

modern AQUARIUM



December 2015
volume XXII
number 10

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York



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modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXII, No. 10 December, 2015

ON THE COVER

Our cover photo this month is *Cichla occellaris*. According to Rosario LaCorte, it is “a difficult fish to collect with seine. They are explosive in their ability to take to flight and jump over a net to escape capture. They are now in Florida, and are a favorite of anglers. They grow quite large, and are delicious to eat. There are several *Cichla* species and they have a wide range.” See Chapter 20 of Rosario’s autobiography, on page 27.

Photo by Rosario LaCorte

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

As you might guess from the photo at the right, the Florida Aquarium in Tampa plays a prominent role in this issue. Marsha and I got away to Tampa for a few days, and brought back some photos of the Aquarium. Not just of fish, either. In fact, you'll find a few non-fish items on the menu this month. The fishkeepers, for example.

This being the final issue of the year, we tally up breeders points, bowl show prizes, and author contributions to **Modern Aquarium**. In a way, this issue is a tribute to our fishkeeper members. And if you think this magazine is the work of just a few people, take a look on page 25 at the list of everyone who contributed during this past year. It's a club magazine, by and for our members. If you haven't contributed anything yet, consider it. Each of us has some unique experiences and knowledge. Make us all better fishkeepers by sharing!

Speaking of non-fish related subjects, and as a souvenir of the extraordinary winter we endured last year, I have included an article from **Aquatic News**, the e-newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Water Garden and Koi Club. It's a little different, and it does recall the flavor of last winter.

In her Wet Leaves column, Sue Priest reviews **Adventure Aquarium**, by Peter Stadelmann. This book looks well worth checking out, even if children (someone's, somewhere?) are only your excuse for buying it.

Rosario LaCorte wraps up his South American adventures in Chapter 20 of **An Aquarist's Journey**. I know I've enjoyed tagging along. I hope you have too.

As usual, The Undergravel Reporter gives us something unusual to think about, and the issue ends with the brain-teasing Fin Fun puzzle.



Share your experience with us! Write about your successes! Maybe even mention some of your failures—sometimes those are more instructive than the successes. If you're a little unsure about the state of your writing technique, don't worry—that's why editors exist. If you don't share what you know, who will? While I'm on this subject, I'll welcome our newest contributor to **Modern Aquarium**, Lauren Ramroop. See page 4!

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 2016

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

March 2	Matthew Wickey from Tetra/ Spectrum Brands <i>Fish Nutrition</i>
April 6	Thomas Keegan <i>Ponds</i>
May 4	Tom Allison <i>Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.</i>
June 1	TBA TBA
July 6	TBA TBA
August 3	Silent Auction
September 7	TBA TBA
October 5	TBA TBA
November 2	TBA TBA
December 7	Holiday Party!

Articles submitted for consideration in *Modern Aquarium* (ISSN 2150-0940) must be received no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Please email submissions to gcas@earthlink.net, or fax to (877) 299-0522. Copyright 2015 by the Greater City Aquarium Society Inc., a not-for-profit New York State corporation. All rights reserved. Not-for-profit aquarium societies are hereby granted permission to reproduce articles and illustrations from this publication, **unless the article indicates that the copyrights have been retained by the author**, and provided reprints indicate source, and that two copies of the publication are sent to the Exchange Editor of this magazine. For online-only publications, copies may be sent via email to donnste@aol.com. Any other reproduction or commercial use of the material in this publication is prohibited without prior express written permission.

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

President's Message

by Dan Radebaugh

Welcome to our annual Holiday & Awards Banquet! To me, these are always a pleasure, giving us an opportunity to just hang out and talk, as well as to review our accomplishments and challenges during the past year. Many of these accomplishments are recorded in the pages of this month's **Modern Aquarium**.

A couple of these accomplishments can be found right in the masthead, where you will see two new names. Vinnie Ritchie has taken over the post of Corresponding Secretary. Vinnie has recently been very successful in obtaining sponsorship items for our raffles, drawings, and auctions. This is a very important task for any club, and we thank Vinnie for volunteering his efforts on Greater City's behalf.

Another new name on the masthead is that of Dan Puleo, who will be taking over as Advertising Manager for **Modern Aquarium**. In this role Dan will continue to make contacts with fish shops in the area, in a mutually beneficial arrangement whereby we members learn more about the shops we might want to patronize, and where we may receive discounts on certain purchases.

This is an Awards party, and my thanks and congratulations go out to all of this year's participants and winners, including the Breeders' Award competition, the **Modern Aquarium** Author Awards program, and the Bowl Show competition.

A large part of our purpose as a club is to spread knowledge about successful fishkeeping, and our successful breeders and authors are a great source of knowledge and expertise. By seeing who is on these lists of high performers, you might get an idea about who might have an answer to a specific fishkeeping question. This of course works both ways. If you're successful at breeding fish, get involved with the program! If you have knowledge about keeping and/or breeding a certain genus or species, put together an article about it. We're all here to learn.

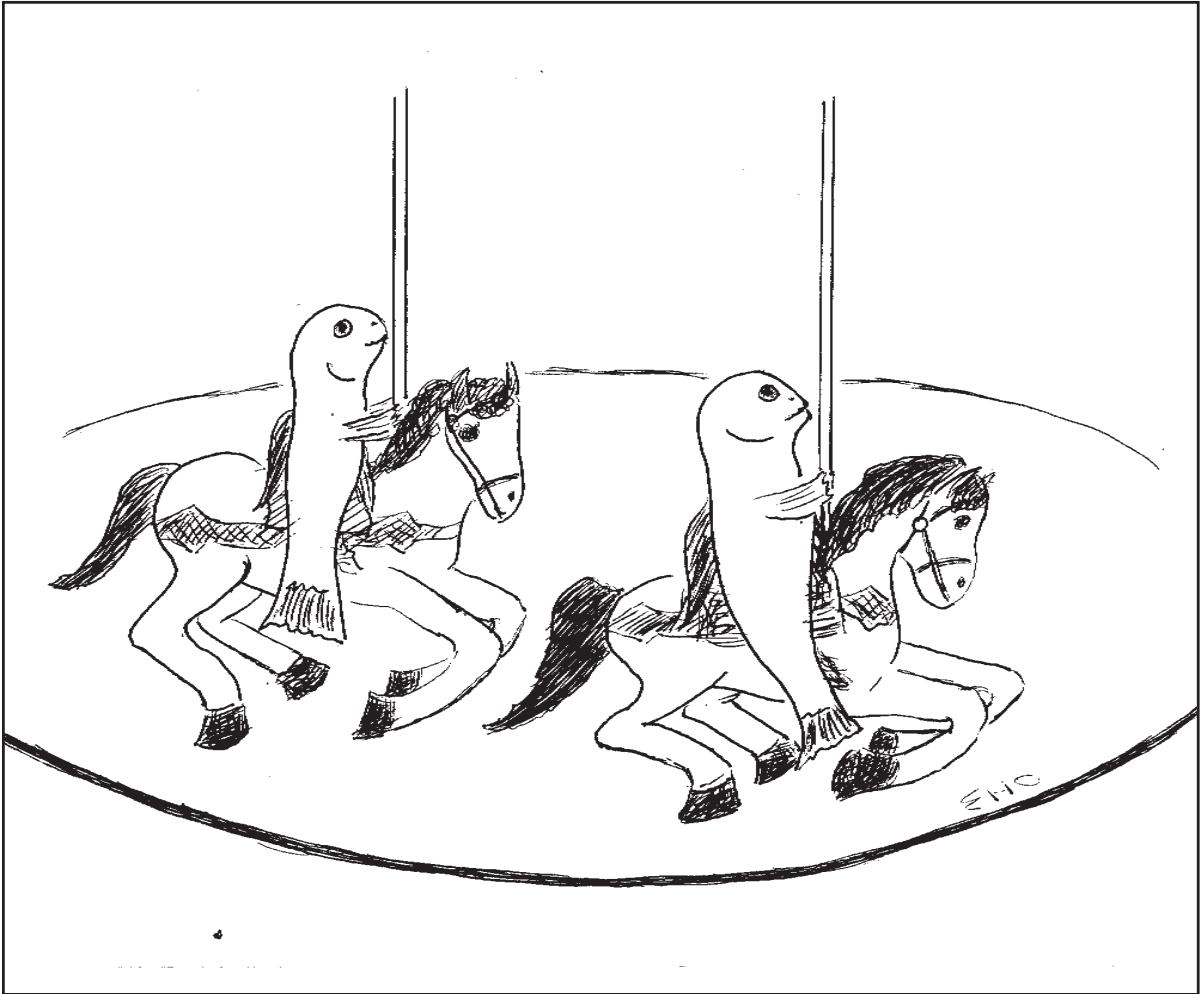
By the time you read this the party will be mostly over, so here's wishing each of you a great holiday season. See you next year!



Angel & Betta



November's Caption Winner: Al Priest



Remember, the brass ring, not the brass hook!

The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

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



Your Caption:

Your Name:

Pictures From Our Last Meeting

Photos by Susan Priest



He who must not be named!

Bowl Show Winners:



1st Place: Rich Waizman



2nd & 3rd Place: Mario Bengcion

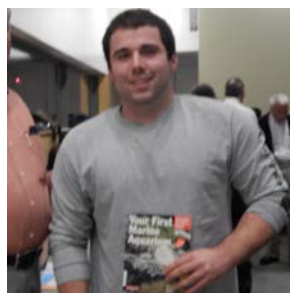


Plant donations from Florida Aquatics



Ed Vukich, our hard working auctioneer

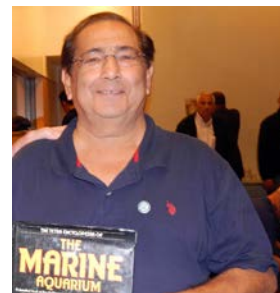
Door Prize Winners:



Jacob Coleman



Artie Friedman



Ron Wiesenfeld



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A Visit to the Florida Aquarium

by Dan Radebaugh

A couple of months ago Marsha and I made a short trip to Tampa, where most of my family still lives. I don't get back there too often any more, and the trips tend to be short. Of course for the past few years I can say that about pretty much all the trips we've taken, so it isn't really an indictment of Tampa. It just seems that it's harder to get away.

A few years back we had gone by to see the Florida Aquarium (What else?). On that visit, though we did give the Aquarium a quick look-over, most of our time was devoted to a "dolphin cruise" around Tampa Bay. If you find yourself there and with some time on your hands, it was a relaxing and informative tour around the bay and the spoil islands. Yes, we did see some dolphins, as well as Derek Jeter's place, which was under construction at the time.

This time though, we spent our time in the Aquarium itself. While not a huge facility, it isn't as

small as it at first seems, and they've done quite a good job of making both their collection and its presentation relevant to the Gulf coast habitat.

That habitat is of course under tremendous pressure from the enormous human population growth during the past hundred years. Much of what might be called "nature" has of course been lost, but there are remnants, and I am encouraged by some of what I see there. Much like what is being done here in the New York City area, efforts are afoot to clean up Tampa Bay and make it once again able to support the aquatic and other wildlife that were once taken for granted.

The general area where the Aquarium is located is clearly in transition, but it now seems to be a positive transition, fueled, I am told, by the "millennial" generation, who want what they want when they want it. Very encouraging!



The welcoming committee



One of the crabby neighbors



Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*)



Presentation of a small screech owl



Not just fish here, nor just from the Gulf coast



Note alligator gar near top center



Diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) (I think)



Gag grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*)



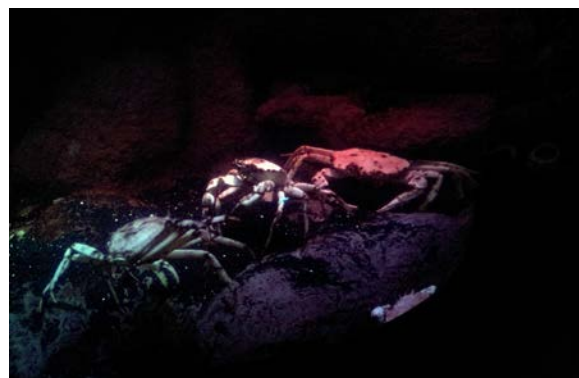
Toadfish -- Not sure which species



Florida (spiny) lobsters



Hermit crabs



Other crabs



Some of the bigger guys in the collection



Leafy sea dragon (*Phycodurus eques*)



Jellyfish exhibits are rightly popular at aquaria everywhere.



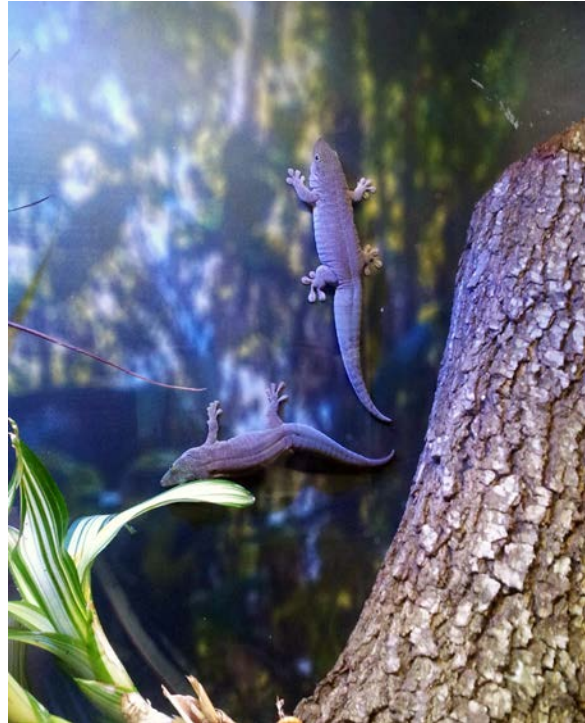
Southern stingray (*Dasyatis americana*)



Sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*)



Snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) can live in fresh, brackish, or salt water, but are sensitive to cold. Formerly an important commercial fish, their population began to plummet in the 1950s due to overfishing and coastal development leading to habitat loss.



Geckos



Fulvous whistling duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)



Garden eels



Seahorses



Sheephead minnows (*Cyprinodon variegatus variegatus*)



Photos by Dan and Marsha Radebaugh

WET LEAVES



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

Few and far between, this has been my experience when seeking out fishkeeping books written specifically for children. Even back in the old days of book store shopping the offerings consisted of storybooks, but no practical guide books. A twenty-first century internet search will turn up a plethora of coloring books. It's not the fault of the booksellers. There are almost no authors writing in this genre. Note that I said **almost**. I have found an author, as well as his book, that are worth reading as well as reviewing, so read on.

This book is described by the author as “**an idea-and-advice manual written for children and parents.**” There is no specific recommendation as to age appropriateness, but in my mind's eye, a child must be thought of as a beginner. Therefore, a parent with fishkeeping experience would be a major asset in navigating which of the described techniques **their** child would be able to accomplish. For example, a substrate consisting of a layer of gravel topped by a layer of soil topped by a second layer of gravel might be too advanced

for a six year old, but a twelve year old might enjoy this project.

A twenty gallon tank is recommended by the author as a starter. The several different combinations of fishes suggested for children are dominated by tetras, danios, and corydoras, which I liked the sound of. (These seem to be hardier choices than the livebearers most often touted for beginners.)

The author places a heavy emphasis on aquatic plants, specifically as a source of oxygen in the aquarium. Java ferns and small

Anubias species would seem to be particular favorites of his.

The list of items which shouldn't go into an aquarium

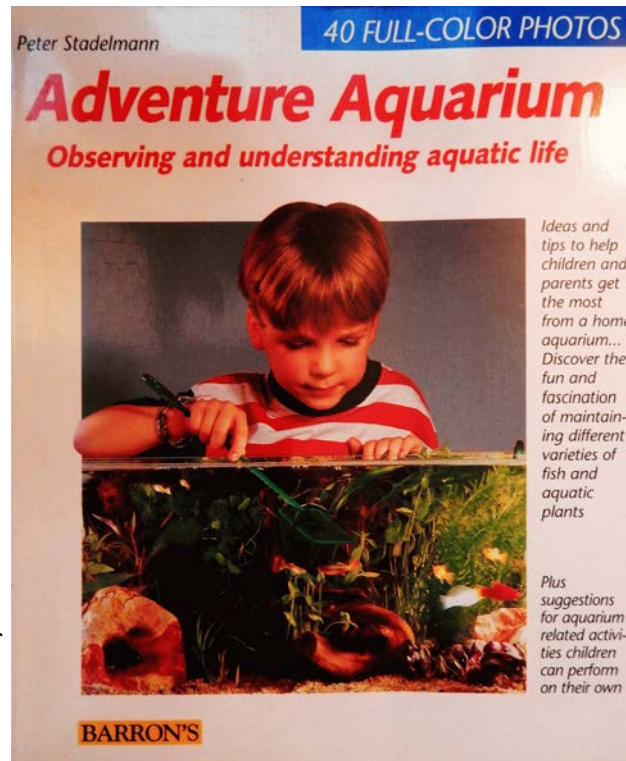
includes plants from outside, fresh coconut shells, and painted toys. Important advice which is repeated more than once is not to get soap onto anything which will go into the fish tank.

Refreshing to this reviewer of many books on the subject of fishkeeping was the description of armored catfishes (corys) as the “health police,” because they clean up any uneaten food (and **not** because they eat detritus, which they **don't**!)

There is, of course, instruction as to caring for an aquarium. This is another area where “parent knows best.” Among the topics covered are filter care, changing of water, and setting up a

schedule for regularly occurring jobs. Instructions for **emergency first aid** in the event of deficient water quality, which

Adventure Aquarium
by Peter Stadelmann
Publisher: Barrons Educational Series
1998



includes signs and symptoms as well as solutions, would seem to be required reading for every fishkeeper.

Near the back of the book there is a list of “**Useful Terms**,” (i.e., a glossary). Some of the terms are more useful to children than others. An example of a useful term would be “**School**-many fish swimming together form a school in which they find protection from predators.” An example of a not-so-useful term would be “**Watt**-a measure of current used by a piece of electrical equipment.” (In my many fishkeeping adventures, I have never encountered a watt!)

Although the color photos by a variety of different photographers (including Horst Linke of **Labyrinth Fish World** fame) were excellent, I found that I especially enjoyed the many drawings by Peter Fischer. The combination of these two art forms gives a very pleasing dimension to the total presentation.

Even this over-grown child couldn't resist making a “home made tin can magnifying glass” (page 56). This book is truly a treat for children of all ages!

Author's Note

You have all heard the old saying “do as I say, not as I do.” Well, in my case, **don't** do as I say **or** as I do, because it won't get you anywhere! I'll try to keep my tale of woe as brief as possible. A few months back I offered the advice to be as specific as you can in your request when you are doing an internet search for a book about the tropical fish hobby. When I took my own advice, and then made a purchase, I had high hopes, but the result was a great disappointment. The book which arrived had absolutely nothing to recommend it, and I could not in good conscience waste your time (or mine) by reviewing it.

After a couple of months went by, I decided to try again. I went googling in search of on-line book shops which sold **only** books about aquariums and/or fishkeeping. I actually did find a few. However, I once again feel that it would be irresponsible of me to name them or recommend them. Here is a brief summary of the results of my search.

The first one I visited offered a title and a purchase price, but no author's name or date of publication. If there was a photo of the cover (which was not always the case), you **might** be able to discover the name of the author. The shipping costs are “to be calculated at checkout.”(?)

The next one did include the names of the authors. It had excellent chapter-by-chapter descriptions of the contents, as well as brief reviews by prior readers. There were still no publication dates. Under the heading “freshwater aquarium books,” there were a meager fifteen titles to choose from.

Don't get your hopes up when I tell you that the last one I visited was actually the best of the three. It had an alphabetically arranged list of thirty categories, starting with (freshwater) angelfishes, and ending with water chemistry. None of these took me anywhere I wanted to go. (With only two or three choices in most categories, and with publication dates in the 1970s and 80s, “new” didn't seem so new!)

Anyway, I kept poking around, and when I clicked on “published by all other publishers, miscellaneous,” (which was not part of the list of categories), there was a respectable selection. However, there was no coherent organization. For each book described, varying elements of the desired information were available. The shipping costs were reasonable, but due to the inconsistencies, there was no way to make an informed choice.

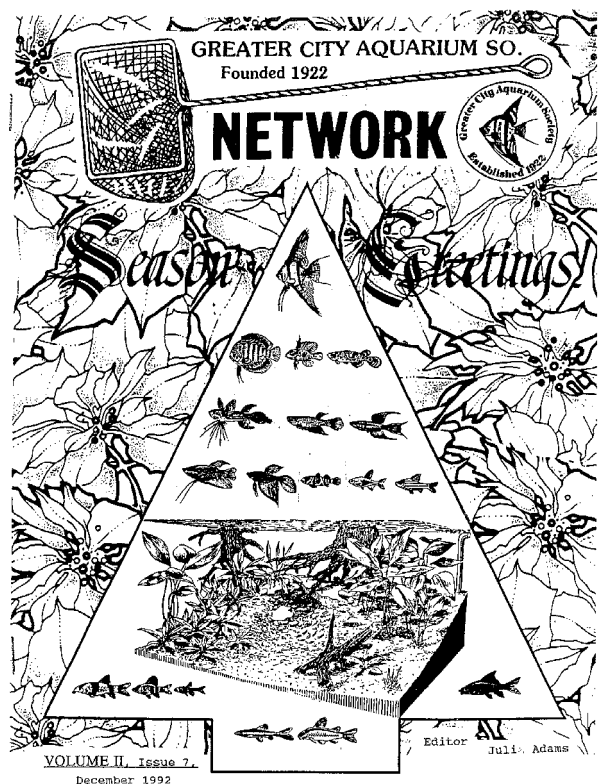
The picture I have just painted is of a dismal state of affairs. What's a book lover to do? Even though I do most of my recreational reading (fiction) on a Kindle, when it comes to an aquarium book, I want to hold it in my hands, turn the pages (backward as well as forward), and be able to look at the photos, and I want all of that **before** I purchase it! As a song that was popular many moons ago once opined, “you can't always get what you want!”



Can You Spot the Changes?

by Horst Gerber

*How observant are you? The images below are from the cover of **Network**, our predecessor to **Modern Aquarium** (Series III) back in the 1990s. Below are two versions of the December 1992 cover. The original is on the left, and a copy with a few subtle differences is on the right. How many changes can you spot?*



Answers:
 Season's Greetings: 'S' tail missing
 Filter tube shorter
 Julia: a missing
 Butterfly fish: Tail shorter
 Bottom row of fish: Rasbora reversed
 Tree trunk: Longer bottom limb
 Right front: new plant



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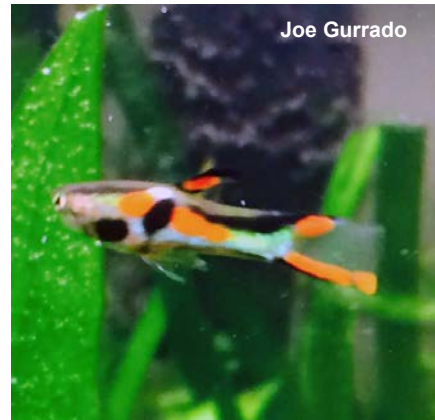
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Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

Here is another installment of our newest ongoing column. These are photo submissions to our "Fishy Friends" Facebook group. 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 delighted!



GCAS Past Award Winners

JOSEPH FERDENZI ROLL OF HONOR

Gene Baiocco	Charles Elzer	Ben Haus	Susan Priest	Mark Soberman
Joe Bugeia	Joe Ferdenzi	Emma Haus	Herman Rabenau	Dan Radebaugh
Mary Ann Bugeia	Warren Feuer	Jack Oliva	Marcia Repanes	Marsha Radebaugh
Dan Carson	Herb Fogal	Al Priest	Nick Repanes	
Claudia Dickinson	Paul Hahnel		Don Sanford	

DON SANFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR

1981-83.....	Ginny & Charlie Eckstein	1995-96.....	Tom Miglio
1983-85.....	Rich Sorensen	1996-97.....	Mark Soberman
1985-86.....	Yezid Gutierrez	1997-98.....	Jeff George
1986-87.....	Joe Ferdenzi	1998-'00.....	Tom Miglio
1987-88.....	Patricia Piccione	2000-01.....	Mark Soberman
1988-89.....	Joe Ferdenzi	2001-02.....	Alexander Priest
1989-90.....	Francis Lee	2002-05.....	Anton Vukich
1990-91.....	Eddie Szablewicz	2006.....	Warren Feuer
1991-92.....	Dominic Isla	2007, '08, '09, '10.....	Jeffrey Bollbach
1992-93.....	Steve Sagona	2011, 2012.....	Joseph Graffagnino
1993-94.....	Joe Ferdenzi	2013.....	Leslie Dick
1994-95.....	Steve Sagona	2014.....	Mark Soberman

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

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

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPIONS (Since 1983-84)

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

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

1946-49 Elliott Whiteway (4)	1968-70 Walter Hubel (2)	1981-84 Brian Kelly (3)
1950-51 Robert Greene (2)	1970-72 Dave Williams (2)	1984-86 Jack Oliva (2)
1952-53 Robert Maybeck (2)	1972-73 Dan Carson (1)	1986-97 Joe Ferdenzi (11)
1954-55 Leonard Meyer (2)	1973-75 Herb Fogal (2)	1997-99 Vincent Sileo (2)
1956-57 Sam Estro (2)	1975-76 Richard Hoey (1)	1999-00 Jeff George (1)
1958 Leonard Meyer (2+1)	1976-77 Ted Tura (1)	2000-08 Joe Ferdenzi (11+8)
1959-64 Gene Baiocco (6)	1977-78 Gene Baiocco (6+1)	2009-15 Dan Radebaugh (7)
1965 Andrew Fazio (1)	1978-79 Louis Kromm (1)	
1966-68 Charles Elzer (2)	1979-81 Don Sanford (2)	

Greater City Aquarium Society 2015 Awards

To be awarded December 2, 2015

GENE BAIOTTO AQUARIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

ALEXANDER & SUSAN PRIEST

DON SANFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ARTIE PLATT

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPION

RICHARD WAIZMAN

AUTHOR AWARD PROGRAM (AAP) AWARDS

Only authors making contributions printed during 2015, or who received AAP points as a result of NEC and/or FAAS publication awards announced in 2015, and whose AAP levels changed are listed below.

Bill Amely.....	Writer	Denver Lettman.....	Writer
Joe Ferdenzi.....	Grand Master Laureate	Rich Levy.....	Writer
Horst Gerber.....	Essayist	Ruben Lugo.....	Correspondent
Joseph Gurrado.....	Writer	Elliot Oshins.....	Laureate
Steven Hinshaw.....	Essayist	Michael Vulis.....	Correspondent
Andrew Jouan.....	Author	Larry Whitfield.....	Author

Susan Priest is Author of the Year for 2015!

BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM (BAP) AWARDS

Breeders who achieved significant plateaus this year are:

Artie PlattBreeder

GCAS BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM 2015

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPECIES BRED</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st - GCAS</u>	<u>CARES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
JEFF BOLLBACH	CERT #				
	1923 <i>PSEUDOMUGIL CYANODORSALIS</i>	5	✓		9/2/2015
	Number of species: 1	Total Points	5		
WARREN FEUER	1897 <i>HYPANCISTRIS SP "L270"</i>	30	✓		3/4/2015
	Number of species: 1	Total Points	30		
JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO	1898 <i>CORYDORAS SP. (NOT IDENTIFIED)</i>	15			3/4/2015
	1899 <i>PUNDAMILIA sp. "Red Flank: (Nansio Bay)</i>	25		♥	3/4/2015
	1900 <i>EPIPLATYS TOGOLENSIS</i>	20	✓		3/4/2015
	1901 <i>AULONOCARA MAYLANDI</i>	25	✓		4/1/2015
	1902 <i>GIRARDINUS FALCATUS</i>	15	✓		4/1/2015
	1903 <i>KROBIA GUINENSIS "XINGU ORANGE"</i>	20	✓		5/5/2015
	1904 <i>HERICHTHYS CARPINTIS</i>	10			5/5/2015
	1917 <i>GOODEA ATRIPINNIS ATRIPINNIS</i>	20		♥	6/3/2015
	1922 <i>GAMBUSIA AFFINIS</i>	5			9/2/2015
	1926 <i>BRACHYRHAPHIS ROSENI</i>	5			11/4/2014
	Number of species: 11	Total Points	15		
ARTIE PLATT	1905 <i>PTEROPHYLLUM SCALARE</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1906 <i>PSEUDOMUGIL CYANODORSALIS</i>	15	✓		6/3/2015
	1907 <i>PSEUDOCRENILABRUS PHLLANDER DISPERSUS</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1908 <i>PROTOMELAS TAENIOLATUS</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1909 <i>PROTOMELAS SPILONOTUS</i>	20	✓		6/3/2015
	1910 <i>MICROGEOPHAGUS RAMIREZI</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1911 <i>CICHLASOMA (HYPOSOPHRYS) NICARAGUENSIS</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1912 <i>HERICHTHYS CARPENTIS</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1913 <i>GEOPHAGUS STEINDACHNERI</i>	15			6/3/2015
	1914 <i>HAPLOCHROMIS (CYRTOCARA) MOORI</i>	10			6/3/2015
	1915 <i>AULONOCARA STUARTGRANTI (NTEKETE)</i>	20	✓		6/3/2015
	1916 <i>AMECA SPLENDENS</i>	20		♥	6/3/2015
	1918 <i>AEQUIDENS PULCHER</i>	10			9/2/2015
	1919 <i>LAETACARA CURVICEPS</i>	10			9/2/2015
	1920 <i>XIPHOPHORUS EVELYNAE</i>	5			9/2/2015
	1921 <i>PUNDAMILIA NYEREREI</i>	25		♥	9/2/2015
	Number of species: 16	Total Points	210		
EDWARD VUKICH	1924 <i>HYPANCISTRUS SP. "L004"</i>	30	✓		11/4/2015
	1925 <i>APISTOGRAMMA CACATUOIDES</i>	15			11/4/2015
	Number of species: 2	Total Points	45		

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

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



GCAS

Breeder Award Totals

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>
1 JEFF BOLLBACH	1,690	123	40 LESLIE DICK	160	8
2 JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO	1,400	98	41 DICK MOORE	160	5
3 JOSEPH FERDENZI	980	65	42 JEAN BRAUDE	155	12
4 MARK SOBERMAN	945	51	43 BARRY LYNCH	150	18
5 ANTON VUKICH	910	70	44 SHARON MIRABELLA	135	10
6 TOM MIGLIO	865	66	45 THADDEUS TURA	135	9
7 WARREN FEUER	880	58	46 JOE CUCINIELLO	135	9
8 EDWARD VUKICH	735	56	47 JORGE RODRIGUEZ	135	9
9 STEVE SAGONA	655	47	48 HARRY EVANS	125	11
10 JOHN STORA	540	47	49 KEN BRUST	120	15
11 JOSE ARANDA	505	47	50 FRANK GANNON	120	16
12 JOHN IANNONE	485	45	51 JERRY SCHULTZ	120	11
13 THE ECKSTEINS	455	39	52 THE KELLYS	115	12
14 CARLOTTI DE JAGER	440	33	53 GEORGE MAROTI	115	8
15 CLAUDIA DICKINSON	435	27	54 JOE MANCUSI	115	8
16 RICHARD SORENSEN	420	33	55 HERB FOGAL	100	13
17 FRANCIS LEE	390	28	56 JERRY MAYER	95	7
18 GERALD GORYCKI	370	41	57 JOE FLANAGAN	95	12
19 CHARLEY SABATINO	360	20	58 DENNIS EGIELSKI	95	4
20 THE REPANES	355	27	59 BRIAN KELLY	90	6
21 JACK OLIVA	345	42	60 PETE D'ORIO	90	9
22 HAROLD KETTERER	335	30	61 ROBERT MC KEAND	85	5
23 AL PRIEST	330	8	62 EDWARD SZABLEWICZ	85	7
24 THE LOMBARDIS	325	32	63 NOEL RODRIGUEZ	85	7
25 GREGORY WUEST	310	30	64 BOB KUHLE	80	7
26 DON SANFORD	310	25	65 LEONARD RAMROOP	80	11
27 TED KURDZIEL	295	24	66 BRADLEY PLOTKIN	80	6
28 TONY FERRARO	275	23	67 JOHN LEE	75	5
29 THE BUGEIAS	270	31	68 DOUGLAS CURTIN	75	12
30 DOMINIC ISLA	235	20	69 JOSE PEREZ	75	6
31 STEPHAN ZANDER	230	14	70 TOM BOHME	75	7
32 ARTIE PLATT	210	16	71 BOB RADAMACHER	70	9
33 YEZID GUTIERREZ	206	20	72 DONALD CURTIN	70	10
34 PHILIP INGENITO	205	13	73 PAT PICCIONE	70	7
35 ROD DU CASSE	190	14	74 SARA MONHEIT	65	6
36 THE DONATONES	175	18	75 CHARLES KUHNE	60	8
37 JOHN MORAN	170	11	76 JOEL FORGIONE	60	4
38 LOUIS KROMM	170	16	77 BOB DU BOIS	55	5
39 JEFF GEORGE	165	17	78 HORST GERBER	55	4

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>
79 MIKE CASSANO	50	5
80 WARREN BURKE	45	7
81 BRUCE WEILER	45	3
82 WILLIAM BRANDOFINO	45	4
83 CHARLES SHATAKA	40	5
84 CHARLES BENEFATTI	40	7
85 DAN RADEBAUGH	40	3
86 BRIAN STERN	35	4
87 ARTHUR MAYER	35	3
88 BARRY CENTER	35	3
89 THE MARTINS	35	5
90 VINNIE RITCHIE	35	3
91 AL PHANEUF	35	5
92 BRUCE WELLER	30	3
93 MICHAEL VILLANO	30	4
94 ROGER BEAULIEU	30	2
95 THE STEGMANS	30	3
96 ROB ALTONEN	30	2
97 GENE BAIOTTO	30	4
98 STANLEY WEGLARZ	25	4
99 VINCENT BABINO	25	2
100 EMMA JORDAN HAUS	20	3
101 DANNY SHEPARD	20	3
102 GUNTER HORSTMANN	20	3
103 STEVEN MILLER	20	1
104 PETER SCHLEISMAN	20	2
105 ARNOLD FREED	20	4
106 STUART KRICHEVSKY	20	3
107 JOE ARONNE	15	2
108 IGNACIO ARENCIBIA	15	1

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>
109 THE FERNANDEZES	15	1
110 WILLIAM SADERA	15	1
111 DAN GAWIAK	15	2
112 KATHY BUSBY	10	1
113 ABE COOPER	10	2
114 BILL ARONNE	10	1
115 RICH LEVY	15	2
116 DIANNE SPELLMAN	10	1
117 JOHN MC CAFFERY	10	2
118 JERROLD MEYER	10	1
119 HORST MIEHLBRAD	10	1
120 FRANK FALLON	10	1
121 WALTER ROSTOWSKI	10	2
122 JASON KERNER	10	1
123 JAY LIEBOWITZ	5	2
124 ADAM KLEINROCK	5	1
125 EDYTH MONSOUR	5	1
126 KATHY FERNANDEZ	5	1
127 THE QUINNS	5	1
128 WILLIAM STALZER	5	2
129 JAMES BROOKS	5	1
130 RICHARD WALSH	5	1
131 BILL SMITH	5	1
132 DANNY CIRNIGLIAR	5	1
133 GEROLD COCH	5	1
134 BOB FUCHS	0	1
135 PETER SAGINARIO	0	5
136 DEAN ABRUMSON	0	1
137 VINCENT MASCOLA	0	3
138 JOHN HILL	0	1



The GCAS Author Award Program

We are always very pleased to welcome new names to our member/author list, and you will see some new names once again this year. One of the things that has distinguished **Modern Aquarium** over the years has been the number of our members who contribute to the magazine, and I'm very glad to see this tradition continue.

Several of our authors have moved up the ladder in our Author Award points rankings: Congratulations are in order to Andrew Jouan and Larry Whitfield, who achieved Author status, Ruben Lugo and Michael Vulis, who moved up to Correspondent, Bill Amely, Joe Gurrado, Denver Lettman, and Rich Levy, all of whom moved up to Writer. Elliot Oshins is now a Laureate, and Joe Ferdenzi has gained the distinction of Grand Master Laureate! Special congratulations go to our **Author of the Year** for 2015, Susan Priest! Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to all of our contributors. We hope to hear more from each of you in 2016!

Overview of the Author Award Program

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

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

Eligibility

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

Points

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

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

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

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

for publication, in any commercial or amateur publication.

Two or more related photographs or illustrations submitted with captions, and occupying one or more pages, will be counted as two photos (10 points) and as an article over 500 words (10 points), for a total of 20 points. An example would be a photo spread with captions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bonus Points

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

Prize Drawing

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

Author of the Year

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

Accomplishment Levels

For the accomplishment levels specified below, points are cumulative over the life of the AAP program. ¹Points are **doubled** for each article on a fish in the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program.

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

³**Bonus points** are awarded to participants for awards (other than Honorable Mention) received from the

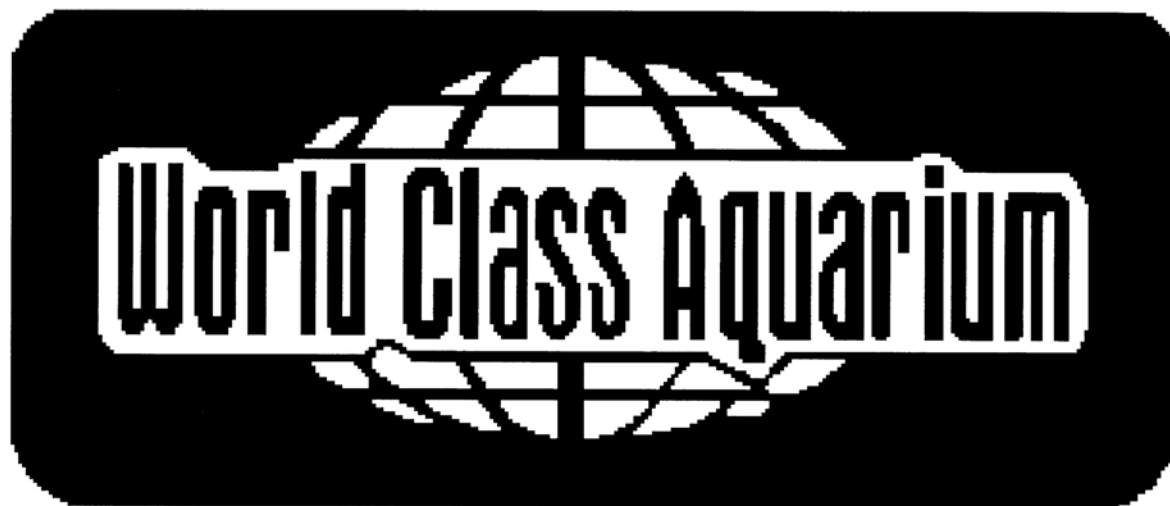
Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) Publication Awards, and The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies (NEC) Article Awards, in the year these awards are **announced**, not in the year for which they are awarded.

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

Author Award Program Report

A Status Report - Points Awarded March to December 2015

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



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2015 Totals	Art Work (in points)	Number of Articles ¹		Awards	Total Points	Prize
Author	Photo/ Drawing (up to two per article) ²	500 Words Or Less	Over 500 Words Or Caption Contest Winner	Bonus ³ Points	Current Year Total March to December	Raffle ⁴ Chances

Shunmugan Al	35				35	7
Tamer Altan	5				5	1
Bill Amely			1		10	2
Jules Birnbaum	15	2	4		65	13
Jeffrey Bollbach	40				40	8
Tommy Chang		1			5	1
Joseph Ferdenzi	15	2	1	30	65	13
Horst Gerber	15				15	3
Joseph Gurrado	100	1	1		115	23
Steven Hinshaw	20		2	10	50	10
Andrew Jouan	25				25	5
Denver Lettman	0	0	2		20	4
Rich Levy	10	1	0		15	3
Ruben Lugo	55				55	11
Elliot Oshins	50	2	0	40	100	20
Artie Platt			2		20	4
Alexander A. Priest	110	4	4	60	230	n/a
Susan Priest	130	2	15	30	320	n/a
Dan Puleo	15		1	10	35	7
Dan Radebaugh	20	0	3	30	80	n/a
Marsha Radebaugh	20				20	4
Stephen Sica	50		2	30	100	20
Undergravel Reporter		10	0	30	80	n/a
Ed Vukich		3	0		15	3
Michael Vulis	10				10	2
Ron Webb			1		10	2
Larry Whitfield	30				30	6

Following are the total AAP points for all GCAS members as of December 2015. If you have questions, or feel that there are errors, please contact Dan Radebaugh.

Shunmugan Al	40	Steve Berman	25
Tamer Altan	5	Jules Birnbaum	645
Bill Amely	105	Tom Bohme	15
Sharon Barnett	30	Victoria Bohme.	25
Fred Bellise	10	Jeffrey Bollbach	90
Mario Bengcion	15	Roger Brewster	10

Tommy Chang	105	Rich Levy	105
Donald Curtin.	10	Bill Luckett	10
Doug Curtin	90	Ruben Lugo	65
Carlotti De Jager	30	Beth Macht	10
Wallace Deng	80	John Malinowski	5
Les Deutsch	5	Desiree Martin	45
Leslie Dick.	35	Tom Miglio	25
Brad Dickinson	20	Jackleen Minassi-Haftvani	20
Claudia Dickinson	3,195	Temes Mo	5
Al DiSpigna	5	Jerry O'Farrell	205
Pete O'Orio	5	Elliot Oshins	580
Rod Du Casse	5	Jim Peterson	5
Evelyn Eagan	25	Margaret Peterson	10
Frank Fallon	65	Artie Platt	20
Harry Faustmann	50	Alexander A. Priest	3,710
Anita Ferdenzi	15	Susan Priest	3,375
Francesca Ferdenzi	5	Dan Puleo	135
Joseph Ferdenzi	1,510	Dan Radebaugh	660
Marisa Ferdenzi	20	Marsha Radebaugh	295
Alison Feuer	5	Jannette Ramirez.	220
Warren Feuer	305	Leonard Ramroop	30
Michael Foran	25	Mark Rubanow	5
Artie Friedman.	15	Charley Sabatino	170
Peter Foster	10	Donna Sosna Sica	10
Mike Gallo	10	Stephen Sica	1,980
Jeff George	165	Vincent Sileo	50
Horst Gerber	150	Danielle Soberman	5
Steve Giacobello	15	Ilyssa Soberman	15
Joseph Graffagnino	270	Robin Soberman	10
Steve Gruebel	10	Mark Soberman	75
Al Grusell	25	Gilberto Soriano	5
Joseph Gurrado	140	Jack Traub	20
Bernard Harrigan	1,800	Undergravel Reporter	1,490
Steven Hinshaw	165	Anton Vukich	5
Andrew Jouan	25	Ed Vukich	80
Jason Kerner	140	Michael Vulis	50
Charlie Kuhne	10	Ron Webb	10
Denver Lettman	115	Larry Whitfield	30
		Greg Wuest	25



AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

Story and Photos (unless noted) by Rosario LaCorte

Chapter 20

On the second of May, our whole group went to an area that was completely new to me. It was a large lake, with hundreds of butterflies flying about and taking up salts from the moist leaf litter that surrounded the lake. Sweeping a seine across a large section of the lake, we captured small numbers of a single species, *Bryconops caudomaculatus*. This was a common capture, and we had no interest in collecting them.

Our results being poor, Luis decided to go to another area, called Mutuca. Luis' knowledge of the area was just amazing. We turned off onto a dirt road and drove into a large area of cane, which was about eight to ten feet high. Luis then unerringly cut a swath through the cane, arriving at a large pond with crystal-clear water. There was an outlet to our left, where the water traveled over an area of *Echinodorus martii* growing under and above the water line. Every specimen was magnificent. Flowering plants were abundant, as were some small trees which sported sharp needles all the way up the trunk. We had to be very careful not to touch them, as they could deliver a nasty cut.

The very attractive Wimple piranha (*Catoprion mento*) inhabited the pond. Their fins were larger and more elongated than specimens caught in more rapidly flowing water. There was an abundance of fish species, many very attractive and

suitable for the home aquarium. This area, rich in flora and fauna, was without a doubt the most beautiful we had seen in the entire vicinity of Aruana.

On May 4 we returned to a region called Fazenda Lagoa de Estrada, where we had already collected several times. This area too was rich in small fauna. We saw *Cheirodon*, *Metynnis*, *Hemigrammus*, and *Hyphessobrycon*, to name only a few. Plant life,

both terrestrial and aquatic, was abundant. We also saw many butterflies, dragonflies of many colors, and attractive damsel flies.

Not far from where we did most of our collecting were some clear pools where we did not collect. On the other side of the road from these was a single pool, not very large and extremely muddy. It looked like a herd of cattle had crossed through and thoroughly roiled the bottom. We had been by there a few times, and each time I had suggested we stop, but Luis would say, "Rosario, there is nothing there." I asked him if he had ever tried collecting there, and he replied, "No," so I was not satisfied with not trying, though except for some patches of grass around the edges it did look rather barren.

The next day I would begin my long trek back to Goiania, then on to New York and home, so finally Luis yielded to my insistence, and the muddy little pool became our last collection area on the trip. We



The author holding *Echinodorus martii*



Trees with spines sticking out from their trunks



Part of the savannah. The water is crystal clear and the bottom laden with *Echinodorus martii*. Note the swiftness of the current.



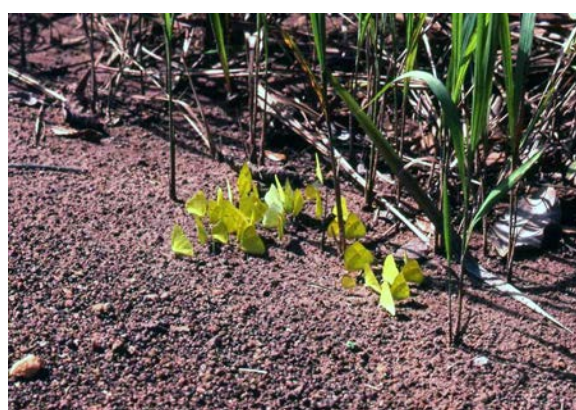
Dragonfly



***Echinodorus* growing above ground in the moist environment.**



One of the now rare butterflies known as the 88 butterfly. According to one of my Brazilian friends, Dalton Nielson, an expert of Brazilian butterflies, this species is becoming rare in the wild.



Butterflies sucking up mineral salts.

stopped and I jumped down from the Jeep. Luis opted to remain with the vehicle and await the results of my probe.

As I entered the water I noticed that it was extremely warm. Of course, the muddy, discolored water absorbed the sun's heat, creating a much warmer temperature than was found in the clear pools across the road. I could not get an accurate reading at the surface, but just below the surface I got a reading of 80°. Making a quick probe, I jumped with glee as I viewed a very handsome cyprinodont. I had never seen it before, and knew that it had to be an undescribed species, and probably a new genus. The males sported a luminous, metallic-blue humeral spot, with an overall wine-red body color. The dorsal had a bright red edging. The females were heavily spotted with black. We secured quite a few specimens, so as to assure reproduction once I returned home with them. I was elated, as this was the last collection we would make, and I doubted that I would ever have the opportunity to return to Brazil in future years.

After capturing the first specimens I shouted to Luis to come and see. "Luis, have you ever seen this fish?" "Yes, but only small specimens." I was surprised that with his years of living in Aruana, and being a professional collector, his knowledge of this fish's existence was practically non-existent. Was it

limited to this one pond? I couldn't imagine that to be the case, as the pond didn't give the appearance of a stable, long-term habitat.

The entire episode was exciting. We had passed that pool many times, and Luis always smiled as we went by, knowing that I was itching to explore it. I guess this time he took pity on me, knowing that I would be leaving the next day. What a joy it was to come up with a winner on a fish we almost didn't find.

That evening we enjoyed ourselves, laughing and talking about the time we had spent together, and the success of our trip. The following day we returned to Goiania. Maria Elena accompanied us, as she had a business in Goiania. I stayed at the home of Luis' son Sergio and his wife Adrianne. They were very generous, caring for us during our stay there. I had another day or so before my flight to Rio and then the long flight back to New York. Maria Elena and her and Luis' friends, as well as Vilmar, one of Luis' former partners, all had a get-together at her home to wish us well on our trip home.

I asked Roger Couto to call my friend Dr. Naercio Menezes in São Paulo to tell him about the new cyprinodont that we had found in Aruana. Naercio was happy to hear from me, and suggested that it would be wise not to release the fish, as a month or so earlier Wilson Costa had found the fish and was in the process

of describing it. Naercio was Costa's professor in his doctoral studies. I promised Naercio not to release the fish until the description was validated.

I kept my word and did not release them. At that time, Len Mackowiak was the New Species Chairman at the AKA. Lenny was without a doubt the most active Chairman the AKA had ever had. I had enough of these fish now to start releasing them, and Len wanted some to distribute in the worst way, but I had made a promise, and I felt that was more important than monetary gain. The fish was eventually described by Costa, and called *Pituna poranga*. To this day Lenny will sometimes kid me for my reluctance to release any fish that was not described.

The following day I had to spend some time at the shipping center, from where my friend Roger Couto would take us to the airport. While there, I decided to purchase going-away gifts for Maria Elena and Ester for being so helpful to Victor and me during our stay. They were both surprised and delighted by their gifts.

Vic was not going to return with me; he was going to fly to Manaus to meet with some of the exporters he dealt with for his business, Crystal Aquarium. Roger took me to the airport for my departure to Rio. Since his parents lived in Rio, he made arrangements with them to meet me at the airport, which they did. They

were very friendly, and as it turned out, very helpful (Roger's father was a retired brigadier general).

When Luis' son Sergio packed up my fish collection, he should have used boxes that did not state their contents. Instead, the four boxes were labeled "Tropical Fish." "Uh-oh," I thought, "I smell trouble." Sure enough, one of the customs agents tried to shake me down. The general intervened, and saved me from having the entire shipment confiscated. I wasn't concerned about my entry into the U.S., since I had the required clearance papers. Finally, all went well. I thanked the general for his help, and soon found myself in the air, finally on my way home.

Arriving at home, the collection was put away with no losses, making this a very successful expedition. A few weeks later I got a hurried call from Roger Couto telling me that Luis Costa was in legal trouble. SUDEPE (much like our Department of the Interior), had received a complaint from Gilberto Campello Brasil, accusing him of conducting illegal collection of fishes, in particular, the cyprinodonts we collected in Aruana. Gilberto singled me out as a hobbyist from the United States who was taking fish out of the country, especially rare and endangered species, for profit. It seems that one of Luis' competitors, also residing in Aruana, had alerted Gilberto to my presence.



We found this beautiful cyprinodont in the muddy pool. Costa described it as *Pituna poranga*, but it was later discovered to be synonymous with *Pituna compacta* (Myers 1927).



From left to right: Ester, Rosario, Ester's husband Ary, and their son.



Catoprion mento, one of the species collected in the savannah habitat.



Roger Couto, one of my good Brazilian friends. It was Roger's father, a retired brigadier general, who met me at the airport in Rio and helped me avoid a shakedown by an inspector seeking money, even though I had valid papers from the N.Y. Museum of Natural History.

Roger was very upset about the situation, as was Luis, who feared he would lose his collector's license and be put out of business. Roger told me they would send copies of Gilberto's accusatory document, as well as copies of Luis' defense of his position. Several days later I received both documents. They were of course in Portuguese, but I had enough knowledge of the language that I could follow it. Gilberto had accused me of removing rare and endangered species for profit. Luis' response was magnificent, and an attorney could not have defended my integrity any better. He described how I had been of great help to him in solving problems with several areas of his business, all having to do with the technical aspects of collecting and preserving his livestock. He also mentioned that besides my interest in fish, I had spent a great deal of time photographing plants, butterflies, and dragonflies. The presiding judge ruled that Luis' position was valid, and cleared him of all charges.

The whole episode was upsetting to me, as I had been corresponding with Gilberto for many years, and each time I had visited São Paulo I had called him with the hope of doing some collecting together. On the trip I had made with the Weitzmans back in 1977 I had written him prior to my departure to arrange a get-together. We had dinner with his aunt and his father, and the whole evening was enjoyable. Every time I traveled to São Paulo I made a point to call and say hello.

However, Gilberto always seemed to have an excuse when I suggested a joint venture. Before my first meeting with him he had requested some rare drawings that I had, and I fulfilled that request. He was later sent to England by his company, and I provided him with some great contacts in that country and in Germany. While he was there, which was in the early 1970s, we remained in touch by mail. My assumption was that we had a good relationship, based on mutual interests, and so his betrayal was quite unsettling, particularly as it targeted Luis, whom I felt was one of the finest people I had ever met. I was angry that his career could have been destroyed by a stupid accusation.

Years earlier Gilberto had been in touch with Steve Sellers, of San Francisco. Steve was the first AKA New Species chairman, and it was through Steve that I became acquainted with Gilberto. Steve had arranged to import the first specimens of *Cynolebias antenorei*, a handsome annual fish from northeastern Brazil. Gilberto shipped him fifty pairs, as I recall, which were sold at \$25 per pair, a pretty good sum at the time. Gilberto was certainly entitled to any money he made. He made the effort and the gamble, and everyone associated with the deal was delighted with their fish. I bought a pair for that price, and was very pleased with it. So I feel it was very hypocritical of Gilberto to accuse someone else of removing fish for profit, when he had done the same thing, with an even larger number of fish. What was his motive? Could

it have been jealousy that we had found several new species?

The law in Brazil was that for any newly described species, specimens had to be taken to the Museu Zoologia in São Paulo, to become part of their vast collection, housed for present and future scientific study. I always followed this rule. To this day I send any photographs of Brazilian fishes to Dr. Stanley Weitzman, who in turn forwards them to Brazil, so that they can be catalogued.

These days one risks arrest for collecting fishes, and many Brazilian ichthyologists are none too happy with the restrictions on fish collection. Many people from many countries have contributed a great deal to the knowledge we now have of the fishes of Brazil. Now fish collecting and exporting have been restricted to a few major port cities. The export of cardinal tetras, for example, has continued for decades, with by now millions of fish exported, and yet their population is not threatened.

Brazil has one of the greatest diversity of fish species in the world, and because of the now heavy restrictions we may never have the opportunity to see some of the many beautiful species that are still undiscovered.

During my many years of association with freshwater fish species, I have been fortunate to meet and form lifetime friendships with many wonderful people. One of these friends is Vic Hritz, the owner of Crystal Aquarium in New York City. Over the years, Vic has had a number of celebrities purchase pets from his shop, perhaps the most famous being Sir Paul McCartney.

Another of his steady customers was a gentleman named Caryl P. Haskins (1908-2001). Vic mentioned him to me on several occasions, and also mentioned to Caryl that we should get together. So in June of 1983 Victor, along with Caryl and his lovely wife Edna, spent the day with us. I found him to be most charming, and the two of them complemented one another in a marriage that lasted for many years.

I know a little of Caryl's background from what Vic has told me. According to Google, he was a scientist, author, inventor, philanthropist, and governmental advisor. An entomologist, he was a pioneer in the study of ant biology. Along with Franklin S. Cooper, he founded Haskins Laboratories, a private research facility, in 1935. In 1956 he was appointed President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, a position he held until 1971. He was also Trustee Emeritus of the National Geographic Society until his death. He published **The Amazon: The Life History of a Mighty River** in 1943. His father, Caryl David Haskins, an engineer, author, and inventor, was involved in the development of the self-guided torpedo. Caryl and Edna made fifty trips to Australia, and visited the Galapagos the same number of times. Edna was a brilliant and well-known chemist.



Photo taken in the early seventies of *Cynolebias antenorei*, revised as *Hypsolebias antenorei*. This species was collected by Gilberto Campello in Brazil, in 1973.

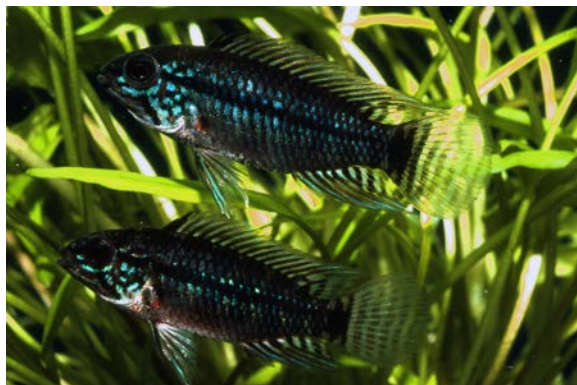


Preserved specimens of the three newly discovered cyprinodonts. From top to bottom: *Maretecoara lacortei*, *Simpsonichthys costai*, and *Plesiolebias aruana*.

We had lunch together, and Jeannie and I thoroughly enjoyed their visit. I gave them some fishes that Caryl had not seen before, and he was thrilled to receive them. I later received a letter of thanks from Caryl, along with a small booklet on the genetics of guppies, published by the British journal, **Heredity**.

Some time much later, John Endler, answering Richard Sexton's letter regarding the history of the Endler's *Poecilia*, quoted Endler's letter: "I discovered these fish in Laguna de Patos, near Cumana, northeastern Venezuela in 1975. They had in fact been collected in 1937 by Franklyn F. Bond, but I didn't know that at the time. (I found his collection in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan)." ...mutual friend Dr. Donn Eric Rosen, an expert on *Poeciliidae*. John Endler, again quoting his letter: "I wanted them to call it *Poecilia haskinsi* after Caryl Haskins, who knows more about wild guppies than anyone, and who started me out studying these interesting species." Donn passed away before he had a chance to fulfill this suggestion.

The 1990s were still exciting, as the tropical fish industry was vibrant, and large numbers of new species were being imported. Aquarium societies were active, with wonderful conventions being held. I



I found this *apistogramma* species in Aruana during my visit in 1983. They were only juveniles, less than an inch long, and completely yellow, much like a brooding female and young. They grew up to be as pictured, and to this day I don't know if they have ever been described. A great deal of hunting on my trips only netted a few specimens.



Tank raised *Maratecoara lacortei*

was fortunate enough to be invited to many aquarium societies throughout Canada and the United States. In the course of my travels I've met many wonderful hobbyists, and many of them have become great friends.

Charlie Grimes was a long-time friend, and for a while we used to correspond by tape recording. In fact I used the tape mode to correspond with several hobby friends. I preferred it to writing, as one can use inflections that are impossible in the written word. Charlie's Midwestern twang was a plus, making his humor entertaining—adding sort of a Will Rogers flavor.

Charlie and I had once been invited to speak at a Northeast Council convention. Charlie was the banquet speaker, and since the banquet is always a mixed audience, Charlie was the obvious choice, as he is very humorous and filled with spontaneous humor. It is great for the ladies, who may not have the same 'fish fervor' as their spouses. I had hoped for several years to have Charlie visit with us, but it just hadn't happened. The convention was in the Hartford, Connecticut area, about a 2½ hour drive from my home. I thought, "How can we get Charlie to New Jersey?" He was flying into Boston, Massachusetts,

and was scheduled to depart from the same airport. So I said, "Charlie, how about contacting the airline and getting your return flight out of Newark?" I lived only about twenty minutes away from the airport, and could easily drive him there for his return flight to Indianapolis. "Wow," Charlie responded, "That would be great!" So the deal was done. Charlie would drive back to Jersey with me and Jeannie and my friend of many years, Bill Jacobs.

We arrived at my home, and Charlie finally got to see my fish house. We had a great time chatting fish, and feasting on delicious Italian food prepared by my wife Jeannie. The following day I had to go to work, so Charlie spent the day with Bill Jacobs. Charlie really enjoyed Bill's company; he was one of the old-timers of the hobby.

Charlie missed one flight out, and finally made it home the following day. His wife Annie was upset by the turn of events, but it was soon forgotten. For years I had wanted to see Charlie's fishroom, but several more years passed, and then the Indianapolis Aquarium Society invited me to be a presenter. So George Fear (owner of Shark Aquarium) and I made the trip to Indianapolis, and had a wonderful weekend with Charlie and the aquarium society.

Well my physical journey in these chapters is coming to a end. I feel blessed that this journey has been such a wonderful adventure. I met so many wonderful people who shared their enthusiasm with me, and I credit them for making my journey so exciting, and revealing so much of the beauty and diversity of nature.

In about 1999 or 2000 I received a call from Dave Schnell, a member of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, asking if I would accept an invitation to speak before his group. I responded that I would be more than happy to. It was an opportunity for me to again meet up with Dr. Stan Weitzman and his wife Marilyn, whose home was not far from the hotel where I would be staying, and where the program would be given.

A few weeks later Vic Hritz called and said, "You will never believe who called today!" Well, it was obvious I had no idea, nor did I suggest a name. "Who?" I said. Vic quickly shot back, "Ester." "Ester from Goiania?" I questioned. "Yes," Vic responded. "Wow!" I said, "What's the occasion?" Vic went on to explain that she was now one of the officials in the Brazilian embassy, and that Luis had passed a message to Vic wondering if he had an interest in importing some more fish from Aruana. I quickly asked for Ester's phone number at the embassy, as in a few short days I would be leaving for Washington to give my presentation before the society. "Vic, wouldn't it be great to invite Ester to attend the presentation?" So Vic gave me the number for the Brazilian Embassy.

A few days later I was picked up at the airport by Dave, who drove me to his home. Once we arrived there, I phoned the embassy, and a young lady answered and did verify that indeed, Ester was attached to the embassy, but at the moment was not there. Disappointed I questioned her if it were possible to get her home number, but she quickly responded no. At first I was somewhat annoyed, but I quickly realized that she was correct in not giving her number to me. She told me to call back in an hour, by which time she should be there. I did call back, and on the second call Ester did speak with me. It was 11 or so years since I had seen them, and I had not expected that I ever would again, as I had no plans to return to Brazil.

I explained to Ester that I would be speaking at the hotel (don't recall the hotel's name) and that I wanted to invite her and Ary to the program. She quickly responded that the hotel was only ten minutes from where she lived, and that she most certainly would be there, but Ary could not, since he would have to babysit. The day of the show I was looking at my watch, wondering if she would show. I was to begin at 1:00 P.M.

I was most delighted when she did arrive, as I had plans on how I was going to incorporate her into my program, and I had her sit in the front. The program covered a good portion of our adventures in Aruana. When I reached the point of our truck breakdown, and illustrated the photo waiting on the highway, I then explained how we were rescued by a young lady and her fiancée, and with that I pointed to her and said that she was our rescuer. It was a script out of Hollywood! I had never in my wildest imagination thought that Ester would be there, and I had the program already assembled before I knew she would be in attendance.

That evening the society had a banquet which many attended. Ester and Ary were invited, but they had other plans, though they did drop in for a short time, giving me an opportunity to see Ary. All in all it was very fulfilling to see them both again. About four years later I was again invited to speak in Washington, and Ester came by once again—this time with their two children. Her tour with the embassy was over and she was going to return to Brazil.

Though the story of our collecting adventures now comes to an end, life's journey continues, and with the next few chapters I hope to cover some moments that I feel are important.





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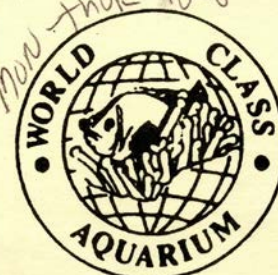
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The Opossum – Wintering Over ‘At Our House’ by Dick Blasé (member PVWG&KC)

The **Opossum** is the best friend you can have in the garden. They are North American only Marsupial, that means the female carry its young in an external pouch for about 100 days; the same as a kangaroo. They are a solitary animal; they just want to be left alone.



They do not attack people or other animals. They will show you a mouth full of teeth to scare you if you get too close or they play dead, entering a state similar to fainting that can last from less than a minute to six hours. The maneuver is designed to make predators lose interest.



Opossums are immune to bee and scorpion stings, also the venom from a rattlesnake.

To most, the opossum is not a very good looking animal and sports an ugly tail. Their furless tail is the most important part of their body. It is used to carry food and nesting material and it is also used to allow them to hang from a branch in a tree by wrapping their tail around it.

Now, the GOOD STUFF...

The opossum eats eggs, mice, rats, insects, snails, slugs and any other pest they can find!

They may grab a tomato off your vine - this is a small price to pay for what they do to keep your yard clean of those pesky pests.

Ticks are their favorite snack! Ticks to an opossum are like M&Ms to us. They can eat thousands of ticks a week.

Now, why did I want to find out about opossums?

You see, I have one - somewhat as a pet. Note! They do not make good family pets...

Remember; treat wildlife for what they are, a 'wild creature of nature'.

A day before the big snow storm that dumped 3 feet of snow; there was an opossum in the yard and it crept under the porch to wait out the snow storm.

Well, when the storm was over, it came out from under the porch and found it had nowhere to go because of the deep snow. It quickly decided to stay under the porch and wait until the snow went away. Or so it thought!

Sandy, realizing there was no food for the animal, put out a dish of vegetable scraps. Since the opossum is mostly nocturnal, we only saw it late at night. The opossum would then come out from under the porch and drag the dish of food back under the porch to eat. When it was finished, it would push the empty dish back out. This went on night after night.

Well, it looks like we may have a new pet! Male or female, it should be very happy eating slugs, ticks and anything else it scrounges up. We will keep it if it wants to stay.



I just hope it gets along with the cat!

And most of all does not have a mate!!

Management of Nuisances - The best advice is to let opossums have their space and learn to live with them.

An opossum in your yard shouldn't be a problem. This non-aggressive and nondestructive animal will not dig up yards, attack or threaten pets, or dig burrows. Opossums may get into garbage or pet food that is left outside and will sometimes raid poultry yards or gardens to feed on vegetables, apples, and strawberries. However, they are more beneficial to humans than harmful because they feed on many types of insects, like crickets and beetles, as well as on mice and voles.

Background



The Virginia opossum is a member of the Order Marsupialia (pouched animals). In fact, it is the only marsupial found north of Mexico. A marsupial is an animal with a pouch. The opossum has been around since the age of the dinosaurs (for at least 70 million years) and it is one of the earth's oldest surviving mammal species.

Due to their ability to adapt to different habitats and food sources, opossums have been able to expand their range from the southeastern United States to the Northeast during the 20th century and are now found throughout New England.

Range

Opossums are found in the eastern United States and southeastern Canada, south through Central America.

Description

The opossum is a medium-sized animal that measures between 15 and 20 inches long (not including the tail) and weighs between 4 and 12 pounds. It has long, coarse, grayish-white fur. Black, brown, and albino opossums have been found, but are very uncommon. Opossums have a sharp-pointed and slender muzzle, prominent thin ears, and short legs.

A long (9-20 inches), scaly, scantily-haired, prehensile tail helps stabilize the opossum when climbing. The tail also is well adapted for grasping and wrapping around things, but not for hanging for long periods of time.



Opossums have five toes on each foot. The first toe on the hind feet is opposable, clawless, and thumb-like. These "thumbs" help the opossum grasp branches when it climbs.

Both sexes are similar in appearance, although males are commonly larger in size.

Habitat and Diet

Opossums are adaptable and will live wherever food, water, and shelter exist. They inhabit woodland areas along streams, ponds, lakes, swamps, and marshes. Farmland and woodlots are preferred over extensively forested areas. Opossums also are commonly found living in residential areas, making their homes in backyards and under sheds and other outbuildings.

The opossum is both a scavenger and an omnivore which feeds primarily at night. It uses its keen sense of smell to find food. The diet consists mainly of insects, worms, carrion (dead animals), reptiles, amphibians, birds and their eggs, crustaceans, berries, fruits, and small mammals.

Life History

In New England, opossums usually begin breeding in early March but in warmer or cooler areas may begin at an earlier or later date. The gestation period lasts about 13 days. Opossums produce one to two litters each year. The average litter size is 9, and the young are very tiny (about the size of a navy bean) and blind when first born. They crawl a few inches to the female's pouch, attach themselves to a teat, and remain "locked" on to it for approximately 60 days.



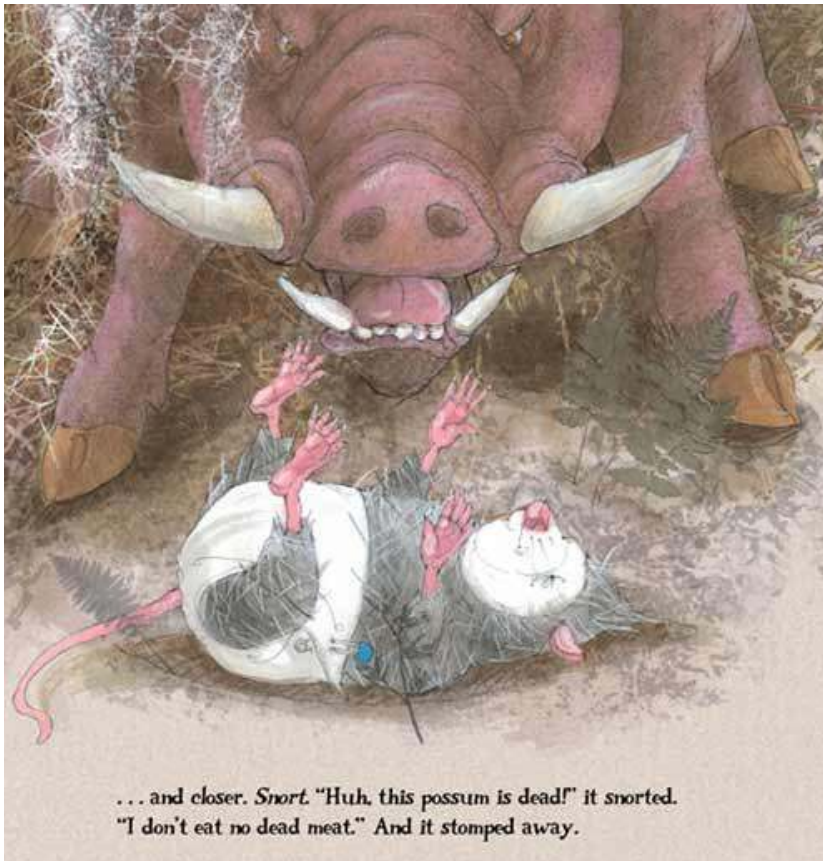
After 80 days, young opossums are weaned, leave the pouch, and typically can be seen riding around on the female's back. By 100 days of age, they are usually independent. The next litter is born about two weeks after the first litter is weaned and opossums may breed during their first year.

Interesting Facts

Opossums will use abandoned den sites of other animals, cavities in den trees, trash heaps, rock piles, brush piles, or buildings for shelter.

They do not hibernate in winter, but will usually "hole up" during cold, adverse weather. Opossums can suffer from frostbite and may be missing the tips of their ears and tails.

Mortality factors of opossums include humans, predation, parasites, disease, exposure, and starvation. The biggest threat comes from humans and automobiles. Main predators include dogs, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, large hawks, and great horned owls. The chance of rabies in opossums is extremely rare.



... and closer. Snort. "Huh, this possum is dead!" it snorted. "I don't eat no dead meat." And it stomped away.

When frightened, opossums bare their 50 sharp teeth and hiss or growl. However, they would rather avoid confrontation and be left alone. Being non-aggressive, opossums readily retreat to trees, brush piles, or other available cover when pursued by humans or predators.

A common defense mechanism is feigning death or "playing possum," when cornered or threatened so some predators may think the opossum is dead and go away.





GCAS Happenings

December

November Bowl Show Winners:

1 RICHARD WAIZMAN	PEARL WHITE BETTA
2 MARIO BENGION	RED BI-COLOR BETTA
3 MARIO BENGION	RED DELTA BETTA

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 2, 2016

Speaker: Matthew Wickey from Tetra/ Spectrum Brands

Topic: Fish Nutrition

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 (347) 866-1107

Email: gcas@earthlink.net

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

BIG APPLE GUPPY CLUB

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

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

Contact: Donald Curtin (718) 631-0538

BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: December 11, 2015

Event: Holiday Party

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: December 18, 2015

Event: Holiday Party

Topic: TBA

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: December 8, 2015

Event: Holiday Party

Topic: N/A

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

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

Contact: Mike Foran (516) 798-6766

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

NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: December 13, 2015

Event: Holiday Party

Topic: N/A

Meets at: Don Pepe's Restaurant

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: January 21, 2016

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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

Contact: Sal Silvestri

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

Email: salsilv44@yahoo.com

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

There's a Chill in the Air

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.

Anabantoids, "or labyrinth fish," have been known to jump out of the water if the food or potential mate supply is low. They just keep flipping until they fall into a (hopefully) more favorable pool of water. But anabantoids are not the only fish who intentionally seek refuge outside of the water.

The mangrove rivulus (*Kryptolebias marmoratus*) will jump from hot water and onto solid ground to cool off.¹ The journal **Biology Letters** reports that "This is the first time a fish has been shown to air-chill itself."² (The rivulus's home waters have been reported to reach a sweltering 100°F (38°C)).

Researchers wondered why a fish would jump from warm water to warm, humid air. (The rivulus is native to the tropics and subtropics from Florida to Brazil.) So they heated water and filmed the fish using a camera that measures body temperature. The fish began jumping out at about 97°F (36°C). Within 30 seconds, they were as cool as the damp filter paper on which they landed. Within 60 seconds, they were actually slightly cooler than the paper (a phenomenon that has scientists scratching their heads).

Is this "survival of the coolest?"



Photograph by Andy Turko, University of Guelph



References

¹ <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/10/151020-fish-mangroves-out-water-animals-behavior-science/>

² <http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/11/10/20150689>



Fin Fun



FESTIVE FISH

Just as our annual Awards Banquet and Holiday Party mixes fish and festivities, so too does our word search puzzle this month:

L	Q	E	Y	C	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	U	M	ANGELFISH AQUARIUM ARTEMIA CANDLES CELEBRATE CORYDORAS DECORATE FESTIVE FISHNET FRUITCAKE GIFTS GOURAMI JAVAFERN PARTY SLEDDING SNOWMAN WORDTAIL SYPHON
T	Y	T	I	Z	F	N	S	T	F	I	G	Q	T	Z	
S	Y	A	G	X	R	A	Q	U	A	R	I	U	M	Y	
Y	P	R	M	F	R	U	I	T	C	A	K	E	U	C	
P	V	O	R	P	V	J	D	B	J	Y	D	T	I	P	
H	E	C	N	C	O	R	Y	D	O	R	A	S	M	A	
O	B	E	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	F	N	M	A	N	
N	C	D	G	W	Z	N	Z	X	G	I	R	D	R	G	
M	S	L	S	Y	M	W	B	F	V	S	E	P	U	E	
A	I	M	E	T	R	A	Z	D	D	H	F	E	O	L	
B	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	N	A	I	G	F	
Q	E	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	A	E	V	C	T	I	
X	X	E	D	U	L	G	E	S	S	T	A	O	G	S	
O	H	Q	I	P	Q	W	C	F	C	U	J	B	F	H	
M	J	Y	T	R	A	P	E	V	I	T	S	E	F	M	

Solution to our last puzzle **The Right TOOL**

Equipment/tool	Marine/Saltwater specific?	
	Yes	No
syphon		X
refractometer	X	
live rock	X	
thermometer		X
protein skimmer	X	
chiller	X	
spawning mop		X
bristle worm trap	X	
hydrometer	X	
light strip		X

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LAWRENCE KENT (WA) DR. PAUL LOISELLE (NJ)
STEVE LUNDBLAD (OR) DR. JOHN LYONS (WI)
STEPHAN TANNER (MN) *details on our website!*

SPECIALTY CLUB MEETINGS:

NEW ENGLAND CICHLID ASSOCIATION
Guest Speaker: Lawrence Kent (WA)



NORTHEAST LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION
Guest Speaker: Bill Gill (ME)



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