

modern AQUARIUM



December 2016
volume XXIII
number 10

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York

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Series III Vol. XXIII, No. 10 December, 2016

ON THE COVER

Our cover photo this month shows the now restored antique sign from the old Aquarium Stock Company store in New York City. Gary Bagnall, founder and owner of Zoo Med Labs, along with the Greater City Aquarium Society, was able to obtain the old sign a couple of years ago. For more details on this story, see Joe Ferdenzi's article on page 20.

Photo provided by Gary Bagnall

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

Our final issue of this year contains a lot of history, written by some folks who were there, and yet you'll find some youthful elements as well. Our authors range in age from nine years old (+) to nine *decades* old (+). Just goes to show that fish can appeal to people of all ages. This being December, it's also our annual awards issue. You'll of course know the winners by the time you read this.

This issue contains the concluding chapter of Rosario LaCorte's autobiography, **An Aquarist's Journey**. This has been an entertaining and informative journey indeed, and now the work will begin to turn it into book form. Rosario and I have also been talking about his continuing to contribute some smaller, more narrowly focused pieces in the future.

Inspired in no small part by Rosario's narrative, Alan Mark Fletcher has contributed his own autobiography. See "When the Last Aquarium Goes," beginning on page 9. These two men are major figures in the history of our hobby, and it's truly an honor for us to have been entrusted with presenting their stories.

Continuing in this autobiographical vein, our own Elliot Oshins tells us about his own entry into the hobby many years back. See "Reeled In!" on page 7. One of the things these three stories might tell us is that there is no single type of aquarist. Each of us finds our own way into this hobby—often without realizing that that's what we're doing. (Hobby? What hobby? I don't have hobbies, I just enjoy watching fish!) Hmmmm. What are some other pastimes that wind up inspiring people to attend meetings?

After "Pictures From Our Last Meeting" on page 14, Jules Birnbaum chips in with his 2016 edition of "Thoughts From My Fishroom," a thoughtful overview of some of the practical aspects of fishkeeping, particularly aimed at those of us with more than a couple of tanks to look after.

In her Wet Leaves column this month, Sue Priest (this year's Author of the Year), reviews **Wild 75**, by Flick Ford, a richly illustrated and informative book covering well, 75 popular freshwater fish. Sounds like I might just have to hunt down a copy of this.

Returning to historical themes, Joe Ferdenzi updates us on the progress of the old Aquarium Stock Company sign that Greater City helped to recover about a year ago. Check out page 20 to see how that project has come along, because come along it certainly has!



This is December, and we're here for our Holiday and Awards Banquet, so beginning on page 24 we list this year's award winners, and their place in the context of the long history of Greater City. We begin by listing our past award winners, then follow with the 2016 winners. We then follow with the details of this year's winners and participants in the Breeders and Authors competitions, and place them in historical context with current and past members going back certainly more years than *I've* been here.

This is one of my favorite parts of all this record keeping – seeing who has done what down through the years, and being able to appreciate the accomplishments of the club itself, as well as the individuals.

Following the awards pages, you'll find this month's Fishy Friends Photos, our list of where you can find discounts at local shops, our Classifieds, our Happenings page, and then the ever-popular Undergravel Reporter ("Deep Purple"), and the Fin Fun puzzle, "Outside In."

See you in March! Write a story for us over the winter break!





GCAS Programs 2017

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 1	Joseph Ferdenzi <i>Killifish Demystified</i>
April 5	Michael Marcotrigiano <i>Breeding Show Guppies</i>
May 3	Michael Lucas <i>Butterflies in the Water: Discovering Hydrophlox Shiners</i>
June 7	TBA TBD
July 5	TBA TBD
August 2	Silent Auction
September 6	TBA TBD
October 4	TBA TBD
November 1	TBA TBD
December 6	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

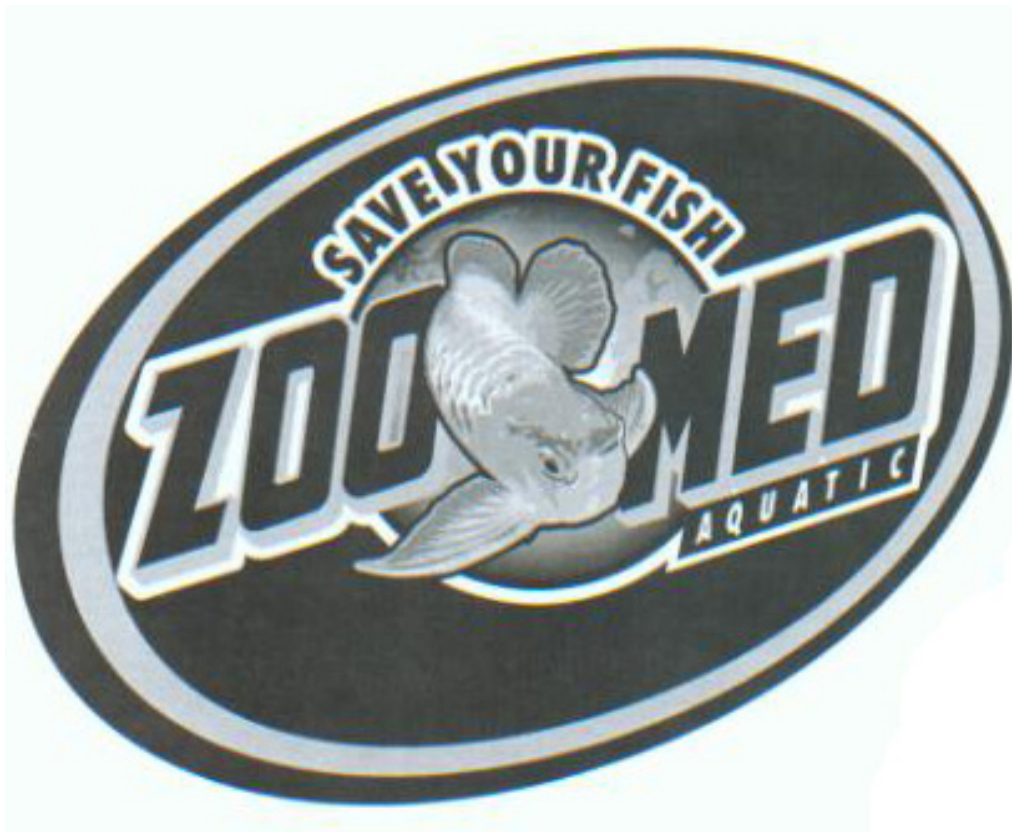
Well, here we are at the Flagship Diner, celebrating the end of another year at Greater City Aquarium Society. This is 2016, and as you can see from the logo on the back of this magazine, Greater City was founded in 1922. According to my arithmetic, that means that this society has been in continuous operation for 94 years. Not bad! Of course most of us here tonight have not been members for quite that long. Each generation of members has had challenges to meet and overcome, both in good years and bad.

When I became president back in 2009, the national economy had tanked, and there was a lot of anxiety about the future, for each of us personally and for the club itself. Fortunately we weathered that storm, and though some of our members' situations have still not wholly recovered, the club has remained sound, both financially and in terms of membership. Our meeting venue is a good one and well-located, and has provided a stable home base for us for many years now.

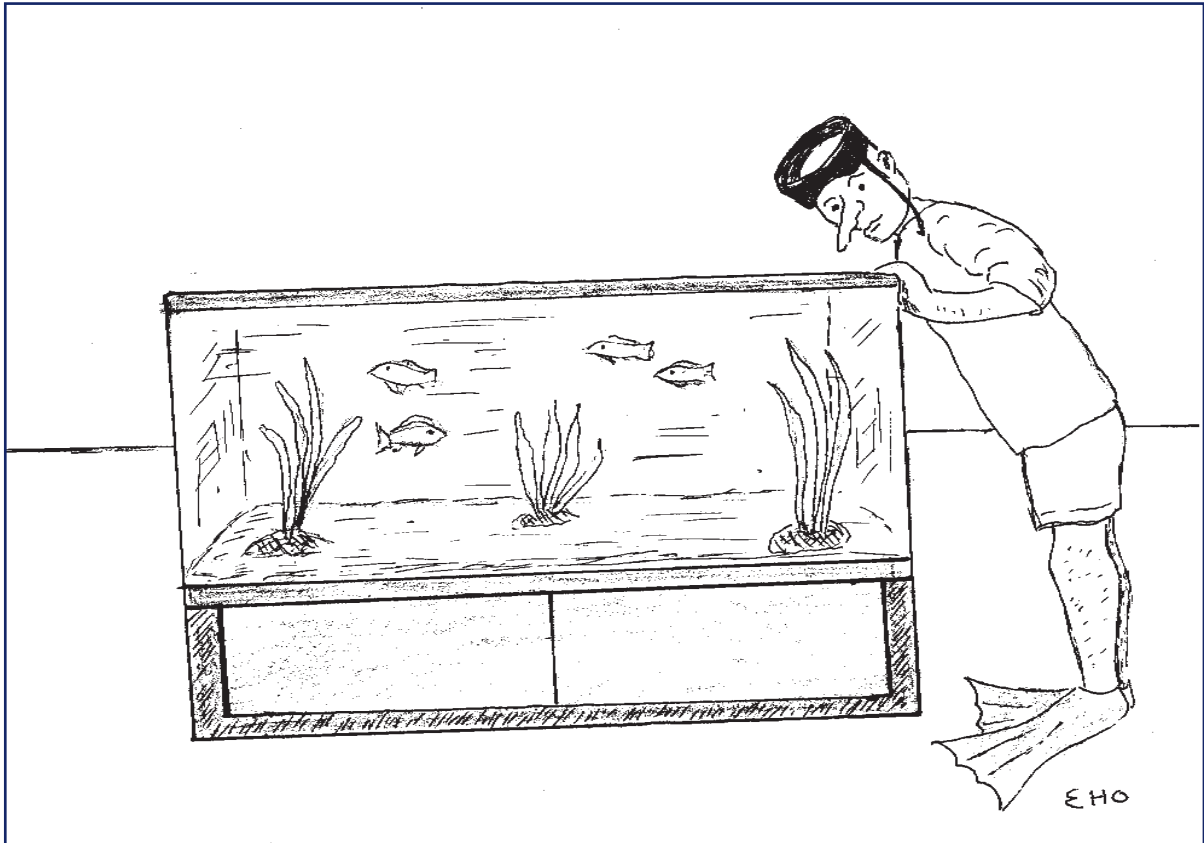
As in any organization, there have been, and will continue to be changes, which is both normal and healthy. One of those changes, which I announced earlier this year, is that I am stepping down as president. Eight years have flown by very quickly, and as I now find myself on the verge of retirement I believe it is in the best interest of the club to select a new president.

Following a lengthy search process, I can announce tonight that our new president will be Horst Gerber. Horst has been a faithful member for many years, and has throughout those years helped out in numerous ways, though often from behind the scene. He is not afraid of a challenge, and has shown unfailing good humor. Perhaps being president for a while will cure that. Meanwhile, please join me in wishing him well. Even better, ask him how you can help!

Dan



November's Caption Winner: Denver Lettman



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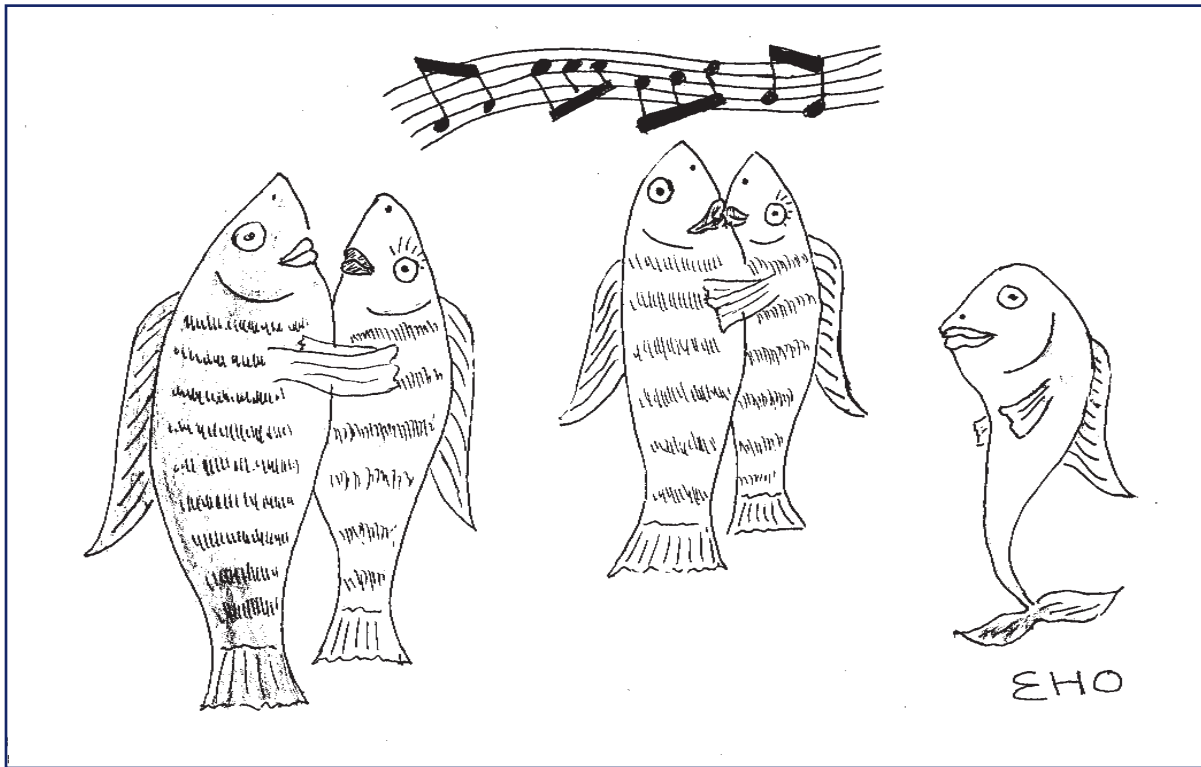
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The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

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:

REELED IN!

by Elliot Oshins

In life we all strive to get ahead; be it in school, in your job or in sports. In any competition you always want your team to win and come out on top. That's just human nature. Everybody admires and loves a winner.

When I was a young boy, I started in the fish hobby by receiving a goldfish and a bowl as a birthday present. I even remember way back when it was legal to send away for small turtles by mail, which I did. The turtle I received was really small, about 1.5 inches, and sadly, the turtle didn't live very long. Today that practice is long gone and against the law.

After receiving my first goldfish and fishbowl, the die was cast. I was hooked. The next thing I wanted was to go to the local pet store and explore. Most of the time one would start with a 10-gallon tank, a light, a pump, a heater, colored gravel and some plastic plants. The fish: a goldfish, some guppies, or maybe even some platies. Once you got the tank and accessories home you were on your way. But wait—not more than six months later you're now back at the local pet store eyeing that 20-gallon tank. Yeah, it's big, but now you're in the big time. Once that 20-gallon tank was filled and all set up, you're thinking, "bigger and better!"

I kept my fish hobby as I grew into adulthood, and have had fish tanks throughout my life. I also did a lot of research; going to the library and picking up books on tropical fish, learning more and more about the hobby.

One day, while at the library checking out the tropical fish section, I met someone who also had an interest in, and passion for, tropical fish. At the library we would compare notes, stories, tanks, and even jokes. We discovered that we were becoming good friends. He invited me over to his house to see his tank and fish collection, and showed me his tank that housed African cichlids, a fish that I couldn't even pronounce because the name was in Latin.

One day over coffee he told me about the fish club he belonged to, and offered to take me to a meeting. I gladly accepted. The meeting was great! I was surrounded by like-minded people who had a love and passion for tropical fish. I would listen to guest speakers who knew much more than I did, and I learned a lot, becoming knowledgeable about the different types of fish. Little by little I was getting more interested in the hobby, learning from members, the speakers, and eventually the internet.

One day I found myself in the pet store, eyeing a 30-gallon tank and saying to myself, "I think I have the just right spot for it." I hoped that my better half wouldn't mind me bringing three or so tanks into our home. But fortunately she said yes, and with three, maybe four, or even five tanks as well as her approval, I felt like I'd won the lottery.

These days I like to consider myself a Junior Maven¹. However, there are a few members of the club who are also Intermediate Mavens, and even Master Mavens. The Imperial Maven holds the top spot and is the big kahuna of any fish club.

Our Fish Club has only a few Master Mavens. And, I believe, there are only about three Imperial Mavens in the United States. We are very lucky that one of them belongs to our club. It's a great honor. So my advice is to do your homework, your research, and perhaps one day you, too, can strive to become a "Master Maven."

¹ An expert or connoisseur.





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When the Last Aquarium Goes

by Alan Mark Fletcher
Ithaca, New York

Right up front I want to admit that I was inspired to write this piece by the monumental autobiography/memoir written by Rosario LaCorte. Za and I have been dear friends since the early 1950s. This will be my only "chapter," however, since I do not have Za's gift of memory for detail, or his ability to keep records. Furthermore, most of my life experience was outside the field of aquaristics. What follows is an account of my lifetime of fish experience that continued in one way or another throughout a varied life. AMF

I am 88 years old at this writing, and I was born into a household that had an aquarium with guppies and corkscrew vallisneria, which was maintained by my father. I have never been without an aquarium for more than a very brief time.

A couple of weeks ago, my grandson Noah removed my last aquarium, an antique 3+ gallon all-glass Exide battery jar that had been given to me many years ago by Ray "Kingfish" Lucas. It had stood on the dresser in my bedroom for a lot of years. The last fish in it were white clouds, but it had contained many other species over the years, mostly killifishes, which have always been my favorite fish group. The empty space on my dresser brings back many great memories.

My first personal aquarium came to me in an interesting way. In 1941, when I was in ninth grade, our family spent six months in St. Petersburg, Florida because of my father's poor health. Both the Yankees and the Cardinals held their winter training in St. Pete, and other major league teams came to play with them. I spent all of my spare time watching their practices. I had a little booklet that I got many famous players, like Joe Dimaggio and Ted Williams, to autograph. A few years later I traded that autograph book for a five-gallon aquarium. How that man took advantage of a young kid!

In 1952, after teaching for two years, I had a job as a field biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, assigned to the northeast part of the state. In Kingston I visited a very good little tropical fish store. In it I saw and bought a copy of **The Aquarium** magazine. It had a small announcement, "Assistant to the editor wanted. Must have a knowledge of biology and must be able to write." I was confident of the biology, and I thought I could write. So I applied for the job. Dr. Innes invited me to Philadelphia for an interview. I came away with the job.

Dr. William T. Innes really needed help. He was then well into his 70s, and he had had a mild stroke, which affected the way he walked. But his mind was sharp, and he had masterful writing and editing skills. I owe him more than I could ever express. Working with him was a great apprenticeship for a career in science writing and editing. Innes was also a very gracious man. From the very first month he listed me on the masthead of **The Aquarium** as "Associate" Editor, not "Assistant."

I was with Innes Publishing Co. for eight years, advancing through the ranks to editor and publisher, and finally as co-equal partner.

During those years we built and owned a Cape Cod cottage in suburban Ambler, Pennsylvania. The house was built into a slope, with the rear of the basement above ground. I had a lovely basement fishroom, with a window on two sides. I have often thought that the property should have some kind of historical designation assigned it, because the very first of many new fishes passed through it in the 1950s, often referred to as the "golden decade" of the aquarium hobby, in part because of the large number of new fish introductions. The first cardinal tetras, bleeding heart tetras, several killifishes, veiltail angelfish, and black angelfish come to mind as a few of them.

The all-time favorite fish of our children was an 18" pickerel, which I kept in a 50gallon tank. Our girls named him "Jimmy-John" (I know not why!). Jimmy-John never learned the dimensions of his tank, and he banged his nose on the front glass every time he saw us, to the extent that he developed a large lump on his lower jaw.

The experience with Innes gave me the background to move on to positions as senior science editor at two major publishers, Doubleday & Company, in New York, and J. B. Lippincott Company, in Philadelphia, and finally, to faculty positions at two universities, Cornell and the University of Georgia.



On the upper Demerara River, armed to the teeth, 1957. I traded that Colt .357 revolver, plus \$70, for a diamond; a 1.9 carat Guyana diamond ring for Julia.



On horseback in ancient Petra, Jordan, 1985.



In Niger, with a group of wild, very rare, endangered subspecies of giraffe. Oh how I wished I had a net for that waterhole!



Male *Basia gardneri*. Photo by Vern Treat.



interviewing Surinam's Minister-President Johan Otto Pengel, around 1975.



1979: Dressed in formal Filipino attire (called a barong Tagalog), greeting the Indian minister of agriculture, at the International Rice Research Institute IRRI, Philippines



Pair of orange lyretails. This photo won best photo of show at the 1976 American Killifish Association convention. It was the first and only time I ever entered a photo contest.

*I should mention that our most illustrious subscriber at **The Aquarium** was Sir Winston Churchill. He enjoyed corresponding with people and, like most aquarists, he liked to talk fish. I had what developed into a sort of "pen-pal" relationship with him. Sometimes the letters came from his private secretary, and sometimes they came from him personally, on 10 Downing Street stationery. I had a complete file of his and my letters, but that file has been lost in our many moves. Two of his letters to me remain, however, and they are on permanent display in the library of Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA.*

Sir Winston maintained aquariums at 10 Downing Street, and he had a fish room and outdoor pools at his Chartwell estate. I have often wished that I had made a trip to the United Kingdom to visit him, because I am sure I would have been well received as a guest. I could also have taken photographs of him and his setup. I have seen photos of him at his outdoor pools, but apparently there are no pictures of him at his aquariums.

We sent Sir Winston two pairs of John Anderson's prize-winning smoke veiltail goldfish. We had arranged for the U. S. Air Force to carry them over on one of their regular flights; but at the last minute someone high up vetoed it. So we went to the commercial airlines. KLM Royal Dutch Airways was delighted to take them. We were told that they were carried over in back of the captain's seat, and the captain personally delivered them to 10 Downing Street. We never heard what Sir Winston did with them, but if he had entered them in any contest in Britain he would almost certainly have won first prize with them.

*Early on we decided not to take any publicity advantage of this contact. But when he died in the late 1960s I wrote an article about it that was featured in the Sunday magazine supplement of **The Philadelphia Inquirer**.*

While editor of **The Aquarium**, I became friends with Fred Cochu, who was president and co-owner of Paramount Aquarium, which in the 1950s had a virtual monopoly on fish imports from Guyana, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. They had their own airplanes, which made regular trips to stations in all of these countries. The most important of these locations was Leticia, Colombia, on the Amazon and in the heart of neon tetra territory.

I was able to make about a dozen trips on Fred's aircraft. I flew down and stayed at a location until the next flight there a few weeks later. Sometimes Fred himself accompanied me. He was a delightful travel companion. These trips (late 1950s) gave me the material to write articles about the actual collecting of many of the best-known aquarium fishes. I believe I was the first person to ever write first-hand stories about collecting aquarium fishes in the wild.

In late 1969, while I was with J. B. Lippincott, I was offered and accepted an editorial management position at Cornell University Press, in Ithaca, N.Y. That turned out to be a great move. Ithaca is located in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York, and Cornell is a great university. I soon moved over to a faculty position in the Department of Communication Arts. Ithaca at that time had a small but very active group of killifish specialists. In short order I was exchanging fish and eggs with them.

One of the members of this group was Glen Collier, who was a doctoral student in genetics. Glen was also editor of the **Journal of the American Killifish Association (JAKA)**. We became close friends, and I assisted him with the editing, being listed as consulting editor, as I recall.

At Cornell I even had access to a daphnia production system in the fisheries laboratory. For several years I taught a course, "Aquarium Science," which was attended by faculty members and technicians, as well as students.

In 1978 I was offered, and accepted, an appointment for a year as a visiting editor at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), in the Philippines. A few weeks before our departure a professor, who taught a course on reproductive biology, came to my office and asked me if I would collect some phallostethids for him. He had been teaching about them for years, but he had no specimens to show his students. Even though I had never heard of the family, I brashly replied, "Sure, Ari, I will be glad to collect some for you." The genus found in the Philippines is *Gullaphallus*, which literally means "throat penis." The female's urogenital pore is located under the throat, and under the male's chin there is an intromittant organ (similar to the gonopodium in livebearers), and a specialized moveable clasper that the male uses to hold the female while he is breeding with her.

At IRRI I soon became friends with a technician called Tek, whose father was a commercial fisherman in one of the central islands. Tek knew exactly what to do on the other end of a two-man seine, and he was a great companion on many collecting outings.

On one of our outings we went to a very large volcanic spring in a nearby village. Near the in-flow I noticed a group of little fish. We collected some, and I instantly knew that they were phallostethids. I kept some of them in an aquarium during the entire time we were in the Philippines, and I preserved a number of them and mailed them to Ari. It was in December, and Ari wrote that it was one of the best Christmas presents he had ever received!

Being a nation of hundreds of islands, the Philippines claims to have the world's largest number of marine fish species that have become adapted to life in fresh water. Using a set of **The Collected Ichthyology Papers of the Philippine Natural History Society** (published by T. F. H. and the Smithsonian), I was able to locate and collect

many fishes, interesting biologically, but with little color. Among them were archer fish and squirrel fish. Several times I encountered mudskippers, which live on the water's edge, on stones or mud, but I was never able to catch any. They must be among the world's smartest fishes! Every time we tried to get near enough to collect them, they disappeared in the water.

Until recent years a tiny Philippine freshwater goby, *Pandaka pygmaea*, was considered to be the world's smallest vertebrate animal. Twice I tried and failed to collect some in Rizal province, its native location. Rizal is just east of Manila, and the city has expanded into Rizal. I believe the fish is now extinct, wiped out by pollution from that huge city.

The Philippines has some of the world's most beautiful coral reefs, and I snorkled over several of them. But I never collected any of the spectacular little reef fishes, because setting up a marine aquarium would have been too difficult in our home; especially for a one-year stay.

We returned to the U.S. in July 1979, this time to the University of Georgia, where I was head of the Department of Agricultural Journalism. (Georgia offers a degree major in that field.) The only things of aquarium significance that happened in Georgia were several trips to the Okefenokee Swamp, on the Georgia-Florida state line. Collecting there is an aquarist's feast. I caught banded sunfish, pygmy sunfish, *Leptolucania ommata*, *Lucania parva*, *Rivulus marmoratus*, and several species of livebearers, all of which I brought back to my fishroom in Athens. The two species of pygmy sunfish that are found there—*Elassoma okefenokee* and *E. zonatus* are delightful little fishes.

One day in late 1983, after we had been in Georgia for five years, I received a phone call from the director of an international agricultural research institute located in the Netherlands, asking if I might be interested in becoming head of their communications department. I immediately said yes, but I could not respectably come in the middle of a school year. They understood that, and we moved to Holland in the summer of 1984.

There is a lot of aquarium activity in Holland, but I was not able to establish any aquarium friendships there. I joined the Netherlands Killifish Federation (NKF), and I once attended their annual convention, but I found no one there who was interested in striking up a friendship. I also contacted the great Dutch fish photographer, Arend van den Nieuwenhausen, with

whom I had done business in my Innes days, but he showed no interest in meeting me.

Our seven-year stay in Holland was not without its aquarium delights, however. I found a commercial killifish breeding company in a nearby town. At any given time they were breeding up to 40 different killies—species and/or varieties. All of them were sold for the equivalent of \$2.00 a pair, regardless of rarity! In our thatch-roofed cottage I maintained a large three-sided corner aquarium. I did not have room for any breeding, but it was the first time I had ever had the luxury of maintaining a killifish community aquarium. Of course, I was careful about the sizes of fish that I kept together! Feeding was easy, because in our town we had a pet store that sold live tubifex and red worms.

I retired in July 1991, and we returned to our old house along Fall Creek, in Ithaca. For about ten years after I retired I was fortunate to have a number of short-term (6-8 weeks) overseas consultancies, in Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa. A network of international agricultural research institutes is located around the world. I did

writing and editing jobs for seven of them.

In Africa I collected several times, but I never found anything particularly interesting. I did, however, work with a British agriculture scientist, Dr. Richard Markham, in Ivory Coast. Dr. Markham was an avid killifish fancier, and he searched for them in several west African countries. After I had returned to Ithaca he sent me eggs of a very beautiful *gardneri* that he had found in eastern Ivory Coast. I raised them and sent eggs and juvenile fish to several killie breeders. To distinguish the strain from other *gardneri* I called them "Basua" *gardneri*, after the nearest town to the small forest stream where Dr. Markham had found them. Basuas are readily available today, but I am sure that many of them have been bred with other *gardneri* strains.

I think the most interesting country I ever worked in is Niger, which makes up the western side of the Sahara Desert. Most people don't know it, but nearly all deserts have what could be called a "rainy season." I was fortunate to be near Bamako, Niger at the very beginning of their rains. At the time I returned to Ithaca substantial puddles of standing water were developing everywhere. I had no collecting equipment with me. Every day when I passed those pools I was dying to know what annual fishes might be emerging. I am sure that the region has never been explored for annuals.



Alan and Julia, taken recently at the inauguration of a new president of Keuka College (NY).

Well, that lovely old glass battery jar is now resting empty on the floor of our basement, but the space where it stood on top of my dresser is still visible. Every time I look at that space, in my mind's eye I can see the battery jar, teeming with chocolate lyretails, or white clouds, or Endler's livebearers. That last aquarium remains in memory.

Finally, I express my sincere gratitude to my dear wife Julia, who has put up with my eccentricities and foibles for 65 years. If you were to ask her, however, I think she would say that it has been an interesting journey.

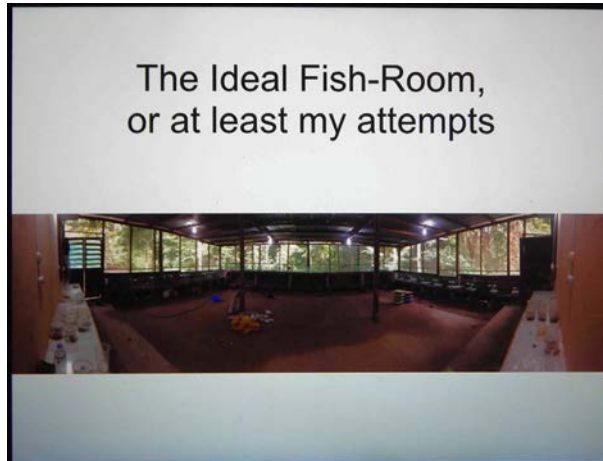


Pictures From Our Last Meeting

Photos by Al Priest



**Tonight's speaker:
Michael Barber**



He describes his plans for perfection



**Bowl Show Winner
1st and 2nd Place
Rich Waizman**



**Door Prize Winner
Steve Sagona**



**Florida Aquatic Nurseries
donated a garden of gorgeous plants**



**Ed Vukich auctions off
the mother of them all!**

Thoughts From My Fishroom

2016

by Jules Birnbaum

As you might know by now, I like to play with filters. I have tried canisters, HOT (hang on tank), undergravel, sponge, and box filters. Canisters are just too expensive for my 30-tank fish room. Hang-on filters are less expensive, but 30 of them can be too costly, as are the media pads. The maintenance is just too time-consuming. The box filters are the least expensive, but do require some maintenance, such as changing floss and cleaning the media. Sponge filters with high quality sponge material, such as sold by Swiss Tropicals, should last a lifetime and require very little maintenance. I run over thirty such filters, and after properly aging them (6 weeks), have been running them for six months. There is no maintenance other than cleaning algae from the lift tubes (Jet-lifters) and air hoses. Why not run a sponge filter together with a box filter in some tanks? In this way you can condition the water for either soft or hard water fish.

Any filter you use should provide a tank with some circulation of the water. This is why most of my tanks of 20 gallons or more have two sponge filters, one at each end of the tank. The Swiss Tropical Jetlifter shoots the filtered, aerated water across the tank, which provides the water flow my fish require.

Most of my tanks have a high bio-load, and thus I perform a 50% water change every week. I've described my system before. It was purchased from JEHMCO, the fishroom supply store in New Jersey. My thirty tanks take me a little under 3 hours to complete a weekly 50% water change. All the automatic water change systems I have seen are just too complicated for my non-mechanical brain. I don't clean the tank bottoms often, but during the winter months I do spend some time on individual tanks.

There are times when I just don't like the way a tank looks, with fish not aggressively eating, plants not doing well, lots of algae, or a buildup of mulm. At this time I break down the tank and do a thorough cleaning. I can't stress enough that you must observe what is going on in your tanks. Do I lose fish? Yes, occasionally. I get lazy for one reason or other, but try my best to keep up with regular maintenance. The final result should be healthy fish and crystal clear water.

In the future I am also going to test the water coming out of our faucet before each water change. I've heard a number of horror stories from around the country of lost fish during water changes. I use ClorAm-X® powder to remove chlorine, but I would like to know what our water company might be putting in our water that they might not publicize.

Sediment from an old hot water heater can change the chemical content of your hot water. I recently removed this sediment by draining a little water from the bottom of the hot water tank.

I've played with different substrates over the years, but have now settled on a thin layer of fine gravel and pool sand. Naturally, if you prefer rooted

plants, a two inch layer of gravel might be required. I don't recommend pebbles because uneaten food can get caught between the pebbles where fish can't get at it. Many breeders prefer a bare-bottom tank to make maintenance easier. I feel this just does not look natural. However, when raising fry and you want to feed multiple times per day, a bare bottom might work better. Most of my tanks are placed with the wide side facing out for better viewing. Smaller grow-out tanks are an exception.

If your tanks are to look like the natural habitat (biotopes) of the species I would recommend using natural material such as rocks and driftwood*. Lava rock is a mainstay in my tanks. It looks good, is inexpensive, has many hiding places, and nitrifying bacteria readily colonize in its pores. My rocks were ordered from JEHMCO. You can use local hard rocks and wood when properly soaked before placing in your tanks. Our local garden center gave me some nice-sized rounded rocks they use for landscaping. I would stay away from artificial plants, bubbling mermaids, and underwater castles. They are just too corny for serious aquarists.

Feeding your fish a balanced diet is important. It is also important not to overfeed, both to maintain water quality and to not clog their digestive systems. I use both flakes and pellets. Some fish, such as rainbows, plecos, and some livebearers require more vegetable content in their diet. I recommend a local supplier from New Jersey called Your Fish Stuff. The food is high quality and fresh, they have a large



variety, and are packaged well. Delivery is usually in one or two days and the delivery charge is reasonable. Lately I favor one of their small pellets, Tropical Supreme, 1.5mm, and all my fish go for it. For the very small fish I crumble the pellets with my fingers. I just ordered another high quality pellet from Select Aquatics. This pellet is made by Cargill, a large animal feed provider. It is 3mm, 51% protein, and it sells for \$15 a pound, delivered. It is excellent for small fish such as livebearers, barbs or tetras.

If you have not used Repashy I recommend giving it a try. I have made my own gel food, but it is messy, time consuming and not worth the effort. This high quality gel food is easy to prepare by mixing it with hot water. The finished product can be cut into cubes for easy feeding. Repashy has various blends for different species. The fish graze on it during the day, and because this gel food stays together, it is less likely to foul the tank water. I use a little less water than recommended, to produce a more solid cube. Although not necessary, you can add other ingredients, such as a color enhancer, shrimp, beef heart, blended fresh vegetables, and medications. Gerber baby garden vegetables also work well as an additive. The Repashy gel powder can last a year if frozen. A prepared batch of Repashy can last a couple of weeks in the refrigerator.

I use live foods to vary my fishes' diet and to condition them for breeding. Brine shrimp are prepared daily, for fry as well as older fish. When you have a group of fish there is always the "head honcho" (Rosario LaCorte expression) who gets the best of everything. When the brine shrimp are scattered about, it gives the shy fish a chance to eat. Blackworms are like steak to the fish, but are getting more expensive. If rinsed daily and refrigerated, blackworms can be kept for several months. I selectively feed my fish live blackworms about three times a week. I've used earthworms in the summer, but they should be cleaned, which is messy, and could be contaminated by chemicals used for lawns. I have found microworms easy to cultivate, using fellow GCAS member and cultivating-live-food expert Harry Faustmann's

instructions, and I keep a couple of containers going for fry. A number of slabs of frozen bloodworms are kept on hand and fed mainly in the summer months, when delivery of frozen bloodworms can be a problem because of the weather. JEHMCO sends me an order of 10 slabs overnight when needed. Each slab is good for two or three feedings.

I have changed most of my fishroom lighting from florescent to LED lights made for freshwater plants, manufactured by Current. There is a savings in electricity, and no expensive bulbs to change every two or three years, as would be the case with T5 or T8 bulbs. They produce little heat, and the fixtures have a streamlined look. The drawback is the initial cost. I've had to replace three transformers, out of warranty, at around \$25 each. ZooMed makes an LED plant light in which the bulbs can be replaced. Luckily, in the two years I've used them, no bulbs have gone bad. I've found these lights are powerful enough for most plants I keep, but have found that algae builds up fast, which can be a problem, so I've reduced the hours the lights are on. I still use four shop lights with full spectrum compact florescent bulbs. These inexpensive lights (\$5 or \$6) and full spectrum compact fluorescent bulbs (\$6.50 bought in bulk from Full Spectrum Solutions) work very well. The shop lights are easy to move around, and have been a good choice for a few of my planted tanks. If you are on a tight budget this is a good plant light for under \$15.

Regardless how long you have been keeping tropical fish, you should still be learning. I started keeping them 70 years ago, and at age 83 I am still learning something new every day. You can find some interesting ideas on YouTube, and I spend some time trying to see what expert breeders are coming up with. Take a look at Ted Judy's videos on YouTube. These are generous people who are quick to help. A new fish, plant, or piece of equipment will revitalize your interest. I hope you compare notes with what you are doing, and hope that you pick up an idea or two.



* **Bleher's Biotopes** by Heiko Bleher <http://www.aquapress-bleher.com/blehers-biotopes-by-heiko-bleher/>

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a Series On Books For The Hobbyist
by **SUSAN PRIEST**

Yes folks, there really *is* something new under the sun, and it's right here for your perusal.

This is a book written *for* aquarists *by* aquarists! Throughout its pages you will find many names familiar to *you*, the membership of the GCAS. There are notes

incorporated into each fish biography which were written by numerous people who have been speakers at our meetings in the past. You will feel right at home as you encounter old friends such as Mike Hellweg, Rachel Oleary, and more. The challenge will be to tear your eyes away from the fish paintings long enough to read what they have to say! In most cases the fish in the paintings are larger than life-sized, and the colors are more vivid than can be observed in either natural or man-made environments. They exhibit a level of detail and allure beyond anything else in my experience. You are in for an orgy of fishy delights!

When I started to browse this beautiful book, the first question I asked myself was "who wrote the text?" The name of the artist behind the dramatic paintings was instantly clear. Then, when I went searching for a second name, I kept being steered back to the first. Was it possible that the knowledgeable author of such succinct text, *and* the highly skilled artist of these exceptional paintings was

one and the same person? Yes and no. Yes, Mr. Ford authored the bulk of the text which complements each of his paintings, in which he reveals a glimpse into the natural world of the fish, and discusses the issues of its sustainability in the wild (thus the word **wild** in his title). But then things get even better when he calls upon numerous highly accomplished aquarists to briefly comment on the **aquarium** care of each fish.

I will make my best attempt at

describing the presentation of each individual fish, of which there are indeed seventy five. As an example I have chosen the Emperor Tetra (pages 60 and 61).

Each fish has two facing

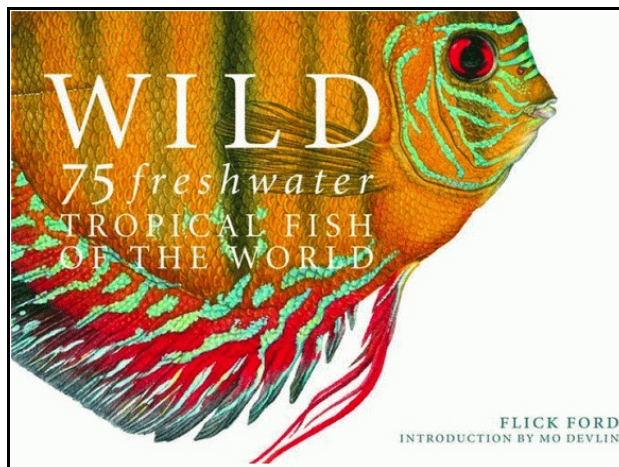
pages devoted to it, and is represented by a full page "portrait" on the left, and a variety of informational "cubicles" on the right. The first cubicle to catch your attention will be a

map with a red star affixed over the area where the fish resides in nature (in this case, Colombia, South America). In the cubicle to the left of the map Mr. Ford describes the main threat to these tetras,

which in this case is mechanized gold mining, which produces huge amounts of silt and chemical pollution. Across the bottom of the page a variety of facts are presented, such as preferred diet, water parameters, biotope features, and more. As you come full circle, you will find "fishkeeping comments" from longtime friend of Greater City Larry Jinks directly beneath the map. In part, he says "some fry can stay with the adults in a planted tank."

The last fish described in the book is the Super Red Asian Arowana.* The painting of

**WILD 75 Freshwater Tropical
Fish of the World
Flick Ford
Greenwich Workshop, 2013**



this fish spreads over two pages. At 14.5" (I measured), it would have to be representative of a juvenile when you consider that a full grown arowana reaches three feet in length. The fishkeeping comments here were written by another name familiar to all of us, Mo Devlin.

The brief bio of Mr. Ford has left me with a few unanswered questions. What type of "model" did Mr. Ford use to create his paintings? Did he work from photographs, live fish, deceased specimens, or maybe a combination of these? What media did he use? In his preface he references the paintings within the iconic book **Exotic Aquarium Fishes** by Wm. T. Innes as a source of inspiration.

There is a Foreword by Mo Devlin, a Preface by Mr. Ford, a one page Glossary, and in the rear there is a list of suggested reading, and an Index which is arranged alphabetically of the common names of the fish. Some people might describe this as a "coffee table book." It is truly beautiful, and will surely catch the eye of fishkeepers and non-fishkeepers alike. However, I see it as having an eye on the future.

On the outer back dust cover another reviewer described the paintings as true-to-life. I disagree with this assessment. I think that the fish in these paintings appear bolder and more brilliant than they are in real life, and that the artist is thereby encouraging us to form a more complete and lasting association with them. I think that he is hoping they will become imprinted in our minds, and that we will invest a little more of ourselves into what happens to them next. Mr. Ford warns everyone everywhere that "If we do not act quickly to reverse our follies in water management for the benefit of all living things, we will perish along with the fish we cherish." To that I can only add **Amen!**

*I would like to highly recommend a book entitled **The Dragon Behind The Glass**, by Emily Voigt, in which the author travels the globe in search of a Super Red Arowana in the wild. It was reviewed in the September 2016 issue of this magazine.



The Aquarium Stock Company Returns to Life!

(Or At Least Its Sign Does!)

by Joseph Ferdenzi

In an article last year¹, I told you the story behind the discovery and acquisition of the antique sign that once hung outside one of the entrances of New York City's most iconic tropical fish store, the Aquarium Stock Company. When we acquired the sign, it was not intact. Pieces were missing, including, most importantly, the original neon lighting. This follow-up article is about the amazing restoration that has been done to get the sign back to looking like it did in its heyday.

In case you don't have access to my 2011 article about the Aquarium Stock Company², here is some brief background.

The Aquarium Stock Company was one of the city's earliest aquarium stores, having been founded in the 1910s. At its zenith, it occupied a premises just east of West Broadway that was an entire city block long, with a front entrance on Warren Street and a back entrance on Murray Street. That area is right near City Hall and the financial district. Anyone who grew up in the 1940s, 50s, or 60s would have known about Aqua Stock, as it was often called, and would have regarded it as a "must go" destination. My own memories of the store are quite vivid to this day, and those memories include the iconic sign that hung over the sidewalk on the Murray Street side of the store.



After the remnant of the sign (see the photo from e-Bay at left) was purchased from a vendor on e-Bay, it was shipped to the company headquarters of Zoo Med Laboratories in San Luis Obispo, California. It then became the mission of Zoo Med's founder and owner, Gary Bagnall, to restore the sign as nearly as possible to its original state.

After the remnant of the sign (see the photo from e-Bay at left) was purchased from a vendor on e-Bay, it was shipped to the company headquarters of Zoo Med Laboratories in San Luis Obispo, California. It then became the mission of Zoo Med's founder and owner, Gary Bagnall, to restore the sign as nearly as possible to its original state.

The process began with research. Gary had a member of Zoo Med's staff (Shane Bagnall) contact the New York Historical Society after it was learned that they maintained an impressive collection of photographs of many streets and buildings in Manhattan. This collection spanned many decades,



Photo from the 1940s courtesy of New York Historical Society

and proved to be very helpful. Eventually a photo (albeit in black & white) was found that depicted the sign hanging in front of the store when it had been located at the corner of West Broadway and Murray Street (about a block away from its last address).

Gary then enlisted the services of professionals to redo the side pieces (the original sign had a box-like structure) and, most impressively, restore the neon lighting. Gary is a true dyed-in-the-wool hobbyist who has a high regard for the history of the hobby and its surviving antiquities. He has an unrivaled collection of aquariums, fish bowls, and other items in his company museum. Most of these pieces have been professionally restored, and are beautifully presented. So, as he has done before, Gary has restored this Aqua Stock sign as a labor of love, and entirely at his own cost. As Gary put it in an email to me, "When I purchased this (with the help from your club!) we only had the front, with no box or light device, so all this had to be crafted from scratch." Gary continues, "The 'Tropical Fish' painted on one side was taken from a photo my nephew found of the original sign in 1940s New York."

This certainly lets you know that this was no haphazard restoration. In fact, I think the accompanying photos of the finished product, lit and hanging in the museum, will give you an idea of how beautiful this sign was, and why it made a lasting impression on a 12-year-old boy. As Gary so eloquently wrote to me, "Let's march onward and find more aquarium history treasures to save!"



Two views of restored sign, courtesy of Gary Bagnall. See the cover of this issue for another view.



¹“The Mystery of the Aquarium Stock Company Sign Solved!” (**Modern Aquarium** Series III Vol. XXII, No. 7 September, 2015)

²“Nostalgia Notes: New York’s Fabled Aquarium Stock Company” (Series III Vol. XVIII, No. 9 November, 2011)

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AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

by Rosario LaCorte

Chapter 27: The Journey Concludes

George Fear

I met George Fear more than 40 years ago. We were both members of the North Jersey Aquarium Society. Our friendship blossomed, and he was frequently a guest in the old house where I maintained a 200-tank setup in a 3-car garage.

As George became more involved in the business end of the aquarium trade he would frequently stop by and pick up assorted species for resale. Eventually he decided to go into the wholesale business, importing fish from many parts of the world.

Not too long after that, Jean and I decided to sell our home and move to a different location, as I narrated in a previous chapter. Our new home was further away from many of our fish friends, except for George, whose place was only about two miles away.

As I mentioned in the earlier chapter, I had to scale down drastically, as the new setup would be located in our basement. The biggest problem facing me was how to keep the basement at the required temperature. We settled on baseboard radiation. The price quoted to me by a plumber friend was out of the question. The cost of the move itself had left us with very little money, and I feared we might have to shut down the whole system.

What with the closeness of our homes, and attending fish club meetings together, George and I had been seeing more of one another, and I mentioned my situation to him. He immediately came to my rescue. He had all the radiators needed, as he had broken his old system down when he went into the retail business. Besides saving me a great deal of money in material costs, he had a neighbor and good friend who was in the plumbing and heating business. George spoke to him on my behalf, and the whole project was completed over a weekend, and cost only a few hundred dollars. I've never forgotten George's assistance with this project.

George established Shark Aquarium, a retail store which was one of the larger shops on the east coast. About 20 years later he moved it to a new location, purchasing a building where he opened a larger, more attractive shop housing more aquariums and a fantastic assortment of species. His collection of wild piranhas included more than 17 species, and

was unsurpassed in the aquarium trade. He became an expert in identifying them.

All during George's involvement in the retail trade he had a burning desire to collect fish in the wild, and he had made important contacts. During that initial phase of George's desire to collect wild fish we had a conversation regarding his restless desire to go collecting in South America. I warned him that once he got the taste of collecting, it would be difficult not to keep returning over and over again.



George Fear with *Arapaima gigas*
Photo by Ivan Mikolji

George has by now given many presentations, and more than once I have heard him repeat my warning about the burning desire to return to collection sites. He has made approximately 22 trips, covering vast areas of South America. You can look for Fish Guys Expedition on YouTube, and find 17 videos of George, along with Ivan Mikolji, showing underwater footage of a wide variety of species in their natural settings. The videos are quite good, and illustrate some of the hardships one must endure in some pretty tough-to-drive-to places. George is semi-retired now, but still maintains a side interest in fish. Jeannie and I are both thankful for George's friendship these many years.

Dan Radebaugh

Several years ago, after attending a 5:30 Saturday evening mass, a parishioner, knowing of my involvement with fishes, came up to me and handed me an envelope, saying "you might find this article of interest." After returning home I opened the envelope and found an article in a **Healthcare Marketers Exchange** newsletter, with which my friend Silvio Coccia was quite familiar (Silvio was a pharmacologist, and worked for a large pharmaceutical company).

One of the pages featured a husband and wife team in the medical publishing business, who were also involved in keeping tropical fish. Well, I looked at the photo and name, and unfortunately was not familiar with them. I never gave it further thought until some weeks later when I saw Joe Ferdenzi (whom I featured in the previous chapter). This "Journey" was in its early stages of composition, and as Joe was explaining the advantages of partnering in the project with the Greater City Aquarium Society, he mentioned that

the group had a lot of talent, with members willing to proofread my manuscript, and “we even have a couple in the publishing business. All of these people have the talent to make your Journey a success.”

A few months later, hand-carrying the paper from Silvio, I met Joe at a LIKA meeting and showed him the article, and asked him, “Joe, do you know these people?” He practically shouted at me, “That’s the guy who’s going to work with you on your Journey.” He was laughing about the whole situation.

I believe in a higher power, and it seemed evident that everything seemed to be falling into place. Of course the article featured Dan and Marsha Radebaugh. I’ve gotten to know Dan fairly well over the past couple of years; exchanging emails and having many phone conversations.

Dan has taken on a great deal of responsibility over the past several years, assuming the presidency of the Greater City Aquarium Society as well as publishing their monthly magazine, **Modern Aquarium**, which is consistently awarded prizes for being about the best club journal in the country. In 2014 Dan and Marsha were added to the Joseph Ferdenzi Roll of Honor, Greater City’s highest award. As we know, it isn’t always easy in any organization to find people willing to step up to the plate and assume major responsibility. Dan and Marsha have certainly done that.

I thank Dan and Marsha for all the effort they have put into the completion of this Journey. I am grateful to Dan for his advice, and for allowing me to express my journey in my own words. There are editors who almost rewrite, and distort the intended theme of a writer. Dan has not done this with me. He has given me free reign, and advice when needed. I’m truly grateful to them both. Thanks, Dan and Marsha, for a job well done!

Final Thoughts

Well, my ship has finally come to port, and our journey, spanning 87 years, comes to its conclusion. About twelve years ago, while listening to a radio program, I heard a story that I thought I could use in a closing statement for an upcoming presentation/slide program. I never prepare any written script for a program, as my thought process kicks into gear when the image is projected onto the screen. My recall has never failed me. On this one occasion I made notes of what I wanted to say, regarding both the story I had and the advice that I wished to convey to my audience.

As I was quite intent on not forgetting the flow of the story, I decided to compose the story in my own words and to read from a script. I’m very grateful that I did so. A few months ago, while going through the papers, photos, and letters to write this memoir, I came across that paper, which I had completely forgotten. I

was overjoyed, as it gave me the opportunity to add some final thoughts to this last chapter. So my final words begin with the following little story.

Two thousand years ago in the Holy Land, an old Jewish man was planting a small fig tree. As he was planting the tree a Roman soldier passed by and began laughing at him. “Old man,” he said, “Why are you planting that fig tree? When that tree is old enough to bear fruit you’ll be dead!” The old man responded, “I know I’ll be dead, but at least others will enjoy eating its fruit. For I too have eaten the figs of trees planted by others.”

For me, in terms of my fish interests, the fig tree was that 1952 article in **Aquarium Journal**, written by Dr. George S. Myers. It dealt entirely with annual killifish, an area of the hobby then still in its infancy. I wanted to learn as much as possible about their life cycle, and that knowledge was sparse in those days. As I immersed myself in the natural history of this group, I tried to find innovative ways of reproducing annuals in aquaria. I shared my insights with others by speaking, and by writing articles for the major magazines. In 1958 my dream of going to Brazil was finally fulfilled. That was the first of seven voyages to South America to search for, observe, and collect annual fish in their natural settings.

As you read about my journey, perhaps my words will inspire you to make certain decisions about a path of your own. Whatever path that may be, I suggest that you carefully observe what you see. Take notes, and keep accurate track of times and dates. Share your knowledge, fish (if that is your path), and time with others. Don’t be afraid to give talks and write articles, just try to be accurate in your accounts. Most importantly, don’t forget to give credit to those who have helped you along the way. It will come back to you tenfold.

I have been interviewed by newspapers and magazines, as well as hobbyist journals, and on one such occasion our friend Joe Ferdenzi interviewed me for a story for publication. As Joe was composing his final words he posed an interesting question. What was your greatest accomplishment? I believe Joe was expecting me to tell him about some very difficult species that I had been fortunate enough to reproduce. Instead, and without hesitation I replied, “Maintaining integrity.” That should be your goal.

In my senior years night driving on the highways has not been an option. I’d like to send a special thanks to Mike McNamee and Paul Nitzsche for being kind enough to pick me up each month to attend the meetings of the three organizations we belong to!



Dan & Marsha Radebaugh



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Mary Ann Bugeia	Warren Feuer	Jack Oliva	Marcia Repanes	Marsha Radebaugh
Dan Carson	Herb Fogal	Al Priest	Nick Repanes	
Claudia Dickinson	Paul Hahnel		Don Sanford	

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1985-86 Yezid Guttierrez	1994-95 Steve Sagona	2007, '08, '09, '10 Jeffrey Bollbach
1986-87 Joe Ferdenzi	1995-96 Tom Miglio	2011, 2012 Joseph Graffagnino
1987-88 Patricia Piccione	1996-97 Mark Soberman	2013 Leslie Dick
1988-89 Joe Ferdenzi	1997-98 Jeff George	2014 Mark Soberman
1989-90 Francis Lee	1998-'00 Tom Miglio	2015 Artie Platt
1990-91 Eddie Szablewicz	2000-01 Mark Soberman	
1991-92 Dominic Isla	2001-02 Alexander Priest	

GENE BAIOTTO AQUARIST OF THE YEAR (Since 1990-91)

1990-91 Diane & Harold Gottlieb	2003-04 Jack Traub
1991-92 Doug Curtin & Don Curtin	2004-05 Claudia Dickinson
1992-93 Warren Feuer	2006 Anton Vukich
1994-95 Steve Sagona	2007 Ed Vukich
1995-96 Alexander & Susan Priest	2008 Al Grusell
1996-97 Joe Ferdenzi	2009 Dan Radebaugh
1997-98 Claudia Dickinson	2010 Pete D'Orio
1998-99 Vincent & Rosie Sileo	2011 Jeffrey Bollbach
1999-00 Pete D'Orio	2012 Jules Birnbaum
2000-01 Bernard Harrigan	2013 Dan Puleo
2001-02 Joe Ferdenzi	2014 Leonard Ramroop
2001-02 Jason Kerner	2015 Alexander & Susan Priest
2002-03 Carlotti De Jager	

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPIONS (Since 1983-84)

1983-84 Tom Lawless	1993-94 Steve Sagona	2003-04 William Amely
1984-85 Tom Lawless	1994-95 Carlotti De Jager	2004-05 Evelyn Eagan
1985-86 Joe Ferdenzi	1995-96 Mary Eve Brill	2006-07 Ed Vukich
1986-87 Joe Ferdenzi	1996-97 Steve Sagona	2008 William Amely
1987-88 (tie) Mark Soberman	1997-98 Steve Sagona	2009 Mario Bengcion
and Mary Ann & Joe Bugeia	1998-99 Tom Miglio	2010 Alexander A. Priest
1988-89 Jason Ryan	1999-2000 Tom Miglio	2011-12 Richard Waizman
1989-90 Eddie Szablewicz	2000-01 Pat Coughaine	2013 Jerry O'Farrell
1991-92 Steve Sagona	2001-02 William Amely	2014 Ruben Lugo
1992-93 Steve Sagona	2002-03 Evelyn Eagan	2015 Richard Waizman

GCAS PRESIDENTS (Post 1945 — number in parenthesis = consecutive terms)

1946-49 Elliott Whiteway (4)	1968-70 Walter Hubel (2)	1981-84 Brian Kelly (3)
1950-51 Robert Greene (2)	1970-72 Dave Williams (2)	1984-86 Jack Oliva (2)
1952-53 Robert Maybeck (2)	1972-73 Dan Carson (1)	1986-97 Joe Ferdenzi (11)
1954-55 Leonard Meyer (2)	1973-75 Herb Fogal (2)	1997-99 Vincent Sileo (2)
1956-57 Sam Estro (2)	1975-76 Richard Hoey (1)	1999-00 Jeff George (1)
1958 Leonard Meyer (2+1)	1976-77 Ted Tura (1)	2000-08 Joe Ferdenzi (11+8)
1959-64 Gene Baiocco (6)	1977-78 Gene Baiocco (6+1)	2009-16 Dan Radebaugh (8)
1965 Andrew Fazio (1)	1978-79 Louis Kromm (1)	
1966-68 Charles Elzer (2)	1979-81 Don Sanford (2)	

Greater City Aquarium Society 2016 Awards

To be awarded December 7, 2016

GENE BAIOTTO AQUARIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

ELLIOT OSHINS

DON SANFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPION

RICHARD WAIZMAN

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

CONTINUOUS GCAS MEMBERSHIP FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS

JOSEPH FERDENZI and MARK SOBERMAN

AUTHOR AWARD PROGRAM (AAP) AWARDS

Greater City Authors who made contributions printed during 2016, or who received AAP points as a result of NEC and/or FAAS publication awards announced in 2016, *and* who moved up to a new **AAP** level are:

Joseph Gurrado.....	Journalist	Marsha Radebaugh.....	Columnist
Ruben Lugo.....	Essayist	Gilberto Soriano.....	Correspondent

Susan Priest is Author of the Year for 2016!

GCAS BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM 2016

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPECIES BRED</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st - GCAS</u>	<u>CARES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
JEFF BOLLBACH	CERT #				
	1939 <i>XIPHOPHORUS KALLMANI</i>	5	✓		10/5/2016
	Number of species: 1	Total Points	5		
JOSEPH FERDENZI	CERT #				
	1929 <i>XIPHOPHORUS KALLMANI</i>	15	✓		3/2/2016
	1930 <i>APISTOGRAMMA ALLPAHUAYO</i>	25	✓		3/2/2016
	1931 <i>SYNODONTIS LUCIPINNIS</i>	30	✓		3/2/2016
	Number of species: 3	Total Points	70		
WARREN FEUER					
	1942 <i>AULONACARA STUARTGRANTI SP. "RUBESCENS"</i>	10			11/2/2016
	1943 <i>EPIPLATYS SEXFASCIATUS</i>	5			11/2/2016
	1944 <i>PACHYPANCHAX SPARKSORUM</i>	20		♥	11/2/2016
	Number of species: 3	Total Points	35		
JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO					
	1927 <i>LAETACARA ARAGUAIAE</i>	20	✓		3/2/2016
	1928 <i>AEQUIDENS PATRICKI</i>	20	✓		3/2/2016
	1932 <i>EPIPLATYS DAGETI "MONROVIAE"</i>	5			7/6/2016
	1933 <i>LAMPROLOGUS LELEUPI</i>	15			7/6/2016
	1934 <i>CYPRINUS CARPIO</i>	20	✓		9/7/2016
	1935 <i>CARASSIUS ARUATUS</i>	10			9/7/2016
	1936 <i>GUIANACARA SP. "RIO CARONI"</i>	10			9/7/2016
	1937 <i>NEMATOBRYCON PALMERI</i>	10			9/7/2016
	1938 <i>PUNTIUS SEMIFASCIOLATUS</i>	25	✓		10/5/2016
	1940 <i>CAPOETA OLIGOLEPIS</i>	20	✓		11/2/2016
	Number of species: 10	Total Points	155		

✓ indicates first recorded breeding of the species in the GCAS Breeders Award Program

♥ indicates a species at risk that is listed in the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program



GCAS

Breeder Award Totals

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>
1 JEFF BOLLBACH	1,695	124	40 LESLIE DICK	160	8
2 JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO	1,555	108	41 DICK MOORE	160	5
3 JOSEPH FERDENZI	1,050	68	42 JEAN BRAUDE	155	12
4 MARK SOBERMAN	945	51	43 BARRY LYNCH	150	18
5 WARREN FEUER	915	61	44 SHARON MIRABELLA	135	10
6 ANTON VUKICH	910	70	45 THADDEUS TURA	135	9
7 TOM MIGLIO	865	66	46 JOE CUCINIELLO	135	9
8 EDWARD VUKICH	735	56	47 JORGE RODRIGUEZ	135	9
9 STEVE SAGONA	655	47	48 HARRY EVANS	125	11
10 JOHN STORA	540	47	49 KEN BRUST	120	15
11 JOSE ARANDA	505	47	50 FRANK GANNON	120	16
12 JOHN IANNONE	485	45	51 JERRY SCHULTZ	120	11
13 THE ECKSTEINS	455	39	52 THE KELLYS	115	12
14 CARLOTTI DE JAGER	440	33	53 GEORGE MAROTI	115	8
15 CLAUDIA DICKINSON	435	27	54 JOE MANCUSI	115	8
16 RICHARD SORENSEN	420	33	55 HERB FOGAL	100	13
17 FRANCIS LEE	390	28	56 JERRY MAYER	95	7
18 GERALD GORYCKI	370	41	57 JOE FLANAGAN	95	12
19 CHARLEY SABATINO	360	20	58 DENNIS EGIELSKI	95	4
20 THE REPANES	355	27	59 BRIAN KELLY	90	6
21 JACK OLIVA	345	42	60 PETE D'ORIO	90	9
22 HAROLD KETTERER	335	30	61 ROBERT MC KEAND	85	5
23 AL PRIEST	330	8	62 EDWARD SZABLEWICZ	85	7
24 THE LOMBARDIS	325	32	63 NOEL RODRIGUEZ	85	7
25 GREGORY WUEST	310	30	64 BOB KUHLKE	80	7
26 DON SANFORD	310	25	65 LEONARD RAMROOP	80	11
27 TED KURDZIEL	295	24	66 BRADLEY PLOTKIN	80	6
28 TONY FERRARO	275	23	67 JOHN LEE	75	5
29 THE BUGEIAS	270	31	68 DOUGLAS CURTIN	75	12
30 DOMINIC ISLA	235	20	69 JOSE PEREZ	75	6
31 STEPHAN ZANDER	230	14	70 TOM BOHME	75	7
32 ARTIE PLATT	210	16	71 BOB RADAMACHER	70	9
33 YEZID GUTIERREZ	206	20	72 DONALD CURTIN	70	10
34 PHILIP INGENITO	205	13	73 PAT PICCIONE	70	7
35 ROD DU CASSE	190	14	74 SARA MONHEIT	65	6
36 THE DONATONES	175	18	75 CHARLES KUHNE	60	8
37 JOHN MORAN	170	11	76 JOEL FORGIONE	60	4
38 LOUIS KROMM	170	16	77 BOB DU BOIS	55	5
39 JEFF GEORGE	165	17	78 HORST GERBER	55	4

NAME	POINTS	# BRED	NAME	POINTS	# BRED
79 BOB WRANOVICS	50	4	109 IGNACIO ARENCIBIA	15	1
80 MIKE CASSANO	50	5	110 THE FERNANDEZES	15	1
81 WARREN BURKE	45	7	111 WILLIAM SADERA	15	1
82 BRUCE WEILER	45	3	112 DAN GAWIAK	15	2
83 WILLIAM BRANDOFINC	45	4	113 KATHY BUSBY	10	1
84 CHARLES SHATAKA	40	5	114 ABE COOPER	10	2
85 CHARLES BENEFATTI	40	7	115 BILL ARONNE	10	1
86 DAN RADEBAUGH	40	3	116 RICH LEVY	15	2
87 BRIAN STERN	35	4	117 DIANNE SPELLMAN	10	1
88 ARTHUR MAYER	35	3	118 JOHN MC CAFFERY	10	2
89 BARRY CENTER	35	3	119 JERROLD MEYER	10	1
90 THE MARTINS	35	5	120 HORST MIEHLBRAD	10	1
91 VINNIE RITCHIE	35	3	121 FRANK FALLON	10	1
92 AL PHANEUF	35	5	122 WALTER ROSTOWSKI	10	2
93 BRUCE WELLER	30	3	123 JASON KERNER	10	1
94 MICHAEL VILLANO	30	4	124 JAY LIEBOWITZ	5	2
95 ROGER BEAULIEU	30	2	125 ADAM KLEINROCK	5	1
96 THE STEGMANS	30	3	126 EDYTH MONSOUR	5	1
97 ROB ALTONEN	30	2	127 KATHY FERNANDEZ	5	1
98 GENE BAIOTTO	30	4	128 THE QUINNS	5	1
99 STANLEY WEGLARZ	25	4	129 WILLIAM STALZER	5	2
100 VINCENT BABINO	25	2	130 JAMES BROOKS	5	1
101 EMMA JORDAN HAUS	20	3	131 RICHARD WALSH	5	1
102 DANNY SHEPARD	20	3	132 BILL SMITH	5	1
103 GUNTER HORSTMANN	20	3	133 DANNY CIRNIGLIAR	5	1
104 STEVEN MILLER	20	1	134 GEROLD COCH	5	1
105 PETER SCHLEISMAN	20	2			
106 ARNOLD FREED	20	4			
107 STUART KRICHEVSKY	20	3			
108 JOE ARONNE	15	2			



The GCAS Author Award Program

We are always very pleased to welcome new names to our member/author list, and you will see a few new names once again this year, including (once again) some youthful contributors.

Several of our authors have moved up the ladder in our Author Award points rankings: Joe Gurrado, Ruben Lugo, Marsha Radebaugh, and Gilberto Soriano have each moved up in category. Congratulations and thanks to them, and special congratulations to our **Author of the Year** for 2016, Susan Priest! While we certainly are grateful to all our authors, **Modern Aquarium** primarily depends on our members for content. We are grateful for every article and photo, and we hope to hear more from each of you in 2017!

Overview of the Author Award Program

The GCAS AAP awards points for contributions to **Modern Aquarium**. Persons acquiring a specified number of points will receive additional recognition in the form of a certificate for having reached designated Accomplishment Levels. (See “Accomplishment Levels.”)

Each person making a qualifying contribution to **Modern Aquarium** receives points, as well as chances for a **Prize Drawing** at the Annual Holiday Party.

Eligibility

Any member of Greater City who makes a contribution to **Modern Aquarium** is automatically a participant.

Points

Five points will be awarded for an original article of 500 words or less.

Ten points will be awarded for an original article of 501 words and over.

Five points will be awarded for an original photograph, drawing, or illustration submitted with, and as part of, an original article. If more than two photographs, drawings, or illustrations are submitted with a related article, only two will be given points (this is in addition to the points awarded the article, based on its size).

Ten points will be awarded for an original color photograph that is used on the front cover. Photographs must be the work of the member submitting them, and must not have been previously published, or submitted for publication, in any commercial or amateur publication.

Two or more related photographs or illustrations submitted with captions, and occupying one or more pages, will be counted as two photos (10 points) and as an article over 500 words (10 points), for a total of

20 points. An example would be a photo spread with captions.

An original article on a fish in the **C.A.R.E.S.** Preservation Program will receive **double points** (i.e., 10 points for an article of 500 words or less, and 20 points for an article of 501 words or more). Photos and drawings of a **C.A.R.E.S.** eligible species will also receive double points.

Five points will be awarded for an original puzzle which is used on the “Fin Fun” page of **Modern Aquarium**.

Ten points will be awarded to the winner of our Cartoon Caption Contest.

Points are awarded only once for an article, drawing, puzzle, or photograph. No points are awarded for subsequent reprints, regardless of whether the original article was awarded points previously in the AAP. To be eligible for AAP points, a contribution must first have been submitted to **Modern Aquarium**. However, if an article previously published in **Modern Aquarium** is significantly revised by its author (as a result of new information or developments), and if such a revision is first submitted to **Modern Aquarium**, it will be treated as a new article. Points are awarded in the year the article is printed. Editorials and President’s Messages are excluded.

An article deemed unacceptable by the Editorial Staff of **Modern Aquarium** for reasons of appropriateness of topic, suitability, or possible violations of copyright or libel laws, will be ineligible for participation in the GCAS AAP. Decisions of the Staff are final.

Points credited to an author may not be carried over or credited to subsequent calendar years for the purposes of raffle prize chances or “Author Of The Year” designation.

Bonus Points

If, in the year following its publication in **Modern Aquarium**, an article is given a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award by the North East Council of Aquarium Societies (“NEC”) or by the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (“FAAS”), an additional 10 points will be awarded if the author is a GCAS member in the year the NEC or FAAS award is announced. This applies only to articles (not to drawings, columns, cartoons or photos). These bonus points are credited in the year that the award is announced, not the year for which it is awarded.

Prize Drawing

For every 5 AAP points earned in a calendar year, the recipient is given one chance in our “Authors/Contributors Only” raffle.

Author of the Year

The person with the most points in a calendar year receives a certificate as “**Author Of The Year**” for that year. This is our most prestigious award, and the winner truly exemplifies the high value which they place on the contribution of experience and knowledge to the aquarium hobby at large.

Accomplishment Levels

For the accomplishment levels specified below, points are cumulative over the life of the AAP program.

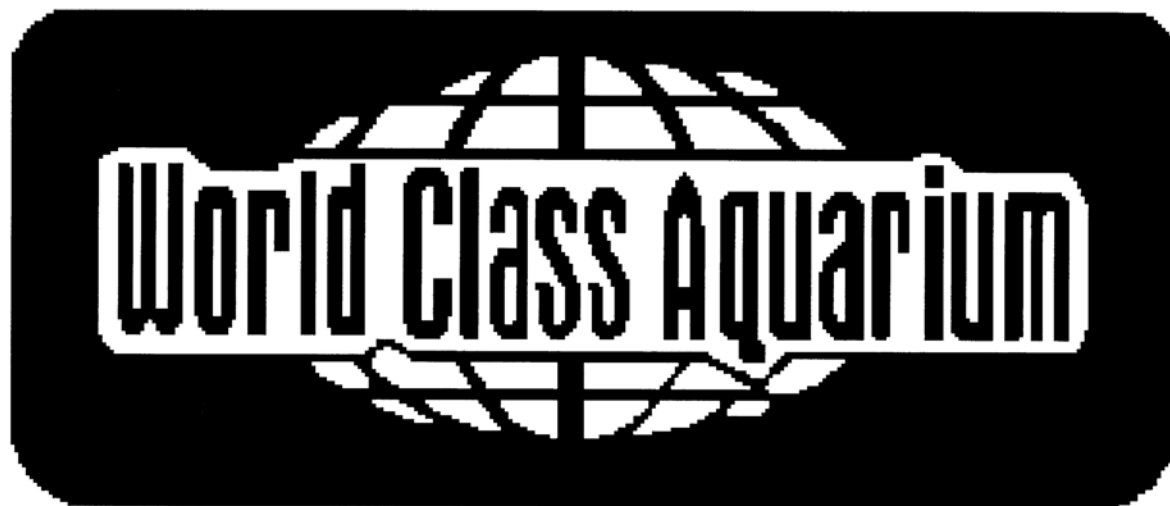
¹Points are **doubled** for each article on a fish in the **C.A.R.E.S.** Preservation Program.

²Points are **doubled** for each photo or drawing of a **C.A.R.E.S.** fish used on the cover.

³**Bonus points** are awarded to participants for awards (other than Honorable Mention) received from the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) Publication Awards, and The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies (NEC) Article Awards, in the year these awards are **announced**, not in the year for which they are awarded.

⁴**Modern Aquarium** staff members are ineligible for the Raffle. Family members of staff ARE eligible.

Author	25 to 45 pts
Correspondent	50 to 95 pts
Writer	100 to 145 pts
Essayist	150 to 195 pts
Journalist	200 to 295 pts
Columnist	300 to 495 pts
Laureate	500 to 745 pts
Senior Laureate	750 to 995 pts
Master Laureate	1,000 to 1,495 pts
Grand Master Laureate	1,500 to 1,995 pts
Sr. Grand Master Laureate	2,000 to 10,000 pts
Editor Emeritus	over 10,000 pts



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2016 Totals	Art Work (in points)	Number of Articles ¹		Awards	Total Points	Prize
Author	Photo/ Drawing (up to two per article) ²	500 Words Or Less Or Caption Contest Winner	Over 500 Words	Bonus ³ Points	Current Year Total March to December	Raffle ⁴ Chances

Jules Birnbaum	10	3	4		65	13
Jeffrey Bollbach	5				5	1
Adrian Deng	5				5	1
Wallace Deng	20				20	4
Xavier Deng	5				5	1
Joseph Ferdenzi	10	3	2		45	9
Linda Gerber		1			5	1
Joseph Gurrado	95	0	1		105	21
Andrew Jouan	10				10	2
Denver Lettman		5	0		25	5
Ruben Lugo	115				115	23
Jerry O'Farrell	5				5	1
Elliot Oshins	50	2	2		80	16
Alexander A. Priest	90	1	2	10	125	n/a
Susan Priest	70	2	10		180	n/a
Dan Radebaugh	45	2	2		75	n/a
Marsha Radebaugh		1			5	1
Lauren Ramroop	5			10	15	3
Leonard Ramroop		1			5	1
Stephen Sica				10	10	2
Gilberto Soriano	60				60	12
Undergravel Reporter		10	0		50	n/a
Ed Vukich		1	0		5	1
Ron Webb		1	0		5	1

Following are the total AAP points for all GCAS members as of December 2016. If you have questions, or feel that there are errors, please contact Dan Radebaugh.

Shunmugan Al	40	Steve Berman	25
Tamer Altan	5	Jules Birnbaum	710
Bill Amely	105	Tom Bohme	15
Sharon Barnett	30	Victoria Bohme	25
Fred Bellise	10	Jeffrey Bollbach	95
Mario Bengcion	15	Roger Brewster	10

Tommy Chang	105	John Malinowski	5
Donald Curtin.	10	Desiree Martin	45
Doug Curtin	90	Tom Miglio	25
Carlotti De Jager	30	Jackleen Minassi-Haftvani	20
Adrian Deng	5	Temes Mo	5
Wallace Deng	90	Jerry O'Farrell	210
Xavier Deng	5	Elliot Oshins	660
Les Deutsch	5	Jim Peterson	5
Leslie Dick.	35	Margaret Peterson	10
Brad Dickinson	20	Artie Platt	20
Claudia Dickinson	3,195	Alexander A. Priest	3,835
Al DiSpigna	5	Susan Priest	3,555
Pete O'Orio	5	Dan Puleo	135
Rod Du Casse	5	Dan Radebaugh	735
Evelyn Eagan	25	Marsha Radebaugh	300
Frank Fallon	65	Jannette Ramirez.	220
Harry Faustmann	50	Lauren Ramroop	15
Anita Ferdenzi	15	Leonard Ramroop	35
Francesca Ferdenzi	5	Mark Rubanow	5
Joseph Ferdenzi	1,555	Charley Sabatino	170
Marisa Ferdenzi	20	Donna Sosna Sica	10
Alison Feuer	5	Stephen Sica	1,990
Warren Feuer	305	Vincent Sileo	50
Michael Foran	25	Danielle Soberman	5
Artie Friedman.	15	Ilyssa Soberman	15
Peter Foster	10	Robin Soberman	10
Mike Gallo	10	Mark Soberman	75
Jeff George	165	Gilberto Soriano	65
Horst Gerber	150	Jack Traub	20
Linda Gerber	5	Undergravel Reporter	1,540
Steve Giacobello	15	Anton Vukich	5
Joseph Graffagnino	270	Ed Vukich	85
Steve Gruebel	10	Michael Vulis	50
Al Grusell	25	Ron Webb	15
Joseph Gurrado	245	Larry Whitfield	30
Bernard Harrigan	1,800	Greg Wuest	25
Steven Hinshaw	165		
Andrew Jouan	35		
Jason Kerner	140		
Charlie Kuhne	10		
Denver Lettman	140		
Rich Levy	105		
Bill Luckett	10		
Ruben Lugo	180		
Beth Macht	10		



Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

***B**elow 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!*



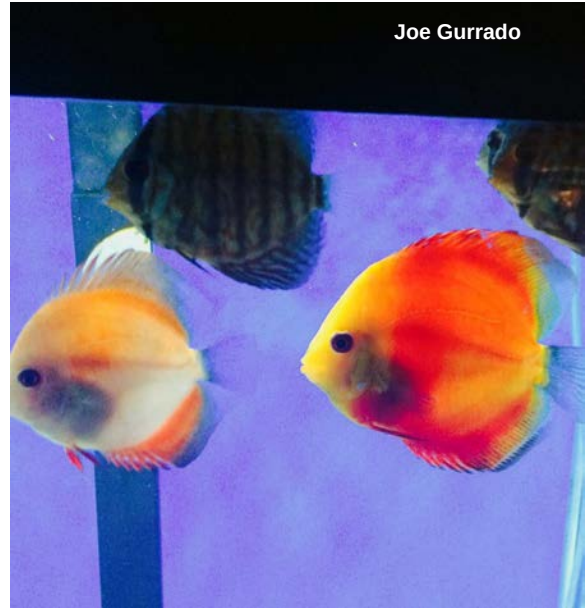
Ruben Lugo



Andrew Jouan



Gilberto Soriano



Joe Gurrado



Michael Vulis



Andrew Jouan



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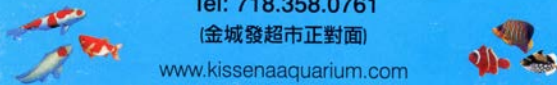


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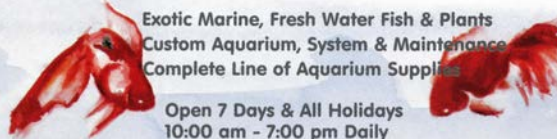


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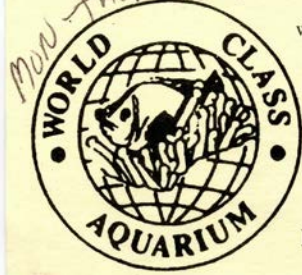


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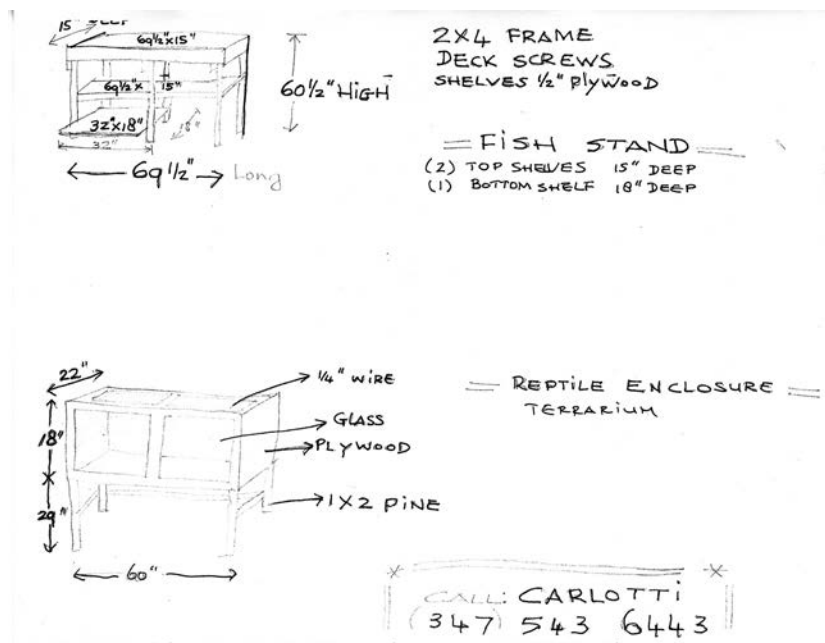
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1 *Geophagus brasiliensis* 1 shark -- Large;

1 bumblebee cats,

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GCAS Happenings

December

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

1 RICHARD WAIZMAN FEMALE BETTA
2 RICHARD WAIZMAN MALE BETTA

OFFICIAL 2016 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

RICHARD WAIZMAN	39	BILL AMELY	17	MARIO BENGCION	8
ED VUKICH	5	SUMMERLIYA BREWSTER	1		

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 1, 2017

Speaker: Joseph Ferdenzi

Topic: *Killifish Demystified*

Meets: The first Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 7:30pm:

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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: December 9, 2016

Speaker: None

Event: *Holiday Party*

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: December 16, 2016

Event: *Holiday Party!*

Meets: Olive Garden Restaurant

257 Centereach Mall,

Centereach, NY 11720

(631) 585-4027

For map directions, go to olivegarden.com/locations/ny/centereach/centereach-mall/1507.

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: December 13, 2016

Speaker: N/A

Topic: *Holiday Party -- Members Only*

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: December 11, 2016

Event: *Holiday Party*

Topic: N/A

Meets at: Days Hotel, East Brunswick NJ

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.nj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: January 19, 2017

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/>

Deep Purple

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.

A series by "The Undergravel Reporter"

This headline in an article from LiveScience is what first caught my attention: **"Mysterious Purple Sea Orb Stymies Scientists."**¹

Scientists aboard the Exploration Vessel Nautilus uncovered a marine mystery: a small purple orb tucked halfway under a rock off the coast of California.

This odd little 2 inch (5cm) creature was found during an exploration of Arguello Canyon, west of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

So far, researchers are stumped as to what the colorful, bumpy little ball might be. Their best guess is a gastropod belonging to the class Gastropoda, called a pleurobranch — and possibly a new species. However, "None of the known species of California pleurobranch are purple," said Susan Poulton, a spokeswoman for the E/V Nautilus expeditions. They've sent the organism to the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology for analysis and took samples for RNA analysis and plan to conduct a DNA analysis as well.

Could it be a jellyfish that swallowed an eggplant? Could this explain why Barney the dinosaur hasn't been seen recently?



A mysterious purple orb found at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean stumped NOAA scientists onboard the Nautilus research vessel.

Credit: NOAA

References

¹ <http://www.livescience.com/55574-mysterious-purple-sea-orb-near-channel-islands.html>



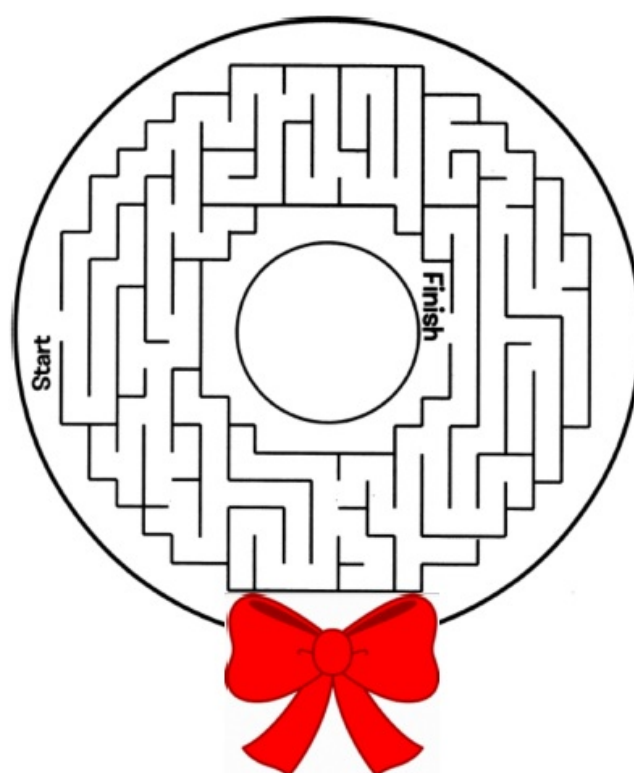


Fin Fun

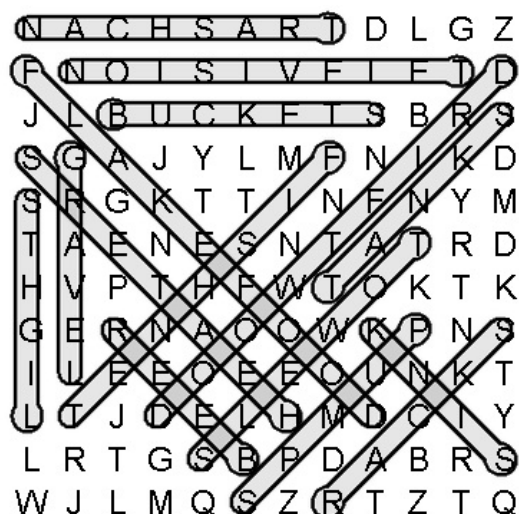


Outside In

Find your way from the outside to the inside of this round-about maze



Solution to our last puzzle: **MY "Ideal" Fishroom**



BEER
BUCKETS
DRIFTWOOD
FISHNET
FLAKEFOOD
GRAVEL
HEATERS
LIGHTS
PUMPS
RACKS
SINK
TANKS
TELEVISION
TOWELS
TRASHCAN



GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL 2017 AQUARIUM SHOW

Date: April 7th–9th, 2017

Venue: Guangzhou International Sourcing Center

Address: No.8 Pazhou Avenue East, Haizhu District, Guangzhou, China

Contact

GIAS Organizing Committee

Contact person: Mandy Tsang

Tel: +86 20 29037372 / +86 15918775956

Fax: +86 20 82579220

E-mail: guas2017_hw@163.com

Website: <http://www.fishgz.com/>



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