “Senior Aquatic Horticulturalist.” David Pomeranz became a first-time participant this year and ended the year as a “Master Horticulturalist.” Anyone who has seen his setup will not be surprised!

Given David’s huge participation this year, he was a slam dunk for the Green Thumb Award. The final standings were:

Place	Name	Points
First	David Pomeranz	465
Second	Bill Newell	135
Third	Doug Hillman	90
Fourth	Sue Kotcher	20
Fourth	Mike Flintrop	20

### Congratulations to all!!

Summer is a great time to grow some aquatic plants. A simple muck bucket with some water hyacinth and water lettuce could get you a quick sixty points. Give it a try! AHAP reports for the 26-27 year can be submitted any time now.

Looking forward to next year, the AHAP rules have not been officially updated since 2008 even though some procedures have changed. A full-scale update is in process with a hoped-for release in September. If you have any suggestions for revisions, please let the AHAP Committee know. You can send an email to [bnewell44@gmail.com](mailto:bnewell44@gmail.com).





## BOWL SHOW

**Chairman - Arnaud Germain**

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### Year End Scores:

<b>Bill Newell:</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b><u>1st</u></b>
<b>Doug Hillman:</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b><u>2nd</u></b>
<b>Chloe Gibbs:</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b><u>3rd</u></b>
<b>Michael Mikulewicz</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Points</b>	
<b>Denise Baird:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Points</b>	
<b>Debbie Walcott</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Points</b>	
<b>Stan Domanowski</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Points</b>	
<b>David Pomeranz</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Point</b>	
<b>Greg Summer</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Point</b>	
<b>Cheryl Poorman</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Point</b>	

### 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](mailto: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 2 entries for the May Super Bowl Show!

A: Labidochromis caeruleus (Electric yellow cichlid) – Second place – Chloe Gibbs – 15 points

B: Carolina cantonensis (Red galaxy fishbone caridina) – First place – Chloe Gibbs – 21 points



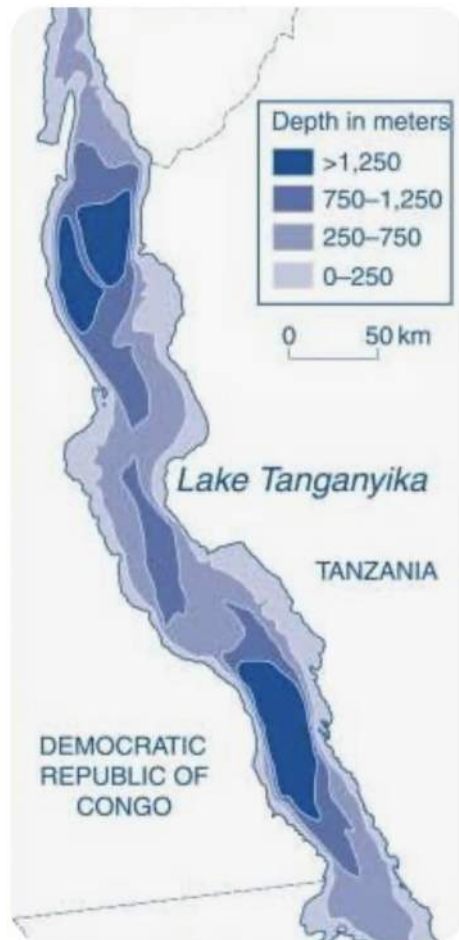


## BAP report: *Julidochromis marlieri*

By: Michael Flintrop

Lake Tanganyika, one of the African Rift lakes, is a mysterious place. Monsters and serpents have been reportedly seen there in the past. One lake monster was reported by Joseph Moloney during the violent military Stairs Expedition (1891-1908). It had been said a Mpala missionary saw a 30-foot serpent twice, once on land and once in the water!

Geologically it can be described as a cryptodepression. That is defined by the lake surface being above sea level, but the lake basin (bottom) well below sea level. There are 3 basins (central, north and south) that have been intermittently separated over the millennia during low lake levels. The lake's average depth is over 1800 feet, and maximum depth is reported to be over 4800 feet. The shoreline is measured at over 1100 miles!



Today's focus is on *Julidochromis marlieri*, my favorite African cichlid. I am not sure how fish in my BAP reports seem to sport their own stamp, and *Julidochromis marlieri* is no exception!

I found references online for 13 color variants and patterns including black, Bulu Point, Burundi, Gomge, Halembe, etc. I suspect that prior isolation of populations during low water levels with basins separated for millennia, and possible hybridizations (more on that later) contribute to the plethora of phenotypic presentations. My stock emanates from the Keystone Clash in eastern PA!

*J. marlieri* is one of the "big julies". Biologist George Marlier was the first attributed to collecting wild specimens. They were officially described in 1956 by Belgian zoologist Max Poll (1908-1991), naming the species after the collector George Marlier. Max Poll spent his career at the Royal Museum of Central Africa and was a leading expert in the field. He started his career in entomology (the study of insects) but rapidly changed his focus to zoology and ichthyology.

Thank goodness for ichthyologists, as they continue to study, analyze, re name and sometimes confuse this author. Recent DNA sequencing documents that *J. marlieri/regani* are genetically related to the genus *Telmatochromis*. The "smaller" julies-*J. ornatus/transcriptus/dickfeldi* and *marksmithi*'s gene sequencing document these species are more related to the genus *Chalinochromis*. Presumably there can be some hybridization between related groups. I hope the *Julidochromis* name isn't eliminated-I just finished updating all the scientific names on the BAP master list!

Something that binds these fish together despite their genetic diversity is their appetite. I have read that in the wild 80% of their diet is from freshwater sponges. I have always thought that sponges were large organisms, but apparently freshwater sponges can be quite small. However Julies do not eat large or small sponges but rather tiny bits and pieces of sponge located in the awfuch. Thankfully their diet in the aquarium can be more liberal. In my aquarium they were fed flakes, frozen blood worms, frozen brine shrimp, algae wafers, and BBS. Lettuce was added for the plecós. I never saw the Jules nibble on that. The tank did have a fair amount of algae.

On to my BAP report:

I originally housed (fall 2024) my *J.marlieri* in a 5-foot tank. I started with 5 adult fish, all about 2-3 inches. They are difficult to sex visually, but I suspect I had 3 males and 2 females based on their behavior. Other tank inhabitants included multiple *Ancistrus cirrhosus*, *Poecilia sphenops*, a colony of *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*, and several *Steatocranus casuarius* fry. At one point some subadult *J dickfeldi* were present but later moved to their own quarters. Substrate consisted of pool filter sand. The tank was scaped with random rocks and caves. roofing slates, pleco caves, 3 flowerpots and a very large piece of driftwood. Filtration consisted



of 2 Eheim 2280s and an Aquaclear 110. A Fluval LED light completed the set up. I have Syracuse water and rarely check the pH. As mentioned in prior BAP reports, the mollies, plecós and multis multiplied with reckless abandon. The Buffalo heads slowly grew. No fish had died.

One day 4 tiny Julie fry appeared. In typical Julie fashion they were noted deep in the caves and cracks between rocks, sometimes upside down. It was difficult to figure out which adults had spawned. No adults predated on the fry that I noticed. Clearly a few adult Julies were not welcomed by the presumed parents. They moved to the other end of the tank and occupied a flowerpot. One lost an eye, but no casualties were otherwise noted at this time. I don't know how big a tank 2 adult *J marlieri* pairs (plus one) need to remain unstressed, but my 5-foot tank was not big enough. I moved my mollies out and delivered them to a fellow club member. No fish had died.

But suddenly I counted only 2 fry. My hopes for early BAP points were dashed!

Now, small buffalo heads are cute and inquisitive, and fun to watch. But BIG Buffalo Heads act like pretty nasty African cichlids. I added 6 small swordtails to the tank, hoping for some easy BAP points (the mollies were long gone, and had done well when the Buffalos were small). The 4 inch Buffalo heads ate all 6 swordtails in a day (witnessed by me). The thriving colony of multis also began to take a big hit. That was witnessed too. I think the Buffalo heads predated on my Julie fry, but I can't confirm that. I know Buffalo heads don't belong in an African Rift Lake cichlid tank setup, but they were originally in there to grow out, and at one point I had nowhere to put them. This was too much violence for me! I took the entire tank apart, moved the Buffalo heads out and re-aquascaped the tank.

A few months later I had my confirmed 6 fry, from at least 2 different clutches (based on size alone). Along the way, despite my best efforts to provide ample caves, sight line disruption, etc, I lost 3 adults to the occasional violence of African cichlids. It took about 18 months for them to achieve my goal of rewarding me with 6 fry.

At this point I needed to make some tank space for other projects. Into the 5-foot tank went a colony of *Poecilia wingei*, 50 *Danio albolineatus*, 2 large *Chromobotia macracanthus*, and some left over *J. dickfeldi* fry from another tank. The multi colony has rebounded. This was not meant to be permanent; I hope to deconstruct this tank and move things along. However, these Jules (in my opinion) when given enough territory and ample caves seem to get along fine with these fish without any predation or witnessed violence. Violence amongst themselves is another matter. What complicates things is the difficulty in identifying males and females if fish do need to be separated. On the other hand, both are equally colorful beautiful fish, which is a good thing.



They remain to date my favorite African Rift Lake cichlid.

My journey thru the Julies is not quite complete; on to *J. ornatus* and *marksmithi* in the future!





## **FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #46**

### **EXCHANGE REPORT**

**By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.**

**Email: [exchange.cnyas@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:exchange.cnyas@gmail.com)**.

**“Artemia (Brine Shrimp)” by Timothy J. Brady**  
***Tank Tales, Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, May 2026***

Any article that has the words, “brine shrimp” in its title will get my attention. Timothy Brady, a prolific writer for the ACLC, is an “Everything there is to know” kind of author, and this article is no exception. In addition to covering the purely practical matters, such as how to hatch and feed brine shrimp, he discusses the scientific classification of it and an enlightening review of the “Sea-Monkey” phenomenon. Those of us of a certain age well remember the ads in the back of comic books for sea-monkeys. Timothy’s article reproduces one of those ads. Sea-monkeys are simply brine shrimp “marketed as a novelty pet since 1957.”

**“The Chinese Algae Eater: A Controversial Aquarium Addition” by Stephen Bieda**  
***Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, May 2026***

Here’s an article that every newly-minted aquarist needs to read. These fish, usually sold in the big box stores at a 1½" size, are hawked as a natural way to control algae. The unwitting aquarist learns too late that these fish lose their interest in algae at about the 3" size, and then keep growing, to an unmanageable 6–10" and become quite aggressive and territorial as they age. If that’s not enough reason to avoid them, “this fish will often suck the slime coat off other slower-moving fish, particularly Discus and Angelfish, fair warning...no one likes a slime-sucker.”

**“Apistogramma hongsloui ‘red’” by Mark Allar**  
***Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, May 2026***

There are so many good things to say about apistos: they’re small, peaceful, colorful and much in demand. Mark spawned his in a five gallon tank by themselves with “plenty of plants, caves and pots to help them feel at ease.” Under these conditions, and with nutritious food and clean water, they will spawn for you. Unlike some cichlids that spawn with fry from previous spawns still present, if you want to spawn apistos a second time, “clean the tank and snatch the babies out of there and give them a new home.”

**“The Most Interesting Susswassertang (Süßwassertang)” by Dr. Glenn Roberts**  
***Fins and Tales, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, April 2026***

This plant comes up for bid in many auctions, but did you know the name is German for “freshwater seaweed”? I also didn’t realize that it has been in the aquarium trade for only 25 years. This plant is actually the aquatic phase of the life cycle of terrestrial fern. Dr. Roberts’ article has an illustration of the life cycle along with photos of both the aquatic and terrestrial phases of the fern. “Susswassertang prefers low to medium light. High light levels will cause it to melt, or will encourage algae growth, which will grow much faster. Slightly acidic to neutral, slow-moving water is best.”

**“Spawning *Ivanacara bimaculata*” by Susan Everett**  
***FINformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., May 2026**

This is a colorful, peaceful and WOW expensive dwarf cichlid from Guyana in South America. Susan purchased hers at the OCA Extravaganza 2025 (this year’s runs from November 20–22, don’t miss it!) and soon discovered a “feature” of this fish: “the male curled stiff and rolled over. Chanting ‘no-no-no,’ I cradled the fish, pushing to and fro as fishermen do; fish CPR. After about a minute, he sprang to life! Later I read this fish ‘faints’ and rolls like a dead leaf to fool predators.” OK, that’s a good thing to know about this fish. Another thing is, if you want to breed them, you will need soft, acid water. That could be a real problem here in Central New York. I know my water, sourced from Skaneateles Lake, is pH 8.0 and TDS 260. Susan does not have an RO system, so what to do? She “collected clean snow, [yes, we have plenty of that in CNY!] melted it, filtered it through a brine shrimp net,...and warmed the water to 78°F before using it. Combined with ‘alder-almond tea,’ oak leaves, and a dim tank, the result was the soft, acidic water” that her dwarf cichlids seemed to appreciate. Her successful spawn of about 50 valuable fry has contributed to a noticeable improvement in her standard of living!

**“Spawning *Nanochromis teugelsi* in the Home Aquarium” by Clint Bougher**  
***FINformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., May 2026**

Clint starts his article: “In the past I’ve struggled to keep dwarf cichlids.” Yes, sir, I can surely relate to that! He thought he’d give them another try when *N. teugelsi* came up for sale at a Columbus, Ohio auction. In his 20-gallon tank he provided caves, dim lighting, sand and soft, slightly acidic water. Unlike Susan Everett’s method of getting soft, acidic water described in the above review, Clint used a 50/50 mix of reverse osmosis and tap water. A regimen of regular water changes and high quality food led the female to lay eggs in a cave. Clint fed the fry microworms, Sera Micron, Hikari First Bites, and he added Grindal worms when the fry grew a little.



# CLUB MEMBERS' FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

By: David Pomeranz



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# CLUB MEMBERS' FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

By David Pomeranz





**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- June 10, Board Meeting**
- June 13, CNYAS Banquet**
- August 1, CNYAS Summer Picnic**
- Sept. 9, Board Meeting**
- Sept. 16 CNYAS 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: Ron Fabiny            |

**CNYAS CLUB MEETINGS**

Each monthly meeting consists of :

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



**CNYAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Witnesses for the BAP and AHAP Programs

- |                              |     |      |
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| 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.

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## 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!

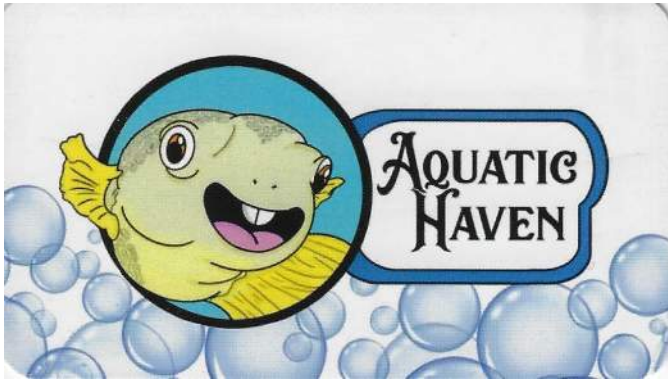
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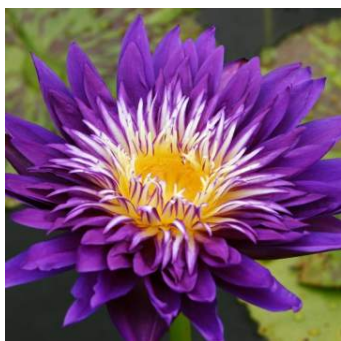
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