

modern AQUARIUM



November 2016
volume XXIII
number 9

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York

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Series III Vol. XXIII, No. 9 November, 2016

ON THE COVER

Our cover photo this month features two giants of the tropical fish hobby, Ross Socolof and Rosario LaCorte. See page 15 for the latest chapter of Rosario's autobiography, **An Aquarist's Journey**.

Photo by Dick Stratton

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

We have a little bit of everything in this issue. Elliot Oshins is back with another fictional fishkeeper who seems to be having a good time. We also have Chapter 26 of Rosario LaCorte's **An Aquarist's Journey**. This month he talks about some folks whom many of you may know, or at least know of. You'll also recognize a couple of Greater City members in the mix.

Our exchange article this month is a book review. **What Does A Fish Think** was one of the door prizes at our September meeting, so David Kreuter's review, from the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society's publication **Finformation**, was a timely find. Then, following our Fishy Friends Photos page, Al Priest, who has certainly done his part and more for **Modern Aquarium**, has some encouraging words to those of you wondering whether you're up to writing something about your fish, yourself, or even someone who exists only in your imagination (see Elliot's story, mentioned above).

In addition to her Pictures From Our Last Meeting column, Sue Priest checks in with "Mother Nature's Mischief" noting some of the things that we might not necessarily expect to see in our tanks, and not even just in our tanks. Who expects "Spring in September"? For that matter, who expects to hear a singing fish? The Undergravel Reporter, that's who! And he isn't talking about Willie the Operatic Whale, either! Think "In the Still of the Night." And finally, paying homage to this evening's speaker, our Fin Fun puzzle is entitled "My Ideal Fishroom."

As readers of **Modern Aquarium** know, Greater City has a Facebook page called Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends, where members



post things that are of interest to them. Our Gypsy Mermaid, Sharon Barnett, keeps up with it all, and recently made a suggestion that members who post some of their favorite fish might tell a little story about how they came to have it. Was it a purchase, a gift, a rescue? If we get a few of these little stories we could post them in **Modern Aquarium** as well.

I know it's hard to believe, but many of our members don't "do Facebook." That doesn't mean that they don't want to know about your fish. They do! That is why we have a society, and have members who come to meetings. And have speakers. And have a magazine! This sort of thing is exactly why aquarium societies have magazines and/or newsletters in the first place!

You can let us know what your fish are up to, take photos of them so we know what they look like, and share it in these pages with your fellow members. Those pictures and stories will still be available long after they have disappeared into the belly of Facebook.





GCAS Programs 2016

It is our great fortune to have another admirable cast of speakers who have so graciously accepted our invitation to join us throughout the coming season, bringing us their extensive knowledge and experiences. You certainly won't wish to miss a moment of our prominent guests, not to mention the friends, fish, warmth, and camaraderie that accompany each meeting.

March 2	Matthew Wickey from Tetra/ Spectrum Brands <i>Fish Nutrition</i>
April 6	Thomas Keegan <i>Ponds</i>
May 4	Tom Allison <i>Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.</i>
June 1	Rusty Wessel <i>Fishes of the Maya!</i>
July 6	Ruben Lugo <i>My Adventures Keeping and Breeding L-numbers and Other Fish That Suck</i>
August 3	Silent Auction
September 7	Artie Platt <i>From Fish Tank to Fish Room: My Journey</i>
October 5	Mark Duffill (U.K.) <i>Loaches</i>
November 2	Michael Barber <i>The Perfect Fishroom!</i>
December 7	Holiday Party!

Articles submitted for consideration in *Modern Aquarium* (ISSN 2150-0940) must be received no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Please email submissions to gcas@earthlink.net, or fax to (877) 299-0522. Copyright 2016 by the Greater City Aquarium Society Inc., a not-for-profit New York State corporation. All rights reserved. Not-for-profit aquarium societies are hereby granted permission to reproduce articles and illustrations from this publication, **unless the article indicates that the copyrights have been retained by the author**, and provided reprints indicate source, and that two copies of the publication are sent to the Exchange Editor of this magazine. For online-only publications, copies may be sent via email to donnste@aol.com. Any other reproduction or commercial use of the material in this publication is prohibited without prior express written permission.

The Greater City Aquarium Society meets every month, except January and February. Members receive notice of meetings in the mail. For more information, contact: Dan Radebaugh (718) 458-8437 or email gcas@earthlink.net. Find out more, see previous issues, or leave us a message at our Internet Home Page: <http://www.greatercity.org> or <http://www.greatercity.com>.

President's Message

by Dan Radebaugh

Well, here we are, nearing the end of another year. Next month we close the year as we traditionally do, with our annual Holiday Awards Banquet, once again this year at the Flagship Diner. Please see the notice on the inside back cover of this month's **Modern Aquarium**. If possible, sign up this evening! It'll make things so much easier for us all! You can even tell us which dinner you want—beef, chicken, or fish. Cost to attendees will again be \$25 per person. We'll again feature the buck-a-bag auction (no used equipment for this one please), the authors' raffle, party favors, and of course our annual awards presentations. These include the Breeders Awards, the Modern Aquarium Authors Awards, Aquarist of the Year, and a couple of Lifetime Membership Awards!

Flagship Diner has been very good to us with these banquets over the past several years, providing us with our own private room, wonderful meals, and an excellent parking area.

In addition to the dinner and award presentations, we'll also have some announcements to make, including some new Board members, and the name of your new President in 2017! (not *that* President—Greater City's!) So come and join us! It's always an enjoyable eventing!



Meeting Reminders



Almost every month at least one meeting reminder postcard is returned undelivered. Sometimes the member moved and just forgot to update his or her contact information with Greater City. Other times, well it's a mystery—the address was correct, but the Post Office marked it as “undeliverable.”

Unlike some aquarium societies, at Greater City there is never a charge for non-members to attend, there is no “bidder card fee” to bid on items in our monthly auctions, the refreshments are free to everyone at the meeting, and anyone can purchase raffle tickets. But membership does have its privileges, including this award winning magazine, door prize chances, the ability to participate in our bowl shows, and advance reminders of our meetings. If you have an e-mail account, please consider getting your meeting reminders by e-mail, instead of by postcard. You will be getting two notices (one a week in advance, the other a day in advance) instead of only one, and the chances of non-delivery are virtually none (unless you change your e-mail address). While it's a very small thing, you'll even help the environment by using less paper. An e-mail sign-up sheet is at the membership/Modern Aquarium table, or send an e-mail to gcas-webmaster@usa.net.

Tonight's Speaker Michael Barber

on

The Perfect Fishroom

A fishkeeper for over fifty years, Michael's parents started the journey with the gift of a five-gallon stainless steel slate-bottom aquarium with a box filter and stainless incandescent hood. Oh, the joys of spun fiber glass filter media and unexpected electrical groundings! Michael soon graduated from livebearers to egg layers before ten years of age; his first egg-layer bred and raised was the pearl gourami.

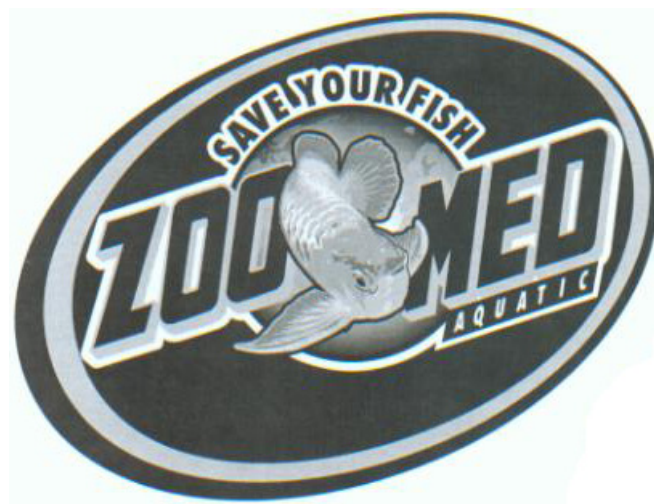
Michael's passion is Calichthyidae and Apistogrammas (*Apistogrammoides pucallpaensis*). At one time he had over fifty species of *Corydoras*, *Brochis* and *Aspidoras* in the fishroom, with successful breeding of nearly all. Just a few other species of note are Rio Nanay Angels (called the Peruvian Altum as a marketing gimmick), *Mesonauta festivus*, *Otos*, *Ancistrus*, Lima shovelnose, and many characins.

The latest rebuild of his dedicated fishroom downsized to about 60 tanks, with a centralized filter system and automated water changes. A former laundry room serves as a support hub, with water treatment and storage facilities. Summer rain water collection, using five 55 gallon drums, stimulates breeding activities.

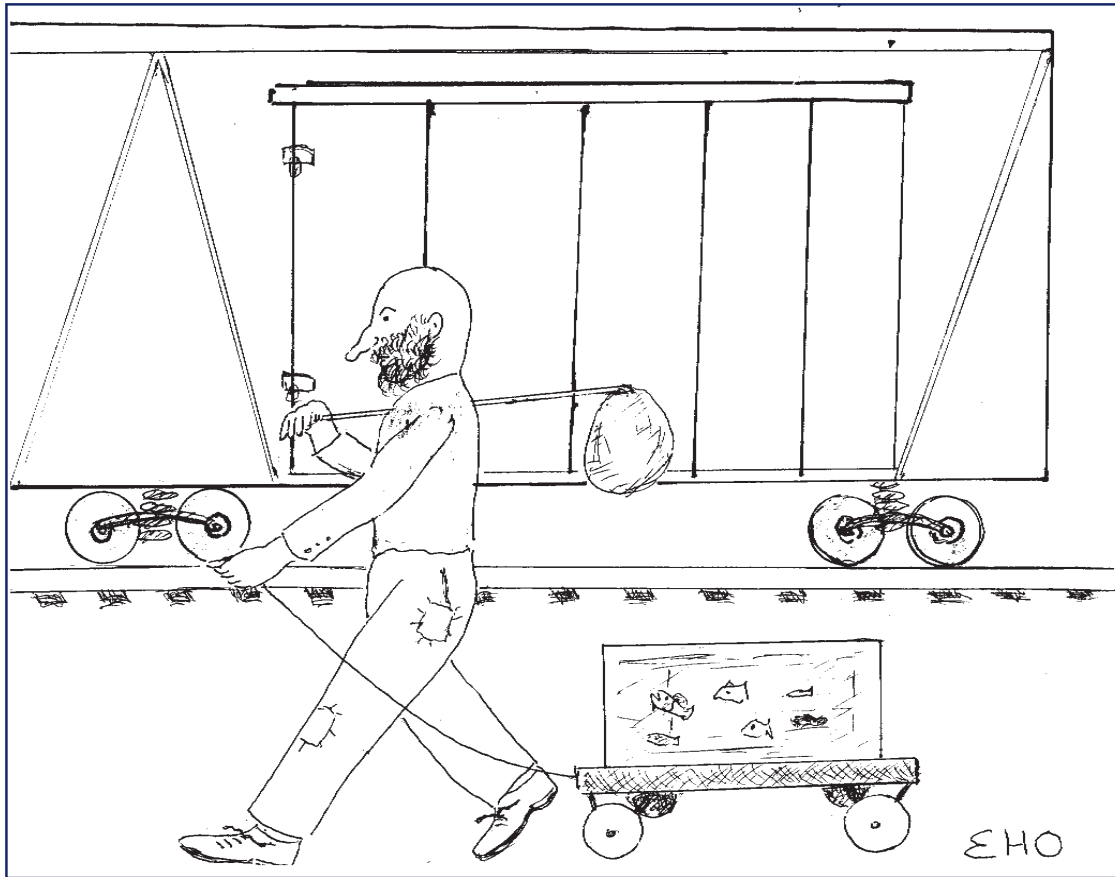
Michael considers himself blessed to venture to the Amazon basin to collect most of the fish he has kept, and he thoroughly enjoys introducing others to the collecting experience; especially mentoring them as they prepare for their first Amazon expedition. He is co-leader, with Devon Graham, of MT Amazon Expeditions fish collecting trips. In 2014, with the collaboration of a few friends in the DC area, he began facilitating the trans-shipping of fish caught on these trips. In 2015, in partnership with Ian Fuller they established a new fish collecting venture, GoWildPeru, in Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru.

Michael is a member of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society (PVAS), Greater Washington Aquatic Plant Association (GWAPA), the Capital Cichlid Association (CCA), James River Aquarium Society (JRAS) and the Catfish Study Group. He currently serves as Treasurer and Past President of PVAS (2008). He is also past Co-Chair of the All-Aquarium Catfish Convention.

His current talks are: The Fish of the Madre de Dios Drainage (Peru); The Perfect Fish Room; Collecting on the Peruvian Amazon. Available mid-2016 will be Annual Killifish Collecting in the Wet Season.



October's Caption Winner: Ron Webb



Boxcar Willie and his travellin' killies!

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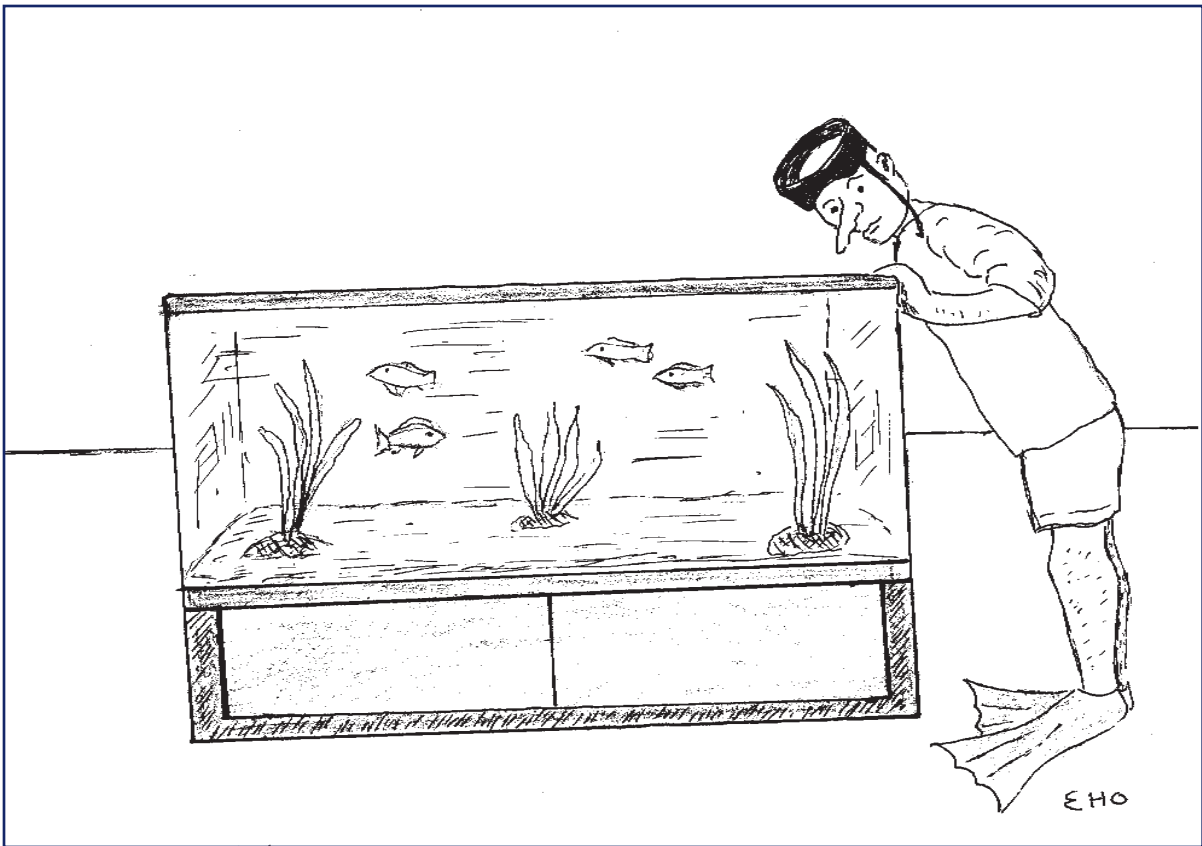
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The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

Modern Aquarium has featured cartoons before. This time though, you, the members of Greater City get to choose the caption! Just think of a good caption, then mail, email, or phone the Editor with your caption (phone: 347-866-1107, fax: 877-299-0522, email: gcas@earthlink.net. Your caption needs to reach the Editor by the third Wednesday of this month. We'll also hand out copies of this page at the meeting, which you can turn in to Marsha before leaving. Winning captions will earn ten points in our Author Awards program, qualifying you for participation in our special "Authors Only" raffle at our Holiday Party and Banquet. Put on your thinking caps!



Your Caption:

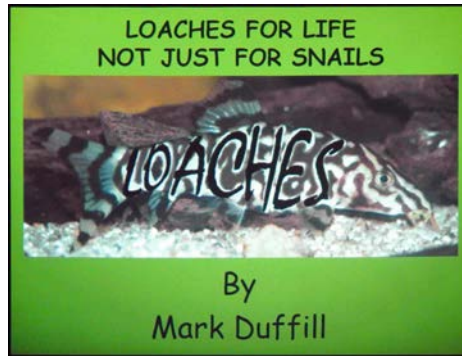
Your Name:

Pictures From Our Last Meeting

Photos by Susan Priest



**Our speaker, Mark Duffill,
with Dan Radebaugh**



He really knows his loaches,



and he really gets around!



**We warmly welcome new
member Joey Franke**

Bowl Show Winners:



**1st and 2nd place:
Rich Waizman**



**3rd place:
Bill Amely**

Door Prize Winner:

Artie Friedman



A NIGHT OF LIBATION

by Elliot Oshins

Unlike Willie Loman, I'm a happy salesman, spending my working hours going from toy store to toy store selling toys, dolls, and model trains for children of all ages. My job requires me to travel the country from east to west and north to south. I'm so committed to my job that I would travel to the moon to sell a yoyo. I have been working for the Zenith Toy Company close to 18 years, starting as a stock boy, and promoted over time to the top position of Regional Sales Manager.

I was born and grew up in Yonkers, New York. When I finally graduated from high school, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as my life's work. So in the interim I found myself working locally at Newtown Bowling Alley as a pin boy, better known as a pin spotter. My job was to return the bowling ball to the bowlers and reset the pins. As you can probably imagine, this was not an easy job, and could even be a dangerous job, as you must stay alert or you could easily be hit by the bowling ball or even one of the flying pins.

I worked at Newtown for three years, until the owner had new automated pin spotters installed, which replaced the pin boys. Presto! I was out of a job. I was out of a job for six months, until my friend Frank's father suggested I apply to Zenith Toy Company, where Frank's father worked as an accountant.

I started at Zenith as a stock boy in the warehouse, and made many friends and acquaintances. One of the salesmen, Eddie Schultz, asked me if I would be interested in helping him out on the road, as his route was getting too busy for him to handle alone. I jumped at the chance. Then, as fate would have it, Eddie got sick and needed to take a leave of absence. I happily took over his position. I had learned a lot from Eddie, as he was the consummate salesman. I was a quick learner and took over his route.

I quickly found out that I loved traveling from city to city, and had customers in many of the largest towns. My favorite was Cleveland, one of the largest cities in Ohio. There I stayed at a very high-end hotel in the heart of the city. While staying at this hotel, I learned that Dan, the Hotel Manager, and I were both Masons. Dan always made sure I got great service and a deluxe room. It always pays to know someone and belong to the right organization.

After long days of selling and traveling around Cleveland, I liked to go back to my hotel, relax and have a good vodka drink at the hotel's bar prior to having my dinner. The bartender, Jerry, is a retired fireman and loves to dabble in the tropical fish hobby. During one of our conversations Jerry mentioned that he also has a cousin Ed, who loves tropical fish and lives on Long Island. He told me to definitely look him up should my job ever take me to that part of New York.

In my opinion, Jerry knows how to make a darn good vodka & tonic. Take a good shot, or I should say a very good shot, the right amount of tonic water with a twist of lime, add some ice and then shake. I also noticed that after one or two drinks, I'm feeling no pain and off in a fantasy world, which I love. When I drink, I start telling those around me some good jokes and have a built-in audience at the bar. Sometimes people tell me I muddle my words but I don't believe it.

In the hotel's bar there is a beautiful large fish tank built into the stone wall. It looked to me as though the tank contained about 100 gallons of water. The fish in the tank were very colorful—yellow, dark blue, and light blue with stripes. At the bottom of the tank is sand, a light tan in color, along with rocks to form caves. I was told that the caves were there so that the fish could hide and spawn. They swim so fast around the tank that after a couple of drinks, I couldn't keep up with them.

"Jerry, those are nice fish. What are they and who feeds them?" Jerry replied, "Those are called cichlids, and they are from Lake Malawi in Africa. Our bookkeeper Claudia is the one who feeds them dried fish food and bloodworms."

Mesmerized by the beauty of the tank and fish, I asked Jerry to fill me up again, as I was running low. I also asked him to give Jeff, the guy sitting next to me, a drink as well. Jeff, a vacuum cleaner salesman, I discovered was very knowledgeable about tropical fish and we had some great discussions about the type of tanks and fish he has in his den at home back in Chicago.

Getting hungry, I asked Jerry if he had anything I could nosh on. "Do you have any pretzels or nuts without salt? My doctor told me I have to watch my



sodium intake, and also to lose 15 pounds.” Jerry was happy to oblige, and put some salt-less nuts on the bar for Jeff and me.

I asked Jerry if I could also feed the fish some of the pretzels on the bar. He replied with a booming, “No! Definitely not!” His answer was so loud it probably woke up everybody in the hotel who had gone to bed early.

I responded with, “What? The fish can’t eat everything? You’re telling me fish can only eat from cans or bags labeled ‘fish food’? C’mon, Jerry, you’re pulling my leg!” Thinking for a moment, I said, “I know that if I get off this barstool I know won’t be able to walk a straight line, but I seem to recall that when I went fishing as a young boy I would put any kind of food on the hook to catch a fish. And I did.”

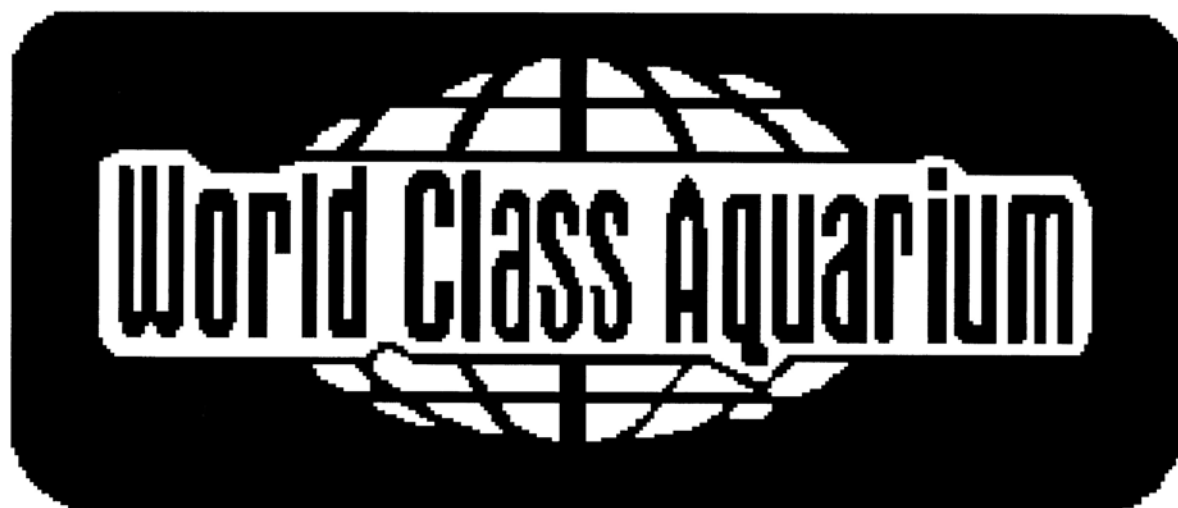
Wanting to keep the conversation going, as it was now about 7:30 P.M., I asked Jerry for another drink and another one for my new fish friend, Jeff. We sat for a little while longer discussing his angel fish and his tanks. When we ran out of nuts and pretzels, I asked Jerry again for more, with no salt please.

At this point, having had a few too many, I popped up and said, “I don’t see any goldfish in the tank. I like goldfish. I think they’re cute and colorful. Where did all the goldfish go? You’re telling me the tank I’m looking at is called a “lickwood” tank. I mean a *cichlid* tank. I think my tongue is twisted from too many vodka tonics.”

Jeff was good enough to explain to me that goldfish live in cool waters, and cichlids are a tropical fish and need warmer temperatures. Well, I just learned something new about fish!

It was now about 8 P.M. and getting late, so I said to the guys, “I must get some dinner in me and get to bed. I have a very busy day tomorrow. Lots of ground to cover and many toy stores to visit.”

Bidding the guys a fond adieu, I got up, smiled, and said to Jerry, “Keep a drink on ice for me. See you guys next time. *Au Revoir!*”



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Book Review

What a Fish Knows:

The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins

Jonathan Balcombe. Scientific American / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016.

by David W. Kraeuter

It would be incautious, even reckless of me to suggest that all GPASI members should read this book. However, all GPASI members should read this book.

This is not a how-to guide; in fact it is not directly about aquarium fish (or fishes, as the author prefers to call them). Instead, Balcombe reports the latest scientific findings on fish behavior, cognition and feeling. There is also a chapter on that special fish behavior known as courtship and breeding.

Contrary to what you may have recently seen on the big screen, because of their basic physiology fish cannot smile, frown, close their eyes, or even wink; hence the popular phrase “cold fish.” But fish can and often do think, feel, communicate, cooperate, discriminate, make friends, remember for long periods of time, form strategies, make mental maps, use tools, deceive people and other fish, and even empathize.

That last sentence brings up the specter of anthropomorphism. True, there are plenty of anecdotal stories included here, but the book is generally written from a scientific viewpoint, and it is obvious that much research and thought preceded the writing. Balcombe has a Ph.D. in ethology from the University of Tennessee.

The book also makes clear where the author comes down on the long-contested question of whether fishes feel pain. Surprisingly, this issue has been settled (or almost settled) only within the past few years, and

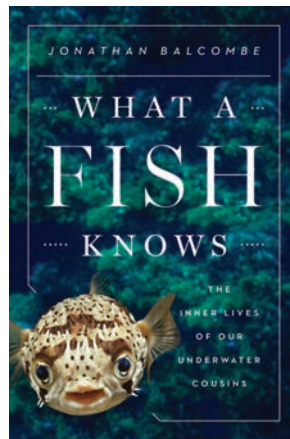
only after many experiments were completed, and many articles and at least one book have appeared (Victoria A. Braithwaite, **Do Fish Feel Pain?**, Oxford University Press, 2010). Balcombe now sums up: “Not only is scientific consensus squarely behind consciousness and pain in fishes, consciousness probably evolved first in fishes” (page 85). Thus scientific opinion and common sense appear finally to have merged.

All of this is in support of Balcombe’s contention that we humans ought to be treating fish with considerably more concern, admiration, and even respect than we currently do. In fact, he dedicates his book “to the anonymous trillions.” He quotes an estimate that up to 2.7 trillion fish are killed by humans

each year.

A word of warning: the next-to-last chapter, “Fish Out of Water,” about the use and abuse of fish by human beings, may be so disturbing as to negate the pleasure you experience from reading the rest of the book. If you do read this chapter and are subsequently offered shark fin soup, you will know to refuse it. Enough said.

But overall, **What a Fish Knows** delights and educates. It will resonate deeply with anyone who has taken the trouble to care for fish in an aquarium or pond. Put another way, I can pretty much guarantee that reading this book will change the way you think—and feel—about “your” fishes.



*Reprinted from **Finformation**, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, September 2016.*



Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

Below are photo submissions to our “Fishy Friends” Facebook group. I’ve left the subjects unnamed, but not the photographer. If you see a shot you like, and want more info, ask the photographer about it! I’m sure he or she will be delighted to tell you!



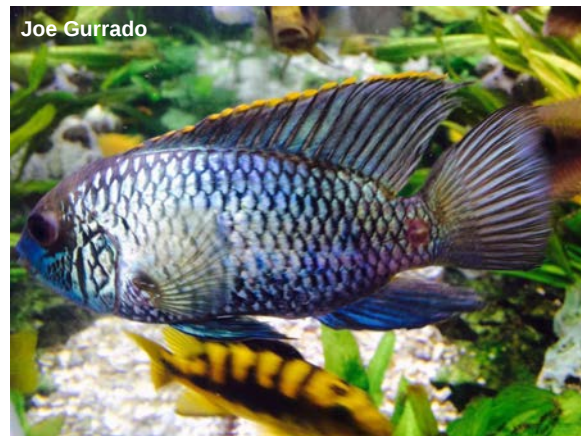
Ruben Lugo



Joe Gurrado



Matthew Jerry O'Farrell



Joe Gurrado



Ruben Lugo



You can do it: **WRITE!**

By Alexander A Priest

First, I want to make it clear that I am no “expert” when it comes to fish. You’ve heard the phrase “experience is the best teacher.” Well, bad experiences and mistakes are some of the best teachers; and, in my 20 plus years of keeping fish, I’ve had some fantastic “teachers.”

I once heard Dr. Paul Loiselle address aquarium hobbyists. Dr. Loiselle **IS** an expert (Emeritus Curator of Freshwater Fishes at the New York Aquarium and a Senior Conservationist of the Wildlife Conservation Society), and what he said was eye-opening. Basically, public aquariums do not have the resources to keep and breed every species of fish, and further, to attract visitors (and their monetary resources), they need “attractions,” such as sharks, manatees, stingrays, etc. (think BIG and showy).

In other words, It’s highly unlikely that I could find any public aquarium that would devote an entire tank to, for example, *Betta persephone*, a small, dark red fish that’s less than an inch and a half long, even though it is “critically endangered” in the wild, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (A.K.A. “Red Book”).

Dr. Loiselle went on to say that in many cases the home amateur aquarist can be more of an expert on a species of fish than the acknowledged experts. I’ve kept *Betta*

persephone, and while not claiming to be an expert, I’ve written about them, sharing what little I’ve learned with others.¹ That’s the reason for this article, to ask all of you “amateur experts” to share your knowledge (and yes, your mistakes and failures as well) with the rest of us. One way to do so is with an article in our society’s magazine.

OK, why write for a “local” club when, for the same effort, you can write for a national magazine and maybe get paid for doing so? Well, first of all the number of national magazines, especially those devoted to freshwater tropical fish) are very few (in the US, I know of only two). But paramount is the fact that you would be contributing to, and helping your aquarium society.

Don’t think of our society as just a “local club.” We exchange our magazine with many other societies, all over the country, and they reprint our articles in their own publications. You might be surprised at how far your article can go.

Not too long ago I was researching a new gourami species I acquired (important side note here, never assume that because you’ve kept a similar species you know all about another one in that genus—research every new acquisition). Well, I was shocked to find that an article I wrote originally for our magazine² was first reprinted by the journal of the International Anabantoid Association,

Scientific name
Common name(s) if any
Origin (native to)
Adult size
Breeding method (e.g., egg scatterer, mouthbrooder, bubble-nester, cave spawner, livebearer, etc.)
Care difficulty (easy, moderate, difficult)
pH; Hardness (DH), and Temperature:
Sexual dimorphism (i.e., how to tell the boys from the girls):
Nutrition (suggested foods)
Minimum tank size (gallons or inches)
Filtration
Recommended substrate
Plants/aquascaping
Special considerations (e.g., prone to jumping, prone to attacking plants, requires shells, dither fish)
Lighting (low, medium, or high required)
Lifespan (if known)
My own observations

then cited as authority in scientific papers from Australia³ and Finland⁴!

As for research, Facebook and other “social media” sites are not usually reliable sources, but even some generally reliable sources are not always correct. Case in point, the previously mentioned *Betta persephone*. Fishbase.com indicated a pH for them as 7.0, which is totally incorrect⁵. In its native habitat (Peninsular Malaysia) the pH ranges between 3.86 and 4.06. Mine would not spawn until I lowered the pH to 4.3! Fishbase also got the recommended hardness wrong. So check multiple sources, including good old fashioned hard copy print books (which, because they are usually peer reviewed before publication, are more likely to be accurate).

If you have never written an article about one of your fish, just look at the text box on the first page of this article. If you can fill in the blanks, then 90+% of your article is already done. Add how you acquired the fish you’re writing about, whether they spawned for you, and maybe the tank level they generally occupy (does the fish stay mostly at the top, middle, or bottom?).

Now add any observed social behavior (e.g., aggressive to all other fish, aggressive only to its own species, peaceful, territorial, shy, etc.).

Don’t worry about spelling and grammar. That’s the job of the Editor and proofreaders. They won’t let a poorly written article appear in our magazine!

I should mention that, in addition to helping your own society’s publication, helping other aquarists succeed (and possibly even being cited in a scientific journal), your article could win an award in the article competitions of the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies (NEC) or the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS), both of which our society is a member. In addition, we are one of the few societies with an Author Awards Program (AAP), with awards for achieving different achievement levels and a Authors’-only raffle at our annual Awards Banquet, with chances for that raffle given only to authors in the current year, and number of chances depending on the amount of participation.

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AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

Story, Art and Photos (unless noted) by Rosario LaCorte

Chapter 26 Some Friends Along the Way

Ross Socolof (1925-2009)

I met Ross in the mid-50s through Aaron Dvoskin. Aaron, Bill Harsell and I were working together in a Belgian Congo adventure, importing fish from Pierre Brichard, who at the time was unknown to the American hobby scene. After several shipments and a visit to New Jersey, Brichard was eager to expand his enterprise of supplying fish from the Congo area. At the same time, Ross Socolof had an import business in Brooklyn called General Aquatics. Aaron passed the contact on to Ross, as our resources were limited, and we did it mostly as a way to obtain species that were unavailable to aquarists in the U.S.

Ross was in the business to buy and sell on a larger scale. I found Ross to be extremely charming, and he truly seemed to possess a fondness for fish that was similar to our own. It was only natural that a friendship developed and remained solid for all the years that Ross remained alive. Of the three of us, only I remained in close contact with Ross until his death in 2009. Aaron's pet shop closed, and he went on to teach school, and we eventually lost touch with him. Bill married, and taught industrial ceramics at Rutgers University. He eventually moved to Corning, NY, where he worked at the Corning company. For a few years I would drive to General Aquatics in Brooklyn and spend several hours with him in fish conversation.

Ross became heavily involved with Brichard, importing many fish species from the Congo region. It was awesome to constantly see such a large variety of fishes. Ross was extremely generous with me, allowing me to cherry-pick many of the species that arrived at his business. Whenever I could reproduce good numbers, I would bring Ross those tank raised specimens.

A fire broke out at General Aquatics, and Ross, now heavily involved in the business, bought into Gulf Fish Farms in Bradenton, Florida. I was sad to see Ross leave, but he had his heart set on being a fish farmer. His father wasn't keen on Ross being in the fish business; his family was in the supermarket business. I met Ross's dad at General Aquatics, and

was amazed at the similarity between father and son—they appeared more like brothers. Eventually Ross bought out the other partners at Gulf. During this time Ross and I maintained a delightful correspondence, eventually gravitating to sending tape recordings rather than letters, as we found it easier to simply talk than to write. During his business adventure in Florida Ross imported fish from all over the world, having made a plethora of friends from all over. He was a great personality and a true friend.

In 1996 Ross published his autobiography, **Confessions of a Tropical Fish Addict**. It's a great read, and I was thrilled to get an autographed copy when it first came out. It's a wonderful story. If you haven't read it, do!

Ross made many trips to Central and South America, and did so with a number of friends whom he particularly enjoyed being with. Regrettably, in the forty-five or so years of our

friendship we had never had the opportunity to visit one another due to living so far apart.

In July of 2001 the North Jersey Aquarium Society hosted an American Cichlid convention in New Jersey. There were of course a number of speakers, of whom I was one. Ross was singled out for an award. There were a number of prominent aquarists in attendance, as well as university scientists. Because of the nearness of my home, we had several friends who were able to visit and have lunch with Jeannie and me, so Ross was finally able to visit with us. Other visitors were Dick and Stephanie Stratton (Dick was a featured writer for **TFH**), Dr. George Barlow from U.C. Berkeley, Dr. Ron Coleman, and Chuck Rambo. There are occasions when you wish that time could stand still for a while, and such was the case that day.

In the years that Ross spent at the helm of Gulf Fish Farms he contributed many new fish to the hobby that he had discovered on his voyages, and several species were named in his honor.

Toward the latter part of his life Ross had some heart issues. He finally sold the farm and enjoyed retirement for several years. In 2003 I had the opportunity to visit Ross in Florida, along with



Tampa 2003: from left to right Ross Socolof, Allan Levey, and Rosario

Allan Levey, the former head of Wardley. It was a wonderful visit. Ross was truly a giant in the industry, and contributed enormously to its advancement.

Allan Levey

I met Allan Levey in the mid-1950s at the Hotel New Yorker. There was a large annual pet industry convention there run by Jay Winter. I met Allan's parents, who had started the business as an offshoot of an enterprise with his Father Edward and his (Edward's) sister Frances. Edward decided to part ways with his sister, and in 1950 founded the Wardley Corporation. Allan at that time was in college, and began to help his father in the business.

Allan had a strong science background, and was instrumental in developing food formulas and medications. After a few moves the business expanded, and in 1971 they began construction of a new facility at the Hartz Mountain industrial complex in Secaucus, New Jersey. In November of 1972 Wardley moved into a 50,000 square foot facility at 1 Aquarium Drive, the street being proudly named by Allan.

I had some correspondence with him from time to time, and despite being President of the company Allan always took the time to answer my questions. He was always gracious, and generous with his time. In 1979 I was planning a third trip to Brazil—this time alone. I wanted to search for *Cynolebias constanciae* and attempt to return with some, as they had never been imported into the U.S. In fact at one time it was thought that they were extinct. They were on the IUCN endangered list, and I was concerned about possible problems with the Brazilian authorities. I called Allan and asked for his advice, and he invited me to his office. He was very insightful, and gave me some wonderful advice. I eventually made the trip, and with the aid of a Brazilian scientist was able to locate them, returning with four pairs, which enabled me to propagate them and distribute them throughout the U.S.

Allan and I kept in touch for some years, and on several occasions Allan invited me to Wardley headquarters in Secaucus as a consultant. A limo would pick me up and drive me there. Around 2004 or 2005 Allan attempted to organize a group of leading aquaculturists from all over the U.S. It was a fantastic group of scientists. The purpose of the gathering was to find a strategy to get young children some exposure to aquarium fish. It was now the age of electronics, and kids were gravitating toward computers and electronic games, and the pet industry was beginning to see a drop in the interest level of young children.

We came up with a number of strategies, but as we see from the outcome today, it was a lost cause. Wardley spent a great deal to bring together the best

minds they could find to come up with a solution, but as we can see now, electronic games have taken over the whole world. Families seem to have lost the ability to converse with family and friends. Any gathering or social activity reveals a disconnect between people, as they bury their heads in their phones and become completely unaware of their friends and family. I'm sure that many of you have noticed that at any restaurant you go to, families are silently wrapped up in their electronic gadgets rather than interacting with one another.

It also concerns me that young children years ago would have been outdoors playing and developing their bodies. Today the constant electronic distractions make that kind of activity a thing of the past, probably to the detriment of the kids' health and development.

Thanks to Allan I was becoming more and more involved with Wardley. Allan was a frequent visitor at our home, and a number of Wardley staff—especially in the field of nutrition—visited to discuss ways to improve food formulas in aquaculture. In a casual conversation with Allan, the subject of fish farming in Florida came up. He was heavily involved in the fish farming industry, and was a consultant to the board of directors of the Florida Fish Farmers Association.

Allan was surprised to learn that I had never visited a fish farm in Florida.

A few days later he called and told me to meet him in the VIP section of the Newark Airport, where we would catch a flight to Tampa. Allan has a beautiful home in Tampa, and he and his wife Barbara spend a great deal of time there during the winter months. Arriving at his home to unpack, I told Allan how impressed I was with his home and the décor. He revealed that Barbara was an interior decorator, and it was her input that made for such a beautiful presentation.

I had a wonderful time in Tampa. Allan showed me some of the farms and their impressive workings. We spent the day with our old friend Ross Socolof and had a wonderful time reminiscing about years past and the long road we had traveled. Though I kept in touch with Ross until he passed away, this was the last time I saw him.

Allan sold Wardley to Hartz Mountain, which in turn years later sold it to a Japanese firm. Allan remained with the company as a consultant for quite some time. He is retired now, but we still chat from time to time. I will always be grateful for his friendship for more than fifty years. Allan is one of a kind.

Dr. Stanley Weitzman

I first became involved with Stan when he was a technical editor at the **Aquarium Journal**, located in San Francisco. I had written a few articles for the journal in the early 1960s. Stan was



Allan Levey, former owner of Wardleys, at his home in Tampa. July, 2003

on the scientific side of the description of fishes. What started out as a contributing article developed into a pen-pal relationship. Stan had been a pupil of Dr. George S. Myers of Stanford University, who was one of the pre-eminent American ichthyologists. It wasn't until several years later that we finally met in person, as I mentioned in a previous chapter.

It wasn't until 1977 that I learned that Stan and I had more in common than an interest in fishes. In that year Stan invited me to participate in a grant project he had received from the National Geographic Society. To sign the necessary papers for my association with this six-week journey to South America I had to go to Washington DC. Stan picked me up at the train station and drove me to his home. While answering questions for the form, the question, "When is your birthday?" came up. When I answered, "March 16, 1929," a broad smile lit up Stan's face. When I asked him why he was smiling, he replied, "Well, that's *my* birthday!" He was two years older than I, but I found it fascinating how similar our interests were. We enjoyed the same genera of fishes, similar music, plants, and on and on. It was truly amazing.



Stan & Marilyn in Sao Paulo with Donna Antoinetta (center)

Our journey to Brazil and Venezuela was fantastic. I really enjoyed spending the time with him, and I think that Stan is one of our foremost internationally-known ichthyologists. He is meticulous in his descriptions, and has described countless species of fish. His black-and-white photos of fish are wonderful. His father had been a great photographer, and that talent had truly rubbed off on Stan. He was also the curator of fishes at the Smithsonian Institute for many years. Now retired, Stan still returns to the museum a few days a week to continue his research. I'm very grateful for Stan's friendship, and for his including me on that trip to Brazil in 1977. It opened many doors.

Vic Hritz

I met Vic at Paramount Aquarium sometime in the 1960s. My friend Dennis Simonetti, a wonderful photographer listed in **Who's Who** in photography (and a very good aquarist) and I visited Paramount to see if any new species were available. I knew Hugo

Schnell, the owner of Paramount and brother-in-law of Fred Cochu, who ran the Florida division of Paramount, located in Vero Beach.

While Dennis and I searched for any new species of fish, we ran into Vic Hritz. Dennis knew Vic quite well, and often spoke to me about Crystal Aquarium, saying that someday he would have to take me there. Upon meeting Vic I was impressed by his friendliness, and by his affection for fishes of all varieties. I described a particular tetra that I was interested in, and Vic quickly responded that "I think I have a single specimen back at the shop. Why don't you follow me over there and take a look?" I was all for that, because now I had an opportunity both to visit his shop, as well as perhaps find a fish that I had been searching for.

Arriving at Crystal Aquarium, Vic took me to the tank that he thought held the fish I was interested in. Now I must say that the description of the tetra that I had tried to convey to Vic could easily have been applied to any number of characins and would have filled the bill, so it was really a long shot. I could hardly believe that the fish he showed me was exactly the species that I was searching for, *Moenkhausia collettii*! Now the next obstacle—when I got it home would I now have a pair? Luck was on my side, and I raised many young fish from that pair!



Vic Hritz (L) and myself. Now both in our 80s, we still maintain a friendship that has lasted for over 50 years.

From that first meeting it was clear that I had met someone with whom I shared a fondness for similar species. Vic and his brother Mike operated Crystal Aquarium for many years, and their store was one of the best-kept shops in New York. Vic had a keen eye for setting up tanks with plants and driftwood that would immediately attract your attention. His fish were always extremely healthy and well fed, and the front glass was always clean, to allow easy viewing.

We had a wonderful business association for many years, and our families became friends as well. Vic's late wife Alma became very good friends with Jeannie, and we all enjoyed each other's company immensely. Vic was always very generous with me, and his very keen eye was always alert for something unusual that would make a good aquarium addition. For years we fantasized about collecting in South America, and in 1988, as I mentioned in a previous chapter, we were able to go to Brazil and collect with

our good friend Luis Costa. It was a fantastic journey. We found many new fish, and made many new friends.

Vic is retired now, in the vintage years of his life, and I'm happy to say that though his home is a distance from mine we still see each other a couple of times a month, attending meetings of a couple of societies we both belong to. I will always cherish Vic's friendship that we have maintained for over 50 years.

Mike McNamee

I met Mike more than 35 years ago, after becoming a member of the Long Island Killifish Association. At that time I knew Mike as a member, casually exchanging a hello greeting at the LIKA meetings. Mike was able to visit the old homestead when I lived in Elizabeth, N.J., and eventually Mike moved to New Jersey, about ten miles from my present home. Mike being also a member of the Metropolitan Killifish Association (MAKA), his trips to both MAKA and LIKA required him to pass within a quarter mile of my home, so it became convenient to make the journey together to both societies. This gave us the opportunity to converse at length, and we've developed a real friendship over the years since.



Mike McNamee

Mike, who at one time was employed by AT&T, was sent to school when computers were becoming important to businesses and the general public, and Mike became an expert in the computer field. Because of this expertise Mike was instrumental in designing the programs of the AKA's national conventions. I remember seeing Mike at a computer for the entire week-end, never leaving his post. So even though he paid to attend the convention he was never able to hear the speakers who came from all over the U.S. and even from Europe. I always felt Mike was extremely generous in his participation at these conventions.

When I started using computers I really had no idea how they worked. Mike was incredible—both in terms of his knowledge and his patience with me. I would often ask him how on earth he could remember all this stuff. His answer was, "How do you remember all those scientific names?" OK, Touché!

When Mike makes a promise he keeps his word. A few years ago while standing in my driveway, I mentioned that some of the wildflowers in the area

were not blooming as they once had. A black walnut tree about 18 feet in height had begun to cast a shadow, preventing enough light from reaching the wildflowers to stimulate blooming. Mike volunteered to someday cut it down. I never gave it a thought after that, but one day I got a call from Mike asking if I would be home. When I said yes, he told me, "OK, I'm right down the road; I'll be there in a minute to cut down that walnut tree." In a few minutes there was Mike, looking like Paul Bunyan with chain saw in hand, broad hat, and boots to guard against critters and thorns. That's the kind of person Mike is—doing favors and asking nothing in return. My first computer somehow picked up a virus and was completely frozen. Mike came by the house and spent about six hours, cleaning the computer and reloading the software.

I always enjoy Mike's company, and going to the meetings together always provides an interesting conversation. I cherish Mike's friendship.

Joe Ferdenzi

I met Joe about 35 years ago as a member of LIKA. Joe is very friendly and likeable, always smiling and laughing at the slightest humorous remark. He has donated his time without stint, always giving to the advancement of our hobby. He is always willing to speak before other societies, and has written many articles. He was the President of Greater City Aquarium Society for nearly twenty years. Not only was he President, he also frequently served as auctioneer. A few years ago I began addressing Joe as "Compare Cheech," an Italian term of endearment, as Joe speaks fluent Italian and always laughs when I address him that way.



Joe Ferdenzi presenting Rosario with AFISH* award

I'm really indebted to Joe. Six years ago, after a joint presentation at an AFISH convention in Long Island by myself and Alan Fletcher, former Editor of **The Aquarium** magazine, Joe got some feedback on our program. People remarked about how refreshing they found the presentation, which was about Alan's

and my history within the hobby. With that, Joe suggested putting all this down in book form, as so much historical information would be lost if not. The very next day I made a decision to accept Joe's suggestion, and I'm well pleased by the way this book has unfolded.

Joe is also a very thoughtful person. I had a serious health issue in 2010, undergoing a triple bypass. My stay in the hospital was difficult. Upon my return home it became apparent that caring for my collection was going to be difficult. Picking up buckets of water was out of the question, so doing water changes was a formidable task. Joe gathered a group of other friends, and they assembled a series of hoses to remove and replace water using a Little Giant pump. Everyone in the group added their time and materials to make it all work. The group consisted of Joe, Mark Soberman, Warren Feuer, and Jules Birnbaum. I'm grateful to these gentlemen for their thoughtfulness and kindness. It was really a lifesaver.

A little-known fact about Joe: Though now retired, he was selected in 2011 as outstanding assistant district attorney in the District Attorney's Office of Bronx County. He, along with five others, received the prestigious Thomas E. Dewey Medal. Dewey was a former New York Governor who ran twice for President; in 1944 against Franklin Roosevelt and in 1948 against Harry Truman. Some of you may recall the front page photo of Truman after the election, holding up an early edition of a newspaper proclaiming that Dewey had won. I am proud of Compare Cheech and his accomplishments. He is one of a kind!

Dan Helwig

I met Dan several months after my return from Brazil in 1977, introduced by another friend, Mark McMaster (*Apistogramma mcmasteri* is named for him). Mark and Dan were from York, Pennsylvania. Mark called me and asked if he could bring a guest to my home, and I never refuse, and so met Dan. We became good friends almost immediately, and after 39 years we still keep in touch, despite the distance.

Dan turned out to be an excellent aquarist, with similar favorite species to my own. A tool & die maker by profession, Dan had the ability to come up with innovative solutions not at all usual among aquarists. His entire setup was automated, reducing a great deal of manual labor, and thus allowing more time to implement smart nutrition and reproductive strategies. We both had an affinity for characins and cyprinodonts.

Dan was always a participant in the national conventions. During the auction stage at the conventions some members have large sums of money in hand in case they see something they want. If Dan was interested in a certain species, there was no outbidding him. He would ultimately return home with his prize.



Dan Helwig & Rosario

Dan lived close to That Fish Place in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, one of the largest pet centers in the country. Dan's eagle eye would find fish species not normally seen in other pet centers. Dave Herr was at that time manager of the fish department. Dave made sure that a great variety of fishes was available at all times. Dan and I spoke very frequently, covering all aspects of our likes and dislikes regarding the hobby. I'm sorry that I didn't keep a record of the species that Dan brought to my attention during those wonderful years when so many fantastic fish were available. I still maintain some species that Dan brought to my attention, and that I would otherwise never have seen.

We have been friends for 39 years, and though Dan has left the hobby (he has now retired and travels around with his wife Pat) he still has not lost the love of finding new species. We still speak frequently on the telephone, and I consider him one of my dearest friends.

Ray Lucas

Ray is well known throughout the country, as he has represented many of the major companies that serve the fish hobby. Ray always had the largest display of items, under the title Kingfish Services. His van, which carried all the products destined for display, was beautifully illustrated with fish in full finnage display.

I met Ray more than twenty years ago during one of the large national conventions. Ray probably knows more prominent aquarists on a personal basis than anyone else. He has been involved in over 500 shows—a remarkable number.

If you passed Ray's display booth you could always find a large bowl of Goldfish crackers to snack on. At the end of the convention all the items on display would be donated to the host organization to be auctioned off, with the moneys going to defray the cost of putting on the show. Many of these items were not inexpensive. Not only did Ray contribute to the host organization, but many times he served as the auctioneer, and because of his experience and talent he was able to generate a great deal of money. Ray is also well known in Canada—his home is not far from the Canadian border. Not only was Ray at conventions to

sell, he has also been called upon to give presentations. A little-known fact about Ray—at one time he was PR man for the Oak Ridge Boys.

For many years now, whenever I get a phone call or email from Ray it's always addressed, "Hi, Uncle." I immediately know it's Ray. When I had the open-heart surgery in 2010 Ray was on the front lines, keeping in touch with Jeannie, getting updates on my recovery, and relaying the information to the Historical Society via email. Because of Ray's concern and effort I received cards from all over the U.S., Canada, and even parts of Europe. The stack of cards came to a foot in height. I was touched and amazed at the results of Ray's lines of communication with all the kind and generous hobbyists who took the time to wish me well. Nephew Ray has been a wonderful and thoughtful friend for all the years we've known each other.

In 2006 Ray came up with a brilliant idea: to present several old-timers together on a podium to give a presentation. Not only did his wonderful idea translate into a giant success, he had the foresight to have all the speakers videotaped, and the DVD made available to all who attended as well as those unable to be present. The video was done professionally, with the results sharp and clear. The presenters included Dr. Stan Weitzman, Alan Fletcher, Gene Lucas, Al Klee, Earl Schneider, and myself.

Ray is very frequently called upon to give a presentation to organizations. He is confident and forceful when speaking. Ray's beginnings were



Ray "Kingfish" Lucas

influenced by Paul Spiece, who at one time had his own TV show called **Guppies to Groupers**. Paul was a very nice gentleman and was quite influential in the northeastern part of the country. I met Paul once when he went out of his way to greet me at a large convention in Ohio many years ago. He was kind and very complimentary.

Ray is a person who does not forget his friends, and on many occasions he has driven miles to attend funeral services for deceased friends, all closely associated with our hobby. I'm proud of Nephew Ray!



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Mother Nature's MISCHIEF

by Susan Priest

Where would our fish be without Mother Nature? She nurtures and nourishes them, she teaches them to protect themselves, and how to reproduce. It's all good, right? Except when she gets frustrated, and starts flexing her "mischievous muscles." Mother Nature's plans have long pre-dated the existence of aquariums. Whatever goings-on we might observe in our tanks which don't fit in with *our* plans can probably be explained by a bit of mischief by Mother Nature! Here are a few examples.

Fish without eyes. What was she thinking? Somehow they are able to find enough food, get close enough to each other to spawn, and manage to avoid predators. I'm impressed! I don't think she was giving any thought to us and our reactions to all of this back in the day. What effect do they have on you? Perhaps you look at them a little longer. Maybe you ask yourself if you are meeting their needs to the best of your ability. Hmm. Is it possible that she **did** have us hobbyists in mind when she put this plan in motion, with the goal of encouraging us to do our best?

Rain forests, deciduous forests, desert cactus, fruit trees, terrestrial plants of every variety are a major aspect of Mother Nature's care of all living things. We can see them wherever we look. But plants that grow **under water** seem to be mysterious, if not downright mischievous! At the very least they are unexpected! We have all come to appreciate the beauty and benefits of aquatic plants in our aquariums, but gosh darn it, a moon flower vine or a mother-in law's tongue won't grow submerged under water! I think that Mother Nature is playing with us!

Fish that eat other fish. This just doesn't seem sporting to me. The most baffling example is when parents consume

their own fry. Fish expend a lot of time and energy in reproducing, after which some if not many of them gobble up their fry as if they were so many brine shrimp or daphnia. Then they will just have to start all over again. It's not as if fish don't already have enough environmental challenges working against them as it is. Might I suggest to Mother Nature that she put an end to this particular form of mischief? At least she could think about it.

My favorite example of Mother Nature's mischief is **hair algae**, at least that's what **we** call it. Mother Nature probably has her own name for it, and she probably snickers every time she says it. Whatever it's called, it is pure mischief!

Fish that disappear. Where do they go? Does she beam them up to . . . where?

Certainly not the Enterprise. Maybe she sends them to a small chilly graveyard in a dark corner of Lake Baikal. Once in a while you might find a partial skeleton, or a floater, or a crispy critter on the floor

behind the tank, if she is busy with something more important. But for the most part, they just disappear. Mischief!

Hermaphrodites. These are life forms which have both male and female reproductive organs within the same body. In an aquarium, the most common examples are snails. Not all snails, of course, just some of them. I suppose they are harmless enough, and probably part of Mother Nature's efficiency program, by using one snail to do the job of two.

Fish that breathe air, fish that change from one sex to another, fish that trick other species into incubating their eggs for them, the list of examples of "aberrant behaviors" is long. Some of these have a rightful and useful place in the intricate puzzle that is our



environment. Being so bold as to make suggestions to Mother Nature (like I did in the fourth paragraph), will only confound the situation!

I think that we, in our arrogance, must be forever disrupting Mother Nature's carefully laid out plans. If the truth be told, we don't even **try** to work with her. We want to do everything our own way. She most

assuredly will have lost patience with us long before now, and we shouldn't be surprised when her frustration with us overflows its banks. We need to recognize that the part we play is small. A little humility from us will go a long way in calming her waters, (but it probably won't get rid of that hair algae!).



Spring in September

by Susan Priest

Do you remember what you bought at the GCAS auction last March? I do. I bought praying mantis egg cases which were contributed by Jeff Bollbach. I kept them in the refrigerator until I was sure that the newly hatching mantises would have some leaf cover to protect them from being eaten by the birds. I would often watch for them throughout the summer with nary a sighting. But, when September arrived I was spotting them at every turn. Here is a photo of a handsome specimen basking on the leaves of a raspberry cane. Now that it is November, and I am cutting back many of the branches from my garden, I am hoping that I will find egg cases enclosing the next generation of mantises affixed to some of my own plants.



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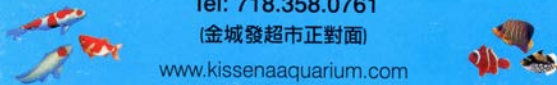
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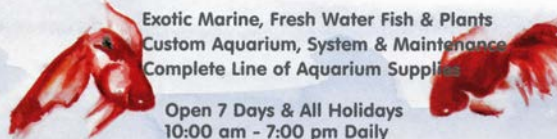


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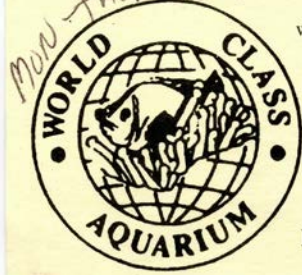


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GCAS Classifieds

FOR SALE: 50 Gallon Breeder Tanks (52 gal.) 48 X18 X 14H. Drilled, with bulkheads. \$25ea.

Call Coral Aquarium: 718-429-2934

FOR SALE: African cichlids -- all sizes, as well as tanks and accessories.

Call Derek (917) 854-4405

FOR SALE: Frontosas -- all sizes.

Call Andy (718) 986-0886

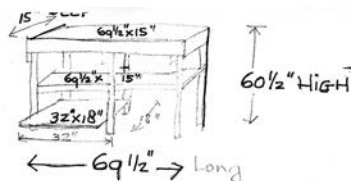
FOR SALE: Supreme AP-60 air pump. This pump easily supplies air for 30 to 40 aquariums. It is very quiet, and uses less than 70 watts. They wholesale for \$180. I have a brand-new, never used one for \$120. Contact Joe Ferdenzi at gfcadeo@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: 45 gal Tall tank w/black stand, hood, light.
46 gal Bow brown tank w/stand, hood, light
20 gal tank w/hood, light, filter

Call 516-567-8641

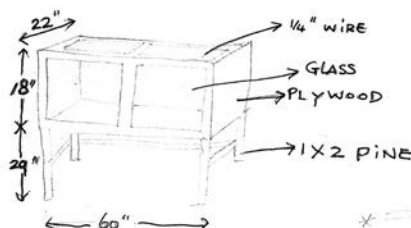
Shutting Down My Tanks. Following fish available:

3 Gold Severums -- Large; 2 Green Severums -- 1 Large, 1 Small
1 Geophagus jurupari -- Small; 3 Geophagus brasiliensis -- 2 Large, 1 Small
4 Silver Dollars -- Large; 2 Firemouths -- 1 Large, 1 Small; 2 Rainbow cichlids
1 Kribensis; 1 Texas cichlid -- Large; 1 shark -- Large; 2 Hoplo cats; 2 Blue Botia; 2 Tiger Botia
1 Large Euruptus cat; 3 Rafael cats; 1 Pictus cat
3 Rainbows; 2 black tetras; 4 Keyholes, 1 Geo balzani; 3 Congo tetras; 2 Blue Acaras
1 Angel; 1 Discus; 1 Frontosa; 7 or 8 catfish; 2 Botia dario; 4 bettas
Call Ron: 718-464-8408



2X4 FRAME
DECK SCREWS
SHELVES 1/2" PLYWOOD

= FISH STAND =
(2) TOP SHELVES 15" DEEP
(1) BOTTOM SHELF 18" DEEP



= REPTILE ENCLOSURE =
TERRARIUM

* CALL: CARLOTTI *
(347) 543 6443





GCAS Happenings

November

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

1 RICHARD WAIZMAN	DOUBLETAIL BETTA
2 RICHARD WAIZMAN	BLUE FEMALE BETTA
3 WILLIAM AMELY	BLUE FEMALE HALFMOON BETTA

UNOFFICIAL 2016 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

RICHARD WAIZMAN	31	BILL AMELY	17	MARIO BENGCION	8
ED VUKICH	5	SUMMERLIYA BREWSTER	1		

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBERS JOE FRANKE!

Meeting times and locations of some of the aquarium societies in the Metropolitan New York City area:

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: December 7, 2016

Event: Holiday/Awards Banquet

Where: *Flagship Diner*

138-30 Queens Boulevard
Briarwood, NY

Contact: Dan Radebaugh (347) 866-1107

Email: gcas@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.greatercity.org>

BIG APPLE GUPPY CLUB

Meets: Last Tuesday each month (except Jan, Feb, July, and August) at 7:30-10:00pm.

Alley Pond Environmental Ctr.: 228-06 Northern Blvd.

Contact: Donald Curtin (718) 631-0538

BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 11, 2016

Speaker: Joe Graffagnino

Topic: *Starting with Killies*

Meets: 2nd Friday of the month (except July and August) at 7:30pm:

NY Aquarium - Education Hall, Brooklyn, NY

Call: BAS Events Hotline: (718) 837-4455

Website: <http://www.brooklynaquariumsociety.org>

LONG ISLAND AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 18, 2016

Speaker: Guy Van Rossum

Topic: *A Fish Keeper Goes to Australia and Moorea*

Meets: 3rd Fridays (except July and August) 8:00pm.

Room 120 in Endeavor Hall on the State University at
Stony Brook Campus, Stony Brook, NY

Email: Margaret Peterson - president@liasonline.org

Website: <http://liasonline.org/>

EAST COAST GUPPY ASSOCIATION

Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm.

Alley Pond Environmental Ctr.: 228-06 Northern Blvd.

Contact: Gene Baudier (631) 345-6399

NASSAU COUNTY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 7, 2016

Event: *Silent Auction*

Meets: 2nd Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM

Molloy College - Kellenberg Hall ~1000 Hempstead Ave -
Rockville Centre, NY

Contact: Mike Foran (516) 798-6766

Website: <http://www.ncasweb.org>

NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 17, 2016

Event: Giant Fall Auction

Topic: *N/A*

Meets at: Days Hotel, East Brunswick NJ

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

Website: <http://www.njas.net/>

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 17, 2016

Speaker: TBA

Topic: *TBA*

Meets: 8:00 P.M. - 3rd Thursday of each month except for
July & December at: Earthplace - the Nature Discovery
Center - Westport, CT

Contact: Sal Silvestri

Call our toll free number (866) 219-4NAS

Email: salsilv44@yahoo.com

Website: <http://norwalkas.org/>

In The Still Of The Night

A series by "The Undergravel Reporter"

In spite of popular demand to the contrary, this humor and information column continues. As usual, it does NOT necessarily represent the opinions of the Editor, or of the Greater City Aquarium Society.

Some fish are active during the day (diurnal), some at night (nocturnal), and some at twilight (crepuscular). The plainfin midshipman sings and loves only by night.

Andrew Bass, a Professor at Cornell University, said the production and hearing of vocal signals play a central role in the fish social interactions and reproductive behavior.

Male plainfin midshipman fish court females while singing to them at night. In fact, California houseboat residents in the 1980s thought the sound came from a Navy experiment or extraterrestrials.²

These vocalizations happen only at night. Scientists kept a group of midshipman fish in constant light and noticed the fish almost completely stopped singing.

According to a study in **Current Biology**³, the singing is controlled by the fish's internal clocks. The hormone that controls these clocks is melatonin, the same one that regulates bird activity and human sleep patterns.



The plainfin midshipman, *Porichthys notatus*, is native to the eastern Pacific and can grow to 15 inches. Its common name comes from the rows of bioluminescent organs on its underside, reminiscent of the buttons on a midshipman's uniform.¹

Want to be a sexy nightclub crooner? Then try eating pineapples, bananas, or oranges (foods high in melatonin). And no, that won't help you carry a tune.



References

¹ <http://www.pulseheadlines.com/plainfin-midshipman-mystery-scientists-discovered-fish-sing/50937/>

² <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2016/0923/Singing-fish-Unraveling-the-secrets-of-mysterious-humming-at-night>

³ <http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822%2816%2930873-9>



Fin Fun



MY “Ideal” Fishroom

OK, so some of these things may not be in your fishroom, but, hey, I’m the puzzlemeister here and your assignment (should you choose to accept it) is to find all of the words in the puzzle below.

BEER

BUCKETS

DRIFTWOOD

FISHNET

FLAKEFOOD

GRAVEL

HEATERS

LIGHTS

PUMPS

RACKS

SINK

TANKS

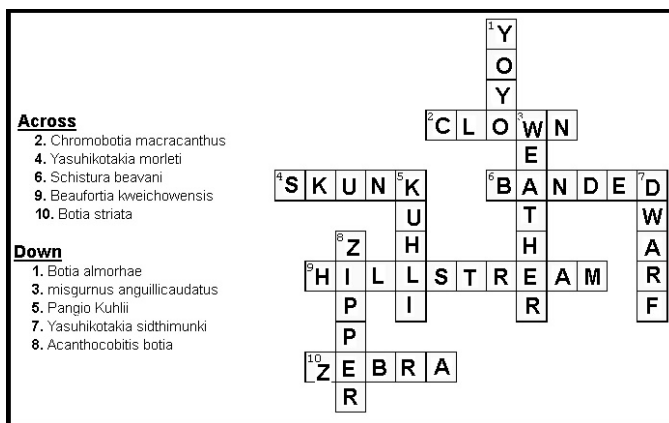
TELEVISION

TOWELS

TRASHCAN

N	A	C	H	S	A	R	T	D	L	G	Z
F	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T	D
J	L	B	U	C	K	E	T	S	B	R	S
S	G	A	J	Y	L	M	F	N	I	K	D
S	R	G	K	T	T	I	N	F	N	Y	M
T	A	E	N	E	S	N	T	A	T	R	D
H	V	P	T	H	F	W	T	O	K	T	K
G	E	R	N	A	O	O	W	K	P	N	S
I	L	E	E	O	E	E	O	U	N	K	T
L	T	J	D	E	L	H	M	D	C	I	Y
L	R	T	G	S	B	P	D	A	B	R	S
W	J	L	M	Q	S	Z	R	T	Z	T	Q

Solution to our last puzzle:





GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY AWARDS BANQUET 2016

*Join us for GCAS 2016 Awards, buck-a-bag auction,
author's raffle, party favors, door prizes, AND choice of
meal!*

DECEMBER 7, 2016, 7:00 PM

\$25.00 PER PERSON

Please make your reservations now!

