

modern AQUARIUM



October 2019
volume XXVI
number 8

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York

長江水族館

專營各國熱帶觀賞魚和全套優質水族器材



131-08 40th Road, Flushing

Skyview Mall 天景豪苑旁

347.732.0373

monsteraquarium@hotmail.com



歡迎參觀 七天營業

Open 7 Days • 10am-8pm



LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MONSTERAQUARIUMINC

modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXVI, No. 8 October, 2019

ON THE COVER

Our cover photo this month shows one of the fish murals at the Delancey Street F-train subway station. For more details see From the Editor on page 2.

Photo by Dan Radebaugh

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

BOARD MEMBERS

President..... Horst Gerber
Vice-President..... Edward Vukich
Treasurer..... Jules Birnbaum
Assistant Treasurer..... Ron Wiesenfeld
Corresponding Secretary..... Vinny Ritchie

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Pete D'Orio..... Walter Gallo
Al Grusell..... Victor Hritz
Jason Kerner..... Leonard Ramroop

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bowl Show..... Joseph F. Gurrado
Breeder Award..... Joseph Graffagnino
Early Arrivals..... Al Grusell
Membership..... Marsha Radebaugh
N.E.C. Delegate..... Joe Gurrado
Programs.....
Social Media..... Gilberto Soriano
Technical Coordinator..... Jason Kerner

MODERN AQUARIUM

Editor in Chief..... Dan Radebaugh
Copy Editors:
Alexander A. Priest..... Susan Priest
Donna Sosna Sica..... Thomas Warns

Advertising Manager.....

In This Issue

From the Editor.....	2
G.C.A.S. 2019 Program Schedule.....	3
President's Message.....	4
Larry Whitfield: RIP..... by Dan Radebaugh	5
G.C.A.S. Annual Awards Banquet.....	6
Tonight's Speaker: Jim Cumming	7
Keys to the Kingdom..... by Stephen Sica	8
G.C.A.S. at the Keystone Clash.....	14
Our Generous Sponsors and Advertisers.....	15
Fishy Friends' Photos.....	16
Temporary Tanks..... by Jim Peterson	17
When the Last Aquarium Goes..... by Alan Mark Fletcher	19
Pictures From Our Last Meeting..... Photos by Marsha Radebaugh	24
G.C.A.S. Member Discounts.....	26
G.C.A.S. Classifieds.....	27
G.C.A.S. Happenings.....	28
The Undergravel Reporter..... Sometimes It Pays to be Different	29
Fin Fun (Puzzle Page)..... All Fall Down	30

From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

I'll begin this month's remarks with an update to the membership data I discussed last month. As I mentioned in our previous issue, our number of memberships at that writing was 103. Add the five memberships from last month, and that comes to 108, plus of course some lifetime memberships that aren't necessarily part of that count. Now on to other matters.

Our exchange article this month, as was also the case last month, is a winner in the 2017 NEC article awards competition. This month's article, "Temporary Tanks," by Jim Peterson, won 2nd Place in the Humor category. This month we once again remember the late Alan Mark Fletcher by presenting the final article he sent to us, "When the Last Aquarium Goes," which we first published in the December, 2016 issue of **Modern Aquarium**. So long, Alan!

A special treat this month is a terrific photo essay by Steve Sica entitled "Keys to the Kingdom," which chronicles a scuba diving trip to the Florida Keys. While they don't necessarily make me want to take up scuba diving, these photo essays are almost as good as having a really gigantic saltwater reef tank of your own. Terrific stuff! It's almost better than actually being there, what with not having to deal with all the biting insects and other critters that I recall from visits to the Keys in my youth.

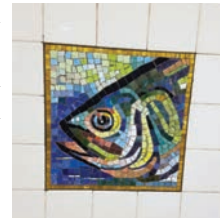
From time to time I make it a point to check out some of the various fish shops that are our sponsors (these are listed in each issue of **Modern Aquarium**). Since the closing of Coral Aquarium, which was only a short walk from home, this sort of journey has become more of a necessity, and means that I have to make a bus or subway excursion. For instance Monster Aquarium is an easy subway ride, with a little bit of a walk at the end.

Another straightforward subway ride is to Pacific Aquarium, which I visited a few weeks ago. As usual, they had some extremely beautiful fish, and (more importantly for this visit) a very good selection of frozen foods. I can go a while without needing frozen foods like brine shrimp, daphnia, cyclops, and so on, but my Oscars have been spawning like crazy, and these are useful first foods, and I also use things like First Bites, which has been well-accepted.

One of the things that I had somehow not noticed about the subway ride there (or at least I don't remember noticing), are the tile murals in the Delancey Street subway station. These are great! While I initially wondered if these depictions were of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), a little online research



revealed that the murals depict the American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), and celebrate that fish's return to New York waters. It is an anadromous species, only swimming up coastal streams to spawn, so perhaps the artist (Ming Fay) witnessed a spawning run, which could account for the vivid colors, as this fish is normally fairly plain-looking.



Alert! Alert! It's getting to be that time of year again, when our December meeting will actually be our annual Holiday and Awards Banquet. The information is on page 6 of this issue, and will also soon be on our Facebook page, so be sure and make your plans now! Let Marsha know as soon as you can that you will be going, and if you will be bringing guests! We were right at capacity last year, so reserve your seats soon!





GCAS Programs

2019

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 6	Gary Lange <i>Cruising Papua - Following New Roads and Exploring "The Bird's Head"</i>
April 3	Mark Denaro <i>Cichlids I Hate</i>
May 1	Harry Faustmann <i>Live Foods</i>
June 6 (Thursday)	Breeders' Forum <i>Moderated by Joseph Ferdenzi</i>
July 3	Joseph Ferdenzi <i>The Story of Endler's Livebearer</i>
August 7	A Night at the Auction
September 4	Tom Keegan <i>Spawning Various Types of Tropical Fish</i>
October 2	Jim Cumming <i>Madagascan and Indian Cichlids: 'The Jurassic Connection'</i>
November 6	Greg Steeves <i>Creatures of the Comal</i>
December 4	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 2019 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 gcas@earthlink.net. 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 or by email. For more information, contact: Dan Radebaugh at (718) 458-8437, email gcas@earthlink.net, or fax at (877) 299-0522. For more information about our club or to see previous issues of *Modern Aquarium*, you can also go to our Internet Home Page at <http://www.greatercity.net>, <http://www.greatercity.org>, or <http://www.greatercity.com>.

President's Message

by Horst Gerber

In my column this month I was planning to say some nice things about Dan Radebaugh, since 2008 the Editor of our wonderful magazine **Modern Aquarium**, and my predecessor as President of Greater City. However, Dan told me that while he loved reading what I wrote, he hopes that he isn't quite ready for an obituary just yet, and would I mind saving my kind words for when that time actually comes?



Well, as the old Hanseatic proverb goes, T.S.! Dan had a lot of nice things to say last month about our Editors in the earlier days of **Modern Aquarium**, so this month he gets to be on the receiving end. Deal with it! Take a look at the photo above; you don't even need to wonder why this man is smiling. If you've ever met him, or never met him, this image means you know him! No pulled punches, no BS, just honest editing! As the chief creative Editor, chauffer, and bottle washer of the hottest monthly aquarium club magazine, **Modern Aquarium**, he has every reason to smile.

When Dan was asked to take over **Modern Aquarium**, he was asked if he could provide what the members really wanted, which was *color*. And so color he provided; and the best aquarium club magazine in the country became even better! What hits home with me is the consistent quality of content of our magazine, as well as the artistic quality of its presentation!

So when it comes to how we're doing as a club, whether we talk about **Modern Aquarium**, about our speakers, about honing our fishkeeping and breeding skills, or about improving our understanding of aquarium design, everything we do here is to help our members increase their understanding of all that goes into succeeding in this wonderful hobby. So just about every meeting is *packed*, and our programs garner great feedback from our members.

So now I have a challenge for each of our members. Write an article! It doesn't have to be a scholarly treatise. Just send us (send Dan, that is...) a photo of yourself (or of a favorite fish), along with a short story about how you got your start keeping fishes. What motivated you then? What motivates you now? What fishes do you especially like? I just thought of this, so I don't know yet what we should call it. Maybe Dan will have some ideas on that. There are a lot of us here. I can't think of a better or easier way for all of us to get to know one another, and to learn why we keep the fish that we do!

See you next month!

Horst



Larry Whitfield

R.I.P.

by Dan Radebaugh

Back on September 13, I received several Facebook notifications that our friend Larry Whitfield had passed away. I had spoken with him a few times regarding his medical situation, but the news still came as a shock. He had seemed in good spirits while at our (GCAS) meeting on September 4, and so I had hopes that he was perhaps on the mend. Alas, that was not to be.

Larry became a member of GCAS toward the end of 2014. He showed us right away that he was interested in being a participant in this hobby and in our club, and was willing—even eager—to do more than just fill up a chair once a month. Not that there's necessarily anything wrong with that, but it seems to me that what you get out of a hobby, or any activity, depends a lot on what you put into it. Anyway, I asked Larry if he'd be willing to take over the position of Advertising Manager from Dan Puleo, who had done a great job, but had to make some changes to his level of time commitment. So Larry agreed to do that, and since then I, and now Horst, have been able to not worry about that job being done. Larry handled it lightly and dependably. He was easy to work with, and I understand that he was handling similar responsibilities for at least one other group as well.

We'll miss Larry. He really brightened up a room. And not just with his red suit!



Photos by Al Priest (above left), Susan Priest top right) and Joseph Gurrado (above right).



GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY AWARDS BANQUET 2019

Join us for GCAS 2019 Awards, buck-a-bag auction, authors' raffle, party favors, door prizes, AND choice of meal!



80-26 Queens Blvd Elmhurst, NY 11373

1-718-651-9000

DECEMBER 4, 2019, 7:00 PM

\$25.00 PER PERSON

Please make your reservations now!

Tonight's Speaker:

Jim Cumming, on “Madagascan and Indian Cichlids”

Jim Cumming hails from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and has been keeping tropical fish for 65 years. Other than a fifteen year sojourn into the world of killifish (his online name is ‘notho2000’) he has kept and presently keeps Central and South American cichlids, and currently devotes about one third of his 40 aquarium fishroom to Madagascan cichlids and the *Etroplus* genus from India. Jim has made presentations to over 30 cichlid and generalist aquarium societies throughout the US and Canada over the past three years, and in the Spring of 2018 was invited to Berlin and Dresden, Germany, where he presented on Madagascan and South American cichlids to the German Cichlid Association (DCG). Other speaking engagements have included the International Cichlid Conference in Brisbane, Australia in November, 2018, the Nordic Cichlid Association in Upsala Sweden in March 2019, and the ACA Convention in Cromwell, Connecticut, in July 2019. Jim has never turned down an invitation to speak other than for a conflict of dates.



Over the last 10 years Jim has become captivated by the magical cichlids from Madagascar. They have certainly ‘supercharged’ his passion for the cichlid keeping hobby. Jim has extensive collecting experience in Mexico, Belize, Cuba, and Brazil, as well as in the Southern U.S. He maintains a very active YouTube channel with around 680 videos as of September, 2018, highlighting the fish he keeps or has kept. The emphasis is on maintenance and breeding, along with social interactions, both con and heterospecific.

Jim has been a moderator for several online forums and several Facebook aquatic interest groups, and maintains a Facebook site solely devoted to fish and their conservation. Jim has had articles published in **Amazonas** and **Cichlid News** magazines. He is also is an ACA Speaker, as well as a Species Specialist and speaker for the CARES program. Additionally, he has been actively involved in the local Aquarium Society of Winnipeg, where he served for many years as Program Chair, Journal Editor, and President. He enthusiastically looks forward to spreading the word on Madagascar and its cichlids, as well as on a variety of other hobby based topics wherever and whenever he can.



Keys to the Kingdom

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica



Donna points out a nurse shark, *Ginglymostoma cirratum*, that is swimming near the bottom just above the reef. She gives the underwater sign for a shark sighting by holding her right hand like a fin on top of her head.

Every autumn Donna and I travel to Key Largo in the Florida Keys to attend a divers' reunion. It usually coincides with the weekend just before or after Halloween on October 31st. In 2018, the dive shop owners who organize the reunion decided to hold the get-together the weekend before Halloween. It was a good choice because the weather was clear and warm. The water was warm too, if not too clear.

We flew into Fort Lauderdale on JetBlue and drove our rented Corolla the 90 miles or so to the Key Largo Hampton Inn. This hotel is nice, with a

complimentary breakfast and "tame" wildlife all about, although it is somewhat pricey in my opinion. We stay there because it is very dog friendly. Donna's sister and brother-in-law usually drive the 330 miles from Clearwater and meet us there for a family reunion. Donna's sister Karen is very important because she is our dog sitter. We leave for the dive boat at 8:15 AM and don't return to the dock until 3 PM, and often later.

Since our dive gear and its suitcase weigh about 43 pounds, I try to travel light. For this trip I decided not to take my electronic strobe or flash. Instead, I took



A goldspot goby, *Gnatholepis thompsoni*, blends in with a rough stony and sandy bottom. Maximum size of this fish is a mere three inches. It lives in the shallows at a depth of 2 feet, but is also found at 150 feet. A dark bar runs from the top of the head through the eye and down the face. The fish is whitish to beige with dark spots or blotches along its body. Common in the Keys and Caribbean, it perches on sand near cover and can be closely approached.



Donna's original favorite fish is the sergeant major, *Abudefduf saxatilis*, though she has replaced it with any species of turtle, which as anyone knows is not a fish. When not guarding their eggs that are usually deposited on rocks in the reef, these fish enjoy schooling between the reef and the surface. They are often attracted to larger fish, divers, and the shadow of the dive boat.

a small wide-angle focus light with an illumination spread of 60 degrees. Professional videographers use similar but larger devices to cast a bright light for an extended period. Most would have a light on each side of their camera for a total of two lights. It is very difficult to carry around this much equipment due to its bulk and weight. Also, it is very expensive. If you fly enough, you understand that you cannot check valuable electronics and camera equipment. Sooner or later, it will be lost or disappear, meaning it has probably been stolen. The airlines and TSA will blame each other for a theft or damage to equipment, or simply deny it. You are left literally “holding the bag” with no camera gear and no replacement money!

Today, manufacturers are doing a good job of reducing the size and weight of camera equipment. Even a small “point and shoot” camera becomes expensive and hefty with its accessories. For instance, you must carry a few tools to assemble, adjust and service the equipment. Moreover, a leaky camera case can be a catastrophe! I never put my camera equipment in checked luggage because it is much too costly, delicate, and because of the risk of theft mentioned above. I carry it in a backpack that stays with me on the plane. I also carry a SunPass for car

tolls on the Florida Turnpike, a Garmin GPS, a small laptop computer and other seemingly important items. My backpack weighs at least another 15 to 20 pounds and it feels heavy on my back. Cordelia, our dog, is afraid of escalators so we either walk up the stairs and carry her or take an elevator. Donna, being in tiptop condition, always heads for the stairs. Cordelia weighs 25 pounds. The longer the journey to our destination, the heavier Cordelia and everything else becomes. Cordelia is the primary focus of our life, so she always comes first. I guess the bottom line is that you must put in the effort to have some fun—and I do literally mean some fun, since nothing ever goes flawlessly.

In addition to these travel issues, there is the added potential of losing a piece of camera gear or other equipment when you are actually diving. You would be surprised by how many divers get into difficulty rather than drop a weight belt. Stuff just happens. Some newer equipment has specialized pockets for weights with a quick release mechanism. I prefer to wear a weighted belt with a quick release buckle. Once in the Turks and Caicos I was embarrassed when my weight belt slipped down my waist, legs and feet. The divemaster went down to retrieve it. Luckily, the water depth was only about thirty feet. Another



The initial phase, or young adult, of the stoplight parrotfish, *Sparisoma viride*, is unmistakable due to its reddish abdomen and tail. This photo is tinted towards orange. This specimen is about one foot in length. A mature adult is emerald green, bluish with some yellow, and can grow to twenty inches. They swim about reefs and nibble algae on rocks and coral.



A yellowtail parrotfish, *Sparisoma rubripinne*, nibbles on the reef. It enjoys shallow waters and is identified by yellow tail markings. This is a mature adult (terminal phase), which is blue. As an adult, it is uncommon in Florida and the Caribbean. Habitats are coral rubble and sea grass. A shy fish, it grows to just over one foot in length.



The distinctive midnight parrotfish, *Scarus coelestinus*, is noteworthy for the bright blue markings on its head. Juveniles and adults have the same appearance. These fish have been found at a depth of 15 to 250 feet. The average size is one to two feet but can grow to three feet. A school resides around Key Largo reefs, even though the fish is only occasional to Florida waters.



A spotfin butterflyfish, *Chaetodon ocellatus*, and a blue tang, *Acanthurus coeruleus*, meet on a rocky section of the reef. No doubt they both are searching for a delicious morsel of algae. The black band running through the head and eye, and a black dot on outer part of rear dorsal fin identifies this four inch long butterflyfish. Often solitary, the blue tang is at its best when foraging shallow reef tops in large schools.



A pair of adult four-eye butterflyfish, *Chaetodon capistratus*, nibble on soft coral. Common to Florida, they forage on reef tops in and out of coral. Their black spot ringed in white at the base of the tail is their distinctive feature. They tend to move away when a diver approaches. Study the head of this fish for other distinctive features.



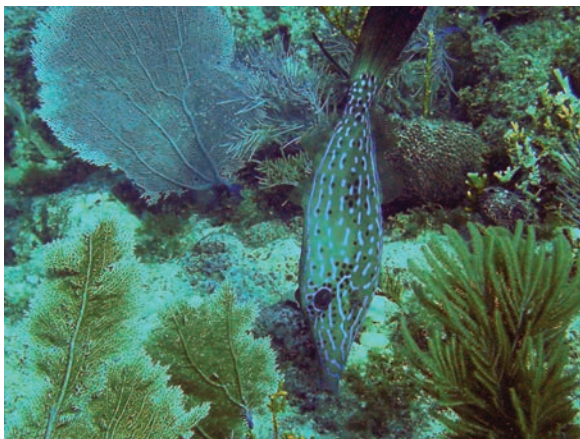
A close-up of a blue tang, *Acanthurus coeruleus*, nibbling algae on a reef. A member of the surgeonfish family, notice the spine on its flank just before the tail—hence the family's name. Average size is five to ten inches. Found in depths on and near reefs down to sixty feet. Very common in Florida, the Bahamas, and Caribbean.



Previously, Donna had pointed out a free swimming nurse shark. This species typically prefers to lie motionless on a sandy bottom, either in a cave entrance or sheltered by a coral or rock overhang as in this photo. This behavior used to tempt earlier era divers to tug at the tail, which resulted in a quick body twist by the shark and a bite to the diver.



When peeking into caves and crevices looking for sharks there are always non-fish reef creatures to discover. This unidentified crab (order Decapoda) is probably a channel clinging crab, *Brachyura majidae*. True crabs have five pairs of legs, with one of the pairs being its claws. If my speculation is correct, this specimen is in the family of spider crabs. It is commonly known as the "coral crab" or "reef spider crab."



A scrawled filefish, *Aluterus scriptus*, doing a headstand to snack on algae. Being fashion conscious, it almost matches the sea fan to its left. The shape and color pattern of this two-foot fish makes it one of my favorites. Fairly common, but wary of divers and difficult to photograph close-up. Likes reefs and open water down to sixty feet.



A prime reason for mediocre photography. Approach an animal too closely and it swims away. Take long range photos and everything appears grayish to bluish. This nurse shark wouldn't allow me a close encounter.



What's a photo essay without a nice photograph of a French angelfish, *Pomacanthus paru*? The rounded tail is a sure identifier. You are almost certain to see a few on every dive in the Caribbean basin and eastern Mexico. Enjoys the reef down to eighty feet, and a full size adult of almost eighteen inches is very attractive. Can be closely approached.



This sharpnose puffer, *Canthigaster rostrata*, and the goldface toby, *Canthigaster* sp., are two of the smallest fish in the Pufferfish family. The sharpnose is about three to four inches long and relatively unafraid of a close approach. Its tail has dark borders. Enjoys the reef and sea grass beds. Likes to nibble on grass tips and eats small invertebrates.

time I was laughing to myself in Key West when a diver jumped off the boat without his mask. I was so amused and full of myself that I jumped into the water without my swim fins!

I think the best goof I've made was giving Donna my face mask instead of her prescription one. She swam to the shallow bottom below the boat to wait for me to join her, but I'm hollering down at her, obviously, to no effect! A fellow diver went down to retrieve her so we could switch masks. She told me that she thought the water was not as clear as she thought it should be as an explanation for her blurred vision. After she said that I didn't feel quite so foolish.

Getting back to not dropping a weight belt in an emergency, imagine that you are holding over a thousand dollars in photography gear. Please take my word for it that chances are extremely remote that you'll be letting it go! Fortunately, I try to dive conservatively, so I have not had to make such a choice in quite a while.

My dive light has a maximum brightness of 800 lumens. Underwater, it is not very bright unless you



Two Atlantic spadefish, *Chaetodipterus faber*, dart away from their small school of about a dozen to offer a photo opportunity from a distance. Supposedly unafraid of divers and attracted to bubbles, I find most of them hesitant to allow a close approach. A fully grown fish averages eighteen inches, and usually stays above a seventy foot depth.



I think that this spotted goatfish, *Pseudupeneus maculatus*, is in search of its school. Three dark, rectangular body blotches adorn the flanks, and there is a pair of barbels under the chin. These two characteristics make this fish easy to identify. Preferring shallower depths, they use their barbels to dig in sand and areas of rubble. An attractive, if not colorful fish, when swimming in a school and exploring the sea floor.

are only three or four feet from your subject on a sunny day above. A rechargeable lithium battery furnishes power. My light has three brightness levels. I have been experimenting with the lowest level to conserve the battery, but I am learning that low is only good for close-ups and macro in clear water. Unless the water is extremely pristine and shallow, and the sky is cloudless, visibility drops off substantially underwater. Also, as I often point out, most fish do not wish to be photographed; they keep their distance, which is always just out of good camera range. Occasionally, a fish will swim right past you. It's difficult to be ready when you are not anticipating this behavior. This happened to me in Key Largo when a spotted eagle ray swam right past my left side. Fortunately, I saw it a second or two earlier and had time to raise my camera, but I didn't have enough time to frame the fish in the viewfinder. This was only the second time that I saw an eagle ray in the Florida Keys. The first time, I saw one swim under a small bridge near a bathing beach. I was above water on the bridge looking into the water.



Thick as a cigar, the head of a goldentail moray, *Gymnothorax miliaris*, pokes out from its small crevice home on a reef. Its speckles are small yellow dots on a brown body. Some have reverse colors! It is only a foot long with a large specimen reaching two feet. They live in relatively shallow water at a maximum depth of fifty feet.



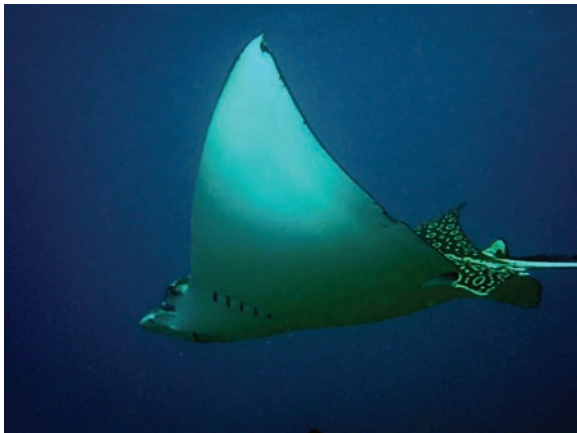
Another striking butterflyfish is the banded butterflyfish, *Chaetodon striatus*. Its two wide black bands at mid-body are quite obvious. While butterflyfish routinely swim in pairs, this twosome presented a nice profile as I was lucky enough to photograph them so close together. Most butterflyfish reach six inch maximum length and swim at ten to sixty feet deep on the reef.



Gray snappers, *Lutjanus griseus*, in a colony of what I think are common sea fans, *Gorgonia ventalina*. A very similar sea fan, but not as common, is the Venus sea fan, *Gorgonia flabellum*. Gray snappers often have no distinguishing features, but these exhibit a darkish band that runs from the lip through the eye. While these fish are common, the band is a rare feature. These ten inch fish can grow to two feet and swim at depths above sixty feet.



A smallmouth grunt, *Haemulon chrysargyreum*, passes a graysby, *Cephalopholis cruentatus*, a member of the Seabass family which includes groupers. The graysby's distinctive features are three to five light or dark spots along the base of its dorsal fin. It also has a very rounded tail compared with other members of its species. The fish grows to a maximum length of one foot, but is usually smaller. Like most reef fish it doesn't venture much below sixty feet.



I often mention unexpected photo opportunities. This spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, swam by me out of the blue. Luckily, I saw it and had a split second for a point blank photo by just pointing my camera at the ray and hoping that I framed enough of it to get a decent photo. Wide angle lenses may save the day! I think that the photo is adequate, but I am not completely satisfied.



The profile of a saucereye porgy, *Calamus calamus*. I enjoy photographing this fish because it allows one to casually approach it. It's a silvery fish with a yellowish mouth and face. Uncommon in Florida, solitary specimens swim just above the sandy bottom searching for food. Fish grows to one foot.



If you could examine all the caves and crevices on a reef, there's an excellent chance that a green moray eel, *Gymnothorax funebris*, will greet you as this eel greeted me. While they breathe through their mouth, I got an extra-wide, toothy smile that told me to keep my distance.

The underwater sights were quite pleasing during this trip, although the underwater visibility was a notch below average. I didn't see any lionfish, but they are out there. Periodically, the dive community holds lionfish roundups. A restaurant where we like to dine during our visits occasionally offers lionfish on its menu. It's pricey, and we were thinking of ordering it once, but they did not have it. I conjecture that there is a better chance of lionfish being on the menu after a roundup.

I have included many photos with this article since the water wasn't too clear. In lieu of quality, there is quantity, assuming our editor chooses to publish some of them. Once again, I hope you enjoy a few sights of our underwater world!



After a long morning of diving two of Key Largo's fabled reefs, Donna warms up in the sun on the bow of the dive boat during our return to shore. Who's that shadow on the right?

GCAS at the Keystone Clash

GCAS Members Win Big!

The Keystone Clash, in its fourth year, took place on this past September the 13th. GCAS members will recognize some of our members, with Ed Vukich, John “Buzz” Buzzetti, and Harry Faustmann carrying off prize hardware! Tom Keegan and Tony Siano look like they’re enjoying life also!



Photos from Tom Keegan





GCAS Thanks You!

Our Generous Sponsors and Advertisers

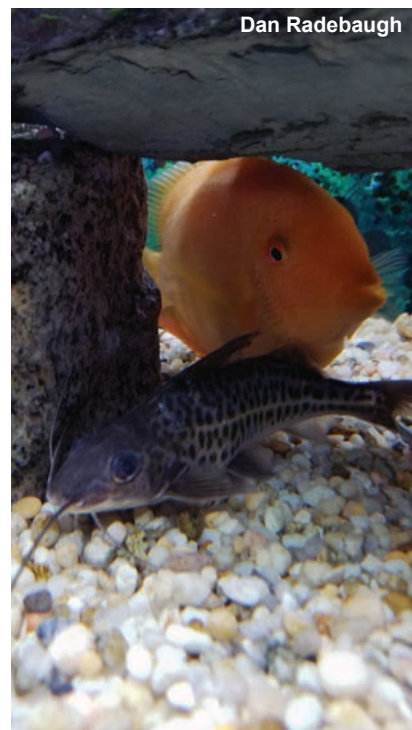
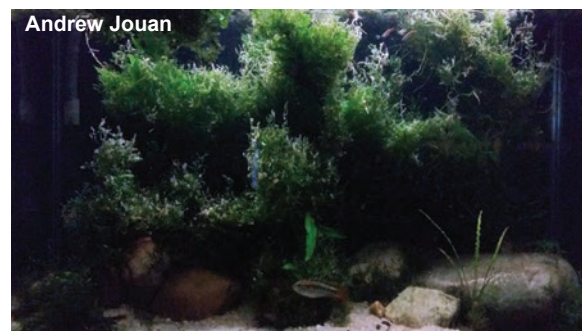
The Greater City Aquarium Society extends our heartfelt thanks to the following manufacturers for their generous donations. Thanks also to our advertisers, whose contributions to our success as a Society are deeply appreciated. Please patronize our supporters.

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals	NorthFin Premium Fish Food
Aquarium Technology Inc.	Ocean Nutrition America
Aqueon	Oceanic
Brine Shrimp Direct	Omega Sea
Carib Sea	Penn-Plax
Cobalt Aquatics	Pet Resources
Coralife	Pisces Pro
Ecological Laboratories	Red Sea
Florida Aquatic Nurseries	Rena
Fritz Aquatics	Rolf C. Hagen
HBH Pet Products	San Francisco Bay Brand
Hydor USA	Seachem
Jehmco	Sera
Jungle Labs	Spectrum Brands
Kent Marine	Zilla
Marineland	Zoo Med Laboratories Inc.
Microbe Lift	Your Fish Stuff.com
Monster Aquarium, Inc.	

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!*



Temporary Tanks

By Jim Peterson

My wife claims that I can set up a tank at the drop of a hat. I have a few Eclipse tanks -- tank, light, and filter all in one. Just add a heater and water and you have a place for those auction fish you bought that are bigger (or smaller) than you thought. Find a sturdy flat spot and you're in business!

One time when my wife went out, I set up a 20 long in the bedroom for some beautiful guppies I picked up. It was only temporary, because who knew that when women hear water running in their sleep they have to use the bathroom four times a night. I thought it sounded relaxing. So the guppies were moved in less than a week.

Another time, someone gave me two adult albino underwater frogs and the tank they were in. I set it up in the corner of our breakfast nook counter, temporarily of course. I got away with it until one morning at about 3:15 AM, when we were awakened by a god-awful rasping, growling noise that sounded like a raccoon had gotten inside the house and was going after the dog. When I turned on the kitchen light I found that the two frogs were mating, and that the sounds they make during that process could be heard from two rooms away. That morning, the tank with the frogs was taken down and the frogs were put in the turtle pond with the water hyacinths I was wintering over. However, the turtles tried to eat the frogs, even though they seemed too close in size to do so. I found one frog dried up on the dining room rug. I found the other one happily soaking in the dog's water bowl. I found a new home for him.

We had a colonial bookshelf with a cabinet below. One day I saw that my discus was being picked on by some angels. Out came the larger Eclipse tank, and I set it up on the middle shelf so that I could admire them at eye level, as they were so beautiful. This was only a temporary measure, as they would surely outgrow that puny tank. So for the first time, an Eclipse filter malfunctioned and a steady drip hit the wooden shelf, and maybe dried and got wet again until one night when we heard a loud crash. We ran into the room, only to

see water pouring across our stain-proof commercial carpet and my discus flowing downstream. Hopping madly, I scooped them up and ran through the house to my warmest freshwater tank and carefully acclimated them by throwing them straight in. The discus all survived, but the bookcase was a bust as an aquarium stand. Obviously, the tank was too heavy for the shelf. Miraculously, the only books harmed were some discus books on the shelf underneath.



Another time, I was going to set up a saltwater corner tank in my dining room. Sand in, rocks in, coral in. Now add salt and we're in business. Just as I arrive home from the last task I had to do to make the tank ready to receive fish, I find out from my wife that the pair of frontosa I bought at the last NEC auction were having a problem. I walked over to the 75-gallon tank in the den

where they had only been for a year with red zebras, to find the female frontosa badly beaten. While the male usually protected her, apparently he wanted to breed and she did not. So while he was chasing her, the three zebras joined in for the massacre. I fished her out and ran through the house to carefully acclimate her into the new tank temporarily. For three days, my wife kept telling me that the poor fish had died. But each day she got a little stronger, and on the fourth day she swam around the tank a bit. Although she continued to gain some strength, despite our efforts and six months of being alone in this 75-gallon tank, she eventually died. The 75 gallon is now the saltwater tank it was meant to be.

Just recently, I set up a few tanks for Endler's livebearers. At that point my wife really put her foot down. So now it's been decided for me that I'm going to have a fishroom once again, only this time with a system to do water changes and a gas heater that will be temporary; for as long as I'm able to take care of everything.

Reprinted from *Paradise Press* – June 2017 - Long Island Aquarium Society - This article won 2nd Place in the NEC's Humor Category in 2017





IMMERSE YOURSELF
October 12-13, 2019
Meadowlands Exposition Center



2019 American Cichlid Association Fish Competition

NEED COMPUTER HELP?

Virus/Spyware Removal \$79.00*

Wireless Setup \$49.00**

Optimization Special \$39.00*

Test Hard Drive and Memory
 Eliminate Windows build-up
 Remove Internet activity and accumulation
 Accelerate Windows start-up



All Work Guaranteed
 Professional, Friendly Service
 On-Site Service in Your Home,
 Office or Business

CompTIA® A+ Certified

Repairs & Upgrades • DSL & Cable Modems Installed • Home & Office Networking
 Wireless Networks Installed • Computer & Peripherals Set Up • Troubleshooting & Optimization
 Virus & Spyware Removal Specialist • Data Recovery • One-on-One Training

* \$15.00 Mobile charge

** Labor only. Equipment additional

Call: 718-469-5444 • jasontech1@verizon.net

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 50-gallon 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.

Reprinted from *Modern Aquarium* – Series III Vol. XXIII No. 10 December, 2016.



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 *Basua 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 situated 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.



Add the final notch to your belt!

Distinguish yourself as an advanced hobbyist by keeping and breeding a C.A.R.E.S. endangered fish Today!
Give back to the hobby that has given so much to you!
Together we can and WILL make a difference! ❤️

caresforfish.org

GuppyCon III

International Guppy Conference
November 2nd - 3rd 2019
Stonehill College - Easton, MA - U.S.A.



Pictures From

Photos by Marsha Radebaugh



Tom Keegan wowed us with his presentation!



Joe Ferdenzi (R) presents Rich Waizman with first AND second place ribbons in our bowl show!

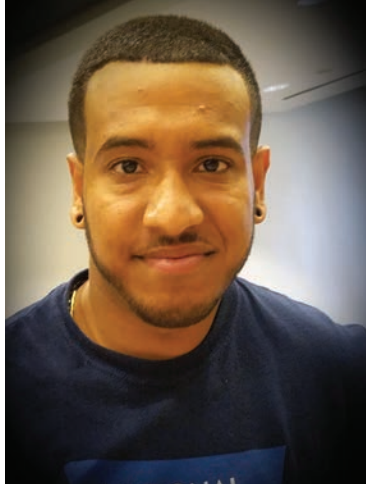


Good to see Ron Wiesenfeld back at our meetings, helping Jules with handling the money!



Folks checking out the auction items.

Our Last Meeting



From left: New members Michael Kostakos, Joshua Modeste and returning member, Joe Franke



Louis Velazquez returns to GCAS after 13 years!



The crowd is on pins and needles waiting for the presentation.



Roger Brewster and his daughter Summer (yes, the same little girl he used to bring to the meetings!)



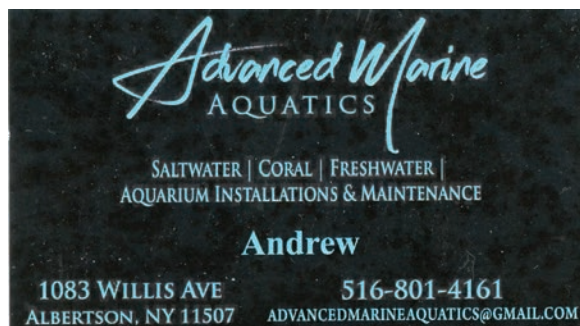
Joe Ferdenzi presents the door prize to Jeff Bollbach.



Pete d'Orio reminding us that he can't make next month's meeting.



GCAS Member Discounts at Local Fish Shops



10% Discount on everything.



20% Discount on fish. 15% on all else.



10% Discount on everything.



10% Discount on everything.



10% Discount on everything.



10% Discount on fish.



10% Discount on everything.



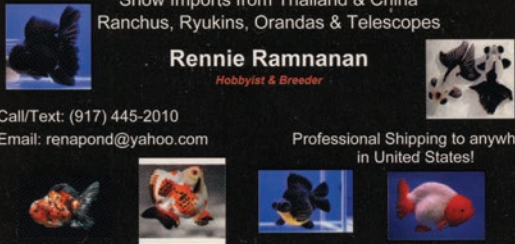
10% Discount on everything except 'on sale' items.

High Quality Exotic Goldfish
 Show Imports from Thailand & China
 Ranchus, Ryukins, Orandas & Telescopes

Rennie Ramnanan
Hobbyist & Breeder

Call/Text: (917) 445-2010
 Email: renapond@yahoo.com

Professional Shipping to anywhere
 in United States!



10% Discount on everything.



152-69 10TH AVENUE
WHITESTONE, NY 11357
TEL: 718 902-6117
WWW.FISHWORLD1.COM

STORE HOURS
 MON - FRI 11AM - 8PM
 SATURDAY 10AM - 7PM
 SUNDAY 10AM - 6PM

10% Discount on everything.

JUNGLE BOB ENTERPRISES, INC.



4130 Sunrise Hwy
 Oakdale, NY 11769
 ph: 631-319-6592
www.JungleBobAquatics.com



Manufacturer of Quality Reptile & Aquarium Supplies

15% Discount on everything in store, or online at:
<http://www.junglebobaquatics.com> Use coupon code gcas15.

AL'S AQUATIC SERVICES
ALSAQUATICSERVICES@OUTLOOK.COM

AL TURRISI
 516.633.8806

- SPECIALIZING IN
- POND DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- PONDLESS WATERFALLS
- TURTLE PONDS
- SALT & FRESH WATER AQUARIUM SET UPS
- REEF TANK SET UPS

Services Include

Scheduled Maintenance

Repairs & Emergency Service

Pond sitting while you travel

Professional Aquatic Services

Specializing in Aquatic Animals

AlsAquaticServices@outlook.com



10% Discount on everything.



☎ 917-300-2293

📍 124-11 Jamaica Ave
 Richmond Hill, NY 11418

🌐 naturesreefandreptile.com

🕒 Mon-Sun
 10 am - 8 pm

📷 [natureefandreprs](#)

📷 [nature_reef_reptile](#)



GCAS Classifieds

FOR SALE: African cichlids -- all sizes, as well as tanks and accessories.
 Call Derek (917) 854-4405

FOR SALE: Coralife 9-Watt Turbo-Swift U/V, bulb recently replaced.
 Call Kris: 516-282-6677



GCAS Happenings

October

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

- 1 RICHARD WAIZMAN BLUE & RED DELTA BETTA
- 2 RICHARD WAIZMAN BLUE & GREEN DELTA BETTA

UNOFFICIAL 2019 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

RICHARD WAIZMAN	32	WILLIAM AMELY	7	CHRISTOPHER KOENIG	5
JOHN BUZZETTI	5	TOM KEEGAN	3		

A WARM WELCOME BACK TO RENEWING GCAS MEMBERS JOE FRANKE, LOIS VELAZQUEZ, AND RICHARD WONG!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBERS MICHAEL KOSTAKOS AND JOSHUA MODESTE!

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



GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Speaker: Greg Steeves

Topic: *Creatures of the Comal*

Meets: The first Wednesday of each month

(except January & February) at 7:30pm:

Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street - Flushing, NY

Contact: Horst Gerber (718) 885-3071

Email: pilotcove43@gmail.com

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

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 11, 2019

Event: Giant Auction

Topic: N/A

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 18, 2019

Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBA

Meets: 3rd Friday of each month (except July and August) at 8:00 PM. LIAS Meetings are held at SUNY Stony Brook's Maritime Science area. Room 120 in Endeavor Hall on the State University at Stony Brook Campus, Stony Brook, NY 11790

Email: president@lisonline.org

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



EAST COAST GUPPY ASSOCIATION

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

Environmental Ctr.: 228-06 Northern Blvd.

Contact: Gene Baudier (631) 345-6399



NASSAU COUNTY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: October 8, 2019

Event: Giant Auction

Topic: N/A

Meets: 2nd Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM. Molloy College, at 1000 Hempstead Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY, in the Hagan Center for Nursing building, in the lower level, classroom #H006. See website for directions.

Contact: Harry W. Faustmann, (516) 804-4752.

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



NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: October 19, 2019

Speaker: Anton Lamboj

Topic: *West African Cichlid Husbandry*

Meets: 12:30 PM - 3rd Saturday of the month, Clark Public Library in Union County, just off the

Parkway at exit 135

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.nj.com

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



NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: October 17, 2019

Speaker: Eric Bodrock

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

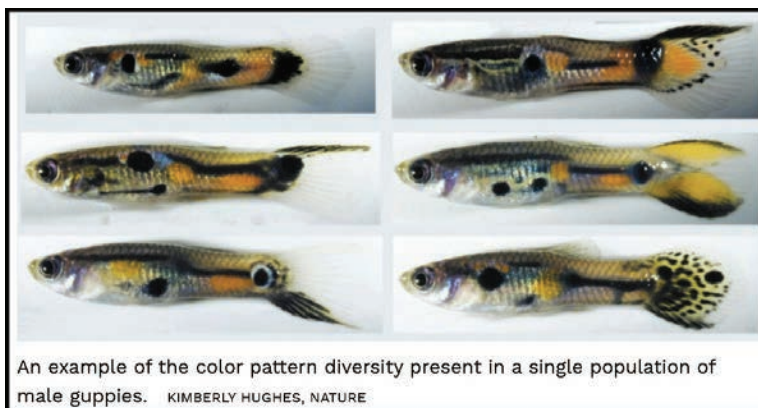
Website: <http://norwalkas.org/>

Sometimes, It Pays To Be Different

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"

Researchers at Florida State University have recently discovered why female guppies prefer males with unusual color patterns - and it has to do with fish psychology. In their new study, Dr. Kimberly Hughes and her team of researchers essentially used fish 'speed dating' to assess female mate preferences. They first introduced the female fish to a series of male guppies that largely resembled one another and assessed the female's attraction to each by monitoring her behavior. Then the female guppies were introduced to either more males that resembled the original group of suitors, or to 'hipster' males - ones with strikingly different color patterns.



The speed-dating results showed a clear pattern: Female guppies prefer males that are more eccentric, at least relative to the group at large.

Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/allenelizabeth/2019/05/21/for-these-tiny-tropical-fish-unconventional-style-key-to-courting-a-mate/#7b4422ae1942>

"If they've seen certain patterns in the past, they've gotten used to them," explains Dr. Mitchel Daniel, a postdoctoral researcher working with Dr. Hughes and lead author on this study. "But when a male guppy comes along with a novel pattern, they're not used to it, so they find that male more attractive."

Scientists refer to the female's acquired disinterest as 'habituation' - similar to how a person can lose the ability to smell their own perfume after a couple of minutes, or how wildlife can adjust to the presence of humans. The female guppy becomes habituated to males that share the same color patterns, causing her to pay more attention to male fish that look different. Interestingly, male guppies with color patterns that were familiar to the female guppies re-gained 'attractiveness' after brief isolation from the female guppies. In essence, female preference seems to change relative to the female's current pool of suitors.

But what's the advantage of being so picky? Researchers believe it's all tied to promoting genetic diversity. If a male suitor looks quite different from the other males in town, his genes are potentially more unique, or diverse. Genetic diversity can decrease susceptibility to disease, increase a population's ability to adapt to a changing environment, and perhaps most important to the guppy, can help prevent the ill-effects of inbreeding.

"This work demonstrates that social environment has a direct influence on genetic diversity patterns," explains Leslie Rissler, acting deputy division director of NSF's Division of Environmental Biology, which funded the research.

"Only by understanding the social and ecological settings of organisms in nature can we fully appreciate how genetic diversity is maintained."



Fin Fun

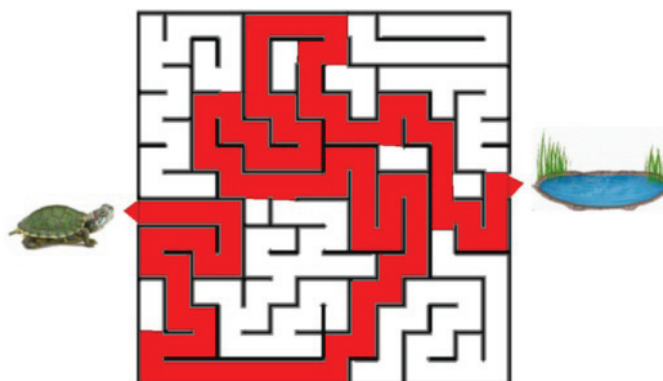
ALL FALL DOWN

The word **autumn** comes from the Old French word *autompne*, later changed to the original Latin word *autumnus*. Can you find all the words that pertain to Autumn in the puzzle below?



APPLES	CIDER	FALL	HALLOWEEN	SCARECROW
AUTUMN	CORN	FOOTBALL	LEAVES	THANKSGIVING
CHESTNUTS	CRANBERRY	GOURD	PUMPKIN	TURKEY

Solution to our last puzzle: **Once Up Pond A Time**





BOWL SHOW RULES

There is a Bowl Show at every GCAS meeting, except our Night at the Auction 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

