REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

November 2026, Volume 51, Number 3



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 November 18, 2026
@ 7:00 pm

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1) The request to exchange must be made in writing.
2) The organization informs us of their reprint policy
3) The exchange is mailed to The **Reflector** Exchange Editor upon publication.

CNYAS Background Information:

The Central New York Aquarium Society, Inc. was established in 1976. It is a non-profit organization under section 501 {c} {3} of the Internal Revenue Code. Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. General meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Dewitt Community Hall in East Syracuse. General meetings normally begin with a brief business meeting followed by a guest speaker, refreshments, door and raffle prizes, and a mini- auction of live fish, plants, and other hobby related items.

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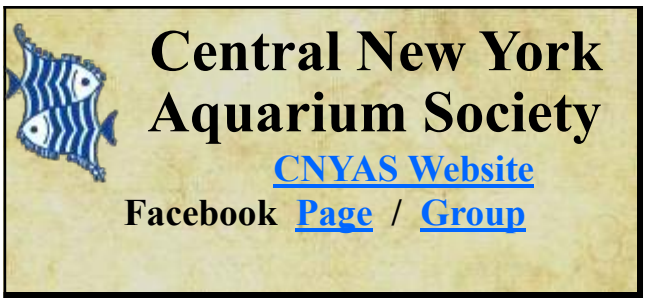
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug Hillman

President's Message November 2026

Thank you to Randy Seufert for presenting "The Price is Right - The Fish Edition" at our last meeting. It was a great time and a lot of fun!

For this month's meeting, we are holding a food drive to benefit the Food Bank of Central New York. Please refer to page 10 of the Reflector for more details. Let's work together to make it a big success!

Our speaker this month will be Greg Niedzielski, presenting: "Keeping and Breeding Tetras."

If anyone is interested in killifish, not tetras, Greg will bring some Aphyosemion striatum pairs to the meeting for $20/each and two pairs (in one bag) of Purple Cobra Guppies (Juveniles) also for $20. If anyone wants to reserve any of these fish please contact Greg at gregnski@cs.com.

Doug

CNYAS Membership Chair: Stefani Pritchard

Welcome New Members:
Matt, Oliver, Carol, Lori & Mike, Zachary, Joshua A., Joshua C., Phillip, and Kevin & Jeanette
We're delighted that you've joined and hope to see you at the next meeting!

Members, it's time to renew your membership and 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 Pritchard at cnyasmembership@gmail.com if you have any questions about membership or dues.

This Month's Speaker Greg Niedzielski

Presenting: "Keeping and Breeding Tetras"

Greg Niedzielski has been in the tropical fish hobby for over 50 years, with no end in sight. Over the years, he has kept and bred many fish, including Neon Tetras, Cardinal Tetras, Discus, and many varieties of killifish. He is a past Chairman of the American Killifish Association, and is currently the Editor of the Journal of the American Killifish Association.

Greg will be speaking on keeping and breeding tetras, with a concentration on South American tetras. He hopes to encourage people to try to breed these beautiful little fish, and he hopes to show that it is not that difficult to do so.



Greg and his daughter Victoria with a mees of walleye caught on Lake Erie



BOARD MEETING

CNYAS Board Meeting

1014/2026

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

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; 38 paid
6. Auction –Will start planning 2027 in the fall. Passed to limit dry goods to 5 per person. Auction date 4/17/2027
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. Clifford presented a potential app for auction- Auction.fish. Not working at this time. Clifford to check into again.
2. Clifford planned a trip to Rochester to visit fish keepers and stores. Will be on October 24th. Info regarding trip to be in the Reflector and at the meeting this month.
3. Clifford to look into another fish buy. Voted and passed- Club will pay for sales tax and shipping up to 50 dollars for a buy from Brine Shrimp Direct.
4. Swap meet was a great success. Less attendance but lots of sales. Liked the facility in Bville.

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: Oct– Bill, Nov-Chip, Dec-Len and Mary, Jan-Clifford, Feb-David, March-Greg, April-Mike, May-Bob and Sue, June-Doug
5. David set up Discord to use as a communication app for the club.

New Business:

1. Look into visiting the new Syracuse Aquarium and how the club may liaison with it.
2. Reviewed the 50 year Banquet, it was a great success. Slide show in December.
3. Ron F to look at getting a "square" for credit cards for events.
4. Randy Seufert to speak this month.
5. David to work on encouraging members to create club artwork.
6. Board voted to do a food drive in November. Mary to take food to Food Bank of CNY.
7. Club is to take inventory off all equipment it owns. Anyone with club equipment please email Mary. David will help inventor the locker. After inventory will discuss continuing need for storage place.

CNYAS General Meeting:
10/21/2026

1. NEC convention in 2027 will be in Scranton Pa.
2. Clifford reviewed Rochester trip and club buy.
3. This years budget was passed.
4. Randy Seufert gave a great talk playing the "Price is Right Fish Version" A great time was had by all!
5. Successful mini auction.

CLUB MEMBER'S FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM



By: Christopher Eschbacher

Here is a picture of my favorite tank.
It's a 20-gallon tank with
Cherry Barbs, Emerald Tetras and
Pearl Danios

Travel log from the CYNAS fall field trip to Rochester

By David Pomeranz

Last Saturday, 10/26, a small group of us took an excursion out West to Rochester. I had never been on this sort of trip, so I wasn't exactly sure what to expect, but I'd like to say my expectations were exceeded anyway. While you can follow along with the accompanying photos, they can't quite do these fish rooms justice.

Our first stop was to Mike Marlow's fish room, or more appropriately "fish house", as he and his wife's (Aubrey) tanks were spread throughout the living spaces of the house. And if I had as many show stopping cool fish and tanks as they did, I would probably do the same. Their tanks were beautifully planted, most eye-catching was a large amount of thriving cryptocorne "flamingo pink" in some of the tanks that according to our host, all derived from one mother plant.



The way they kept their tanks really spoke to me, as it was a delightful mix of projects, colonies, fry and the like, but also named pets and display critters. I was particularly impressed by the mixed rainbow fish that was the centerpiece of the dining room, which had easily the most beautiful millennium rainbows I had ever seen.



And speaking of thriving animals, we also got to witness a group of corydoras and synodontis catfish spawning, secure enough in their environments that they were unbothered by our club rolling through.



A final noteworthy feature is the large, but neat and elegant homemade sump on the discus tank. Mike opted to leave it open, rather than putting a door over the tank stand for visual interested. There was something oddly soothing about the tumbling wheel of colorful bio balls.



Mike Marlow and CNYAS President Doug Hillman



A rack housing a number of Mike's nano fish breeding projects

Our next stop after a quick lunch was to Pet World; their main location in Rochester. They had an excellent selection of livestock, incredibly reasonable prices, and just about every critter on my fish wish list. They also had two display tanks; one featuring a tanganyikwa spiny eel that was instantly charming, and the other a gorgeous planted tank of mixed barbs and striped head-standers that may have added some entirely new fish to my wish list. I will definitely be making a trip back there soon, and couldn't recommend it enough!



Mixed Barb display tank at Pet World

Our final stop was George Bowie's basement fish room, 90 tank heated labyrinth of glass, large shimmering adult cichlids, stock tubs, hang on style fry boxes, and a mind boggling amount of juvenile fish. The whole room was heated, set up in such a way as to warm the rest of the house with the heat waste. Another clever innovation was the use of a sort of shipping container insulation panels around the walls. The tanks had pretty aggressive filtration, most of which was provided by submersed pneumatic filters powered by a behemoth of an air system. I was unfamiliar with that style, but George taught us about them, as well as some useful tips on breeding and feeding corydoras, and some other tricks of the trade.





I couldn't possibly list everything I saw, but a few highlights were a pair of outstandingly vibrant red shoulder severums guarding wigglers, a collection of some of the less commonly seen, incredibly colorful African cichlids, a painted turtle that had made its home in the stock tanks and was handleable enough not to fuss about being picked up to say hello, and a monstrously large fahaka puffer with hilarious amounts of attitude that had a habit of bearing its teeth at people when being fed. I couldn't tell you whether this was a show of aggression or just excitement about lunch time.



I left with a bag of blue star endlers and goodieds, as well as a few other goodies, and a piqued interest in south American and Malawi cichlids.

Consider this an endorsement for the next trip. I got to know some of my fellow club members a lot better, get razzled and dazzled with beautiful display tanks and specimens, and got some great ideas from some veteran fish breeders. I can't think of another way I'd rather spend a Saturday.

CNYAS
Food Drive



Donations to Benefit
The Food Bank of Central New York

The Central New York Aquarium Society Food Drive
at our November Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Please bring, as a donation, non-perishable food items to our November meeting to help feed individuals and families in our local community

We suggest the Following Preferred items:
Canned Tuna, Cereal, Oatmeal, Canned Beans,
Dried Beans or Legumes, Soups & Stews, Peanut Butter,
Canned or Dried Fruits, Canned Vegetable, Pasta, Rice & Grains



MY OLD MAN IN THE TANK—PART 2—A TRIBUTE
By Suzanne Kotcher



In February of 2018, I wrote an article entitled My Old Man In The Tank. At this point, I would like to acknowledge Mike Flintrop who organized a site of all of the Reflectors and provided a link in each Reflector enabling me to find my article for reference.

In my first article, I estimated his age. This time I looked in a notebook that I keep and discovered that I bought my Raphael Catfish in 1983. I didn't know the gender but I always felt that it was a male. I named him Rafe. He was placed in a 30 gallon tank but eventually, after a couple of other tanks, made his way to a permanent home in a 36 bowfront.

For a little background, Agamyxis pectinifrons of the Doradidae family is also known as the spotted Raphael catfish. The average life span is about 9 years, average size about 8" and they dwell in South American river bottoms. They are also known as "talking" cats as they croak or click when removed from the aquarium. They do well in temps of 68 to 78 degrees with PH of 5.8 to 7.8. They are peaceful, shy, nocturnal and like to hide under plants or rocks and will not harm plants. This is true of Rafe. They make great community fish. I got a taste of his "talking" when I moved him from his original tank. He let me know he was displeased, lol.

Over the years, it was rare to actually see him out and about. He somehow managed to feed himself as he never came out when food was presented. Rafe would not come out if I was anywhere near the tank. The only thing I really saw everyday was the back half of his 5" body. His head was buried in Java ferns. One time, however, one of my granddaughters really wanted to see him. I told her I was sorry but that he doesn't do that. A minute later he came out and raced around the tank for her to see—so weird and wonderful! It was almost as if he heard it.

I have had him for so long, about 43 years! Even though I really didn't see him swimming around, I could always see his back half. I just loved him, he was so unique, quirky and beautiful with a definite personality.



About a month ago I noticed that Rafe came out and settled sideways against the front glass. I was shocked and stayed away so I wouldn't spook him. After a few hours he went back to his plants. I was relieved. He did this a couple of times but always went back. I decided that I better take pictures! The last two weeks of October he came out more frequently. He didn't even move when I carefully came up to the tank. One thing, I saw that he had blue eyes!

Finally, the last week there was a day when he came out and faced the front of the tank. After a few hours I went and checked and saw that he looked a little different. I then realized that he was gone. He died on the 30th.

Who's to say that you can't love a fish as much as any other pet! He must have been happy as he lived so long. We gave him back to nature, putting him in the green area in back of the house. It was a privilege to have had this wonderful and amazing little companion for almost 43 years.

The Think Tank

A Monthly Club Write-in

This month, our members were asked:
Tell us a bit about your feeding routine! Do you have some staple foods, prepared, frozen or live, that you swear by? Do you frequently experiment with different offerings, or do you like to find what works and stick to it?

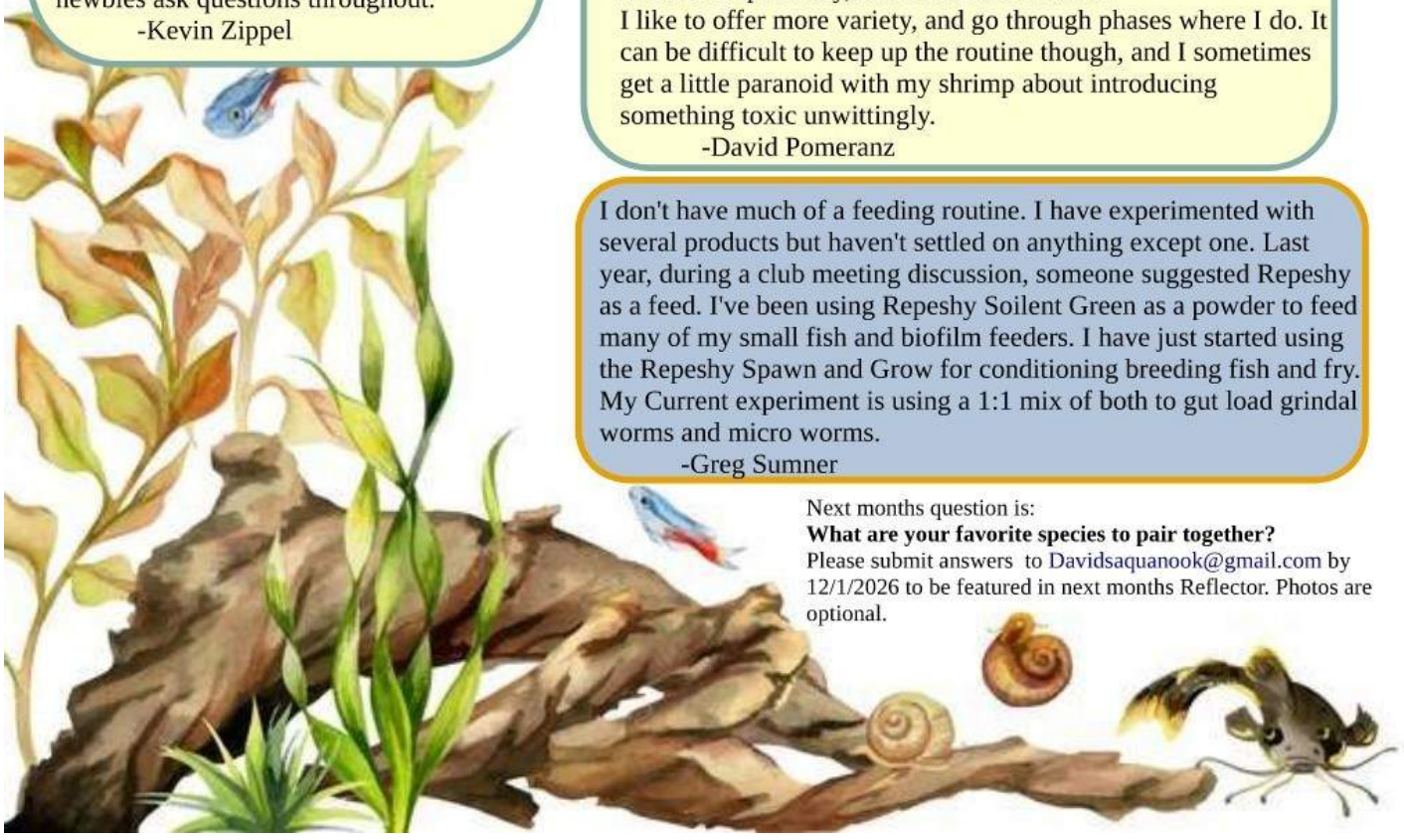
The next question can be found below, and will be shared via email and at the November meeting.

I do use some commercial foods. I use small sinking pellets for pictus cats and African dwarf frogs. I use bulk flake as a snack. But my staple is live food, one live food in particular, the one I find easiest to grow and offers a size range that fits almost all my needs: grindal worms.
I would love to have a "workshop" at one of the meetings for those of us who keep them to share tips, and help others get started. Heck for that matter we could have an entire meeting just on live food cultures where a designated expert leads a presentation or discussion on each culture type, others with experience chime in, and newbies ask questions throughout.
-Kevin Zippel

Golden pearls. I'm a buffet or a smorgasbord kind of guy, having a cat that never eats from the same can twice prepared me for my fish. I use all sorts-I just counted 11 different flakes, pellets and wafers and 2 types of frozen foods along with BBS. I wish I were more skilled with micro worms, white worms etc. I have used hard boiled egg and sponge grunge for fry, although golden peels is my go to there.
-Mike Flintrop

As a staple food dry food, I like bugbites flakes. I alternate between the chlorella formula and the "color enhancing" formula. I also feed grindal worms to just about everything, and have a few critters that will only take live or frozen. They are large enough where all of my adult fish will eat them, but also small enough to make them an excellent juvenile grow out food, and also importantly, low effort and reliable.
I like to offer more variety, and go through phases where I do. It can be difficult to keep up the routine though, and I sometimes get a little paranoid with my shrimp about introducing something toxic unwittingly.
-David Pomeranz

I don't have much of a feeding routine. I have experimented with several products but haven't settled on anything except one. Last year, during a club meeting discussion, someone suggested Repeshy as a feed. I've been using Repeshy Soilent Green as a powder to feed many of my small fish and biofilm feeders. I have just started using the Repeshy Spawn and Grow for conditioning breeding fish and fry. My Current experiment is using a 1:1 mix of both to gut load grindal worms and micro worms.
-Greg Sumner



Next months question is:
What are your favorite species to pair together?
Please submit answers to Davidsaquanook@gmail.com by 12/1/2026 to be featured in next months Reflector. Photos are optional.

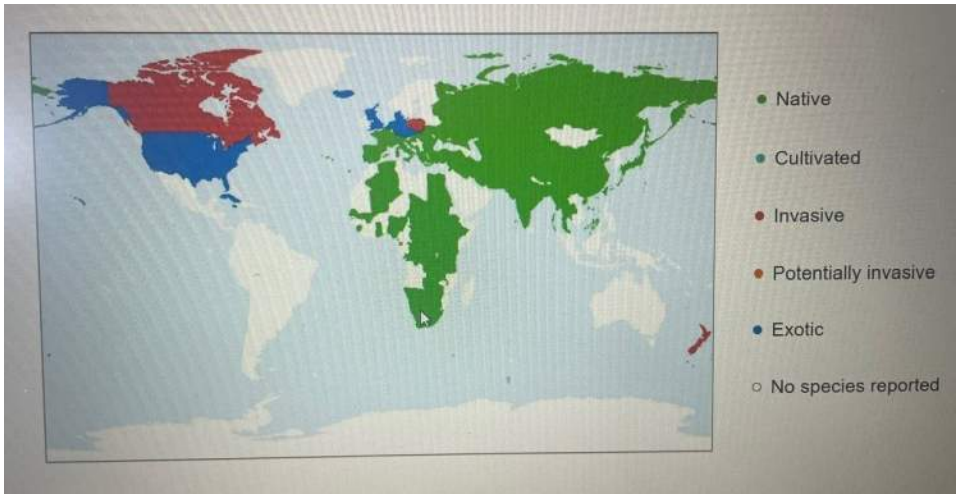
AHAP: *Vallisneria spiralis*-anyone like skipping stones?

By: Michael Flintrop



There are several types of Vallisneria, including *Vallisneria gigantea rubra*, *Vallisneria americana, Vallisneria spiralis, Vallisneria nana,* and *Vallisneria asiatica. Vallisneria torta* (often called corkscrew val) is **not** considered a separate species from *V spiralis* and is in fact a different cultivar of the same plant.

Vallisneria spiralis was named and first described by Carl Linnaeus (1753), to honor Antonio Vallisneri an Italian physician and naturalist from the 17th century. Linnaeus was considered the "father of taxonomy". He established binomial nomenclature, where a plant (such as *V. spiralis*) would be identified with 2 names (genus, species). Indeed, it applies to all living things. Of course, scientists have been reclassifying and renaming many fish, but the nomenclature system remains the same. It is (for plants) now governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants.*



V. spiralis has several names, including straight val, Italian val, tape grass, tape weed and eel grass. Given its worldwide distribution in tropical and subtropical locations, multiple names might be expected. Don't be fooled by the words tropical and subtropical-it has been declared a naturalized alien species in Iceland where it was noticed growing in geothermal ponds! A plant that can grow on most continents, and on Iceland of all places, sounds like a hardy plant this non botanist without a green thumb can enthusiastically endorse. Of note, it is considered an invasive species in New Zealand and Canada. It seems absent from South America and Australia (see map).



I am not sure why tropical fish, and now plants, often sport their own stamp. See enclosed pic of a 1966 Romanian stamp of *V. spiralis*. It documents the spiraling nature of the female flower stalk (more about that below).

I think most aquarists have met this versatile humble easy to grow plant. Its use in the kitchen where it can be eaten after being steamed or boiled may be new to some aquarists-it certainly was to me. I found the related species *V. americana* on a foraging website with instructions on how to forage and harvest this plant for edible consumption.

What I didn't know was that *V. spiralis* can produce flowers. The female flowers are small, 3-5 mm, and white. They grow and float on the surface, waiting for a male flower to float by and pollinate. The male flowers detach below the surface, and float to the surface (see pic). In fact, the term spiralis comes from the flowers on *V. spiralis* -the female flower can be very long as it grows to the surface. After pollination, the pedicel curls back (read here, *spirals*) towards the plant, pulling the fruit or seed into the water.



Vallisneria is a *dioecious plant*, which means that male and female plants can produce respectively male (*staminate*) and female (*pistillate*) flowers. A *dioecious plant* must have male and female plants (producing male and female flowers) to achieve pollination. A typical terrestrial *dioecious plant* known to most would be the holly tree. You need a male and female holly tree to get a female tree with berries. There are *monoecious plants*, which means an individual plant can produce male and female flowers on the same plant. An example would be *Aponogeton ulvaceus*-this plant has both male and female structures on the same plant. And of course, there are *hermaphroditic plants*, in which the flower itself has male and female parts (e.g. the terrestrial lily).



Valliseneria spiralis
male and female flower
Getty Images



I was only aware of the numerous runners that protrude from the parent plant and can colonize a small tank rather quickly. Almost like skipping stones, the plant leaps across the substrate (see pic). At first this is endearing and almost cute. After a few months, it can be a hassle and small chore, to pull up, disentangle and remove unnecessary plants. While not exactly duckweed, those attempting an organized aqua-scaped aquarium might be frustrated. As far as this non botanist is concerned, any plant besides duckweed that can be grown with reckless abandon is cool.

Moreover, while it benefits from fertile soil (i.e. a dirtied tank, root tabs, mature substrate, etc.), it does fine without C02. In fact, it is reportedly sensitive to liquid carbon and overdosing causes leaf melt (eg, Seachem Excel, be very cautious if using). When planting *V. spiralis* keep the crown of the plant just above the substrate (otherwise the crown will rot). It enjoys and needs good lighting (30-50 PAR at the level of the substrate) though. LED lights worked fine with my tank. It prefers hard alkaline water (welcome to Syracuse, V. spiralis !). Although it can tolerate soft water it doesn't like a low pH. It can even reportedly handle a little salt. Perfect non floating entry plant for AHAP.

I obtained my "starter culture" of *V. spiralis* at our famed mini auction, and at a favorable market price. I placed the plants in a 10-gallon tank with no other plants than the ubiquitous duckweed. The tank has 2 inches of regular aquarium gravel. I added some Aquarium Co-op root tabs. A Hyggar LED light was set on a timer for 8 hours. The aquarium housed Hoplisoma pandas, several young Fundulopanchax gardneri, and a few Heterandria formosa. Eventually it was just the cories and V. spiralis.

I used Syracuse water set at 78 degrees. Occasionally I would do a 50% water change with cold tap water as a trigger for the Pandas to breed. Didn't bother the plants one bit. It didn't do anything for the Pandas either. After several months, I needed to do the water change just to find the Pandas as the plants occupied 100% of the aquarium bottom, with leaves covering the surface.

I was able to secure some *Vallisneria americana* from our AHAP chairman and look forward to the next challenge. I have not found any tricks to getting Vallisneria to flower, other than trying to replicate the outdoors (increasing light and temps in the summer, when flowering usually occurs seems to be the trigger in nature). That seems difficult with winter around the corner.

I have learned a lot with my "starter culture" of *V spiralis,* and I would anticipate there will always be some found in my fish room.







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 Oct 2026 Reflector and points published in Nov 2026 Reflector

Name	Status	Nov Reflector	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill	45	95	3,451
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	0	5	540
Flintrop	Wordsmith	85	290	465
Pomeranz, D.	Wordsmith	0	90	451
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
Newell	Writer	40	40	90
Tuori	Participant	0	0	90
Sager	Participant	0	0	70
Pomeranz, A.	Writer	0	0	70
Gibbs	Participant	0	0	40
Valdez	Participant	0	0	40
Eschbacher	Participant	0	30	30
Sumner	Participant	0	10	25
Pitzeruse, R.	Participant	0	0	20
Lindblom	Participant	0	0	15
Gately	Participant	0	10	10

Congratulations to Bill Newell, whose article in the October *Reflector moved him up to "Writer" status!*

Submissions appearing in the October 2026 Reflector:

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #48," 1 article, 20 points

Crain, "A Visit From Eric Bodrock" 1 article, 20 points, 1 photo, 5 points, total = 25 points

Flintrop, 1 cover photo = 5 points

Flintrop, "AHAP: *Salvinia minima", 1 article, 20 points, 3 photos, 15 points; total = 35 points*

Flintrop, "BAP report: *Xenotoca doadrioi", 1 article, 20 points, 5 photos, 25 points; total = 45 points*

Newell, "A Flowery Summer, Part 1: Indoors" 1 article, 20 points, 4 photos, 20 points, total=40 points



BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman - Michael Flintrop
Email: michaelflintrop@yahoo.com

Name	Points	Species
Grand Master		
*Van Camp 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,11,13,15,16	965	77
Master Breeder		
Herschel Beeman 1,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,15	735	55
*Pitzeruse, W. 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16	610	50
Ron Fabiny 1,7,8,11,12,14,15,16	565	50
William Newell 1,7,8,12	360	33
Clifford Crain Jr. 1,7,8	345	30
Expert Breeder		
Doug Hillman 1,8,9,11	285	27
Hunter Collins 8,11	235	13
Mike Flintrop 1,8,11	220	20
Advanced Breeder		
David Pomeranz 16	150	20
Breeder Award		
Wisneski 11	65	7
Denise Baird	70	8
Chris Allen 11,14	60	5
Rich Pitzeruse	55	5
Jennifer Lioto	50	5

Name	Points	Species
Participants		
Greg Sumner	35	4
Spahn	30	3
Domanowski, S	25	4
Chris Pollard	20	2
Maxwell	20	2
Kotcher	10	1
Lenny Futterman	10	1
Russell Phelps	10	1
Mary Futterman	5	1

Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.

*Indicated Species Classification Award

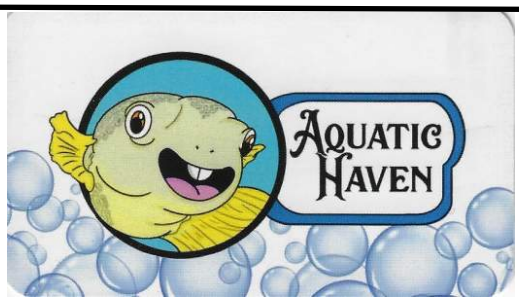
^Indicates first spawning

New Additions:

Doug Hillman *Corydoras venezuelanus* 15 points first spawn

Bill Newell *Labidochromis caeruleus* 15 points

David Pomeranz *Cardina mariae* 10 points first spawn (Orange eye Blue Tiger Shrimp)





AQUATIC HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman– Bill Newell
Email: bnewell44@gmail.com

Name	Points	Species
Grand Master		
Spahn* 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14	4,015	288
Pitzeruse, W* 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14	1,230	87
Fabiny* 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14	940	68
Master		
Van Camp* 1,7,8,9,11,14	465	36
Lee* 3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14	575	42
Pomeranz* 2,3,7,9,10,13	495	39
Expert		
Senior		
Snead* 2,4,7,10,14	460	26
Newell 1,2,4,6,12	325	26
Lioto	285	21
Aquatic		
Kotcher* 6,10,14	185	14
Futterman*	180	16
Beeman 3,4,6,7	190	19
Flintrop	130	11

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
Salvinia minima (doubling) 5 pts

Bill Newell
Anubias frazeri (doubling) 15 pts

David Pomeranz

Mayaca fluviatilis (doubling) 10 pts
Nymphaea stellata (flowering) 10 pts
Pilotrichaceae cf. *Cyclodictyon* sp. (doubling) 10 pts



Florida™ AQUATIC NURSERIES



BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

Year to Date Scores:

Bill Newell	46 Points
Doug Hillman	46 Points
Wayne Brenning	22 Points
Chloe Gibbs	22 Points

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 forger 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 8 entries for the October bowl show!

Black & Orange

- A: Pangio myersi (Giant KuhliLoach) – Chloe Gibbs – 1 point
- B: Poecilia reticulata (Black Moscow Guppy) – Third place – Doug Hillman – 10 points
- C: Poecilia reticulata (Black Koi Guppy) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points
- D: Aphyosemion australe – Second place – Doug Hillman – 15 points
- E: Prionobrama filigera (Gladd Bloodfin Tetra) – Bill Newell – 1 point
- F: Dyplomystus sp. (Lake Gosiute Herring Eocene) – Bill Newell – Fossil was very dead and disqualified
- G: Bosemani Rainbowfish – Wayne Brenning – 1 point

OPEN

- A: Dermogenys pusilla (Platinum halfbeak) – First place – Chloe Gibbs – 21 points

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



A





Trip to the IFGA Show in Springfield, Massachusetts

October 17th & 18th

By: Zachary Moore



I attended the IFGA show in Springfield, Mass on October 17th and 18th. The first day was dedicated to showing and judging. The room was open to the public, so anyone could walk through and get a close look at the fish. Seeing true high-quality show guppies in person was a real eye-opener. The color intensity, clean finnage, body shape, and overall presence on the top entries were on a completely different level from the pet-grade fish most hobbyists usually see in stores or casual tanks. It gave me a much clearer picture of what solid IFGA lines can look like when they're raised and selected carefully.

The next morning was the auction. It was mostly guppies, but there were also shrimp and plants in the mix. I was impressed by both the quantity and the quality of what came through. Prices stayed fair throughout, which made it easy to pick up some very nice lines for my own breeding projects. One of the highlights was finally meeting a well-known breeder I'd been watching on YouTube — I was able to win some of his fish, which was a bonus.

My goal with these fish isn't to get into showing (though I appreciate the work that goes into it). I plan to breed and raise higher-quality guppies and make them available to the club. Too many hobbyists still think of guppies as sickly and un-hardy. With good lines and solid care, they can be something much better than that.

Overall it was a good experience. The combination of seeing the judged fish up close and then having a chance to bid on quality stock the next day made the trip worth it. If you're interested in learning more about the standards, classes, or upcoming shows, the IFGA website is a solid place to start: ifga.org.

— Zachary Moore



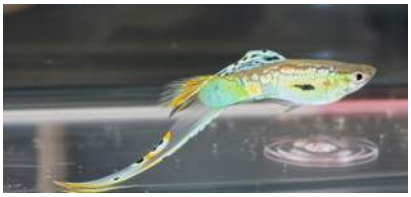














Auction Report: New England Cichlid Association, Fall 2026

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

I have attended the New England Cichlid Association (NECA) auctions twice previously, and wrote about it for the April 2023 and November 2025 *Reflector*. I went to their Fall auction this year and found some differences that readers may be interested in.

The biggest is the venue. In both articles I groused about the crowded hall at the VFW in Windsor Locks, CT. This year NECA moved its auction to a far more roomy Chicopee Family Moose Center in Chicopee, MA. Not only is this venue better sized for an auction, but we Central New Yorkers will appreciate the 20 minutes shorter drive time (about 3½ hours each way).

For this auction I had only two bags of fish, my spawning group of nine adult *Neolamprologus cylindricus*. The trick to both minimizing the amount of time your fish are in bags and yet making it to the distant auction location on time is to do as much preparation as possible on the previous day. For me, this includes setting up a temporary bagging table and getting the bags, rubber bands, labels, tape, marker pen and styro ready. Since the only way to catch these fish in a 60-gallon breeder would be to remove all rocks, heater and filter and drain the tank down to a few inches, I also prepared my clean, plastic 40 gallon garbage can to hold the siphoned water.

I awoke early, bagged the fish, registered them online and got on the road in time to beat the scheduled 10:00 AM start time. Imagine my surprise when I arrived at the hall to find only a few people there. OK, so I have a bit of a wait before the start of the auction. Coming prepared, and not one to waste time, I ate my brunch while reading the Sunday paper until the auction actually started just after 11:00. At the start of the auction there were about 55 people in the audience, small for a tropical fish auction and about half the size of the Spring 2023 NECA auction. With such a small number of items for auction (roughly 300) and the size of the bidder group, it was no surprise that the auction finished by around 2:15.



Plenty of available seating shortly after the auction began



One of the two lonely vendors

NECA does not use the "10 table" method common in New York. Instead, the lots are placed on tables by location, such as "Central/South America" in a separate room. Grouping the lots in this manner made it easier to see what was available for the type of fish the bidder is interested in before the auction started without having to sift through all lots. Once the auction starts, a NECA member selects the bags at random and brings them to the auction room. Most donations are sold first, then bumps, then the remainder in random order. NECA members get three bumps, and all other bumps are $3.



Unlike the 2023 and 2025 auctions which utilized a food truck to keep the audience fed, the Moose Hall featured a full kitchen staffed by Moose personnel.

Typical of auctions held in the Fall, there were many donated items from Florida Aquatic Nurseries. These weren't auctioned but were sold at a table near the NECA registration table. By the end of the auction the club lowered the price of the plants to $3 for a single plant, $5 for a trio and $10 for the large ones. Interestingly, the club also sold books from Paul V. Loiselle's personal library. Again, by the end of the auction these were being let go for only two bucks each.

I really like the approach used by NECA that the auctioneer is not the person communicating what is being auctioned to the bidders. Done properly, this process moves things along fast since the auctioneer doesn't have to stop and read what is in the bag; as soon as one bag is sold, the person reading the bag is ready to immediately read the contents of the next bag. Unfortunately, events conspired to slow things down at this auction. First, the bag reader could not get his mic to work. Second, the bag reader for the first and third hours of the auction was frustratingly slow in describing the item being auctioned.

Sometime between 2023 and 2025 NECA switched to using the auction.fish online auction app replacing the 2023 100% manual (no computer at all) system. The auction.fish program is gaining more and more users; I counted 13 clubs using it in October. Sellers register their fish online, and the system assigns whatever number is next. First, it reduces the number of runners required as there are no chits to sign and turn in and no cash to handle during the purchase. Second, sellers can upload an image of their fish which the auction.fish software allows the club to beam onto a screen along with the item number of the lot. I took advantage of that, and I believe I got a better price for my fish since *N. cylindricus* is a stunning but not common fish. When bidders saw what a great-looking fish this is, they bid the price up. Third, there is no delay between the sale and recording the sale. The buyer number and amount are entered at the time of the sale; there's no waiting for chits to be turned in and entered into a database at the registration table. This speeds up the payment process. Previously when I came across this software, which is free BTW, I brought it up with the CNYAS board to consider using and will do so again soon.

When I saw how small the population of bidders was, I paid $3 to bump up one of my bags, and I'm glad I did. The two bags sold for $60. I offset this infusion of cash with a purchase of a group of *Julidochromis ornatus* (a fish I have previously killed instead of spawned) and *Amatitlania sajica* (a new one for me).

NECA's Spring auction is scheduled for March 21, 2027.



Fish Friends From Afar #49

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**.

"*Aphyosemion ocellatum* 'Sika-Sika'" by Clint Bougher
***Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., September 2026**

As aquarists are wont to do, Clint bought this young pair of very pretty killifish "on impulse at our club's mini-auction" for $75. He kept them in a small tank with a spawning mop and sponge filter and fed them live food. Despite the excellent care being provided for five months, the fish failed to take the hint and spawn. "It was after I started using rainwater that I noticed my first fry." The fry are big enough to eat newly-hatched brine shrimp. He was able to leave the parents in the tank "because this species is not known to eat eggs or fry." "I found that providing RO or rainwater and live foods were the most important requirements."

"The BAP Breeder's Corner" by Regina Spotti
***Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., September 2026**

Regina wrote a short article about her spawning *Otocinclus mimulus*, the first time anyone in GPASI has spawned any *Otocinclus*. Four males and two females were kept in a 20-gallon tank and fed algae/plant-based foods. "The tank was kept cold and then heated up the room to bring the water temperature up to 81.7ºF. Seasonal [temperature] fluctuations trigger spawns." The otos laid eggs on the underside of leaves which were removed to another tank. The fry were fed a variety of plant-based foods. "NO baby brine shrimp—they die!"

"Sumatra Moss (*Callicostella prabaktiana*) Plant of the Month by Tim Gross
***Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., October 2026**

Tim starts off by stating the obvious, that Java moss is the most common moss, but he dings Java moss because "it quickly becomes unruly as it sends out stringy fronds in all directions." On the other hand, Sumatra moss "naturally grows tight to rock and driftwood, especially under high light, and is extremely easy to grow, even without CO_2." Its tendency to cling tightly to hardscape "keeps a tidy look much longer than other mosses."

"The BAP Breeder's Corner" by Regina Spotti
***Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., October 2026**

Regina bred the black phantom tetra (*Megalamphodus megatopterus*) in what is probably typical for tetras, after being fed live, flake and pellets three times daily, clean water at pH=6 and temperature 78ºF. What caught my eye was that she used an egg catcher: "a reusable coffee filter tucked into a corner and filled with small marbles and Java moss." The use of an egg catcher makes it a snap to remove the eggs to a separate hatching tank. The fry are tiny and require a diet of infusoria and green water for the first week.

"The BAP Breeder's Corner" by Clint Bougher
***Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., October 2026**

Halfbeaks, in this case the Celebes halfbeak (*Nomorhamphus liemi)*, are livebearers that have been in the hobby for years. The key is not so much breeding them as it is to save the fry, since the parents are notorious fry predators. Clint would check the tank every day for fry and remove them immediately. Not all livebearers are an easy five points in the BAP! Clint concludes, "Not a beginner fish IMO."

"The BAP Breeder's Corner" by Geoff Humes
***Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., October 2026**

Geoff spawned the Lake Mbuta gudgeon, *Mogurnda mbuta*. From his description, it appears they breed much like substrate-spawning cichlids. "The fry grow fast and reached 1 inch after eight weeks." This sounds like a fish I'd like to spawn. If I see Geoff at the OCA Extravaganza, I'll ask for more information.

"*Lagenandra meeboldi* 'red'" by Mark Allar
Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, November 2026

This is an attractive red, slow-growing broadleaf plant from India. "This plant is similar to the crypts, however it does not send runners out but propagates by vegetative method which means you will be taking cuttings from the main plant itself and replanting. Make sure you have a good solid cutting of 3 to 4 leaves without destroying either the main plant or the new one." Mark has tried tying his to wood but has found out it does better in pots.

Reprints/Reviews
None this month.



My Love Affair with *Geophagus sveni* (I Think)

By: Michael Flintrop



Some fish-immature rainbows and male peacock cichlids come to mind-just don't look very appealing at the local aquarium shop. In my opinion, most Geophagus species come under that heading. In fact, many fish in the local aquarium shop look better after they acclimate to your aquarium. Chalk that up to better water, food or lighting. Or perhaps to a planted environment, or an environment that allows for areas to retreat--caves, rocks, etc. Maybe it is less stress from having appropriate tankmates. Perhaps the fish benefit from a quiet room, and not the comings and goings of a busy pet shop. The difference I think we all know is that some fish just need to be relaxed, well fed, and be mature adults to fully appreciate their beauty and behavior. Some fish grow slowly, and patience is needed. While small Geos are not ugly, no one is going to stop, take a look and say, "Wow, cool, I want some of them!".



Geophagus sveni was named in honor of a Swedish ichthyologist Sven O Kullander (born 1952) of the Swedish Museum of Natural History. His wife is an ichthyologist as well. He has had at least 2 other species named in his honor-*Saxatila sveni* and *Apistogramma kullander.*

G. sveni hail from the Tocantins river in Brazil. Over 1500 miles long, it flows south to north to empty into the Atlantic, just south of the mouth of the Amazon River (see pic). It is on the eastern side of Brazil.

As an aside-and perhaps this should be front and center: unless you are purchasing F0 or F1/F2 from a reputable breeder, the actual procurement of Geos is not a straightforward matter. There are a multitude of Geos from most parts of South America. They range from hard water species in and near Peru, to the soft and warm water loving species in the enormous Amazon basin, to very cold tolerant species from Uruguay. If you are purchasing fish under 2 inches, they look remarkably similar. Similar to purchasing young African peacocks-you may wonder-are they male and what color will they be? Geos are not inexpensive, and it is a project of patience to acquire these fish and wait for their growth (which can be slow)-hoping that the local shop got the name correct. Finding larger adults (i.e., my geo harem needs more females!) is no easy feat to accomplish. Even if you find larger Geos, it is not easy to distinguish sexes. I recommend "Geophagus-Guide to Amazonian Eartheaters-nearly all Geophagus species!" @ Below water on You Tube. Great pictures of different species and exploration of their natural habitat-although not too helpful in helping distinguish sexes. It was after watching that video that I realized how they basically live in moving water, and not in a back water tributary or in slow moving water. They appreciate some flow in the aquarium.



Geophagus translates into "eartheater". *G. sveni* grow up to 10 inches (females reported slightly smaller), prefer pH 5.5-7.5, and temps 76-82 degrees. All eartheaters benefit from fine sand. This is almost mandatory. Sand sifting is just in their nature-to deprive them of this would be ill advised. I can't stress this more vigorously. Geos of all sizes spend almost all their time sifting sand, looking for debris, microscopic crustaceans etc. to consume. I observed that I have never had a cleaner substrate than when my colony of *G. sveni* sifted my 150-gallon sandy bottom aquarium. If nothing else, whatever was in the sand ended up in the water column, to be easily removed by the filters. No need for catfish or plecos in this tank!

Now G. sveni become big fish, and ultimately my tank with an 18-inch depth was just not enough to comfortably house my colony. They are a riverine species and need space (and sand) to demonstrate all their behaviors. My reading found descriptions such as "easy going" and "semi social". I couldn't agree more, at least not until they were mature and crowded. They are cichlids after all. They are benthic (bottom dwelling) fish, rarely coming to the surface. In fact, when 2 of my *G. sveni* spent time surfing at the top, I knew the fish density was not sustainable. Until that point, never have I seen so many big cichlid fish seem to generally enjoy each other's company-while not exactly schooling they spent most of their time grouped together. At one point I had silver dollars with them-but they were continually spooked by them and were removed. I tried a big school of adult serpae tetras but they disappeared one by one. A pair of chocolate cichlids cohabitated very well (spawned twice), but when the male hit 12 inches he too just had to be moved to bigger quarters.

After it essentially became a species only tank and with the tank still crowded it was with some desperation I posted on cichlid.com my predicament. While they were quite kind and helpful, complemented me on my fish etc. it really came down to thinning out the males and population somewhat, or getting a bigger deeper tank (180-300 gallons suggested). The latter was given some serious consideration, but ultimately, I decided to rehome my group. It was pointed out that I was running the tank near 90 degrees, but a temperature reduction didn't curb aggression. One difficulty I had was identifying males vs females. This made a reduction in the number of fish problematic. Of note, I did secure one *G. altifrons* (even more beautiful than *G.sveni*) and I was a bit reluctant to re-home him. This was a difficult thing to do; I had become quite attached to my boisterous friends.

Perhaps someday the 8-foot tank will appear under the Christmas tree, or an opportunity to get that monster tank in my basement will magically happen. I like almost all tropical fish. I don't generally enjoy monster fish (I mean, if you can catch it with a rod and reel do you really need it in an aquarium?), and I generally don't like violence in my aquarium either. While I had a school of disappearing serpae tetras and some Geo surfing, my colony of big beautiful *G. sveni* was relaxing and a sight to behold. While I understand the hobby is moving towards nano tanks, for those with the ambition and opportunity to get a bigger tank, don't dismiss the seductive charm and beauty of the Geos.



My future plans are to explore *Geophagus balazanii*, a cold hardy Geo. Not the dazzling darling *G. sveni*, but a bit smaller, I think less active, and much easier in which to distinguish sexes. Perhaps that will reignite my affection for these big goofy gregarious boisterous always hungry South American cichlids. Time will tell….





CLUB MEMBER'S FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Photos by: Greg Sumner

Golden Panchex - *Panchypanchex playfairii*



Himitsu Heiki Medaka





Field Trip Report: Rochester

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

For our fifth year of taking a field trip, we decided to return to Rochester. In 2022 we visited three fish stores and no fishrooms. (Sadly, two of those stores have gone out of business.) This year we were fortunate to change the mix by visiting one store and two fishrooms. For the five of us who took the time to do this, it was an excellent adventure.

In 2022 I posted a request on the Rochester NY Aquarium Club Facebook page for fishroom volunteers and got no takers. I tried again this year and hit the jackpot.

The first fishroom we visited was Mike and Audrey Marlow's, in Greece, NY. Communicating by email and FB messages, Mike told me that they have 20+ tanks and that he has "had a couple of youtubers do walk throughs and many, many people from the Rochester area check out my tanks." OK, this sounds promising, not a huge setup, so I said I would schedule 30-45 minutes. His response: "30-45 minutes may not be long enough as I love talking fish." This is serious, so I scheduled one hour. As it turned out, I had to pull the others away after 75 minutes to stay on schedule!

Now I'm sure many of you are in a situation like mine: your spouse does not share your hobby. I play the trombone and keep fish while The Chief knits, walks the dog, socializes with her friends and reads books for her book club. Well, that's not the case for Mike and Audrey Marlow. I can't recall seeing a setup quite like theirs: her tanks are in what at one time was the dining room, his tanks are in the family room (with some space allotted for human use), and the living room is reserved for their snakes. Although their tanks are separate, and each is responsible to maintain his/her aquariums, they do so together: "It's not a hobby but a lifestyle!" While they don't have a zillion tanks, what they do have is a sight to see.

We first looked at Audrey's tanks in the "dining room." In place of a dining room table is a very nice padded bench, perfect for gazing at her stunning tanks. And when I say stunning, I'm not overstating it. When CNYAS plant lover David Pomeranz saw Audrey's 130 gallon tank chock full of plants, his jaw dropped, and he asked questions and enjoyed the challenge of identifying the plants. The tanks in the dining room were stocked with a wide variety of fish and gorgeous to view. I got a kick out of watching her tiny "Corydoras" catfish fry.



Audrey's heavily planted 130

One walks through the kitchen to reach the family room and Mike's 15 tanks. His 130 gallon discus tank is filtered with a homemade sump, built from a used 55-gallon tank that cost less than the custom-fitted glass that divides the chambers. The discus, all of whom have names, have learned to recognize their food. They leap to the front to chow down.



Mike's discus tank is kept spotless with the homemade sump



Mike doesn't skimp on plants either

Mike's other tanks sport a variety of fish. The tanks have sponge filters, and he asked us if we could hear the air pump running; we could not. Reason: it and the related PVC air piping is located in the basement. There are holes drilled in the floor to bring air into the dining and family rooms while the noise and ugly piping stay in the basement. It works!



Big AP-60 965 gph air pump
Photo by: Mike Marlow



Their basement air system features a pressure gauge and bleed valve
Photo by: Mike Marlow

Being a basement fishroom kind of guy, I asked Mike why he didn't set his up in the basement. Several reasons: it's too cold down there, he and Audrey like to view their tanks (no wonder, the tanks and fish are gorgeous), and keeping them visible allows them to quickly notice and correct any problems. Since the fish, especially the discus, require temperatures greater than typical room temperature, their tanks have heaters, all attached to Inkbird controllers for safety.

Keeping aquariums in a nicely-finished living space does require special considerations. For example, there are leak detectors on the floor under the tanks. The leak detectors emit a series of loud beeps when water touches their probes, notifying the Marlows to take action before the tank drains itself all over the nice carpet and the fish expire. Performing regular water changes in a finished space also requires some thought. I'm the champion sloppy water changer, thoughtlessly careless since my fishroom has a concrete floor with a floor drain. Mike and Audrey siphon water into a bucket and use a pump attached to a hose to pump the water to a drain or outdoors. They refill using a Python.

While we're talking about water changes, the Marlows utilize a sophisticated system to ensure the absolute best water quality. Municipal water first goes through a sediment filter, then a carbon block, then a standard water softener, then a UV filter. This setup knocks the gH to zero, kH=7 and the TDS to 100. But even the best quality water is for naught without regular water changes, so most tanks get a twice weekly water change.

The fishrooms face south, and after the Marlows moved in and set them up, they soon learned that the summer sun will turn their tanks into little algae factories. They keep the curtains drawn to combat this. Mike also has a UV filter that runs on his discus tank that knocks the algae down.

The Marlows have a variety of Fluval canister filters on their tanks, and I noticed that all of the hoses sport aftermarket screw hose clamps. Mike took this step after one of the hoses separated from its fitting and emptied water all over the place. I'm thinking maybe I should do the same with my three Fluvals.



Sediment/carbon block filter, water softener and UV. Note the bypass valves on left
Photo: Mike Marlow

We got to talking to Mike about one of my favorite topics, aquarium societies, and I asked him why a big city like Rochester has no aquarium society. We were gratified to hear that Mike would love to get one started there and has been talking to other Rochester-area enthusiasts. We offered to help in any way we can. Having a sister aquarium society in Rochester would be so beneficial for upstate aquarists.

No one wanted to leave these two gorgeous fishrooms, but the schedule we must keep, so we piled into our cars and drove to Pet World in Greece. This is the only local fish store (LFS) we visited during the 2022 field trip that is still in business. In my opinion it is the premier LFS in the Rochester area. It's a store designed for serious hobbyists. For example, on the floor available for immediate purchase was a European Aqua El 5' 110-gallon low iron tank, a real beauty. But that's not all. How about a Recife 24 cube, 40 cube, 50 rimless, both sizes of ZooMed lowboys, Aqualantis 65 bowfront, Marineland 37 column and 110, and more. I even noticed an employee dusting these tanks. Not convinced? If you need gravel, I counted 55 (!!) different kinds and sizes of quality CaribSea, Seachem and Stoney River gravel along with 30 different kinds of colored gravel. And you know you're in a great LFS when it sports five kinds of live food, including adult brine shrimp, for sale.



The Marlows erected a welcome sign to guide us!

It pretty much goes without saying that Pet World's selection and quality of fish is outstanding. Since it is a direct importer of fish, it has a whole room dedicated to quarantine (Jim, the long-time co-owner, gave us a behind-the-scenes tour). There are two huge vats that continually age water, which is piped out to the tanks.



Pet World's quarantine room



Visible are the tops of Pet World's two aging vats

I'm pleased to report that all of us bought something at Pet World, and Jim and Margie gave us a special 5% field trip discount.

Next we jumped across the street to a Denny's for the all-important lunch. It met the requirement of fast and cheap, and we left for our final stop only ten minutes behind schedule.

The one hour drive west from Greece to Lyndonville (bet you've never heard of that place before, amirite?) gave us time to digest our lunch and for me to continue the discussion with my passenger, David. Upon arriving, what we found was a fishroom that was opposite in most respects from the Marlows' but just as impressive. George Bowie and his son Ethan run a side business, EJB Aquatics, selling fish from George's basement fishroom. And that fishroom is totally utilitarian featuring functional breeding tanks mostly on homemade wood stands. George bought out a fishroom in Auburn, Michigan for $3500. It took several days for Ethan and him to break down and load the huge quantity of equipment and oh, yes, multiple buckets of fish. They arrived home at 2 AM and had to make sure those fish stayed alive despite the grueling long day and late hour.



Field trips make us hungry!

George's fishroom, heated to 79º, is separated from the rest of the basement, in what I'm sure is a one-of-a-kind manner, by "multi temperature reefer trailer panels." (I had to look that up: these are insulated panels used to separate sections of a refrigerated trailer.) While nice and warm, his fishroom doesn't feel like a rain forest, though, because George keeps three dehumidifiers running. Water changes happen by pumping tank water to a sump where a pump discharges it outdoors. Freshwater passes through a three stage sediment/carbon filter.

The numerous tanks are supplemented with three vats totaling 850 gallons. George keeps an aquarium with green water going in order to feed his daphnia. He also has acquired some 3d printed gadgets, such as a sinking feeding trap that keeps freeze-dried tubifex worms on the bottom of the aquarium, and a 3d printed screen that prevents the return channel of typical breeding boxes from getting clogged. Very clever.



Four air pumps, designed for septic tanks, provide all the air needed.





George has multis!



Inline water filter

George really enjoyed showing off his breeding pair of *Heros severus*. To put on a demonstration, he provoked the pair that was guarding a batch of wigglers by sticking his finger near the fry. The pair made lightning strikes on the invading finger!

(Photo left)
Uber-protective parents!!"

One thing about visiting other peoples' fishrooms: I almost always come away with ideas that I can ~~steal~~ use. Like all of us, George uses power strips, but his are cleverly designed: each outlet has an on/off switch. There are plenty of instances where I need to turn something off but don't want to unplug it. So far, I've purchased short lengths of power cable with a built-in switch, but I like George's idea better. Not an earth-shaking idea, but I'm like, gee, why didn't I think of that?



(Photo right)
Clever idea: an 8-outlet switched power strip

As we wrapped up this field trip and faced the long drive home from Lyndonville, wow, it was worth it! As Ted (Keanu Reeves) says in the 1989 comedy, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, "This has been a most excellent adventure."

CLUB MEMBER'S FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

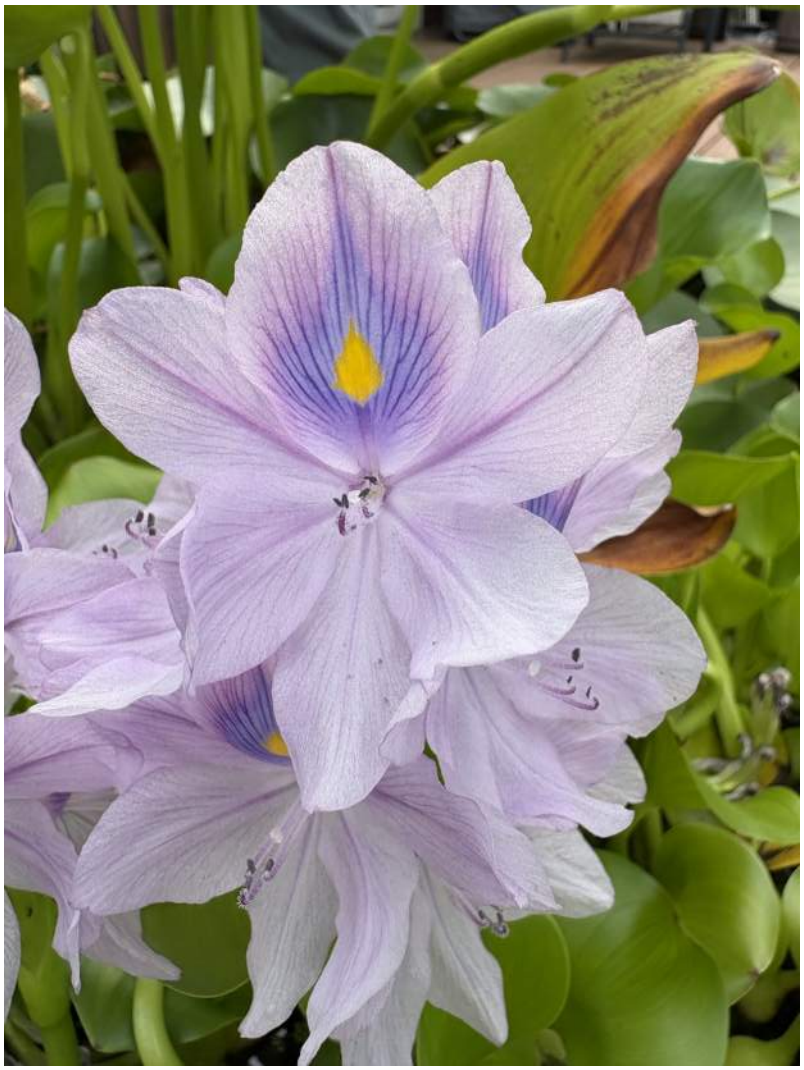


Photo by: Bill Newell

Pontederia crassipes



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 11	**Board Meeting**
Nov. 18	**CNYAS General Meeting**
Nov. 20-22	**Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza**
Dec. 9	**Board Meeting**
Dec. 16	**CNYAS Christmas Party**

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 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!



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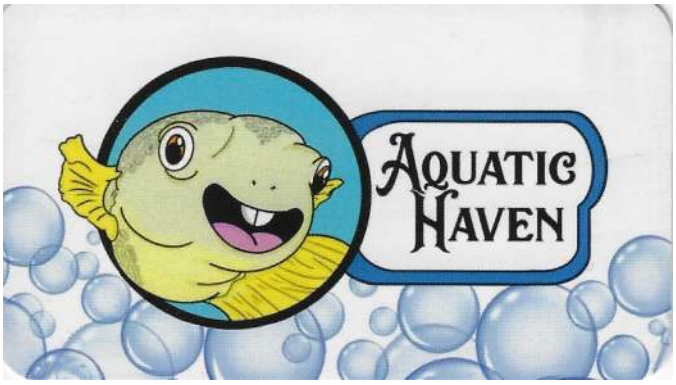
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https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors

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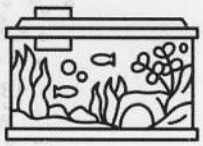
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