

modern AQUARIUM



October 2014
volume XXI
number 8

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York



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modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXI, No. 8 October, 2014

ON THE COVER

Our colorful cover photo this month is of a planted 75-gallon tank containing platies, guppies, and (though not visible in this photo) rams. The guppies, rams, and plants were all purchased at Greater City auctions.

Photo by Beth Macht

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MODERN AQUARIUM

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

My first order of business in this issue is to welcome some new contributors to **Modern Aquarium**. Yes, that's plural! You've probably already noticed the cover photo by Beth Macht. If you look down toward the end of the Contents page (or if you just browse through the magazine), you'll also notice a page entitled "Fishy Friends' Photos." These are a few of the photos that have been recently posted on our Facebook "Fishy Friends" page. Some of the names you'll recognize from our meetings, others you might not. Not everyone who is a "Fishy Friend" is necessarily a member of Greater City. Some of our Fishy Friends seem to live considerably out of driving range to our meetings. Others may simply have conflicts that prevent them from attendance. I do know that not all of our regular members are Fishy Friends members, and some of the photos that come in are simply too good not to share with *all* our members. Check 'em out!

Of course if you like photos you'll find plenty more in this issue, starting with Sue Priest's "Pictures from our Last Meeting," on page 9. Sue then follows up with a new installment of "Wet Leaves" on page 11, this month's entry reviewing a new book on freshwater nano fish by Mark Denaro and Rachel O'Leary, both recent speakers here at Greater City.

Al Priest then checks in with a product review of Poly-Bio-Marine's Poly-Filter®. I love seeing positive reviews of a product with which I'm not familiar. It's somehow reassuring that there are things out there that can actually help us in our never-ending struggle against the dark side of biochemistry.

Don't know jack about biochemistry? Don't care? Well, take a look at Steve Sica's "Camouflage by Jack," on page 17. You'll learn a little bit about jack(s), and see some great underwater photos at the same time.

For a little more wry humor about water chemistry, along with some great stories and photos about the earlier days of our hobby, be sure and see Chapter 8 of Rosario LaCorte's biography, "An Aquarist's Journey," starting on page 21. This ongoing story, with its "inside" information and historical anecdotes and photos, is simply not to be missed.

For those of you who have just had it with the whole water chemistry struggle, but still like to have fish around you, take a look at this month's "Undergravel Reporter," on page 29. The issue closes, as usual, with our "Fin Fun" puzzle. Try your hand!



Remember, we need articles. We always need articles! **Modern Aquarium** is produced by and for the members of Greater City Aquarium Society. Our members are our authors, and with ten issues per year, we always, always need more articles. I know several of you are keeping and/or breeding fish, or working with plants or inverts that I would like to know more about, and I'm certain other members would be interested as well. Share your experience with us. Write about it! If you're a little unsure about the state of your writing technique, don't worry – that's why there are editors. If you don't share what you know, who will?

If you have an article, photo, or drawing that you'd like to submit for inclusion in **Modern Aquarium**, it's easy to do! You may email it to gcas@earthlink.net, fax it to me at (877) 299-0522, or just hand it to me at a meeting. However you get it to me I'll be delighted to receive it!





GCAS Programs 2014

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 accompanies each meeting.

March 5	Harry Faustmann <i>Live Foods</i>
April 2	Rosario LaCorte <i>The Fish I've Worked With</i>
May 7	Leslie Dick <i>Fish Jeopardy</i>
June 4	Joseph Ferdenzi <i>Aquascaping</i>
July 2	Joseph Graffagnino <i>Tips & Tricks on Breeding Fish & Raising Fry</i>
August 6	Silent Auction
September 3	Joe Gargas <i>Water and the Aquarium</i>
October 1	Dan Puleo <i>The LFS Report</i>
November 5	Gary Lange <i>Rainbowfish</i>
December 3	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 2014 by the Greater City Aquarium Society Inc., a not-for-profit New York State corporation, or 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

First of all, many thanks go to Dan Puleo for stepping in as speaker at the last minute. After reading his LFS Reports over the past year, I'm sure tonight's overview of our area shops will be of great interest to us all. To complement Dan's presentation, if you look lower down on this page you will see business cards from many of the shops he has reviewed. Each of these shops will give a discount to Greater City members when you present your Greater City membership card. Most commonly the discount is 10%, though some are more. In all cases however, this discount does not apply to items already on sale or on some other special pricing offer. Kudos to Dan for arranging this, and thanks to all the participating fish shops!

Dan



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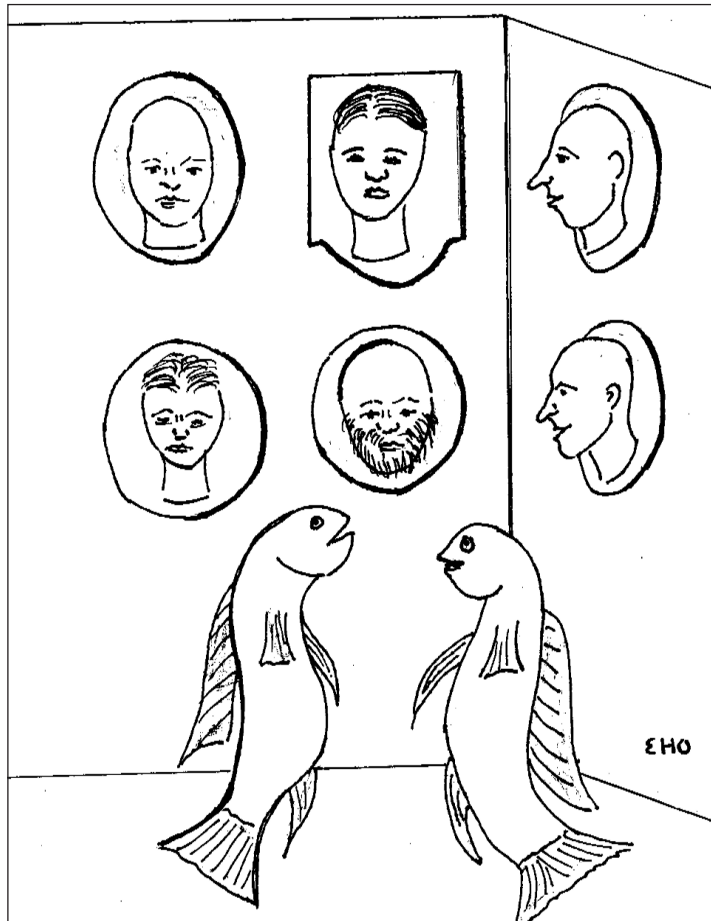
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September's Caption Winner: **Al Priest**

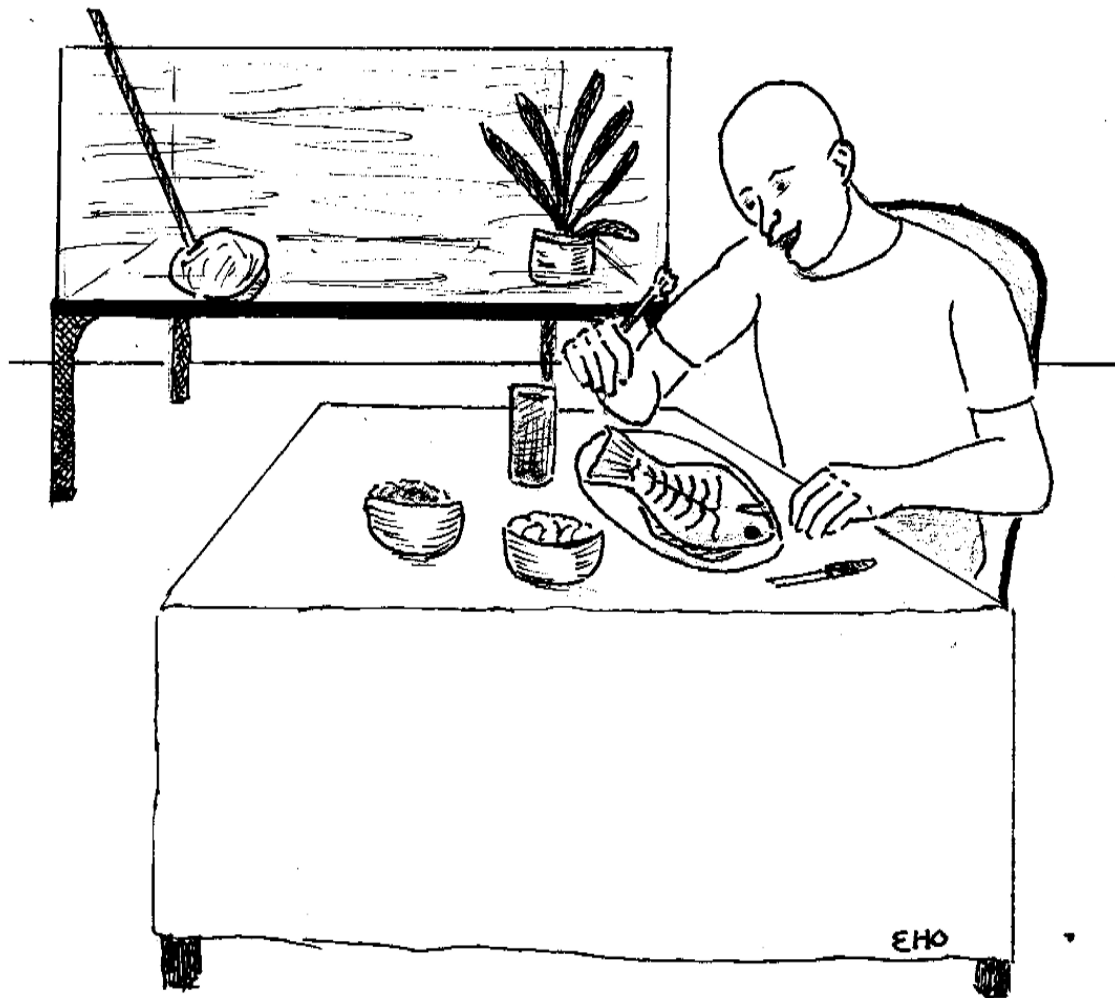


You should have seen the one that got away!



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:



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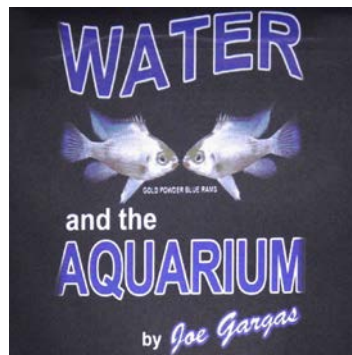
718-429-3934

Pictures from our last meeting

Photos by Susan Priest



Tonight's speaker Joe Gargas with GCAS President Dan Radebaugh.



Our fishes will want to hear this!



Joe Ferdenzi selling our new tee-shirts.



Our speaker is also our newest member—welcome aboard!

Bowl Show Winners:



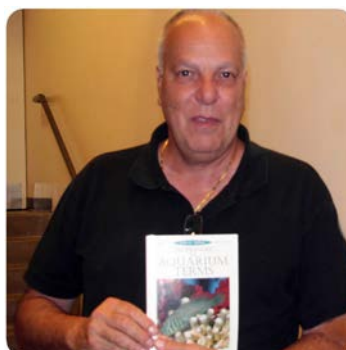
2nd Place: Mario Bengcion



1st Place: Ruben Lugo



3rd Place: Rich Waizman



Door Prize Winner: Joe Gurrado



The All-Aquarium Catfish Convention

Presented by
**Potomac Valley
 Aquarium Society**

October 16-19, 2014

Hyatt Dulles
 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard
 Herndon, VA 20171

Registration:
<http://www.catfishcon.com/register.php>

All individuals registering for the conference prior to August 1 will be entered into a drawing for a prize valued at \$200

Early Conference Registration Package - \$165

Late Conference Registration Package (after July 31) - \$175

Convention Packages include access to all speakers and include meals Friday night, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Banquet and Sunday Pizza party during the Auction.

A la carte prices:

Speaker presentations

Early registration - \$45

Late registration (after July 31) - \$55 (NO entry to the drawing)

Meals

Friday dinner - Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna - \$32

Saturday breakfast - Elements Restaurant on Level One, Attendees on own (10% discount with convention badge) Saturday lunch - Deli Bar - \$26

Saturday Banquet - Choice of pork, catfish, chicken or vegetarian - \$50

Sunday Pizza during the Auction - \$12

Field Trips

Collecting Trip - \$45 (details are TBD)

Winery Tour - \$90 - visit 3 wineries

Souvenirs

Convention Glasses - \$6

T-shirts (info and pictures coming)

Margarita Tours Raffle - \$50 entry

Speakers



Hans Evers



Julian Dignall



Birger Kamprath



Ian Fuller



Melanie Stiassny



Ingo Seidel

WET LEAVES



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

When you look closely at the cover of this book, you will find the words “Adventurous Aquarist Guide” in small letters across the top. There are indeed a multitude of adventures to be found within its pages.

No matter how long you have been an aquarist, I guarantee you will find something new to entice you.

We have all been throwing the term “nano” around for quite a while now, and we have generally come to understand that it is descriptive of something small. As you begin to thumb through the pages of this book, the question you will want answered right from the get-go is “what is a nano tank?” Our authors have defined a (freshwater) nano tank as having a capacity of twenty gallons or less.

You will find that most of the species described (there are actually more than 101), are suitable for tanks in the five to ten gallon range. Cichlid lovers who are used to a wide variety of species to choose from will find precious few among the nanos. Rasboras, tetras and danios are well represented, to name but a few.

The section on shrimps in the aquarium has led me to boldly go where I have never gone before. Suffice it to say that they are an adventure unto themselves. Shrimps have very different requirements than fishes. Mark and

Rachel have dedicated a significant amount of space to their needs and natures. Here is a brief quote from the page describing Amano shrimp: “readily eats filamentous algae, is truly the workhorse of dwarf shrimps and the most popular addition to a planted tank. They are low-order breeders, so they do not reproduce in fresh water, but have a relatively long life span, and large size (2 inches).”

Did you notice the reference to planted tanks in the previous paragraph? Virtually every species/aquarium under discussion mentions the inclusion of aquatic plants.

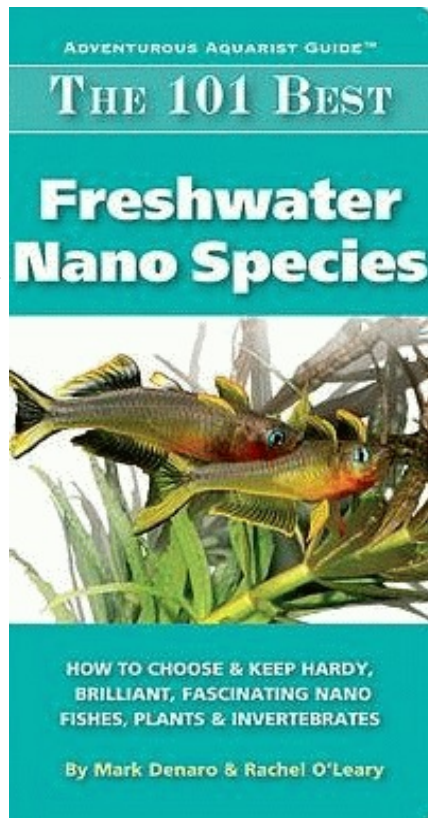
There is a very nice chapter on nano-plant species. Some of them are old standbys, and others were new, at least to me. Pearlweed, which is native to the southeastern United States, was calling my name.

Small aquariums housing small fishes do not translate into a small investment of your time. For example, feeding is not a once-a-day activity. “Fishes with small mouths eat very little at one time, preferring small, frequent meals.” When using a liquid fertilizer “figure out the dosage for your aquarium, and if it is suggested as a weekly dose, divide it into seven doses. Add 1/7th of the weekly dose per day.” And it goes without saying that water quality will require extra attention. The smaller the tank, the smaller the margin

for error.

Are there any among you who are up for a challenge? The chapter on nano-communities offers the reader several suggestions for combinations of species. Each is more enticing than the one before it. The challenging part of the project will be trying to collect the recommended livestock.

**The 101 Best Freshwater
Nano Species**
Mark Denaro and Rachel O'Leary
TFH Publications, Inc.
Publication date: 9/1/2014



Rachel's 5.5 gallon Asian rainforest pool calls for nine chili rasboras, one horned nerite (that's a snail), one pair of flame badis, and eight Malawa shrimp. Happy shopping!

The inside of the front and back cover flaps serve as "quick species finders." There is a species index, and a bibliography. The glossary clearly describes the difference between a school of fish and a shoal of fish, as well as defining many other terms. There are color photos throughout, and the paper has a density that your fingers will appreciate.

Of particular usefulness is the color coding. Each page in the section on 101 species has a colored bar along the outer edge. Green means suitable for aquariums of five gallons or less, blue means suitable for six to ten gallons, and purple means suitable for eleven to twenty gallons. The color bar also tells you which fishes are peaceful, which are territorial, etc. There is no way you can make a mistake!

So, what did I find to be enticing? The chili rasbora, *Boraras brigittae*, is so tiny that is known as the 'eyestrain rasbora.' "Despite their small size (2 cm) they make a big impact and are hardy, even suitable for the beginning aquarist."

This is the perfect place to make a point that our authors made early on. "It is up to you to know your limitations." Having said that, I would add my own assessment that there are adventures to be found here for those of you with every level of fishkeeping experience.

Speaking of our authors, I would like to thank Mark and Rachel for putting a fresh title on our bookshelves; the first new one to arrive in a very long time. They have both presented programs at the GCAS, so we already know that we can rely on their expertise. Among their many suggestions, cautions, and even descriptions of personalities, you will find a fresh adventure every time you reach for this book, which will be often.

Author's Note

I hope that at least a few of you have been missing **Wet Leaves**. I know I have. Its absence has not been from a lack of searching for suitable titles. The number of choices to be found on the shelves in pet stores and book stores can be counted on one hand, and were published at least fifteen to twenty years ago. On-line searches have turned up a much longer list, virtually all of which have been reviewed here in the past, or are not suitable topics for freshwater hobbyists. I was hoping to score a few titles written for children, only to be inundated with coloring books.

Then one serendipitous summer day, I came across the Mark and Rachel book (that is how I have come to think of it). I can't remember if I actually jumped for joy, or merely exclaimed it verbally. Wait a minute; what does that say? Pre-order! Even though I was offered a discount, it meant that I would have to wait. Did I hesitate to place my order? Of course not. Did I wait? You know I did, and longer than I was led to expect.

Anyway, Mark and Rachel have put an end to the dry spell, and there is no way to guess how long the next one will be. Until then I will continue my efforts to find books worthy of a space on your bookshelf. S.P.





Aquatic Experience 2014

November 7 - 9, 2014 Chicago, IL

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Large Planted Tank: 6 teams of 2-5 people compete for \$2,000 in prize money. Your team must submit aquascape photos to compete. No entry fee, free show floor passes. Deadline September 5.

www.aquatic-gardeners.org/aquatic_experience.html

Product Review

By Alexander A Priest

Review of Poly-Filter® from Poly-Bio-Marine, Inc.

I've found that what works for me may not work for you, and *vice-versa*. That's why I don't usually review aquarium and fishkeeping products. Not too long ago I read a rave review of a certain fish food. It was available by mail order in several formats, so I ordered the one called "Meat Pie" (almost all of the fishes I keep are carnivores). Admittedly, that particular "flavor" was not the one reviewed, but if I had to rate it, I'd place it below

several much less expensive dry pellets. Further, it requires more work ("cooking," then cutting, then refrigeration). I continue to use it since I have one fish this food is almost perfect for, but I wouldn't recommend it to others.

At a recent GCAS meeting I mentioned "Poly-Filter®" to one of our members, who had never heard of it. (He kept thinking I was referring to polyester filter floss.) While, as I mentioned, I hesitate to recommend most products, I feel very confident in highly recommending Poly-Filter from Poly-Bio-Marine, Inc. for any aquarist, and for just about any type tank.

Poly-Filter has been around since 1976 (it was re-patented in 1997 with a new formulation). According to the company's website, "The product was invented by a marine biologist, polymer chemist and medical pathologist. Its purpose was to eliminate the need for carbon, exchange resins and gels by offering a better product to filter and purify both fresh and salt water aquariums. A totally new filter media that would also solve many of the problems associated with breeding and maintaining healthy freshwater and marine tropical fish and invertebrates."¹



Poly-Filter looks like a plain white filter pad; but looks are certainly deceiving. It is impregnated with chemicals that actively remove harmful organic and various inorganic waste to improve water clarity and quality. This highly adsorbent chemical filter media pad comes in two sizes: 4" x 8" and 12" x 12" (the twelve inch size is termed "industrial grade" and is supposedly stronger and more adsorbent, but this size is generally not found in

stores).

To use, just cut it to any size or shape to custom fit any aquarium filter. I've even replaced tubular sponges in some sponge filters with it (just wrapped it around the tube and secured with zip ties or rubber bands. I save the small extra pieces resulting from trimming and use them as a layer in box filters. I've had tanks where the water quality tested fine, but just stayed cloudy no matter what I did, even after repeated water changes. After a few days of Poly-Filter use, the water became crystal-clear.

In shipping fish, a small piece of Poly-Filter in the bag helps soak up ammonia. Even if the fish are "lost" in transit for a few days, the water in the bag remains non-toxic. I've even just hung pieces of Poly-Filter in a tank (using a "lettuce clip") and had the tank water improve in a few days.

An important feature of Poly-Filter is that, once the chemicals in the pad have absorbed all they can, the harmful toxins are not leached back into the water (unlike carbon pellets or pads, where this is a potential danger). The pad, once it has absorbed all it can, just acts like a regular filter pad, hosting beneficial bacteria and assisting with biological and mechanical filtration.

In addition to removing ammonia, **Poly-Filter** also removes heavy metals, harmful organics, all forms of phosphate, and medications. Since **Poly-Filter** removes medicines, it should be removed while fish are being medicated. Once the treatment has ended, and certainly before any new medication is introduced, it is important to use **Poly-Filter** in order to prevent a buildup of medication, which can also be harmful. Medicines such as

copper sulphate, Formalin, quinine sulphate, malachite green, chelated copper compounds and even antibiotics can be removed by **Poly-Filter**, without also removing beneficial trace elements.

While I have been using **Poly-Filter** for many years and I knew from experience that it darkens while in use, it wasn't until I started researching it for this review that I discovered that the specific color to which it changes depends on the pollutant it absorbs. Yes, it says so on the bag, but I've been using it since before the bag design changed from plain white and I don't

remember this feature mentioned on the older bag (but it might have been.) **Poly-Filter** turns blue with a copper salt, light green to aqua with free copper, orange with iron, red with aluminum, yellowish green with ammonia and white to beige to brown to black with the absorption of harmful organics. This feature not only tells you that **Poly-Filter** is working, but also helps you to monitor changes in water conditions, and serves as a visual clue as to when the filter needs replacing.

Not only do I cut pieces of **Poly-Filter** to fit inside filters (and use the scraps inside box filters), I also attach (by means of plastic ties)



The filter on the left has had its internal sponge replaced with Poly-Filter. The filter on the right uses it as a pre-filter



Poly-Filter to the outside of power filters, covering the intake slots (see top right photo on this page). This makes **Poly-Filter** act both as a pre-filter and a “fry-catcher”). In addition, because of the color changes it goes through, it also provides me with a visual reminder of when I need to clean the power filter and replace or clean the inside media

(which quite often also contains some **Poly-Filter**, as in the top left photo).

Even after it has done its job in filters, I use larger pieces of “spent” **Poly-Filter** as glass and ornament scrubbers. The material is tough, mildly abrasive, and 100% fish and tank safe.

There are a few things I feel compelled to mention on the negative side of this product. First, it is relatively expensive—certainly more so than plain filter pad material. Needless to say, I think the expense is well worth it for a product that can be used for mechanical, chemical, and

biological filtration, but that's a personal decision. Another thing is that if you maintain “blackwater” tanks (where the water is tinted a brownish color as a result of driftwood, Indian almond leaves, or peat), **Poly-Filter** will remove much of the tannins in the water. Since most of my tanks are blackwater tanks, I can attest to the fact that this is not a major problem (at least it has not been one for me), but I know that **Poly-Filter** will darken more rapidly and adjust for that fact.



The sponge on this glass cleaning wand shredded long ago, but the Poly-Filter replacement just keeps working

¹ <http://www.polybiomarine.com/>



BOWL SHOW RULES

There is a Bowl Show at every GCAS meeting, except our Silent Auction/fleamarket meeting (August) and our Holiday Party and Awards Banquet meeting (December). These shows are open to all members of GCAS. Rules are as follows:

- Only current GCAS members may enter fish in the Bowl Show.
- There is a limit of 2 entries per member per meeting.
- Unlike some other clubs, every month is an “open” Bowl Show at the GCAS (i.e., there is no “theme,” such that one month cichlids are judged, the next livebearers, the next anabantoids, etc.).
- Any fish that wins any prize (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) may not be entered again in the same meeting year.
- The current Bowl Show Coordinator is Leonard Ramroop, who usually also serves as judge (although guest speakers are often asked to do the judging honors).
- 2.5 gallon containers are available for use (brought to the meetings by the Bowl Show Coordinator), but entrants are responsible for providing enough (and suitable) water for their fish.
- For a fish too large (or too small) for those containers, entrants must supply a suitable container, which must be clear on at least three sides.
- Only one fish per container (i.e., no “pairs”).
- No plants, ornaments, or equipment (filters, airstone, etc.) are allowed in the judging tank (an external mirror, or opaque cards between containers is acceptable, as is a cover that does not obstruct side viewing).
- Points are awarded: 5 points for 1st Place, 3 for 2nd Place, and 1 for 3rd Place.
- Ribbons are awarded: blue for 1st Place, red for 2nd Place, and green for 3rd Place.
- The person with the most points at the end of the meeting season receives the Walter Hubel “Bowl Show Champion” trophy at the Awards Banquet.
- The decision of the judge(s) is final.
- A running UNOFFICIAL total of the points awarded is printed in **Modern Aquarium**. Only the tally of points maintained by the Bowl Show Coordinator is official.
- **In case of ties:**
 - 1st Tiebreaker – most 1st Places
 - 2nd Tiebreaker – most 2nd Places
 - 3rd Tiebreaker – most entries

Camouflage by Jack

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica

In an article published earlier this year in **Modern Aquarium**, I briefly mentioned trends that I occasionally observe in some species of parrotfish that exhibit the color blue. If you put in enough effort, you can discern trends in many things in the natural world. In the oceans it is obvious that most fish and other forms of sea life are trying very hard to be unnoticeable. As soon as a larger fish notices you, as a smaller fish, your chances of becoming a meal increase dramatically. This applies likewise on the land. If only beef cattle knew that there was a fast food restaurant chain in their future, the world could become chaotic with stampedes!

In the underwater world all creatures try to avoid being eaten; therefore the concept of camouflage is probably universal. In an example that I wish to present in this article, I propose that a solitary Caribbean reef shark will hide in plain sight among a school of jacks.

If you read my stories, you know that some of the most interesting encounters that Donna and I experience occur at the end of our dives, during our swim back to the boat. I always keep my camera in the “on” mode, and try to scan the limit of visibility, be it only fifteen to one hundred feet, in hope of seeing something spectacular. I admit that I am easily impressed; anything in or out of the ordinary is exciting for me. My wife will verify that I will take photographs of anything and sometimes everything that I see. It doesn’t take much to stimulate my camera trigger finger, or my imagination.

On a day in June a few years ago, underwater in West Caicos, I was gazing into the void with my camera at the ready. To my joy, soon a large school of adult jacks engulfed Donna and myself. They appeared to be horse-eye jacks, *Caranx latus*. I tend to think that most jacks that I encounter are horse-eyes, but closer examination of my photos usually leaves me confused, because all of the common jacks have attributes in common. For example, the horse-eye has a less curved profile than most from the top of its head to its mouth. Also, horse-eyes have larger eyes, which I use to identify them from other species of jacks. The

jacks in my photos seem to have both the steeper head to mouth of a crevalle jack, *Caranx hippos*, and the larger eyes of a horse-eye. To add to my confusion, the tails of these jacks look like they belong both to the horse-eye and another similar-looking fish, the yellow jack, *Caranx bartholomew*. All three of these fish can grow to the same length of approximately three feet.

In view of the above, the similar appearance of jacks, especially during a quick encounter, can leave an observer confused. I say this in view of my own personal level of perpetual confusion when I am initially absorbed by an event. It usually takes time for me to snap out of it and actually begin to observe what is occurring.

All three of these jack species are gamefish, and edible, although large specimens of jacks may be poisonous. Personally, I do not recommend that you eat a jack if you enjoy eating fish. Eating a delicious fish steak is not necessarily indicative of the size of the fish from which it came.

Of these various species of jack, the crevalle probably has the fuller body, with the yellow jack not far behind. I decided to solve my own confusion by concluding—correctly I hope—that the school of jacks in my photos was a

mixture of two or more species of jacks.

There are about eight fairly common species of jacks that inhabit Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean. One is the greater amberjack, *Seriola dumerii*, usually known simply as the amberjack. This is by far the largest jack, reaching up to six feet and 150 pounds. Another is the African pompano, *Alectis crinitus*, is distinguished by its graceful fin rays. It can reach three feet, like the other larger jacks. Another of my favorite fish is the bar jack, *Caranx ruber*. It’s smaller, at two feet in maximum length. I occasionally include a photo of this fish in my picture articles. Another popular fish is the blue runner, *Caranx crysos*. It also can grow to two feet, and is one of the better tasting jacks. Putting a jack in a salt water aquarium is not recommended due to their size and swimming ability, so rather than drone on about their characteristics any longer, let’s just go to the photos.



These jacks afforded me a brief window of opportunity to make a close approach and take this photo. They kept a safe distance from Donna and me, but did not flee when other divers began returning to the boat. Fortunately, most divers had already surfaced when we first encountered the shark and jacks.



This fish looks like a crevalle jack to me. The eyes appear fairly large which indicates a horse-eye jack but after further study I do not believe that the eyes are big enough. Everything else about this fish says crevalle jack.



A blacktip Caribbean reef shark is a magnet to this school of jacks. When the shark appeared, the school materialized from the deep water and flocked to the shark. If they stay close to the shark, they may get an easy meal—unless one of the jacks becomes the shark's dinner. The jacks swam to and fro around the shark. Fortunately, the shark stayed near our boat, so we were able to track both the shark and school of jacks.



This school of jacks swirls around in search of its Caribbean reef shark.



Here's a closer look at the school of jacks as they began to follow the shark.



It's clear that these jacks want to follow this shark wherever it is going. After a few minutes the shark swam away and the jacks disappeared. I assume that they followed the shark. I wondered how long this behavior of both species continued as they swam off into the blue.



When the shark began to swim over the reef, the whole school of jacks followed. I amused myself by conjecturing, "what if, waiting at the end of the reef a school of hungry sharks, eager to meet and eat these jacks?" Perhaps this is another form of group hunting. I assume that the shark would be doing the work and the jacks would be doing the eating!



After silhouetting the school of jacks against the sea and sun, I was able to catch up to the fish and frame them against the sandy bottom near the reef that attracted their shark.



I rose up in the water column to photograph a silhouette of the jacks against the deep blue ocean as the sun assisted in illuminating the fish.



Donna decided to try to join the school of jacks to offer me a different photo opportunity, but the fish kept their distance. I guess that Donna was more threatening than the shark!



Donna joins the school of jacks. Her exhaust bubbles give away her attempt at camouflage.



The school finally leaves the area in search of its shark. The narrow but strong tail fins propel these fish quite rapidly when they want to flee a predator. Ironically, they seem to enjoy cohabitating with the reef shark.



As we were surfacing, I gazed below to see either another school of jacks or the school that had just swam away. There was no shark in sight. I was low on air and committed to surfacing, otherwise I might have swum back down to investigate these fish.





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AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

Story and Photos (unless noted) by Rosario LaCorte

Chapter 8

While Gene Wolfsheimer and I exchanged letters for many years, there were occasions where we exchanged fish that were available in one another's respective areas—Gene's on the west coast and mine on the east. Since I was involved with the introduction of the black phantom tetra, *Hyphessobrycon megalopterus*, I was able to send Gene some offspring of the original specimens given to me by Harald Schultz. One of the species that Gene sent to me were some imported specimens of a cyprinid, *Cyclocheilichthys apogon*. Gene's photo of the fish appeared on the cover of **The Aquarium Journal**, in March, 1964. Shortly after I received them I was able to reproduce them. They reached almost six inches in length, and were quite nice. I still had them when I moved to my present home in 1985, and had it not been for a water problem in the new home, I'm sure they would have lived for many years. Twenty-two years old and in top condition, they were unfortunately lost because of the highly acidic water in my new residence. More about that later.

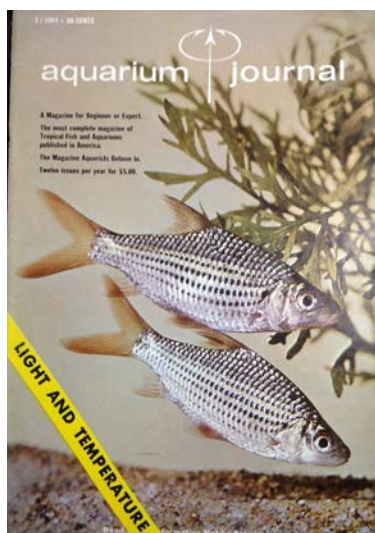
Ross Socolof imported many unusual fishes, and gave me first choice on many of his imports. However, a time came when Ross decided to buy into a Florida fish farm. Despite Ross's departure for Florida I wished him well, and in spite of the distance we still maintained contact by air mail. We eventually migrated from letter writing to tapes, where we could express ourselves in a more personal way. I still have a number of our tapes, which date back quite a number of years. I recall one incident that gave us both quite a chuckle. I was relaying a story about one of my friends, praising him on his personal charm and integrity. In the process of impersonating him I attempted to imitate his accent. In Ross's response he roared with laughter, citing my poor rendition of the accent, claiming that my version sounded like Sicilian. I had to agree with him—it was a funny moment.

Ross went on to have a very adventurous life, establishing a compound in Colombia, and collecting extensively in Central America as well. Some of the well-known American hobbyists who collected with Ross that come to mind were Rusty Wessel, Jim Langhammer, Dr. Harry Specht, Jap da Greef, and Al Klee—all friends of mine as well. Ross outlined

his adventures in a book he published on his own, **Confessions of a Tropical Fish Addict**.

In the early 1960s one of my friends, Norm Hoagland, a fellow member of the New Jersey Aquarium Society, experimented with culturing Salt Lake *Artemia* to adulthood. Many of us at one time or another experimented with raising *Artemia*. Norm, with the assistance of another friend, Dominick Mondadori, constructed a 4x8x12 plywood tank, lined with a custom-made pool liner. It was filled to a depth of several inches with saltwater, and Norm was quite successful with his culturing of brine shrimp. Using yeast as a food to rear the shrimp to adulthood, his results were quite amazing. The entire pool was supported by a cradle of 2x4s, in the attic of his home. Norm was already in his early 60s; Dom in his mid 40s. They had a cordial friendship, and thought that it would be a good idea to rent a store and construct 24 similar pools, to culture large numbers of the shrimp, which could be sold to the many stores in the tri-state area. They found a small store that at one time had been a fruit and vegetable outlet. It was perfect for their setup. They asked if I could

help them in the construction of the large brine shrimp hatcheries, offering to pay me a certain hourly rate, which I refused. I recall telling them that I would just assist them as a friend, and from time to time they could give me a couple of ounces of adult shrimp that I could feed as a supplement to my own fish. They liked my offer, and so on several weekends I was able to assist them with their project. The store was on U.S. Highway 1 & 9, which was only four blocks from my home when I lived in North Elizabeth. Dominick was the more assertive member of the partnership, as well as the more prudent of the two. A rigger by profession, Dominick had two young school-age children. Norm, a widower, had three grown children, so he decided to quit his job at the Singer Sewing Machine Company and devote all his time to the new business venture. Dom wasn't too happy about Norm quitting his job prematurely, but remained silent rather than making waves. Dom contacted the Budweiser Brewery, which was located north of the store on the same road, and was able to speak to those in charge of the yeast used in the brewing of beer. This yeast, acquired from Budweiser, was one of the reasons for their success.



They had accumulated a number of customers, with The Aquarium Stock Company in New York being their biggest account. The first year they sold \$20,000 worth of brine shrimp, at a price of two dollars for a two ounce bag of adult *Artemia*. Everything went smoothly, until the Sanders Brine Shrimp Company of Salt Lake decided they could ship shrimp to the east coast via air and still sell at a lower rate than Norm and Dom could compete with. At the same time, a shortage of eggs hit the industry, which all of us struggled with. Because of the mounting problems, the boys were having personal friction. Each of them would come to visit me individually and air their grievances about the other. I thought very highly of both of them, and would not take sides.

Not too long afterward, I received a call from Robert Hoagland, Norm's oldest son. It was a sad moment when Robert told me his dad had suffered a heart attack and died suddenly. I asked about the funeral arrangements, which Robert relayed to me. A few days later I paid my respects to the family, and when I arrived, there was Norm, laid out in his coffin, and next to his was another coffin containing an older brother who had died only a few hours apart from Norm. It really was quite strange that death came to the two of them within hours, despite a difference in age. Dom was on his own now, and his culturing of *Artemia* ground to a halt because of the shortage of *Artemia* cysts. Dom had always enjoyed bettas, so he decided while the lull in culturing *Artemia* continued he would raise bettas for sale to the same customers that had been cultivated during his *Artemia* venture.

One Sunday morning I received a hurried call from Dom. "Za, I arrived at the store this morning and found about 500 bettas dead on the bottom of their tanks." I began to ask him all kinds of questions in an attempt to solve his problem. There were no marks on them; water quality was fine. Our investigation was not coming up with any answers. Since I only lived a short distance from the store, I told Dom I would stop by and see if I could visually solve his mystery. When I arrived, sure enough, there they were, scattered all over their respective tanks, lifeless. They appeared to have been healthy, but I quickly noticed that all the young bettas that had succumbed were less than an inch in length, while those that were larger were fine and swimming about normally. The smaller specimens revealed a swollen abdominal area, while the larger bettas appeared normal. My next question, "Dom, what did you feed these guys?" His response, "I fed tubifex last evening just before I closed the shop." "Did you chip the worms into small segments," I asked. "No I didn't, I fed them whole." "There is your problem, Dom." Fish are stupid; they will continue to eat to the point where they will immobilize themselves. The young bettas may consume two or three worms and then decide they will take another. That's their downfall—the point where they decide to eat one more. The worm may be consumed, and there may



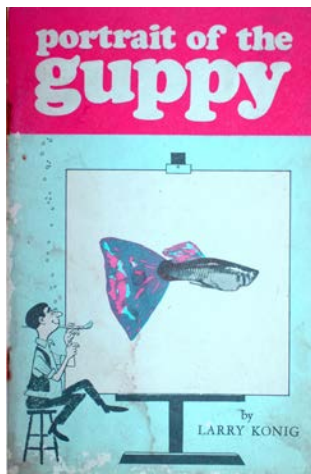
This is a cutter used for cutting tubifex or black worms into smaller segments. I have promoted this tool for more than fifty years. Had Dominick used this tool he would have prevented his juvenile bettas from dying. Of course the segmented worms should be placed in net that is one size larger than a brine shrimp net and thoroughly rinsed to remove blood.

be no problem with part of it going down easily, but there is a point where there is no room for completely consuming the entire worm; the stomach is full. The result is choking and a slow death. I have for years in my programs advised hobbyists to cut worms into smaller segments for those species that may have a problem consuming whole worms. At one time tubifex were quite abundant, especially on the east coast. We were able to buy almost a quart of worms for two dollars. With the advent of blackworms, it became imperative to chop them up for the smaller species, since it is a larger worm and coarser in structure.

It was becoming apparent that Dom's operation was in trouble, and it reached the point where it became a losing proposition. The shortage of *Artemia* cysts was making it impossible for him to stay in business. Dom shut down his business, as well as his interest in fish. He moved to a new home, where I did visit with him and his wife Fran, as they were good friends. After several years in their new home, Fran passed away at a young age. I lost touch with Dom, and many years later I called him to see how he was. I visited with him, and was saddened to see this once strong, vibrant man now walking with great difficulty and with the aid of a cane. He died soon after.

I mentioned Larry Konig earlier, and how he was instrumental in giving me the idea for the heating system in my fishroom. Larry was responsible for the delta-tail guppy—producing the first ones, and fixing the strain by selective breeding.

Larry had a wonderful fish house, which he built in the back yard of his home. The building stood apart from his home, and was neat. His entire fish house was devoted to guppies. Larry was immensely popular in the hobby, constantly traveling throughout the country giving programs on guppies. Larry was a good speaker and generous with his knowledge. He was also generous with his guppies whenever he traveled out of state. A number of visitors from Japan visited his fishroom and paid him three hundred to four hundred dollars for a trio of his delta tailed guppies. In the 50s and 60s those were unheard of prices.



Larry visited us frequently, as he lived only about five miles from my home in Elizabeth. He would come straight into the fish house—always a surprise visit. He would look at the fish, and would always compliment me, saying he felt inadequate as a fishkeeper after looking at the variety of species and their numbers. He felt guppies were not a challenge compared to what was happening in my fishroom. I would assure him he still needed to have talent to accomplish the beautiful guppies he had produced. We would then go into the house, where Jean would serve some refreshments. Larry would then take over, and proceed to relate one story after another. He was a great storyteller, and his stories were always interesting.

He was a lieutenant on the Elizabeth police reserve, as was my father, who also volunteered his services. My father also worked for the same company as Larry—The Heil Company, of Hillside, New Jersey. Quite often my father, who resided next door, would join in our conversations. Larry was a big and imposing man; an excellent officer and very civic minded. On one occasion a fellow was sitting in his car with his companion, playing his radio at a high volume. Larry approached the car and asked them very politely to turn the volume down, as it was disturbing the neighborhood. The radio was turned down. The next day the incident happened again. Larry very politely requested the volume to be reduced. The volume was reduced and then deliberately turned to a high volume once Larry was back inside his home. Larry returned to the wise guy, placed his service revolver to his head, and said, “you want me to use this?” The wise guy complied very quickly and apologized, took off in his car, and never returned to that spot. Can you imagine what would happen today if Larry were alive and repeated that response? Times have changed.

In the 1950s Larry became associated with Dr. John Rutkowski, from Trenton, New Jersey. Dr. Rutkowski was an excellent breeder of guppies, and he and Larry teamed up to manufacture their own brand of guppy food. They called it Rut-King Guppy Food. In 1957 some of the major aquarium magazines published ads for Larry and John, offering a prize pair of their guppies to any society that would form a guppy club within their own organization. It was generous offer, and I believe the first time that an offer like that had occurred. I knew John Rutkowski very well. He was always in a suit and tie; always the gentleman. On one occasion John asked to borrow some of my slides for a presentation that he was putting together. He

spent an evening at our home as I selected a number of slides that I thought would round out his program. During the evening he recited several poems, and we were pretty impressed with his delivery, as well as with his total recall of the poetry. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Larry and John put a lot of time into their effort to promote guppies throughout the country. Even though guppies were responsible for my interest in the exotic part of our hobby, I never had a deep interest in working with them. Still, I always had an amiable relationship with the notable guppy heavy hitters, such as Paul Hahnel, Arnold Sweeney, Frank Alger, Lou Rexford and Henry Kaufman, to name just a few. I’m sure I’ve left out a few names. All of those gentlemen raised beautiful guppies, and were highly competitive during the many shows in the metropolitan area.

Not too long after Larry became involved with his Rut-King Guppy Food, his beloved wife Betty passed away. After her passing Larry’s interest in guppies began to wane. Not only that, Long Life began to manufacture flake food, which became a big hit in the industry and put a big dent in the sales of Rut King foods. Larry closed his operation, but despite his leaving the hobby, he would still continue to visit with us until he passed away in the early 1970s. I was happy to see large number of people paying their respects at his wake, but despite Larry’s intense popularity and his tremendous contribution to the advancement of guppies, not a single hobbyist was there. Not too many weeks later I ran into his son, Alfred. Though I had spent the evening at Larry’s wake with his son and daughter, I did not attend the interment at the gravesite, so when Alfred revealed who was buried almost next to his dad, it came as a great surprise. Alfred said when he looked at some of the headstones close to his dad’s, he discovered that Bill Vorderwinkler was also interred there. How ironic that these two well-known men who were such a big part of the hobby in its growth, were buried almost side by side. Bill was a long-time friend, having originally met him at a meeting of the New Jersey Aquarium Society through Bill Harsell.

Bill Vorderwinkler became associated with Herb Axelrod in the early 1950s. Bill was born in Austria, and read and wrote fluently in German. He did the translations for **TFH**, as well as writing articles for the magazine. He was also involved in the publication of several books for **TFH**. Sometime in 1953 one of the members brought in a pair of *Bedotia geayei*, today known as *B. madagascariensis*. Bill asked if I knew the fish, but I had never seen one till that moment. Bill was familiar with it, as he had seen it back in the early 1930s. He also mentioned that *Apistogramma cacatuoides*, then known as *A. U2*, sold for ten dollars a pair during the depression days. Bill Harsell, Bill Vorderwinkler and I usually attended several aquarium society meetings together, taking turns driving to our destinations. On one occasion

Bill Harsell and I were slightly perturbed with Bill V. during a New Jersey Aquarium Society meeting. The club had arranged to have a guest speaker from France, whose innovation of the invisible undergravel filter was new. The filter was a hollow tube, constructed of very porous material where bacteria could colonize and anchor themselves on its miniature openings. The end had a rigid tube affixed to accept quarter-inch plastic tubing. Air would flow from a pump and create a vacuum within the cylinder wall. The Frenchman had a very difficult time attempting to explain the theory behind his design, because his English was extremely limited. Bill Vorderwinkler, who had worked with Thor Hanssen, a manufacturer of the Thor Hanssen filter, which was popular in the 1950s, felt that the Frenchman's design was not much different than that of Thor Hanssen's filter, and attempted to place the newer design in a negative light. Personally, I've always felt that an invited guest should be treated with respect and allowed to speak without being embarrassed. The Frenchman's design became popular, and was advertised as the invisible filter. Later on I will have some further comments on problems that can arise from undergravel filters.

In the mid-1960s Bill became quite ill, and he passed away, as I recall, at age 58. The cemetery where Bill Vorderwinkler and Larry Koning are interred also held the remains of Ernie Schaff, a heavyweight boxer from Elizabeth, who fought Max Baer on two occasions. Max Baer was the father of Max Baer, Jr., who played Jethro in the television series **The Beverly Hillbillies**.

Ernie Schaff beat Max Baer in their first bout. Baer was a powerful puncher, and did once kill a man in the ring—a fellow who fought under the name of Frankie Campbell, but whose real name was Francisco Camilli, and whose brother was Dolf Camilli, who as first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, won the National League MVP in 1941.

Max was always joking around, and did not train seriously for his first match with Ernie. For the second bout, Max trained extra hard to make up for his embarrassment, and gave Schaff a pretty bad beating. It was thought that Ernie had sustained serious brain damage. Ernie subsequently fought Primo Carnero, a giant of a man, who though he became champion of the world, was not really that good a fighter. Ernie was knocked out by Carnero and never regained consciousness. Elizabeth, New Jersey was home to many great fighters. Mickey Walker, the Toy Bulldog, was from my neighborhood, and in the early 1930s was the middleweight champion of the world. He made over two million dollars, which at the time (the Depression) was an incredible sum of money.

In 1951 Mickey Walker, Joe Louis, and Henry Armstrong came to Travis AFB to put on a show for the troops. Since I worked out in the gym during my off hours I was able to meet Joe Louis, who was one of the greatest heavyweight fighters of all time. He

had already begun to show his age, and a few months later he was knocked out by Rocky Marciano.

I had a chance to spend quite a bit of time chatting with Mickey Walker, since we were from the same neighborhood in Elizabeth. At that time he lived in California, reunited with his wife, from whom he had been separated. He told me he had gone through two million dollars on wine,



Mickey Walker.
Photo from Wikipedia.

women, and song. He later was featured on a **This is Your Life** TV program. I recall watching it along with my wife. Mickey eventually began painting in oils, and sold many of his paintings.

In the mid 1950s, Dr. Eduard Schmidt-Focke, the well renowned discus and betta breeder, came to the U.S., and his visit was featured in a **TFH** article. We'd had a few correspondences prior to his U.S. visit, so I already was familiar with him and his contributions. His brother was the owner of Tropicarium in Germany, and Eduard did his fish work there, though he was also a talented medical doctor.

He spent the day with me, and upon entering my fish room he was quite surprised with its size, at that time occupying a single-car garage. He told me that in Germany aquarists did not have room for that many aquariums. World War II had ended only twelve years earlier, and Germany had been pretty thoroughly bombed by the Allies, so the average home did not allow for large setups.

Schmidt-Focke had a good relationship with Harald Schultz, and whenever Harald collected anything that appeared to be appealing aquarium fishes, he would forward them to Schmidt-Focke, who bred them in his brother's facility, Tropicarium. Some of the profits would then be funneled back to Schultz to help cover his expenses. I received the photograph below from Schmidt-Focke of *Dicrossus filamentosus* long before we ever saw them in the U.S.



In 1960 I received a call from John T. Cunningham, a reporter for the **Newark News** magazine section. He had featured Larry Konig, Al Schultz, and myself in the magazine section. Al Schultz was a good friend of mine who wrote a monthly column for **TFH**, entitled "Salts from the Seven Seas." Cunningham passed away in 2012, at the age of 96. He was the author of 52 books, as well as a being first class historian. His articles covered much of the history of New Jersey, some of them appearing in the **National Geographic** magazine.



Bill Woods on left, Bernie Halverson center, and Walt Kelly, right. In 1918 Walt, serving in the Army, was part of the force sent to Russia in an attempt to help contain the Bolsheviks.

The 1950s and 60s produced many aquarists who were colorful characters. Some time during the late 50s, the North Bergen Aquarium Society sponsored a large show. Arnold Sweeney, the president of the club, asked me to be one of the judges. Judging would be in the evening. My wife, Jeannie, accompanied me, while my mother babysat our children. We were under the impression we would return home at a reasonable hour, but there seemed to be a problem with the judging, and we didn't begin until late in the evening. We returned home about three A.M. It was disturbing to me, as my mother had sat up in the kitchen, not wanting to sleep in a chair or even go to her own bedroom, which was on the second floor. I felt badly for her, as we did not anticipate such a late return.

The show was one I will always remember, and I have told this story on a number of occasions during speaking presentations. While we were waiting to judge the show, some of us talked about the fish on exhibit. Two of the people in the group were good friends of mine, Walt Kelly and Bill Woods. Walt and Bill were members of Mid Union Aquarium Society, which met in Greenbrook, New Jersey. I too was a member. Walt and Bill were inseparable friends, and both had families. If one of them wanted to visit some fish people, a fish club, or a special pet shop, the other would always tag along. Walt was a character, and very vocal. Bill was always the gentleman, and very polite. They always came to my fish house unannounced—my fish room being always open to

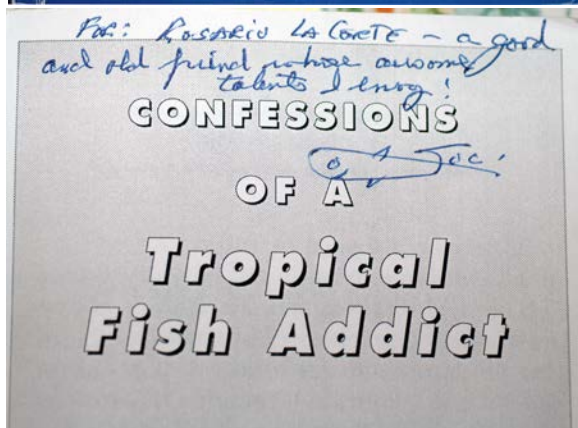
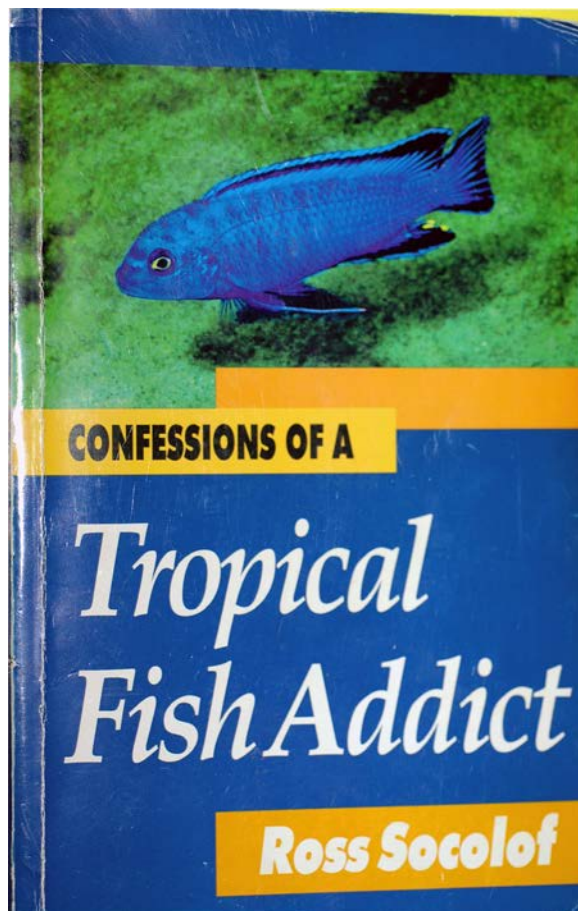
fish people. I never liked to shake hands with Walt; his right thumb had been cut off at the first joint, and when we shook hands it would give me a sharp pain. I never complained to Walt about it, but I often wondered if others avoided the dreaded handshake as I did.

As we gathered for a group sharing moment while awaiting the go ahead for judging, I casually mentioned that one of the entries, Tetra Perez (*Hyphessobrycon erythrostigma*, now better known as the bleeding heart tetra) had only recently been discovered and had become very popular. The fish was still not identified, so they took the name of the Perez Brothers, who had imported them. I mentioned to the group that it was such a beautiful fish and filled easily with spawn, yet no one had been able to spawn them. We all agreed on that point, and then in a humorous aside, I said that maybe we'll have to pee in the tank. The laughter was instant, and I knew what it was leading up to, so I followed up by mentioning a recent article written by a Dutch medical doctor, who documented how he used a pregnant mare's urine, and by placing it in a centrifuge, was able to extract gonadotropin to apply to some hatchet fish that he was attempting to reproduce. The experiment worked, and he was able to spawn them. Unfortunately the eggs fungused, but the results still were promising.

Now Walt, who was always a great storyteller, jumped right into the conversation. Walt claimed that he had spawned *Abramites hypselonotus*, but I never saw the young. He had purchased his pair at Wilmar Aquarium, in Pine Brook, NJ. I knew the owners and the staff very well. You could go in there and attempt to cherry pick some of the better specimens. Walt also knew them well, so he claimed he spent a long time trying to sex a pair. After long observation he decided he had identified a pair. He said he tried everything to get the pair to spawn, but with no results. After hearing my story about the Dutch doctor, he said that, in real desperation, he stood on a chair and "pissed into the tank, and don't you know they spawned the following day." I didn't say a word, for I knew Walt fairly well, and I chuckled to myself. Walt loved his beer. If he did what he claimed, his urine would have delivered a potent ammonia imbalance. But he recounted his story without batting an eyelash. Walt was a lovable character.



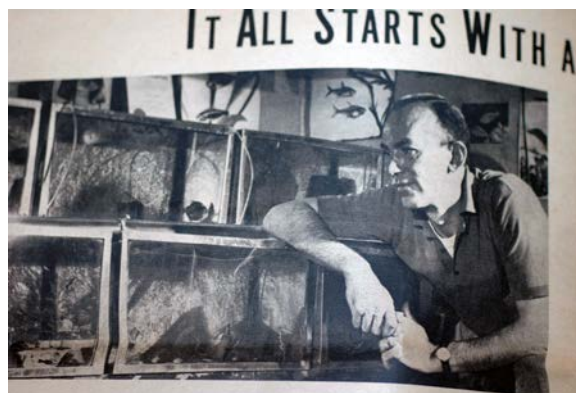
Abramites hypselonotus.



Ross Socolof's book, which he kindly autographed for me.



This is *Cyclocheilichthys apogon*, one of the specimens that lived for 22 years until acidic well water killed them. It is the same fish that is featured on the magazine cover at the beginning of this chapter.



These two photos, of Al Schultz (above), and Jeannie and me) are from John T. Cunningham's *Newark News* article that I mentioned on page 25.



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Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

A couple of years ago we published some photos from our “Fishy Friends” Facebook group. Some of these, though not all, are posted by members here at Greater City. Others are by fish folks who have “virtually” joined us on Facebook. I’ve left the species 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 glad to tell you.



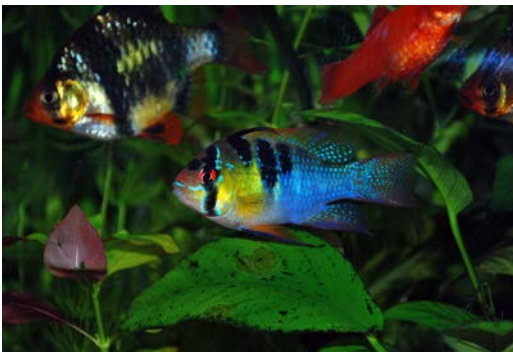
Photo from Gilberto Soriano.



Photo from John Sciacca.



Photo from Gerjho Jhoger.



Photos (above and below) from Joseph Gurrado.



Photo from Ruben Lugo





GCAS Happenings

October

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

1 RUBEN LUGO	L-235 FLAT FLYER PLECO
2 MARIO BENGION	KOI PLAKAT BETTA
2 RICHARD WAIZMAN	RED AND BLUE BETTA

UNOFFICIAL 2014 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

RUBEN LUGO	20	MARIO BENGION	19	RICHARD WAIZMAN	8	WILLIAM AMELY	5
CARLOTTI DeJAGER	1	LESLIE DICK	1				

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBER JOE GARGAS!

Here are meeting times and locations of some aquarium societies in the Metropolitan New York area:

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 5, 2014

Speaker: Gary Lange

Topic: *Rainbowfish*

Meets: Meets the first Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 7:30pm:
Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street - Flushing, NY

Contact: Dan Radebaugh (718) 458-8437

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: October 10, 2014

Speaker: N/A

Event: *Giant Fall Auction*

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: October 17, 2014

Speaker: Steve DeSimone, Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Lab

Topic: *Keeping Temperate Fresh Water Fish*

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: October 14, 2014

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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: October 11,12

Speaker: N/A

Event: *Annual October Weekend*

Meets at: See our ad in this issue.

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: October 16, 2014

Speaker: Rusty Wessel

Topic: *Fishes of the Maya*

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/>

Care-free, but also Fish-free

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.

You've no doubt seen (and maybe even kept) species from the Tetraodontidae family (including pufferfish, balloonfish, blowfish, bubblefish, globefish, swellfish, toadfish, sea squab, and others) which, while mostly marine, do have some freshwater and brackish water members.

I'm guessing that most of you are not familiar with LumiPuffs which, while they have some of the balloon-like appearance of puffers, are robotic "fish" recently awarded a Guinness World Record for being the world's first wireless induction-powered aquatic toy.¹

Sphere Corporation, a Hong Kong-based company, has developed a sealed, self-contained "designer aquarium" called the Capsule that houses robotic fish powered by wireless induction chargers built into the base of the "aquarium." The robot fish sync via Bluetooth with a mobile app that allows a user to change the settings (such as the color of the fish and aquarium), as well as access games. Users can also set the robot fish to flash when their smartphone receives a notification. The robot fish is equipped with a sensor that allows it to react to the vibration caused by tapping the tank – letting users interact physically with their electronic pet.

For those too young to remember the Tamagotchi toy craze of the late 1990s, these were handheld "digital pets," often in egg-shaped containers with buttons you could press to "feed" or "play" with your digital pet. Well, this Capsule device, when it becomes available (estimated to be in stores by June 2015), will let you "feed" your LumiPuff. If you forget to feed your LumiPuff it will "die" (meaning, it will stop moving). Unlike real fish that die from neglect, you can revive a LumiPuff by a simple reboot.

If only I could just reboot some of my non-virtual aquariums!



¹ <http://www.psfk.com/2014/09/wireless-robotic-fish-aquarium-tank.html>





Fin Fun



Are you a Malawi cichlid “Genus Genius?”

There are many different cichlids in Lake Malawi. Below is a grid with various genera listed in the left column, and various species on the right. Your assignment, if you choose to tackle it, is to pair up genus and species correctly for these Lake Malawi fish.

<i>Astatotilapia</i>	<i>macrophthalmus</i>
<i>Aulonocara</i>	<i>trewavasae</i>
<i>Copadichromis</i>	<i>auritus</i>
<i>Corematodus</i>	<i>ecclesi</i>
<i>Ctenopharynx</i>	<i>zebroides</i>
<i>Cynotilapia</i>	<i>freibergi</i>
<i>Dimidiochromis</i>	<i>brachyrhynchus</i>
<i>Diotaxodon</i>	<i>jacobfreibergi</i>
<i>Eclectochromis</i>	<i>lobochilus</i>
<i>Hemitaeniochromis</i>	<i>compressiceps</i>
<i>Labeotropheus</i>	<i>taeniatus</i>
<i>Labidochromis</i>	<i>pictus</i>
<i>Lethrinops</i>	<i>calliptera</i>
<i>Lethrinops</i>	<i>cyaneus</i>

Source: Checklist of the Cichlid Fishes of Lake Malawi (Lake Nyasa/Niassa) by M.K. Oliver, Ph.D.
http://malawicichlids.com/cichlid_checklist_2013-sep-01.pdf

Answers to our last puzzle:  Spelling Bee

<u>BUTTERFISH SCAT</u>	BUTTERFISH SCAT
<u>BARBEROS CHARACIN</u>	BARBERRIS CHARACIN
BOWDONI BARB	<u>BAUDONI BARB</u>
BADUS BADUS	<u>BADIS BADIS</u>
<u>BALUNGA BETTA</u>	BALOONGA BETTA
<u>BULLSEYE CTENOPOMA</u>	BULLSEYE TENOPOMMA
BERDER KILLIFISH	<u>BURDUR KILLIFISH</u>
<u>BRYCIN BREVIS</u>	BRAYCIM BREVIS
<u>BRICHARD'S SYNODONTIS</u>	BRITCHARD'S SYNODONTIS
BARTINS MOUTHBROODER	<u>BURTONS MOUTHBROODER</u>



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FRIDAY, OCT. 10 @ 7:30 PM

**THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

THE GIANT FALL AUCTION



Freshwater fish, plants, marine fish,
aqua-cultured corals & dry goods,
including a 55 gal. tank & stand. Rare
& hard to find live stock & MUCH MORE!

View lots 7:30pm –8:30pm

**AUCTION STARTS
8:30PM**

**Marine Fish, Aqua-cultured Corals,
Freshwater Fish, Plants & Dry Goods Auction**

At The New York Aquarium, Education Hall, Surf Ave. & West 8th St., Bklyn, NY 11229

HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

Free Parking • Free Refreshments

\$5 Donation for Non-members. Good towards membership that night only.

For Information Visit **BROOKLYNAQUARIUMSOCIETY.COM**

Or Call BAS 24 Hr. Calendar of Events Hotline (718) 837-4455

Car Directions: Belt Parkway to Ocean Parkway South (Exit 7S). Take Ocean Parkway approx. 1/2 mile. The NY Aquarium will be on your left.

Subway Directions: Either the Q or F trains to West 8th St., NY Aquarium Station.

