



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

September 2026, Volume 51, Number 1

This Month's Presentation: Spawning "Oddball" Fish & Fishroom Tricks!

By: Eric Bodrock

Cover Photo: Eric Bodrock at the Andes



CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Table of Contents

Cover: Eric Bodrock at the Andes	1
About CNYAS	3
President's Message	4
This Month's Presentation By: Eric Bodrock	5
CNYAS Swap Meet	6
Meeting Minutes	8
Article: "AHAP Pontederia cordata" by: Michael Flintrop	9
"LFS Checklist" By: Clifford Crain	12
Writer's Award Program (WAP)	13
Breeder Award Program (BAP)	14
Aquatic Horticulture Award Program (AHAP)	15
Bowl Show	16
Article: "BAP Report: Gymnocorymbus ternetzi" By: Michael Flintrop	17
Fish Friends From Afar "Exchange Report" by: Clifford Crain	20
Free Fish for Breeder's Award	21
Club Info / Coming Events	22
CNYAS 50th Anniversary Online Store	23
CNYAS Thanks our Supporters	24

CNYAS GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION

The DeWitt Community Center
148 Sanders Creek Pkwy
East Syracuse, NY

DATE / TIME

Wednesday Sept 16, 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All original, previously unpublished material will be considered for publication.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 Articles the Editor deems harmful will not be published.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: Doug Hillman
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
Bill Newell
David Pomeranz
Greg Sumner

Chairpeople

BAP: Michael Flintrop

AHAP: Bill Newell

WAP: Clifford Crain

Bowl Show: Arnaud Germain

Auction: Ron Alexander & Ron Fabiny

Membership: Stefani Pritchard

Exchange Editor: Clifford Crain

Email: exchange.cnyas@gmail.com

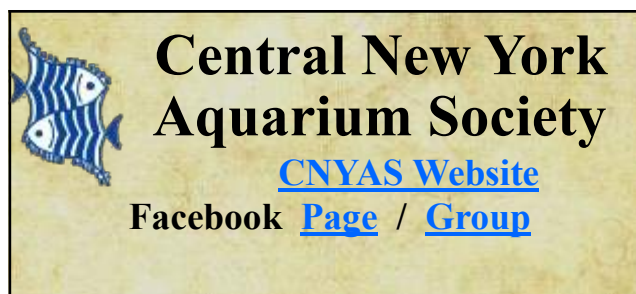
Assistant Secretary: Sue Kotcher

Hosp. & Refreshments: Mary Teelin

Swap Meet: Doug Hillman

Webmaster: Tom Garafalo

Reflector Proofreader: Debbie Walcott





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug Hillman

President's Message September 2026

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As the season comes to an end, the Central New York Aquarium Society meetings resume this month, and as a reminder, annual dues are due in September.

We are kicking off with a presentation by world-renowned breeder Eric Bodrock on "Spawning 'Oddball' Fish & Fishroom Tricks" at our September meeting.
You won't want to miss it!

Doug



CNYAS Membership Chair: Stefani Pritchard

Renewing members, if you haven't already done so, please don't forget to pay your dues for the Sept 2026 – Aug 2027 CNYAS club year. Dues are \$15 for individuals, and \$20 for families, and can be paid in person at the next meeting, by PayPal (send to CNYASTreas@gmail.com as friend and family), or by postal mail to CNYAS Membership Chair; PO Box 291; Clay NY 13041.

Contact Stefani at cnyasmembership@gmail.com
if you have any questions about membership or dues.



This Month's Presentation

Spawning "Oddball" Fish & Fishroom Tricks!

By: Eric Bodrock

I reveal the “secrets” of what I did to spawn some of the hobby’s coolest fish, such as, Hillstream Loaches: *S. marmorata* & *S. lineolata*, *Notropis chrosomus* “Rainbow Shiners”, a Killifish; *Moema quiii*, *Lamprichthys tanganicanus*, *Oryzias everisi*, *Rhadinoloricaria bahuaja* a lip/mouthbrooding catfish, and a few other species as well. In addition, you will see some of the gadgets, tricks, devices and ideas that I routinely use in my fishrooms. No matter what type of fish you keep, you should find something of interest in this program.

Bio: Eric Bodrock / All Oddball Aquatics

Eric Bodrock is the owner of All Oddball Aquatics, a tropical fish hatchery and independent event retailer located near Pittsburgh PA. Along with his fiancé, Regina Spotti, they currently maintain over 200 aquariums in their home-based hatchery and work with a wide variety of species.

Eric has been active in the aquarium hobby since age 10 and has worked in the retail, wholesale/distribution, installation, and hatchery aspects of the industry. To date, he has successfully spawned 556 species of freshwater fish, including 148 species of catfish. He has written many articles, judged a massive number of fish shows and has given countless presentations covering much of the United States and abroad. Hobby related travels have taken him to Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Peru, and the United Kingdom.

He considers himself a “Lifer” in the hobby, and has been a member of the local fish club for over 50 years! He promotes the aquarium hobby in every possible way and you’ll often hear him say: “There’s always room for one more tank!”



CNYAS

6th Annual



Tropical Fish Swap Meet

Saturday, October 10th

Tables: 1 for \$20, 2 for \$35, 3 for \$45
Open to the Public and Free Admission

10AM—2PM



Canton Woods Senior Center
76 Canton Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027



Tropical fish, Plants, Hardgoods, Food

WWW.CNYAS.net and
<https://www.Facebook.com/cnyasnet/>

Sales are the responsibility between Buyer and Seller ONLY.
Central New York Aquarium Society is not responsible for items sold

Contact Doug Hillman or Lenny Futterman
At CNYAS.swap.meet@gmail.com

What is a Swap Meet?

A fish club swap meet is one of the most enjoyable, easygoing ways to connect with the aquarium hobby community. While auctions have a fast pace and competitive energy, a swap meet feels more like a marketplace, a social hangout, and an educational showcase all rolled into one.

The Atmosphere:

- **Relaxed and social:** People stroll among tables, browse, talk, and take their time deciding what to buy.
- **Hands-on:** You can look closely at tanks, bags, plants, and equipment and speak directly with the seller.
- **Family-friendly:** Many People bring kids, new hobbyists feel welcome, and the vibe is open and inviting

What you will find:

Swap meets typically include a wide variety of items from hobbyists, small breeders and sometimes specialty vendors

Livestock:

- Locally bred freshwater fish
- Shrimp, snail, and other invertebrates
- Rare or unusual species not commonly found in pet shops

Plants:

- Potted or portioned aquatic plants
- Mosses, floaters, rhizome plants, and hard-to-find species

Equipment:

- Tanks, filters, lights, air pumps
- Aquascaper's tools, driftwood, rocks, substrate
- Fish food, fertilizers, aquarium additives

One of the best parts of a swap meet is **talking directly with the people who bred or raised the livestock** you're buying. Sellers are often hobbyists who love sharing:

- How they keep their fish or plants
- Recommended tank sizes or water conditions
- Tips on breeding or care
- What foods they use
- Little secrets that don't show up in care sheets

What to bring:

- A cooler or insulated bag for your purchased fish or plants
- Cash, since not all sellers accept electronic payment
- A shopping list if you are hunting for specific fish or plants
- A little extra budget—impulse finds are very common!



BOARD MEETING

CNYAS Board Meeting

6/10/2026

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

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. Changing rules to 20 points.
5. Membership-6 lifetime memberships; 67 memberships total.
6. Auction –Will start planning 2027 in the fall.
7. Bowl show- see Reflector. Ribbons obtained and will give to Arnaud.
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.

Old Business:

1. Ron F 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. Not working at this time.
4. Banquet updates - Banquet all set for next week.
5. 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 possible tour their fish rooms.
6. Clifford to look into another fish buy.

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:
5. David set up Discord to use as a communication app for the club.

New Business:

1. Picnic 1st Sat in August at Ron F's house
2. Look into visiting the new Syracuse Aquarium an how the club may liaison with it.

6/30/2026 CNYAS General meeting

The general meeting this month was the club's 50th Anniversary Banquet. It was well attended and a great time was had by all!



AHAP *Pontederia cordata*

By: Michael Flintrop

This hardy emergent plant has many names including Pickerelweed, Pickerel Rush, Pike Weed, and Wampee (Native American word for aquatic plant). Beware ... plant name alert! An entirely different plant is *Pickleweed* which tolerates salty conditions and thrives in coastal marshes. This author is not a fisherman, but I am led to understand that Pickerelweed thrives in fresh waters frequented by pickerel and pike.

Pickerelweed is a true native of the Americas. It can be found in eastern North America from Nova Scotia down to Florida, in zones 3-10. It can be found in South America from southern Brazil through Argentina. Pickerelweed is usually found along edges of freshwater ponds, lakes, slow-moving streams, and water filled ditches. They do not do well in salty conditions. It grows 2-4 feet tall and often forms thick mats or stands. It sports dark green heart-shaped leaves, with blue-purple flowers in summer. It grows underwater and is therefore an emergent plant.

Emergent plant: one that grows in the water but pierces the surface and is exposed to air. From an evolutionary perspective there are definite advantages:

1-Photosynthesis is more efficient where leaves are above the water and don't have to compete for light with submerged plants.

2-Pollination is more efficient with flowers above the water, exposing them to both insects and wind.

Pickerelweed often grows in areas that become flooded. It uses aerenchyma in the stem to carry oxygen and carbon dioxide back and forth to the roots. The aerenchyma allows roots to ventilate oxygen and carbon dioxide, even if the roots are underwater in a muddy muck filled anaerobic environment (aer-Latin for air; enchyma-Greek for infusion; ie, air infusion). Aerenchyma is not unique to Pickerelweed, and is found in many emergent plants (see picture).



This hardy zone 3 plant has many benefits:

1-as an ornamental plant in decorative ponds

2- to protect and stabilize natural pond and lake shorelines against erosion

3-to filter muddy water

4-to offer shelter and protection to aquatic and semiaquatic life

5-as a source of nutrition for aquatic and semiaquatic creatures. Young leaves are edible to many animals (including deer, ducks, muskrats, and humans ... yum!). Seeds are also edible to many animals and humans (seeds can be ground into flour).

6- and finally ... it has also been employed in artificial wetlands as a biological filter for sewage treatment plants

In addition to Pickerelweed's striking appearance, towering over the water with its blue/purple flowers, it exhibits slow and steady growth. Pickerelweed is generally a well-behaved addition to your pond ... staying in its pot and not colonizing a natural pond like water lilies or water hyacinth (which can cover and dominate the entire pond surface). My personal experience with Pickerelweed has been a little different ... more about that later. It prefers to be in water < 12 inches deep and importantly, does best if the crown is consistently covered with water. It will not grow through most commercial pond liners if grown bareroot.

Pickerelweed is a monocot, or monocotyledonous plant. This is a major group of flowering plants. Essential characteristics include:

1-Seed: it has only 1 cotyledon a single embryonic leaf within the seed, producing only 1 plant.

2-Leaves: veins run parallel to each other (see pic).

3-Stems: contain random vascular bundles, and as in most emergent plants also have aerenchyma as noted above.

4-Roots: fibrous or adventitious root system (see pic).



My Pickerelweed odyssey began at a pond shop along the NY/NJ border called The Garden State Koi Pond & Waterfall Design Center (Warwick NY, just over the NJ/NY border) ... it's worth the detour. I was looking for hardy pond plants. My pond is in-ground, only 16 inches deep, and is filtered with a standard skimmer and pump. No biological filtration per se. I specifically wanted plants that didn't require a lot of fuss. I leave my water lilies and Pickerelweed alone, and I am sure the plants are encased in ice most winters (I do remove my goldfish, and I don't heat or run a pump in the pond during the winter). What can be more glorious than a zone 3 plant that grows along a pond edge and battles lake effect snow, ice and winter winds?

So, in 2024 I bought my first Pickerelweed plant (potted in soil), and it flowered the first year. The following year (2025), I bought a second plant from the Rock and Pond shop in North Syracuse. The second plant was placed into a pot with just rocks. I had the idea that if my plants could be grown without soil, they could help control nitrates more efficiently and keep my pond water clear. The second Pickerelweed grew well and flowered the same year. In autumn I cut the stalks back to water level. It turns out the second plant grew over and outside its pot, extending a runner into open water, already developing a root ball. This is NOT an example of a well-behaved plant. I cut the runner off and let it remain unpotted and resting on the pond floor. I was interested to see if the runner would survive the winter. The winter of 2025/2026, while not the snowiest, did bring a return of cold temperatures, and my pond was frozen almost the entire winter.

Spring 2026 arrived and I admit the three Pickerelweed plants were slow to emerge. The original plant potted in soil produced no flowers this year; the plant potted in rocks flowered (see pic), and the last free standing runner plant grew healthy leaves but produced no flowers. My pond water was very clear this year ... yes, I had a lightly stocked pond, but I am convinced that bareroot plants are playing a significant role. I think the plant in soil didn't flower for two possible reasons:

1- the crown was not placed under water as required

2-perhaps I should have fertilized it

This winter the plant potted in soil is going underwater to see if that makes a difference with flowers next year.

Drawbacks to this plant:

1-one plant can overwhelm a small pond ... our AHAP chairman's plant was considerably larger than my plants

2-the flowers are said to attract dragonflies ... I'm not sure if that would foster dragonfly larvae in the pond

3-deer and other animals enjoy this plant as a meal, so that might be an issue for some ponds

Pickerelweed has introduced me to the world of pond and bog plants. I've learned a lot about my new favorite emergent plant, with its showy display and carefree existence. Consider this humble native perennial emergent plant for your ponds and tubs next year.



 LFS Checklist

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

What sets apart a quality local fish store (LFS) from the big box pet stores? I pondered this recently while visiting our oldest son and his family at their home in Garden City, Long Island. Before returning to Syracuse, I top off the gas tank and always make it a point to check out two quality LFSs that are on the way to the gas station. Here are the things I'm looking for in a great LFS:

- ✓ **Are the fish healthy?** No clamped or torn fins. Normal coloration and activity. No signs of disease and no "floaters."
- ✓ **Livestock selection:** Does the LFS carry fish and invertebrates that you don't see in the big box stores?
- ✓ **Plant selection and condition:** What varieties does it carry? Are the plants healthy? Can the staff provide information about the conditions each plant requires?
- ✓ **Is the water clear?** No uneaten food. No cloudy water. No mulm.
- ✓ **Is the tank glass clean?** Is the inside front glass free of algae and the outside glass free of stains?
- ✓ **Does the store smell?** Don't laugh; I remember taking The Chief to a Syracuse LFS (that has since gone out of business, surprise, surprise) and she nearly wretched at the overwhelming smell of *dead fish*! The store always smelled like that!
- ✓ **What is the selection of frozen food?** Does it have a good variety, including bloodworms, spirulina brine shrimp and Mysis shrimp? Does it sell frozen food in the economical 16 ounce flat pack (and thumbs up if it has the even more economical 32 ounce flat pack)?
- ✓ **What is the selection of dry food?** Does it carry quality brands, such as Northfin and Xtreme, in both flakes and pellets? Does it have the larger, more economical package sizes?
- ✓ **Does the store carry live foods?** Live black worms are great, and extra credit is given for white worms and adult brine shrimp.
- ✓ **Does it have a good selection of aquariums,** including odd sizes, shapes and rimless? One of the big box stores (don't worry, PetSmart, I won't reveal your name) only sells aquarium packages, so you're stuck with whatever cheap stand, filter and heater that is part of the package.
- ✓ **What about equipment and supplies?** Does the LFS have great quality goods that enthusiastic aquarists request, or are the brands the same that you can find at the super stores? (Point deduction if the store carries pre-set heaters that are not adjustable.) Great brands would include Aquarium Co-op and Hýgger, for example.
- ✓ **Equipment and supplies for hard-core aquarists:** I'm surprised at the paltry selection of sponge filters at some stores; I guess there's more money to be made in HOB filters. Does the store have brine shrimp eggs and hatching equipment? A quality LFS should have a great selection of chemicals, gravel, rocks and driftwood. Extra points if it carries linear piston pumps and Fluval replacement parts.
- ✓ **Is the staff knowledgeable, helpful and experienced?** Do they know what they're talking about? Do they know the proper method for catching aquarium fish? It only takes a few moments talking to the employees to determine whether they are enthusiastic aquarists with their "head in the game."
- ✓ **How are the aquariums filtered?** Best practice is for isolated filters in each tank with no sharing of filtered water among tanks.
- ✓ **DEAL KILLER:** if the bettas are displayed in small cups or jars, I turn around and leave in disgust. Housing bettas in this manner is an example of animal cruelty. A quality LFS houses the bettas in filtered and aerated aquariums that are shaded so the fish can't see their neighbors and with a water change system that does not circulate/reuse the water being removed.

Notice that I did not list price. I have found that LFS prices are usually pretty close to what you can find online. I'm a supporter of LFSs, so I buy as much as I can from them.



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 Jun 2026 Reflector and points published in Sep 2026 Reflector

Name	Status	September	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill	50	50	3,366
Spahn	Pen & Quill	0	0	1,276
Kotcher	Pen & Quill	0	0	971
Teelin-Futterman	Pen & Quill	0	0	736
Fabiny	Pen & Quill	0	0	571
Hillman	Wordsmith	5	5	540
Pomeranz, D.	Wordsmith	40	90	451
Flintrop	Wordsmith	70	120	295
Rademacher	Author	0	0	215
Futterman	Author	0	0	205
Rafferty	Participant	0	0	190
Beeman	Author	0	0	140
Walcott	Participant	0	0	135
Baird	Author	0	0	130
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
Eschbacher	Participant	10	30	30
Pitzeruse, R.	Participant	0	0	20
Sumner	Participant	0	10	25
Lindblom	Participant	0	0	15
Gately	Participant	10	10	10

WAP news:

Welcome Jaytin Gately to the WAP! His "Think Tank" contribution netted him 10 points.

Submissions appearing in the June 2026 Reflector:

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #46," 1 article, 20 points

Crain, "Another Method of Hatching Brine Shrimp" 1 article, 20 points, 2 photos, 10 points; total = 30 points

Eschbacher, "Think Tank" article < 50 words, 10 points

Flintrop, "Think Tank" article > 50 words, 20 points, 2 photos, 10 points = 30 points

Flintrop, "BAP Report: Julidochromis marlieri", 1 article, 20 points; 4 photos, 20 points; total = 40 points

Gately, "Think Tank" article/caption < 50 words, 10 points.....

Hillman, cover photo, 5 points

Pomerantz, D., "Club Members'sFish and/or Aquarium, 3 photos, 15 points

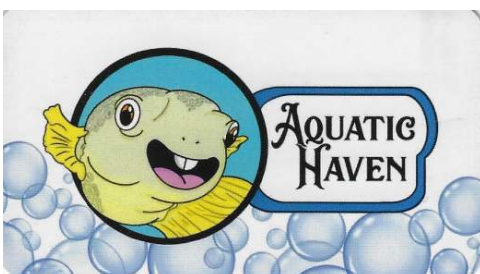
Pomeranz, D., "Think Tank," 1 article, 20 points, 1 photo, 5 points; total = 25 points



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	Greg Sumner	35	4
1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,11,13,15,16			Spahn	30	3
<u>Master Breeder</u>			Domanowski, S	25	4
Herschel Beeman	735	55	Chris Pollard	20	2
1,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,15			Maxwell	20	2
*Pitzeruse, W.	610	50	Kotcher	10	1
1,2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16			Lenny Futterman	10	1
Ron Fabiny	565	50	Russell Phelps	10	1
1,7,8,11,12,14,15,16			Mary Futterman	5	1
William Newell	345	32			
1,8,12					
Clifford Crain Jr.	335	29			
1,7,8					
<u>Expert Breeder</u>			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
Doug Hillman	270	26	*Indicated Species Classification Award		
1,8,9,11			^Indicates first spawning		
Hunter Collins	235	13	<u>New Additions:</u>		
8,11					
Mike Flintrop	220	20	Herschel Beeman	<i>Neocardinia davidi</i>	
1,8,11				<i>Tropheus dubrosi</i>	
<u>Advanced Breeder</u>				<i>Austrolebias nigripinnis</i>	
David Pomeranz	140	19	Bill Newell	<i>Danio albolineatus</i>	
16				<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	
<u>Breeder Award</u>				<i>Neolamprologus leleupi</i>	
Wisneski	65	7		<i>Pethia conchonius</i>	
11				<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	
Denise Baird	70	8		<i>Xenotaenia resolanae</i>	
Chris Allen	60	5		<i>Fundulopanchax scheel</i>	
11,14			Mike Flintrop	<i>Xenotoca doadrioi</i>	
Rich Pitzeruse	55	5		<i>Gymnocorymbus tetnetzi</i>	
Jennifer Lioto	50	5	Doug Hillman	<i>Panaqolus sp L002</i>	
				<i>Epiplatys annulatus</i>	





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



Name	Points	Species
------	--------	---------

Grand Master

Spahn*	4,015	288
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14		
Pitzeruse, W*	1,230	87
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14		
Fabiny*	940	68
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14		

Master

Van Camp*	465	36
1,7,8,9,11,14		
Lee*	575	42
3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14		
Pomeranz*	465	36
2,3,7,9,10,13		

Expert**Senior**

Snead*	460	26
2,4,7,10,14		
Newell	265	25
1,4,6		
Lioto	285	21

Aquatic

Kotcher*	185	14
6,10,14		
Futterman*	180	16
Beeman	190	19
3,4,6,7		
Flintrop	125	10

Name	Points	Species
------	--------	---------

Beginning

Hillman	90	7
Yard	95	9
Wisneski	65	7
Taylor	50	6

Participants

Rademacher	35	2
Janus	25	4
Smith	20	1
Sumner	20	1

Additions:**Mike Flintrop**

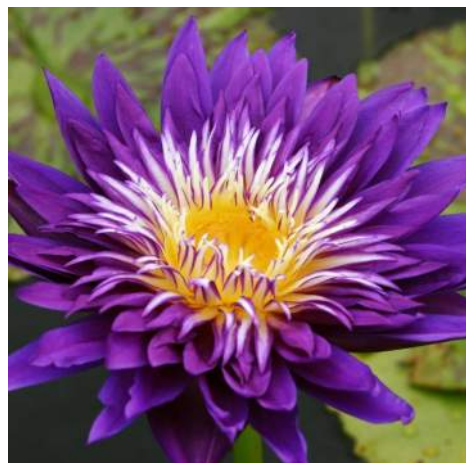
<i>Iris sp.</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
<i>Pontederia (Eichornia)</i>		
<i>crassipes</i>	(flowering)	15 pts
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	(doubling)	15 pts
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	(flowering)	15 pts
<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i>	(runner)	5 pts

Bill Newell

<i>Aponogeton natans</i>	(flowering)	15 pts
--------------------------	-------------	--------

Greg Sumner

<i>Anubias barteri</i>	(flowering)	20 pts
------------------------	-------------	--------







BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

2025-2026 Year End Scores:

Bill Newell:	266	Points <u>1st</u>
Doug Hillman:	219	Points <u>2nd</u>
Chloe Gibbs:	95	Points <u>3rd</u>
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 2026-2027 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.





BAP report: *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*

By: Michael Flintrop

A chronicle of my odyssey breeding *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*, the Black Skirt Tetra.

This hardy midsized tetra (max size 3 inches) was first attributed to Belgium-British zoologist George Albert Boulenger (1858-1937) in 1895. He studied and described almost 2,000 species of fish, amphibians and snakes. Later in life he switched to Botany and studied roses for his remaining 30 years. Many snakes from Africa and South America have been named after him, along with several tropical fish (eg. *Xenotipapia boulengeri*, *Lepidolamprologus boulengeri*, *Hyphessobrycon boulengeri*, *Bryconethiops macrops*, and *Boulengerella maculata*).

The Black Skirt Tetra hails from the basin of the Paraguay river in South America. The Paraguay river (see map) originates from tributaries in the southern part of Brazil. As this river forms, it briefly abuts Boliva (trivia fact-both Boliva and Paraguay are land locked, and the only access to the Atlantic Ocean for both countries is via the Paraguay river). The river travels south through Paraguay essentially dividing the country into two halves. Further south, it joins and ends at the Parana River, which then drains into the Atlantic Ocean. The Paraguay River is the second longest river in South America (1584 miles) and is not dammed, making river access with barges to Boliva and Paraguay critical to their economy. Some websites have suggested that Black Skirt Tetras can be found in Boliva, Paraguay, and Argentina. After the rainy season in Brazil water from southern Brazil slowly enters the Paraguay river system and causes the water level to rise and the temperature to drop. Because of the extensive length of the Paraguay river, this change is often delayed by a few months. The country of Paraguay is described as having both a tropical and subtropical climate.

Black Skirt tetras have many names, including the Black Widow Tetra, and the Petticoat Tetra ... they are also found in a hi fin variety. Commercially altered Tetras, like the Mixed Berry Tetra and Strawberry Tetra, reflect the process of an acid wash (to remove the external slime coating) and dye immersion (to color the fish). Additional commercially altered varieties are the Glofish, and the leucistic (pale muted white color, not a true albino given the eyes remain black, often called the White or Platinum Skirt Tetra). There is also a true albino form, often called the Pink-Gold Tetra. There seems to be a color variety for almost everyone!

Of note, a closely related species to the Black Skirt Tetra (in name and appearance) is *Gymnocorymbus thayeri*, also called the Black Tetra. The latter species originates from the upper Amazon in Columbia and Brazil, preferring warmer waters, thousands of miles away from Black Skirt Tetra locations. The Black Tetra is also lighter in coloration than the black skirt, and max size is only about 2 inches. In addition, the Black Tetra is slightly more torpedo shaped, while the Black Skirt Tetra length and height are more equal (more like a square).



This map showing the Paraguay River highlighted within the Parana River drainage basin

According to Exotic Tropical fishes (Axelrod, et al, 1962, F-301.00) *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi* enjoys cooler temperatures. *“This is not a warm water fish as so many people think. It does best in temperatures in the upper 60’s and very low 70’s....The blacker the specimen the better the fish. The colder the water the blacker the fish. Washed out Black Tetras are probably another species”* (ie, *G. thayeri*). See photos from above of both tetras.

On to my BAP submission:

First attempt (yes, spoiler alert, I never seem to get it right the first time, but isn’t that part of the fun in trying to do this?):

A 5-gallon spawning tank with heater preset to 78, sponge filter, plastic needlepoint mesh canvas, a small piece of driftwood, duckweed, and four spawning mops were employed. The water was approximately 75% RO, and 25% Syracuse tap water. Marbles were placed beneath the perforated canvas. Into the tank went a heavily laden female and two males. They were conditioned in a community tank with live BBS, frozen brine shrimp, bloodworms, and flake food. The spawning tank was covered with a dark towel at night and removed in the morning. A 4-watt LED light was on during the day. I left the fish in for two nights (tank was again covered with a towel at night) and then finally moved back into their community tank.

No results! Questions I had at the time included:

1-maybe I should have had a 1/1 male/female ratio, perhaps the third fish just ate floating eggs or those deposited in the mop? When reading about tetras, the suggested spawning ratio is a particularly difficult thing to pin down, as I have read conflicting recommendations.

2-maybe I didn’t see the fry? (fry are exceptionally tiny and easily missed)

3-maybe too many spawning mops?

4-maybe I should have conditioned the females separately from the males?

5-maybe the tank size was too small?

6-maybe I should have removed all adults after 3-6 hours?

Off to the internet! My personal inspiration: You-tube video on breeding Black Skirt Tetras from @MarksAquatics.

Second attempt:

I made a few changes after reviewing Mark’s video link. I left in one mop anchored with driftwood. I employed a 1:1 male/female ratio. I sat and watched after lifting the towel in the morning, witnessed spawning and eggs floating in the tank, and then removed both parents after four hours. Six days later 6 free-swimming fry were noted. Not the hundreds I was hoping for, but enough for the BAP submission! Actually, a week later I found (10) more fry. They were fed sponge grunge, infusoria, golden pearls 5-50 microns, and after four days attempted BBS. However, they really didn’t consume BBS until week two. I fed them twice a day, and on my days off I fed them three times a day. I had significant worries about feeding these tiny fry. I have never gotten the knack for micro worms, and my vinegar eels were never ready when I needed them.



I didn't do a water change for ten days, and topped off any evaporated water with RO. The first water change was 2.5 gallons with 50/50 RO/tap water mixture. I carefully removed the mesh grid and most of the marbles. I added additional floating duckweed, some partially decayed bit of java moss and floating water sprite. It was at that time that I had noticed those additional fry. Even at this time, some fry seemed significantly smaller than their brethren. Subsequent water changes were every five days.

I think my second attempt was successful for a few reasons:

1- after watching the video link, I think that the four mops I originally used were just too many. I was most concerned with predation by the parents and thought the extra mops would help hide any eggs, but in retrospect I think it prevented the two males from visualizing the female in the tank.

2-one less male in the breeding tank is one less mouth to feed, and perhaps there was less egg predation with just two fish.

3-the pair was in the breeding tank for only one night which may have helped with predation, since the eggs were only present for < four hours.

4-fry are very tiny ... and it is quite possible I had fry on my first attempt but did not see them!

5-sheer dumb luck!

I don't consider myself very skilled in breeding fish. If I can breed Black Skirt Tetras, anyone can! The difficult part for me was raising the fry. Much more work, worry, involvement and planning than raising the live bearer and cichlid fry I have bred to date. I will admit I was not ready with infusoria ... I only started the culture when I had confirmation of free-swimming fry. Even when I had the culture, I used considerably less volume (eye dropper) than a turkey baster. And yes, I had a vinegar eel culture ready but wasn't sure how much volume to put into the tank. Did I lose fry because early feedings were insufficient? Probably. Sponge grunge, lots of plants (some half dead and decomposed), and Golden Perls 5-50 were the staple. To add some confusion or mystery, I left for a full week of vacation, and when I returned, I found even more fry than when I left. I did leave the 4-watt LED light on 24/7 in my absence. Around week three they started to physically look like small versions of adults. I suspect if I was better at early nutrition and feeding, that the physical transformation may have come along a bit sooner.

I don't know if the ubiquitous Black Skirt Tetra is an entry tetra for those so inclined. It should certainly be on the list for those looking to explore the exciting world of tetras. It is hardy, comes in many colors and forms, can tolerate some cichlids acting as a dither (their shape apparently makes them more difficult to swallow, in contrast to many other tetras). In addition, it may be a candidate for the unheated aquarium.

I have been keeping an aquarium for almost 60 years, and this is my first time having Black Skirt Tetras. They are a lot more interesting in the aquarium than I would have thought possible.





FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #47

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.

“Drilling an Aquarium” by Geoff Humes ***Finformation, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., June 2026***

If your fishroom has outgrown your manual water changing process, it's time for an automatic water changing system. Filling water back into the tanks appears to be well-documented and fairly straightforward. Getting the water out of the tanks involves either a siphon system or drilling the tank and installing a standpipe. Geoff started with the overflow system, but “over time, I found algae growth in the flexible tubing reduced their effectiveness, to the point that most of mine were ineffective within two years of operation.” (That's a problem I hadn't considered.) He has found that drilling the tanks and installing bulkheads works best for him. He provides a handy checklist for anyone considering this approach: make sure the glass is not tempered, don't drill the hole too close to the edge, and “match your hole saw size to the bulkhead you plan to use, not the pipe size alone.” Geoff reviews the plusses and minuses of drilling the hole in the bottom of the tank or the side of the tank. His article is loaded with tips and tricks for a successful drilling. He provides links to the tools you'll need along with a generous selection of photos. What a great article!

“Spawning *Altolamprologus compressiceps*” by Geoff Humes ***Finformation, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., June 2026***

Geoff followed up his aquarium drilling article with a “how I spawned it” article dealing with the impressive cichlid, *Altolamprologus compressiceps*. As he did in the aquarium drilling article, Geoff provides a handy checklist: start with a breeding pair or a group of juvenile fish; use what he calls special “narrow calvus spawning caves” which are available from CNYAS friend Joe Doyle (Caveman Creations); and separate the pair in their own tank to avoid fry predation. What also caught my eye is that this is the first time in twenty years that this fish has been spawned for the GPASI Breeders Award Program.

“Just Leave It Alone” by Dave Costa ***Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, June 2026***

Dave summarizes his entire article on aquarium plant success in the first three sentences. “As I travel to swaps and auctions, one of the questions I get asked most often is how I get my plants to grow the way they do. People expect some complicated answer involving CO₂ systems, specialty fertilizers, or constant tweaking. My answer is always the same: just leave them alone.” While he does normal aquarium maintenance and sparingly uses plant fertilizer, Dave has found that not disturbing the plants encourages their growth. “The real key to all of this is patience.”

Reprints/Reviews
None this month.

Free Fish for Breeder's Award Program

To encourage participation in the CNYAS Breeder's Award Program, I would like to pass along free to CNYAS members two breeding groups of cichlids that I've spawned for the BAP.



First is a rock-dwelling cichlid from Lake Tanganyika, *Neolamprologus cylindricus*. It's a cigar-shaped fish with stunning vertical barring. They have a great personality and are not overly aggressive (none were lost since I've kept them). They're about four inches in length. Since it's very difficult to distinguish the sexes and pairs, I'm giving them away as a unit: ten adult fish. There are at least two pairs that successfully spawned in this group of ten.

Requirements:

1. You must be a paid-up member of the Central New York Aquarium Society.
2. You will need a 4' tank minimum, preferably 13" front to back (60 breeder or 75 gallons).
3. Give them a generous supply of rocks. I used three separate piles.
4. You agree not to "flip" these fish; in other words, breed them first and get your BAP points before selling them.



Second is a peaceful Central American cichlid, *Amatitlania myrnae*, the Topaz Cichlid. This is a very peaceful fish that grows to about 3" to 4". Listed as an endangered species, it has distinctive blue eyes! It spawns in a cave or overturned flower pot, and the parents take good care of the young. I am offering a group of six adults. There is at least one pair that successfully spawned in this group of six.

Requirements:

1. You must be a paid-up member of the Central New York Aquarium Society.
2. While these are peaceful fish, to manage aggression and increase your chances of success in spawning them, you will need a 3' tank minimum; I have them in a 40 breeder. They can be kept with peaceful dither fish.
3. Give them rocks, plants, driftwood, anything to make them feel comfortable.
4. You agree not to "flip" these fish; in other words, breed them first and get your BAP points before selling them.

If you are interested in either of these free fish, contact Clifford Crain at exchange.cnyas@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9	Board Meeting
Sept. 16	CNYAS General Meeting
Sept 20	GPASI Auction
Oct. 4	New England Cichlid Auction
Oct. 10	CNYAS Swap Meet
Oct. 14	Board Meeting
Oct. 21	CNYAS General Meeting

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.



BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and are open to all members who would like to attend.



2026-2027 Schedule

Sept: Doug Hillman	Oct: Bill Newell
Nov: Ron Alexander	Dec: Mary & Lenny
Jan: Clifford Crain	Feb: David Pomeranz
March: Greg Sumner	Apr: Mike Flintrop
May: Bob & Sue	June: Doug Hillman

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 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>

2027 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.MANDSFISH.COM
mosBETTAFISH@gmail.com
(716)378-8099

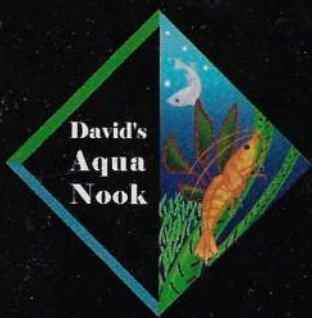
FISH BREEDING AND SHIPPING



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

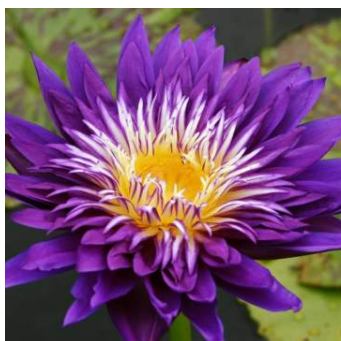


FINS & FLORA

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*