

modern AQUARIUM



December 2018
volume XXV
number 10

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York

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modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXV, No. 10 December, 2018

ON THE COVER

Our cover photo this month shows a typical spotted scorpionfish, *Scorpaena plumieri*, resting on a rock, waiting for a meal to swim by. If you blur your eyes a bit, it looks like a small rock sitting upon a bigger rock. Not very colorful, but it works for scorpionfish. For more about this unusual-looking fish, see Steve Sica's article, "Not My Favorite Fish," on page 15.

Photo by Stephen Sica

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

Well, here we are in December, at the end of another year with the Greater City Aquarium Society and **Modern Aquarium**. This is the time of year when we're able to quantify, at least to some extent, what we've accomplished, both as a society and as a publication. I'm sure Horst will have something to say about the former, so I'll say a few words about **Modern Aquarium**.

I became Editor in 2008, so this month marks the end of my eleventh year in this role. All told, I believe that **Modern Aquarium** has maintained its position at or near the top of amateur aquarium journals. This is of course not all my doing. I've had great support from former Editor Al Priest and his wife Sue, for which I've been particularly grateful, as well as from former GCAS President Joe Ferdenzi, who has consistently been cognizant of the importance of the magazine as the public face of the society.

Let's also remember that it does little good to have an Editor if he (or she) receives nothing to edit. When you get home with your copy of **Modern Aquarium**, take a few moments to look at our Author Award totals for this year (page 25). But don't stop there! Just below that grid is a record of Author Award points going back many years! As you'll see, this magazine



has been supported by the writing contributions of **many** members over those many years. In the end, what sets one club's publication apart from others is the willingness of its members to share what they know and love with the club's other members. So be generous with your hard-won knowledge! It's really pretty easy to submit an article for **Modern Aquarium**. In these days of email you can send it to me from literally anywhere on the planet! The first time is a little scary, but after that initial scariness you'll wonder why you put it off for so long!





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	Gary Hater <i>Goldfish</i>
May 1	
June 5	
July 3	
August 7	A Night at the Auction
September 4	
October 2	Jim Cumming <i>TBA</i>
November 6	Greg Steeves <i>TBA</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 2018 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 (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.net>, <http://www.greatercity.org>, or <http://www.greatercity.com>.

President's Message

by Horst Gerber

With Feliz Navidad fast approaching, it's time to think about that special gift you wanted to buy. And no, I'm not talking about that gift you want to buy that somebody, Oh, no! I'm talking about the one you wanted to buy for yourself—the expensive one! The one on your bucket list! It might be that rare fish, or the 125 gallon tank, or maybe the reverse-osmosis filter. Whatever it is, be selfish—do it! Make it a present that is *not* going back to Santa for exchange (unless your better half objects—then you might have to!). So let's hope you don't have to schlepp a 125 gallon tank back to the store (Santa). But maybe you can smooth things over by buying some of that super expensive face cream your wife has been asking for, even though you've told her a million times that she doesn't need it—she's beautiful just the way she is!

All kidding aside, I wish you and your family a joyous and healthy holiday season. This has been a great year at GCAS, and a fruitful learning experience to share with you. I've said it before, and will say it again; Greater City has the greatest collection of people assembled into one group that I can imagine. It has been a sincere pleasure and privilege to be your President.

I can't say much about our presidential election; my approval rating is not in, and the ballot sheets must be recounted. Sorry I couldn't fulfill all of my promises, but they were after all campaign promises, so who remembers them? I guess we had no candidate for this high-paying job, but due to my strong leadership the club is doing great! Power corrupts! See you next year!



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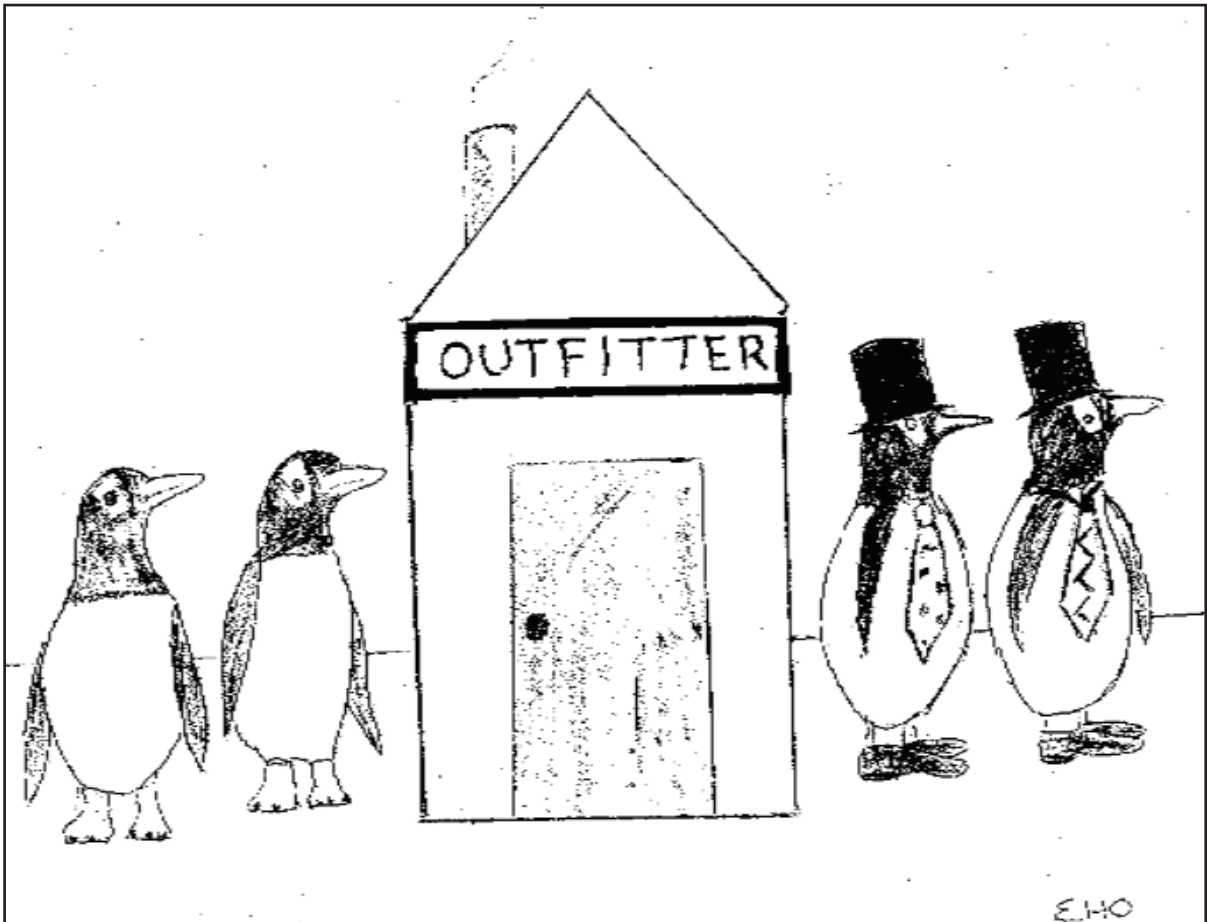
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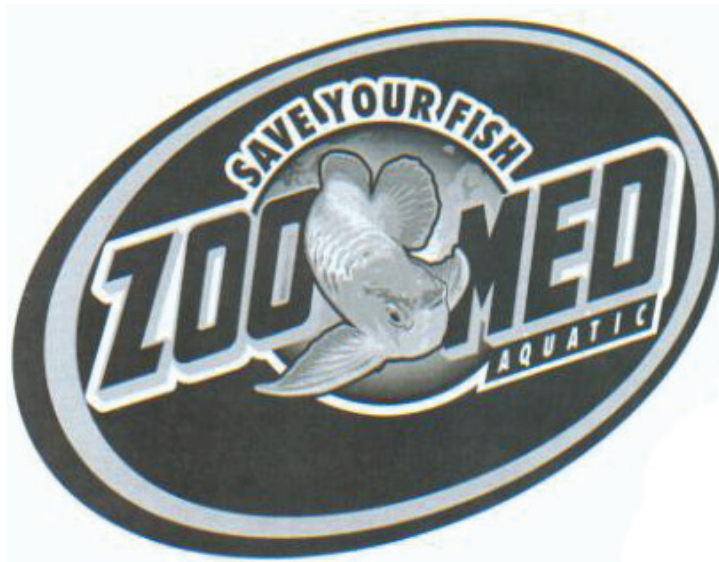
Cumulative donations received to date: **\$74.31**

Most recent donation received in November 2018: **\$12.32**

November's Caption Winner: Ron Webb

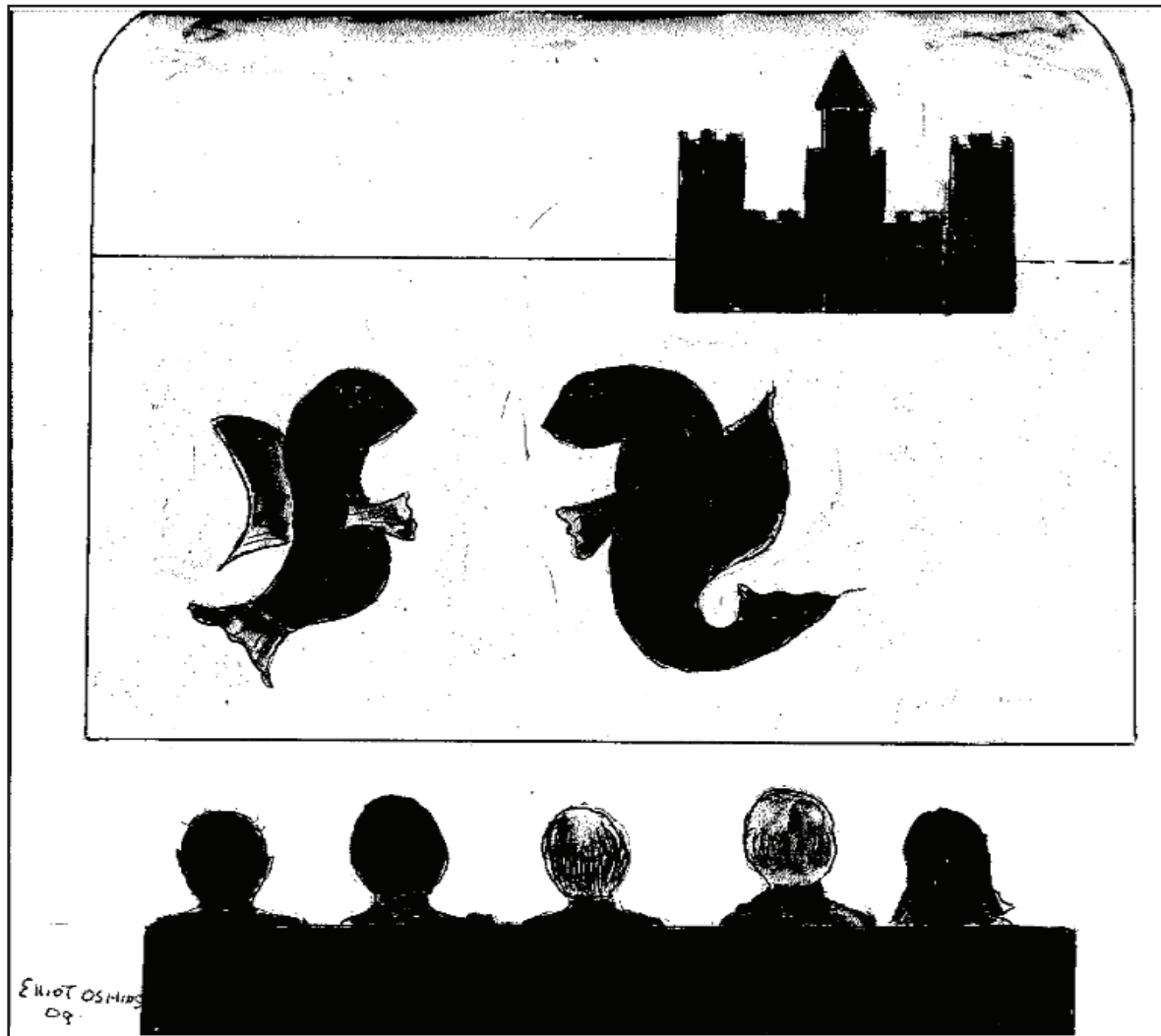


*I thought the GCAS Holiday Party was **casual** attire!*



The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

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



Your Caption:

Your Name:



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Keeping and Breeding A Dwarf From Peru

by Jules Birnbaum



I've long loved *Apistogramma* for their intelligence, parental instincts, and small size. Some have magnificent color and fins such as the triple red *cacatuoides*. Most Apistos are not very hard to keep, but breeding them can be challenging. A year ago I decided to contact David Soars out in Oregon. I had great success several years ago with his triple red *cacatuoides*.

David is one of the foremost authorities and breeders of many varieties of *Apistogramma*. His informative website is 'Apistodave's' (apistogramma.com), or you can go to his other site, 'Apistoidiots' (<http://apistogrammaidots.com/>). I guess he really is crazy for Apistos.

I decided to order two pairs of *A. ortegai*, for no particular reason other than that he had pairs available for sale at \$30 (the average price for Apistos on Aquabid is \$25 to \$30 per pair) plus shipping. He ships in breather bags, one fish to a bag, and ships at a relatively inexpensive USPS rate. He guarantees live delivery, and from my experience keeps his word.

When ordering fish online I advise never to order in mid-summer or mid-winter. Similarly, Dave usually will not ship if the weather is extreme. Even with guarantees it is just too frustrating to lose fish to extreme heat or cold.

These tank-bred dwarf (2 to 3 inches) cichlids were originally imported from the Peruvian Amazon Basin. When they arrived I carefully acclimated them and placed both pairs in a 10 gallon tank, high on a rack in my fishroom. I did this to better observe them and to keep them warmer. Since I anticipated there would be some aggression I heavily planted the tank with a large bunch of Java moss and some mature Java ferns.

For homes and breeding purposes I placed three small caves at different locations in the tank. The water temperature is kept at 80 degrees. For success with Rams, another dwarf cichlid, the temperature should be kept even warmer, at 84 degrees. The filter I used was a medium sized sponge filter purchased from Swiss Tropicals, using a moderate air flow. I also added a thin layer of gravel for appearance. In my experience the gravel is not necessary, and it makes maintenance more difficult, but it looks more natural to have a thin layer of gravel covering the tank bottom.

I installed a ZooMed LED light over an acrylic tank top, though some breeders like to use just room light, or something very subdued. Lighting is tricky, since many fish are shy under bright light. Some time ago, when visiting Rosario LaCorte's fishroom, I noticed that there were very few direct lights on his breeding tanks. I never asked him about



this, but got the message by seeing his results. In order to show me his fish he shined a shop light into each tank. Rosario is the expert to whom many importers brought new species to breed for the first time. When visiting his fishroom and seeing his fish I could see why. If you have not purchased Rosario's book, **An Aquarist's Journey**, I recommend it. "Journey" is available for purchase on Amazon.com.

I next had to get the pH down to about 6, which these fish prefer to get in a breeding mood. I've kept Apistos at a 7.2 pH, but this time I wanted them to breed. I selected a small box filter used by many killifish breeders. I filled it with peat pellets and a little filter floss. Joe Ferdenzi uses dried Magnolia leaves to condition water, and occasionally brings bags of them to our auctions. It takes a few days for the dried leaves to sink, and in addition to water conditioning, the leaves offer great hiding places.

Feeding can be tricky, but I use a high quality flake food from Brine Shrimp Direct in the morning and live brine shrimp in the evening. Be careful, as leftover food can cause a bacterial problem. I have also used blackworms, which I consider to be the ideal food for conditioning, but currently there seems to be a problem with my suppliers.

I never clean the bottom of the breeding tank, as it has the decaying leaves that offer hiding places and are conditioning the water. I do a 30% water change once a week. The sponge filter is cleaned every couple

of months by hitting against the sides of our slop sink, never squeezing, which damages the sponge. If I get a large amount of black dirt out of the sponge I know I might have to clean it more often. This might also indicate the bio-load is getting out of hand (too many fish or overfeeding). Some breeders never clean sponges, but I feel you get better flow and thus a better

water quality by doing so. Also, sponges clog, and water channels around the dirt, making the sponge less efficient. So much of our hobby is done by feel, which we develop over the years. I use aged water to rinse out the sponge. I learned from Dr. Stephan Tanner of Swiss Tropicals, that even using sink water, enough of the nitrifying bacteria are left in the sponge. Of course the easy way out is to squeeze sponge filters in a pail of water to clean them. Purchasing and aging new sponges seems time consuming and a little extravagant, considering all the other things we spend money on in our hobby.

After a few weeks one pair spawned, and I occasionally saw approximately 20 fry near a cave, being protected by the female. She would chase the



male and possibly kill him if there were not places for him to hide. The other pair in the tank just retreated to the far end. It would have been better to just remove the second pair, but I did not feel like chasing them and upsetting the whole tank. I now had a choice. Do I try to syphon out the fry to a grow-out tank using the same water as they were born in, or do I remove the parents and raise the fry in the 10 gallon tank? Because of limited space and the difficulty of removing the parents I decided to leave the fry with the parents. One thought for the future is to use the German Breeding Ring that Swiss Tropicals sells to float in the breeding tank. An air hose is attached, bringing fresh tank water into the incubator. The bottom of the ring has a fine mesh so that water can go through, but not the fry. You can

see pictures of this on their website under Better Fish Keeping. The costs are \$22 to \$27 plus shipping. If you are handy you can make one yourself.

I've raised golden dwarf cichlid fry in one of these rings until they were old enough to live with the adults. Four of the Apisto fry survived, and are now about half an inch long.

They are maturing very fast. If I get a pair out of these, I plan to place them in another tank conditioned like my original setup. I must stress that these are my methods, and there are a number of other ways of breeding and keeping this wonderful little fish. I wish I had bigger tanks, but I have no room. To me the ideal breeder tank to develop a colony of dwarf cichlids is a 40 gallon breeder.

Most of us don't have one favorite fish, but a good choice would be one of the many varieties of *Apistogramma*. Try a pair or two. You won't be disappointed!



Two Exciting Aquarium Events!

Story and Photos by Joseph Ferdenzi

In October of 2018, my wife Anita and I traveled to two large-scale aquarium events. Each was exciting in its own way, and each was a first-time event for us.

The first event, held on the weekend of October 5-7, was the All-Aquarium Catfish Convention, hosted by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society. This is an event that is held every two years, and attracts catfish enthusiasts from all over the world. This year, for example, their line-up of speakers featured experts from four different continents.

The event was held at a hotel in northern Virginia, in close proximity to Washington, DC. We made the trip by automobile, in

the company of our friends Mark and Robin Soberman. Mark is a well-known catfish enthusiast, and he has attended every catfish convention since they began.



At the Catfish Convention banquet, left to right: Mark and Robin Soberman, and Joe and Anita Ferdenzi.

The convention has numerous sponsors, and a vendor room. A giant auction of all things aquatic is held on Sunday, as is customary at these types of events. A notably different feature, however, is what has come to be known as “The Spree On Three.” The “Spree” is so named for the fact that hobbyists are allowed to sell fish out of their hotel rooms—all located on the third floor.

There are of course many varieties of catfish for sale, but so are other types of fish, and aquatic plants as well. Much food and drink is consumed during the Spree, not the least of which was a bagel, cream cheese, and smoked salmon extravaganza provided by the Sobermans.

I enjoyed this event very much, as I was able to meet old friends, and make new ones. For example, Stephan Tanner, the owner of Swiss Tropicals, was there with his wares. During one of our many conversations he gave me the news that he had purchased the English-language version of **Amazonas** magazine. I was very happy to hear that, because I rank it as the best aquarium magazine we have, and Stephan is just the right person for it. As an example of the great hobbyist that he is, Stephan graciously offered to promote Rosario LaCorte’s new book, **An Aquarist’s Journey**, which is co-published by the Greater City Aquarium Society.

Also in attendance was another long-time friend and student of the hobby, Steve Lundblad, the owner of Wet Spot Tropical Fish, which is undoubtedly one of the finest and largest tropical fish retailers in the USA. It is based in Portland, Oregon, but they sell via the internet as well. Steve is always fun to talk to, and he keeps you smiling. There were many other old friends there, and I enjoyed talking to each one.



A partial view of the vendor room at the Catfish Convention.



Left to right: Steve Lundblad, Joe Ferdenzi, Mark Soberman



Anita and Joe with Stephan Tanner (on right)



A group of *Corydoras arcuatus* donated to the auction by Mark Soberman.

The Potomac Valley club is to be congratulated for hosting such an event. It is informative, and provides access to hobbyists, breeders, and catfish that you will not encounter elsewhere. After attending this year's convention, I can certainly understand why it is so popular.

Two weeks after the catfish convention, over the weekend of October 19-21, Anita and I went to The Aquatic Experience, which was held at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey. This annual show was formerly held in Chicago, and this was the first year they decided to hold it in New Jersey.

This was a massive exhibition. Companies and hobbyists representing every facet of the aquarium hobby had set-ups at this event. There were hundreds of fish and aquariums on display! Much of these were for sale, along with various other products. Really—it was phenomenal! I've never before attended such a large and diverse event focused on the aquarium hobby.

The people who run this event were very generous in allocating space to aquarium societies. Greater City was ably represented through the auspices of the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, of which we are a member, and they happily distributed copies of our award-winning publication, **Modern Aquarium**. The American Killifish Association also



An Amazon Swordplant on sale in the vendor room.



At The Aquatic Experience, left to right: Rusty Wessel (sponsored by Zoo Med, Cobalt Aquatics, and the American Cichlid Association), me, Gary Bagnall



Aquatic Experience: The Aquaeon display (above)



Above: A couple of shots from the ACA show

Below: Some of the tanks on display



had a booth, and the American Cichlid Association put on a stupendous fish show with nearly a hundred entries!

Of course I saw many old friends at this event. Rusty Wessel of the ACA was there to make sure that the cichlid show went off without a hitch. I'll never know where he gets all that energy! My other good buddy, Gary Bagnall, the founder and owner of ZooMed, was in attendance, and his company had a tremendous display at this event. Another terrific

hobby-lover in attendance was Pat Donston, the owner of a great aquarium store, Absolutely Fish, in Clifton, New Jersey, as was another aquarium store owner and one of our club's biggest supporters, John Ip, the owner of Monster Aquarium in Flushing. There were simply so many people there that I know I couldn't list them all without making this article twenty pages long! Suffice it to say that I thoroughly enjoyed seeing each and every one of them at this event.

The personal highlight of the weekend for me was being able to have a book selling & signing event with Rosario LaCorte. Gary was gracious enough to host Rosario at the ZooMed display, which was a prominent one, and near the front entrance. There was a constant stream of people coming by to visit and chat with Rosario, who is a living legend in the hobby. Of course they all purchased a copy of his book, and were thrilled that he was there to sign it for them. What also made the book signing special was that Rosario was accompanied by Jeannie, his wife of 67

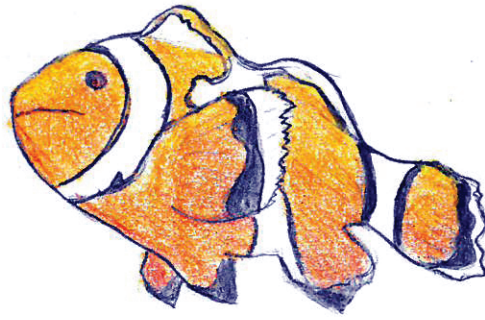
(!) years, without whom, as Rosario has always said and written, his exploits would not have been possible. To have them both at this event made it very special for everyone, and Gary deserves a big thank-you for making that possible.

I am really thrilled that The Aquatic Experience has moved east! I plan on attending again next year, and I hope you'll be able to do so as well. It is a real tribute to our great hobby, and one that you will enjoy. Trust me that this brief article has barely scratched the surface of all that goes on at this event!



Left to right standing: Gary Bagnall of Zoo Med, me, and Randy Reed of The Aquarist Podcast. Seated, Rosario LaCorte.





Clownfish, by Lauren Ramroop

Meeting Reminders



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

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

Not My Favorite Fish

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica



A Saint Lucia scorpionfish. The face and partially open mouth give this fish a somewhat menacing appearance.

Being able to swim underwater for a prolonged period of time is a privilege granted to maybe a million or two citizens of our planet. There are many interesting and spectacular sights, and even a few sounds to be found beneath the sea for the average person. For a typical less adventuresome tourist, a submersible tour, such as the Atlantis submarines found on several Caribbean islands and a few other places around the world can take a group of people one hundred feet below the surface.

In the 1980s, during our initial visit to Grand Cayman, Donna and I took a submersible dive on what I believe was the original Atlantis submarine. It held about thirty tourists. I think that the newer submarines are larger and accommodate about ten more persons. Donna was not yet a certified diver, but I do recall for myself that the perspective from the dry side of the glass was quite different. There was one thing that I do recall about that relatively thin sheet of porthole glass. No matter which side of the glass your perspective takes you, it is all beautiful. The vista is not always in plain sight to the eye but it can be so in our mind. If it is, I believe that we can actually feel it and live it. For example, no matter how plain and simple the fish tank(s) in our home may be, to us they are beautiful. If you are unsure if your fish tank is beautiful, go look at it again from any angle, side or perspective. It is beautiful. It has to be beautiful because it is our very

own accomplishment. Most of us are easily pleased in our youth, but age brings a little more knowledge and appreciation. Just remember: it is beautiful!

When I philosophize about these things, I enjoy considering what is beauty as it pertains to our fish and related topics. On a human scale, most of us can acknowledge that the more beauty a person possesses, the greater the possibility for success in life, such as a job promotion or a job itself. On a personal note, I never had difficulty with this concept during the course of my career. Having an average appearance (I hope?), meant no special treatment or favors for me. While I guess that it's good to be ordinary, in the realm of fish I'll take an attractive fish over an ugly one any day. This brings me to another (not) favorite fish of mine. There are quite a few popular fish in its family and species but the most common is the spotted scorpionfish, *Scorpaena plumieri*. Pretty it is not! Aside from its generally offensive or at least unpleasant appearance, be careful of its venomous dorsal spines. Behind these spines is another regular, harmless dorsal fin. If you come into contact with one, I recommend that you do not touch or handle this fish. A puncture wound from its spines can cause severe pain and illness. You can definitively recognize a spotted scorpionfish by the three dark bars on its tail, though this fish's mottled colors and patterns often hide these bars.



Two spotted scorpionfish, *Scorpaena plumieri*, rest on a crossmember of the SS Benwood wreck in Key Largo, Florida (2017). I think this is the first time that I observed two scorpionfish in close proximity. They perfectly match with and blend into the distressed steel beam.



A closeup of the Benwood scorpionfish on the right end of the beam. Their ability to camouflage themselves makes this fish practically invisible in its environment.



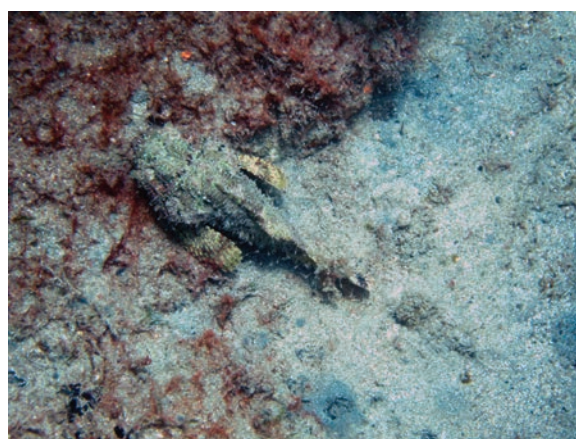
This average-sized scorpionfish was photographed in Saint Lucia resting on a sandy bottom.



Fortunately, there are always more attractive fish to counter the scorpionfish, but unfortunately I cannot identify these two small fish by the small brain coral. They are similar to some juvenile parrotfish and even a species of wrasse. Wrasse are quite varied in size and shape, with different species completely different in appearance from each other.



A last look, face-on, of the Saint Lucia scorpionfish.



As I arose from the bottom, I took a final photo from a greater distance to illustrate how these fish blend into their environment.

This fish usually lies motionless on the bottom allowing a close approach to inspect it. They are fairly common and you can usually find one during a dive. They just lie on the bottom or somewhere in a reef. Many prefer to lie on a beam or other flat structure within a shipwreck. They prey on small fish and creatures that venture too close. Their body affords camouflage that attracts these fish, and because

they lie motionless, you have to be careful not to accidentally brush against one. They will not move unless molested. The average size is about one foot, so they are large enough to eat small fish. I have seen a few reach their maximum length of eighteen inches.

Besides Florida and the Caribbean, this fish has been seen as far north as New York. I don't recall seeing one in local waters, but I haven't dove locally

in almost eighteen years. If you want to try to find one locally, the late summer is the best season to find tropical fish that have come north on the Gulf Stream.

On a positive note, they are suitable photo subjects because they do not move. Even if you disturb a spotted scorpionfish by swimming very close to frame a photograph, it is unlikely to move away. You have to be right on top of it to disturb this fish. It will just swim away. Most divers keep a safe distance because of those spines. You don't want a current or surge to carry you into the fish. While rather unique looking, they are rather drab and blend into their surroundings, so your photo is likewise fairly drab.

I'm sure that no amateur hobbyist would want one for their home saltwater aquarium, but if you truly want an unattractive fish with venomous spines, this is your fish. Insofar as venomous spines are concerned, give me a lionfish any day of the week!



Two days later, I found another scorpionfish posing for me in Saint Lucia. Despite these fish appearing amorphous at times, you can clearly see its left pectoral fin.



Here's some "bonus footage." Would you take this Bahamian lionfish or the prettiest scorpionfish that you ever saw? Think about it during the upcoming holidays and winter. Donna and I are looking forward to another great GCAS season in 2019!



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	1992-93 Steve Sagona	2002-05 Anton Vukich
1983-85 Rich Sorensen	1993-94 Joe Ferdenzi	2006 Warren Feuer
1985-86 Yezid Guttierrez	1994-95 Steve Sagona	2007, '08, '09, '10 Jeffrey Bollbach
1986-87 Joe Ferdenzi	1995-96 Tom Miglio	2011, 2012 Joseph Graffagnino
1987-88 Patricia Piccione	1996-97 Mark Soberman	2013 Leslie Dick
1988-89 Joe Ferdenzi	1997-98 Jeff George	2014 Mark Soberman
1989-90 Francis Lee	1998-'00 Tom Miglio	2015 Artie Platt
1990-91 Eddie Szablewicz	2000-01 Mark Soberman	2016 Joseph Graffagnino
1991-92 Dominic Isla	2001-02 Alexander Priest	2017 Joe Ferdenzi

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

1990-91 Diane & Harold Gottlieb	2004-05 Claudia Dickinson
1991-92 Doug Curtin & Don Curtin	2003-04 Jack Traub
1992-93 Mark Soberman	2006 Anton Vukich
1993-94 Warren Feuer	2007 Ed Vukich
1994-95 Steve Sagona	2008 Al Grusell
1995-96 Alexander & Susan Priest	2009 Dan Radebaugh
1996-97 Joe Ferdenzi	2010 Pete D'Orio
1997-98 Claudia Dickinson	2011 Jeffrey Bollbach
1998-99 Vincent & Rosie Sileo	2012 Jules Birnbaum
1999-00 Pete D'Orio	2013 Dan Puleo
2000-01 Bernard Harrigan	2014 Leonard Ramroop
2001-02 Joe Ferdenzi	2015 Alexander & Susan Priest
2001-02 Jason Kerner	2016 Elliot Oshins
2002-03 Carlotti De Jager	2017 Joseph Gurrado

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPIONS (Since 1983-84)

1983-84, 84-85 Tom Lawless	1996-97, 97-98 Steve Sagona	2009 Mario Bengcion
1985-86, 86-87 Joe Ferdenzi	1998-99, 99-2000 Tom Miglio	2010 Alexander A. Priest
1987-88 (tie) Mark Soberman	2000-01 Pat Coushaine	2011-12 Richard Waizman
and Mary Ann & Joe Bugeia	2001-02 William Amely	2013 Jerry O'Farrell
1988-89 Jason Ryan	2002-03 Evelyn Eagan	2014 Ruben Lugo
1989-90 Eddie Szablewicz	2003-04 William Amely	2015-16 Richard Waizman
1991-92 thru 93-94 Steve Sagona	2004-05 Evelyn Eagan	2017-18 William Amely
1994-95 Carlotti De Jager	2006, 2007 Ed Vukich	
1995-96 Mary Eve Brill	2008 William Amely	

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

1946-49 Elliott Whiteway (4)	1968-70 Walter Hubel (2)	1981-84 Brian Kelly (3)
1950-51 Robert Greene (2)	1970-72 Dave Williams (2)	1984-86 Jack Oliva (2)
1952-53 Robert Maybeck (2)	1972-73 Dan Carson (1)	1986-97 Joe Ferdenzi (11)
1954-55 Leonard Meyer (2)	1973-75 Herb Fogal (2)	1997-99 Vincent Sileo (2)
1956-57 Sam Estro (2)	1975-76 Richard Hoey (1)	1999-00 Jeff George (1)
1958 Leonard Meyer (2+1)	1976-77 Ted Tura (1)	2000-08 Joe Ferdenzi (11+8)
1959-64 Gene Baiocco (6)	1977-78 Gene Baiocco (6+1)	2009-16 Dan Radebaugh (8)
1965 Andrew Fazio (1)	1978-79 Louis Kromm (1)	2017-18 Horst Gerber (2)
1966-68 Charles Elzer (2)	1979-81 Don Sanford (2)	

Greater City Aquarium Society 2018 Awards

To be awarded December 5, 2018

GENE BAIOTTO AQUARIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

DAN RADEBAUGH

DON SANFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WARREN FEUER

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPION

WILLIAM AMELY

AUTHOR AWARD PROGRAM (AAP) AWARDS

Greater City Authors who made contributions printed during 2018, or who received AAP points as a result of NEC and/or FAAS publication awards announced in 2018, *and* who moved up to a new **AAP** level are:

Bill Amely.....	Essayist	Lauren Ramroop.....	Correspondent
Jules Birnbaum.....	Master Laureate	Gilberto Soriano.....	Essayist
Jeffrey Bollbach.....	Essayist	Ed Vukich.....	Writer
Joseph Gurrado.....	Senior Laureate	Tom Warns.....	Author
Ruben Lugo.....	Columnist	Ron Webb.....	Correspondent
Elliot Oshins.....	Master Laureate		

Stephen Sica is Author of the Year for 2018!

GCAS BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM 2018

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPECIES BRED</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st - GCAS</u>	<u>CARES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
JEFF BOLLBACH	CERT #				
	1969 <i>GEOPHAGUS STEINDACHNERI</i>	15			5/2/2018
	Number of species: 1	Total Points			
WARREN FEUER	1970 <i>HYPANCISTRIS SP. "L340"</i>	30	✓		11/7/2018
	1971 <i>HYPANCISTRIS SP. "L404"</i>	30	✓		11/7/2018
	Number of species: 2	Total Points			
EDWARD VUKICH	1972 <i>XIPHOPHORUS MAYAE</i>	5			11/7/2018
	1973 <i>XIPHOPHORUS ALVAREZI</i>	5			11/7/2018
	1974 <i>LIMIA NIGROFACIATA</i>	5			11/7/2018
	Number of species: 3	Total Points			

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

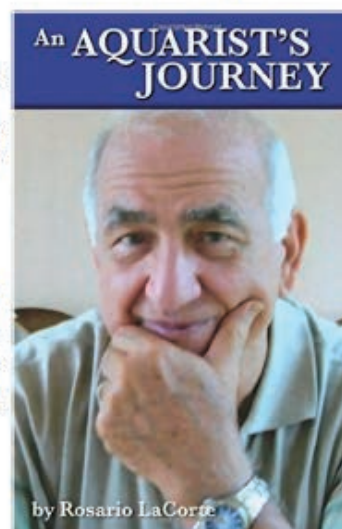
♥ indicates a species at risk that is listed in the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program

An Aquarist's Journey

Rosario La Corte is one of the world's leading authorities on breeding fish and he has written numerous articles and books, contributing greatly to our understanding of fish and their habits.

Now, for the first time, here is a compilation of his travels, adventures, successes (and, very occasional failures) all relating to collecting, keeping, and breeding fish, and in his own words (and edited by **Modern Aquarium's** Editor, Dan Radebaugh).

Available in softcover at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)





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	1,710	125	38 LOUIS KROMM	170	16
2 JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO	1,620	113	39 JEFF GEORGE	165	17
3 JOSEPH FERDENZI	1,170	76	40 LESLIE DICK	160	8
4 MARK SOBERMAN	1,030	56	41 DICK MOORE	160	5
5 WARREN FEUER	975	63	42 JEAN BRAUDE	155	12
6 ANTON VUKICH	910	70	43 BARRY LYNCH	150	18
7 TOM MIGLIO	865	66	44 SHARON MIRABELLA	135	10
8 EDWARD VUKICH	815	59	45 THADDEUS TURA	135	9
9 STEVE SAGONA	655	47	46 JOE CUCINIELLO	135	9
10 JOHN STORA	540	47	47 JORGE RODRIGUEZ	135	9
11 JOSE ARANDA	505	47	48 HARRY EVANS	125	11
12 JOHN IANNONE	485	45	49 KEN BRUST	120	15
13 THE ECKSTEINS	455	39	50 FRANK GANNON	120	16
14 CARLOTTI DE JAGER	440	33	51 JERRY SCHULTZ	120	11
15 CLAUDIA DICKINSON	435	27	52 THE KELLYS	115	12
16 RICHARD SORENSEN	420	33	53 GEORGE MAROTI	115	8
17 FRANCIS LEE	390	28	54 JOE MANCUSI	115	8
18 GERALD GORYCKI	370	41	55 HERB FOGAL	100	13
19 CHARLEY SABATINO	360	20	56 JERRY MAYER	95	7
20 THE REPANES	355	27	57 JOE FLANAGAN	95	12
21 JACK OLIVA	345	42	58 DENNIS EGIELSKI	95	4
22 HAROLD KETTERER	335	30	59 BRIAN KELLY	90	6
23 AL PRIEST	330	8	60 PETE D'ORIO	90	9
24 THE LOMBARDIS	325	32	61 ROBERT MC KEAND	85	5
25 GREGORY WUEST	310	30	62 EDWARD SZABLEWICZ	85	7
26 DON SANFORD	310	25	63 NOEL RODRIGUEZ	85	7
27 TED KURDZIEL	295	24	64 BOB KUHLE	80	7
28 TONY FERRARO	275	23	65 LEONARD RAMROOP	80	11
29 THE BUGEIAS	270	31	66 BRADLEY PLOTKIN	80	6
30 DOMINIC ISLA	235	20	67 JOHN LEE	75	5
31 STEPHAN ZANDER	230	14	68 DOUGLAS CURTIN	75	12
32 ARTIE PLATT	210	16	69 JOSE PEREZ	75	6
33 YEZID GUTIERREZ	206	20	70 TOM BOHME	75	7
34 PHILIP INGENITO	205	13	71 BOB RADAMACHER	70	9
35 ROD DU CASSE	190	14	72 DONALD CURTIN	70	10
36 THE DONATONES	175	18	73 PAT PICCIONE	70	7
37 JOHN MORAN	170	11	74 SARA MONHEIT	65	6

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u># BRED</u>
75 CHARLES KUHNE	60	8	105 PETER SCHLEISMAN	20	2
76 JOEL FORGIONE	60	4	106 ARNOLD FREED	20	4
77 DAN RADEBAUGH	60	4	107 STUART KRICHEVSKY	20	3
78 BOB DU BOIS	55	5	108 JOE ARONNE	15	2
79 HORST GERBER	55	4	109 IGNACIO ARENCIBIA	15	1
80 BOB WRANOVICS	50	4	110 THE FERNANDEZES	15	1
81 MIKE CASSANO	50	5	111 WILLIAM SADERA	15	1
82 WARREN BURKE	45	7	112 DAN GAWIAK	15	2
83 BRUCE WEILER	45	3	113 KATHY BUSBY	10	1
84 WILLIAM BRANDOFINC	45	4	114 ABE COOPER	10	2
85 CHARLES SHATAKA	40	5	115 BILL ARONNE	10	1
86 CHARLES BENEFATTI	40	7	116 RICH LEVY	15	2
87 BRIAN STERN	35	4	117 DIANNE SPELLMAN	10	1
88 ARTHUR MAYER	35	3	118 JOHN MC CAFFERY	10	2
89 BARRY CENTER	35	3	119 JERROLD MEYER	10	1
90 THE MARTINS	35	5	120 HORST MIEHLBRAD	10	1
91 VINNIE RITCHIE	35	3	121 FRANK FALLON	10	1
92 AL PHANEUF	35	5	122 WALTER ROSTOWSKI	10	2
93 BRUCE WELLER	30	3	123 JASON KERNER	10	1
94 MICHAEL VILLANO	30	4	124 JAY LIEBOWITZ	5	2
95 ROGER BEAULIEU	30	2	125 ADAM KLEINROCK	5	1
96 THE STEGMANS	30	3	126 EDYTH MONSOUR	5	1
97 ROB ALTONEN	30	2	127 KATHY FERNANDEZ	5	1
98 GENE BAIocco	30	4	128 THE QUINNS	5	1
99 STANLEY WEGLARZ	25	4	129 WILLIAM STALZER	5	2
100 VINCENT BABINO	25	2	130 JAMES BROOKS	5	1
101 EMMA JORDAN HAUS	20	3	131 RICHARD WALSH	5	1
102 DANNY SHEPARD	20	3	132 BILL SMITH	5	1
103 GUNTER HORSTMANN	20	3	133 DANNY CIRNIGLIAR	5	1
104 STEVEN MILLER	20	1	134 GEROLD COCH	5	1



GCAS Author Award Program

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

Quite a few of our authors have moved up the ladder this year in our Author Award points rankings. Congratulations to Bill Amely, Jules Birnbaum, Jeff Bollbach, Joe Gurrado, Ruben Lugo, Elliot Oshins, Lauren Ramroop, Gilberto Soriano, Ed Vukich, Tom Warns, and Ron Webb for achieving their new titles. As our authors move up the ladder in terms of recognition, the steps become taller, so it's good to see so many moving up this year in so many categories. Special congratulations are due to our **Author of the Year** for 2018, Steve Sica! **Modern Aquarium** is primarily the product of our members. We are grateful for every article and photo from every member, and we hope to hear more from each of you in 2019!

Overview of the Author Award Program

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

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

Eligibility

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

Points

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bonus Points

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

Prize Drawing

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

Author of the Year

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

Accomplishment Levels

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

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

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

³**Bonus points** are awarded to participants for awards (other than Honorable Mention) received from the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS)

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

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

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

Continues on next page

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2018 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

Bill Amely	0	2	4		50	10
Jules Birnbaum	65	4	4	30	155	31
Jeffrey Bollbach	10				10	2
Joseph Ferdenzi	105	3	5	30	200	40
Joseph Graffagnino	10		1		20	4
Joseph Gurrado	165	0	7		235	47
Steven Hinshaw	10		1		20	4
Denver Lettman			2		20	4
Ruben Lugo	55				55	11
Jerry O'Farrell	7	0	1		17	3
Elliot Oshins	110	1	2	70	205	41
Alexander A. Priest	110	0	8		190	n/a
Susan Priest	20	2	1		40	n/a
Dan Radebaugh	40	1	2	40	105	n/a
Marsha Radebaugh	10	0	1		20	n/a
Lauren Ramroop	10			10	20	4
Stephen Sica	130	0	10	20	250	50
Gilberto Soriano	35				35	7
Undergravel Reporter	0	10	0	60	110	n/a
Ed Vukich		0		10	10	2
Tom Warns	10		1	10	30	6
Ron Webb	20		2		40	8

Following are the total AAP points for all GCAS members as of December 2018. If you have questions, or feel that there are errors, please contact Dan Radebaugh.

Shunmugan Al	40	Jeffrey Bollbach	150
Tamer Altan	5	Roger Brewster	10
Bill Amely	165	Tommy Chang	105
Sharon Barnett	30	Donald Curtin.	10
Fred Bellise	10	Doug Curtin	90
Mario Bengcion	15	Carlotti De Jager	30
Steve Berman	25	Adrian Deng	10
Jules Birnbaum	1,140	Wallace Deng	120
Tom Bohme	15	Xavier Deng	50
Victoria Bohme.	25	Les Deutsch	5

Leslie Dick.	55
Brad Dickinson	20
Claudia Dickinson	3,195
Al DiSpigna	5
Pete O’Orio	5
Rod Du Casse	5
Rita Dunne	10
Evelyn Eagan	25
Frank Fallon	65
Harry Faustmann	50
Anita Ferdenzi	15
Francesca Ferdenzi	5
Joseph Ferdenzi	1,970
Marisa Ferdenzi	20
Alison Feuer	5
Warren Feuer	305
Michael Foran	25
Artie Friedman.	15
Peter Foster	10
Mike Gallo	10
Jeff George	165
Horst Gerber	150
Linda Gerber	10
Steve Giacobello	15
Joseph Graffagnino	320
Steve Gruebel	10
Al Grusell	25
Joseph Gurrado	825
Bernard Harrigan	1,800
Steven Hinshaw	185
Andrew Jouan	40
Jason Kerner	140
Charlie Kuhne	10
Denver Lettman	170
Rich Levy	105
Bill Lockett	10
Ruben Lugo	330
Beth Macht	10
John Malinowski	5
Desiree Martin	45
Tom Miglio	25
Jackleen Minassi-Haftvani	20
Temes Mo	5
Jerry O’Farrell	297
Elliot Oshins	1,005
Jim Peterson	5

Margaret Peterson	10
Artie Platt	20
Alexander A. Priest	4,230
Susan Priest	3,760
Dan Puleo	135
Dan Radebaugh	925
Marsha Radebaugh	340
Jannette Ramirez.	220
Lauren Ramroop	50
Leonard Ramroop	45
Mark Rubanow	5
Charley Sabatino	170
Donna Sosna Sica	10
Stephen Sica	2,470
Vincent Sileo	50
Danielle Soberman	5
Ilyssa Soberman	15
Robin Soberman	10
Mark Soberman	75
Gilberto Soriano	150
Jack Traub	20
Undergravel Reporter	1,700
Anton Vukich	5
Ed Vukich	105
Michael Vulis	50
Tom Warns	45
Ron Webb	85
Larry Whitfield	60
Greg Wuest	25





Not just an aquarium catfish...

Here in these United States we take a lot for granted. Here in the state of Florida we aquarists kinda take for granted that we can always scare up a few “Hoplo” catfish out of the canals that run through the Everglades. Well, while dipnetting the shallows around the boat ramp at mile marker 34 on I-75 (sometimes called Alligator Alley) I noticed a small skiff approaching in the deeper waters of the canal. The boat had two gentlemen aboard, and they were cast netting in a very deliberate fashion.

As they got closer and I walked toward their position, I could see they were netting 20 to 30 *Callichthys* catfish with each cast. Now two thoughts immediately came to mind. One, these catfish obviously travel in schools. Second, what the heck were they gonna do with all those armored catfish? So I asked. With an unfamiliar accent they said, “Eat’em!” Eat them? “How?” I asked. They replied, “Boil them up in a catfish stew.”

Well, when I told them that those fish sell for \$8-15 each in a pet store they looked astonished, shook their heads, and said, “Why waste a meal in a pet store?”

Go figure.....

Chuck Davis



Reprinted from **Reporter** – July 2018; North Jersey Aquarium Society.

Fish My City

A Review by Dan Radebaugh



Fish My City is a new entry from the National Geographic Wild channel in what might be called the ‘reality fishing’ genre. Its chief predecessors were **Monster Fish**, also on NGW, and **River Monsters**, from Animal Planet. The main difference I see between those two shows and **Fish My City** is that the star of this new show, Mike (or Ike) Iaconelli, is not a scientist, but a professional bass fisherman. You can find a bio on <https://mikeiaconelli.com/bio>.

In this new series Mr. Iaconelli travels to a number of major cities, such as New York, New Orleans, London, Miami, and others around the world, where he searches out iconic fish species of those cities, while giving a hint of the local history of each, including the local environmental challenges specifically related to fishes and fishing.

My first taste of the series was the Miami episode, and I have to say that I was less than thrilled. The approach was just too manic for me. Back in ancient times when I learned to fish, I was encouraged to be quiet, not to spend my time yelling and screaming (or squealing) as though I were on speed. Of course I will concede that I and those who taught me did not have to be concerned with viewer ratings. Be that as it may, I quit watching this episode about halfway through, and used the On Demand feature to check out each of the first three of the eight-part series: New York, New Orleans, and London.

These were more to my liking, being somewhat less frenetic. They all follow the same general format: Mr. Iaconelli visits a city with the intention of catching

several chosen (“bucket list”) species. I must say that I liked his choices, as they were not all fish that I knew a lot about—this was particularly true of the London visit. While in the Navy I spent a year or so in the UK, but never did any fishing, so I found his species selection there very fresh and interesting. In the London visit he was unfortunately unable to capture one of the species on his bucket list in the time allotted, which to me at least added a dash of reality to the presentation.

The New Orleans visit was well presented, and brought back memories of a trip Marsha and I made to that city a year or so before Katrina. Likewise the visit to New York was appealing, as some of his collecting was done in one of the Central Park ponds, right in front of a restaurant where we’ve eaten.

After seeing the New York, New Orleans, and London segments, I returned to the Miami episode with a little more good will, and I must admit that this episode did show some interesting fish: three freshwater species and three saltwater. The freshwater species (all invasive) were the grass carp, the Midas cichlid, and the peacock bass. Ike collected each of the three by angling in Miami’s freshwater drainage canals. The background of how those fish came to be living in those Miami canals is perfunctory, but they had a show to do, and their goal after all was to be entertaining, rather than to sound like a documentary. Besides, the invasive species problem has by now been discussed ad nauseam, and most of us who are interested in these things already have a good idea of how the fish came to be there.

The saltwater species collected in Miami were the snook, sailfish, and tarpon. This part of the show seemed to me more natural than the hokey clowning of the first part, and I actually learned a few things; for instance how many of the angling laws have been updated since my youth to better protect these gamefish from gratuitous injury in the process of catching them.

The two remaining episodes, which take place in Taipei and in Austin, are scheduled for broadcast on November 9th and 16th, respectively, so by the time you read this, the entire series will be available on demand. Check them out!



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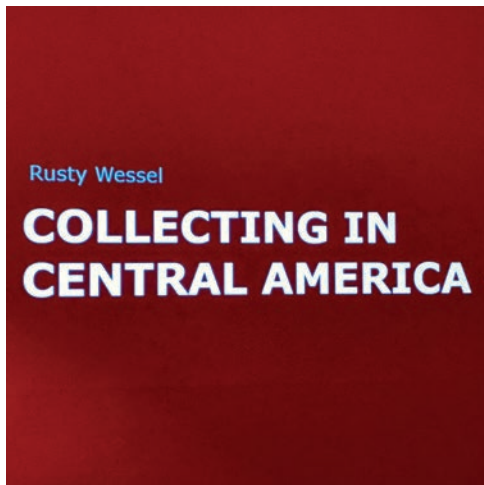
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Pictures From



I hope you were here for the excellent program presented by Rusty Wessel



Trick or treat!



Have you bought your raffle tickets?



Let the games begin!

Our Last Meeting

Photos by Joe Gurrado

Bowl Show Winners:



**2nd Place
Carlotti DeJager**



**1st Place
Bill Amely**



**3rd Place
Rich Waizman**

Door Prize Winner



**Walter Gallo is dreaming of
reading his new book**

Past recipients:

1979	Betty Mueller
1980	Martin Bernard
1981	Penny Faul
1982	Ray Horn
1983	Lee Finley
1984	Ann & Walter Howe
1985	Kathy Beebe
1986	Jack Adinolfi
1987	Sandy Billings
1988	Al Faul
1989	Dave Quinn
1990	John Galvin
1991	John Stankevitch
1992	Bill Kenney
1993	Aline Brousseau
1994	Faith Quinn
1995	Tony Terciera
1996	Don Johnson
1997	Sue & Wally Bush
1998	Diane Adinolfi
1999	Chuck Davis
2000	Aline Finley
2001	Janine & David Banks
2002	Wayne Leibel
2003	Karen Randall
2004	Mark & Anne Broadmeyer
2004	Honoree, Ray Lucas
2005	James White
2006	Rit Forcier
2007	Christine & Frank Policastro
2008	Joe Masi
2009	Linda & David Giza
2010	Barbara Day
2011	Bill Cole
2012	Claudia Dickinson
2013	Leslie Dick
2014	Richard Pierce
2015	Rosario La Corte
2016	Nancy Villars/Hallgring
2017	Barbara Romeo
2018	Fran Masi

Call for Nominations



Betty Mueller Memorial Honor Lifetime Achievement Award

Deadline:
January 30, 2019



This special recognition is given to individuals who, over the years, have given overwhelming dedication and support to the aquarium hobby and to the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Inc.

The rules are as follows:

Any NEC member club or NEC member can nominate up to three persons a year. Each nomination should be accompanied with a short paragraph explaining why you feel this person is qualified. You cannot nominate anyone who already has received this honor. A committee of persons who have received the honor and are still active in the NEC will make the decision. The honor will be presented at the annual NEC Convention banquet.

Please send nominations to Janine Banks
janinebanks@comcast.net



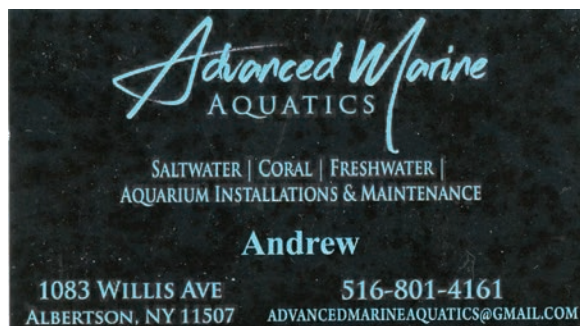
Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

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



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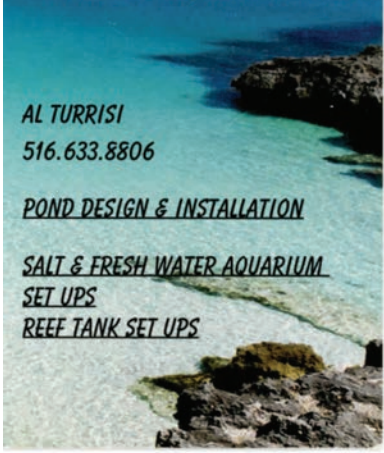
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 46 gal Bow brown tank w/stand, hood, light
 20 gal tank w/hood, light, filter

Call 516-567-8641

FOR SALE: 75 gal tank w/iron stand, canopy.

Call Kris: 516-282-6677



GCAS Happenings

December

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 WILLIAM AMELY | HALFMOON KOI FEMALE BETTA |
| 2 CARLOTTI DEJAGER | PLATINUM DRAGON MALE BETTA |
| 3 RICHARD WAIZMAN | GREEN SPLITTAIL BETTA |

OFFICIAL 2018 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

WILLIAM AMELY	41	RICHARD WAIZMAN	22	CARLOTTI DEJAGER	9
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A WARM WELCOME BACK TO RENEWING GCAS MEMBERS ROD DU CASSE, WARREN FEUER, AND DAVID RAMIREZ!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBERS CESAR A. CASTILLO, MICHAEL RIZZO, AND FAMOUS JONES!

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 6, 2019

Speaker: Gary Lange

Topic: TBA

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.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 14, 2018

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 21, 2018

Speaker: Holiday Party

Topic: N/A

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@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 11, 2018

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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 PUBLIC SQUARE BUILDING, room 209A. See website for directions.

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

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

NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: December 2, 2018

Event: Holiday Party

Topic: N/A

Meets: 12:30 PM - 3rd Saturday of the month, at Clark Public Library in Union County, just off the Parkway at exit 135

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: January 17, 2019

Speaker: TBA

Topic:

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/>

Brain Games

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.

Ecstasy, or Molly (3,4-Methyl enedioxy methamphetamine, or MDMA) is a psychoactive recreational drug, the effects of which include altered sensations and increased energy, empathy, and pleasure.

Some scientists have taken MDMA out of the clubs and into the aquarium by giving ecstasy to octopuses. Gül

Dölen, a neuroscientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, has been studying the effects of MDMA for a long time, and wanted to see how the drug would affect the octopus, a notoriously shy, solitary animal.

While humans and octopuses both have a gene for a protein that binds serotonin to brain cells, octopus brains are built completely different from humans. She wondered if that would mean the octopus would respond unpredictably to being dosed with Molly.

Dölen and study co-author Eric Edisinger, of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, built a tank with three connected chambers and put five Californian two-spot octopuses individually into the middle chamber.

Another chamber housed an octopus stuck in an overturned plastic basket and the third had an object unfamiliar to the creatures, such as a toy. The researchers then measured how long the animal spent in the company of its peer and how long it spent with the toy. When the octopuses were sober, the octopuses were more likely to socialize with the other octopus (compared to exploring the toy) when the octopus was female, regardless of the subject's own sex.

The second time in the tank, the animals were dunked in an MDMA solution that allowed them to absorb the drug through their gills. Once the proper dosage was found, she and Edisinger were able to notice

definite differences before and after MDMA.

Without MDMA, the octopus would approach its caged colleague cautiously. When the octopus was on

Molly, things were much different. "They're basically hugging the [cage] and exposing parts of their body that they don't normally expose to another octopus," Dölen told the outlet. "Some were being very playful, doing water acrobatics or spent time fondling the airstone [aquarium bubbler]."

The study is getting a big reaction in the scientific community. Judit Pungor, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oregon, told the website **Gizmodo**: "To think that an animal whose brain evolved completely independently from our own reacts behaviorally in the same way that we do to a drug is absolutely amazing."

I'll be watching for a study on reactions of octopuses to caffeine or "recreational" marijuana.



Reference:

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/scientist-octopus-ecstasy-research_us_5ba3e721e4b0375f8f9b3bdc



Fin Fun



Trivial Pursuit 2

This is the final issue of **Modern Aquarium** in 2018. Yes friends, this, the 249th issue of **Modern Aquarium** (Series III) is the final issue of our 25th season. As we close out this landmark year, we challenge you to match the following questions with the year in which they appeared. Have fun!

Question: "In what year..."	Year
... did the Undergravel Reporter run an article entitled "Open Wide?" (Hint: it was in the September issue of that year.)	2009
... did Modern Aquarium take us on a tour of the opening day of the Madagascar exhibit at the Bronx Zoo?	1998
... did the GCAS members write letters of tribute to Joe Ferdenzi on his 19th year as President? (This occupied 10 pages!)	2008
... did the cover feature a collage of fish stamps from around the world. (This was the 5th anniversary issue of Modern Aquarium .)	2017
... did the cake at our Awards Banquet misspell the word "Holidas" (<i>This is a trick question!</i>)	2014

Solution to our last puzzle:

IT'S ALIVE

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mosquitofish-----	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>
Liberty Molly-----	<i>Poecilia salvatoris</i>
Celebes Half Beak-----	<i>Nomorhamphus liemi</i>
Four-Eyed Fish-----	<i>Anableps anableps</i>
Pike Livebearer-----	<i>Belonesox belizanus</i>
Red-tailed Goodeid-----	<i>Xenotoca eiseni</i>
Endler's Livebearer-----	<i>Poecilia wingei</i>
Least Killifish-----	<i>Heterandria formosa</i>
Dalmatian Molly-----	<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>
Mickey Mouse Platy-----	<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>

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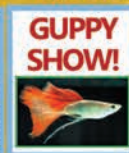


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