

modern AQUARIUM



December 2014
volume XXI
number 10

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York



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modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXI, No. 10 December, 2014

ON THE COVER

Our cover this month features an important fish to Greater City Aquarium Society, *Pterophylum scalare*, the familiar angelfish. Just take a look at the back cover of this magazine, and you will be reminded that it has been our logo for many years. Then see Sue Priest's article on page 16, "Angelfishes Don't Eat Broccoli." Probably not quiche, either.

Photo by Susan Priest

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In This Issue

From the Editor.....	2
G.C.A.S. 2015 Program Schedule.....	3
President's Message.....	4
November's Caption Contest Winner.....	5
Cartoon Caption Contest.....	7
Whale Shark Express.....	9
At the Georgia Aquarium by Stephen Sica	
Our Generous Sponsors & Advertisers.....	12
Tips From the Fishroom.....	13
by Jules Birnbaum	
Fishy Friends' Photos.....	15
by GCAS Fishy Friends	
Angelfishes Don't Eat Broccoli.....	16
by Susan Priest	
Pictures From Our Last Meeting.....	18
by Alexander A. Priest	
An Aquarist's Journey.....	20
Chapter 10 by Rosario LaCorte	
GCAS Past Award Winners.....	26
GCAS 2014 Awards.....	27
The G.C.A.S. Author Award Program.....	28
G.C.A.S. Breeders Award Program.....	31
G.C.A.S. Breeders Award Totals.....	32
G.C.A.S. Happenings.....	34
The Undergravel Reporter.....	35
60 Tons, What Do You Get?	
Fin Fun (Puzzle Page).....	36
Diner Maze	

From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

You'll see a lot of familiar names in our table of contents this month. Elliot Oshins submits another in his series of cartoons, challenging our members to come up with a caption, Steve Sica follows with a photo essay, "Whale Shark Express," documenting his and wife Donna's diving trip to the Georgia Aquarium. Jules Birnbaum gives us another in his very useful series, "Tips from the Fishroom," while Sue Priest imparts some nutrition advice not limited to angelfish in her "Angelfishes Don't Eat Broccoli," on page 16.

Our new "Fishy Friends' Photos" makes its second appearance in this issue, with photos from Ruben Lugo, Al Shunmugam, Joe Gurrado, and Jeff Bollbach. If you have some fishy photos you think we'd like to see, by all means post them on our Fishy Friends Facebook page. Maybe you'll see them later in print!

Al Priest shows us some of his "Pictures from our Last Meeting," on page 18, which is followed by Chapter 10 of Rosario LaCorte's autobiography, "An Aquarist's Journey." This story, popular to begin with, seems to be picking up more momentum as we go along. I continue to hear, or hear of, very favorable comments.

Each year at this time we publish the results of our Annual Awards. These include the results of our Breeders Award competition, the **Modern Aquarium** Author Awards Competition, and other significant accomplishments by our members. Take a look and see what your friends and fellow members have been up to. Maybe you'll become inspired to join in some of these excellent programs.

As always, the issue closes with the latest news from the Undergravel Reporter, followed by our monthly Fin Fun Puzzle. Enjoy!

* * * * *



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

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





GCAS Programs 2015

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 4	
April 1	
May 6	
June 3	
July 1	
August 5	Silent Auction
September 2	
October 7	
November 4	
December 2	Holiday Party!

Articles submitted for consideration in *Modern Aquarium* (ISSN 2150-0940) must be received no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Please email submissions to gcas@earthlink.net, or fax to (877) 299-0522. Copyright 2014 by the Greater City Aquarium Society Inc., a not-for-profit New York State corporation, or All rights reserved. Not-for-profit aquarium societies are hereby granted permission to reproduce articles and illustrations from this publication, **unless the article indicates that the copyrights have been retained by the author**, and provided reprints indicate source, and that two copies of the publication are sent to the Exchange Editor of this magazine For online-only publications, copies may be sent via email to donnste@aol.com. Any other reproduction or commercial use of the material in this publication is prohibited without prior express written permission.

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

President's Message

by Dan Radebaugh

Welcome to our 2014 Holiday/Awards Banquet. As we close another successful year at Greater City Aquarium Society, there are many people who deserve our thanks. First, thanks and congratulations go to Dan Puleo, whose first year as Programs Chair has to be rated as a success. Now he just has to do it all over again! Thanks also go to our new NEC delegate, Joe Gurrado, who bravely stepped into the unknown to take on this important post.

Thanks are also due Al Grusell and Jason Kerner for providing us with refreshments at every meeting. Let's also not forget Jules Birnbaum and Ron Wiesenfeld for keeping track of our finances. This is no easy job to do, and we all are in their debt for their handling of this very important task. Also, later on in this issue you'll see our Breeders Award totals. Warren Feuer and Mark Soberman look after this activity, and we all owe them our thanks. Take a look through the past awards, not only the winners, but also the participants, to see the scope of this aspect of our club. Warren also deals with our electronic challenges when they arise.

Ed Vukich of course is well known to us all for handling our monthly auctions. This isn't all Ed does. He and several of our other old guard members do a lot for the club pretty much behind the scenes. Pete D'Orio and Lenny Ramroop come to mind. Thanks, guys!

I must also thank our **Modern Aquarium** staff: Sue and Al Priest continue to make enormous contributions to the magazine and to the club. Sharon Barnett not only helps with the magazine, but has been the moving force behind our Facebook Fishy Friends group. Joe Ferdenzi has been and continues to be an invaluable resource and advisor. Last, but certainly not least, my wife Marsha has done a tremendous job with Membership, as well as with helping me get through all the things I need to remember and deal with. Thanks, Marsha!

There are plenty more folks to thank: the runners at our auctions, all you members who donate items to the club, or who help out ad hoc, getting people to or from meetings, or in other ways. I could keep listing tasks and people, but I have finite time and space. As long as we have members who are willing to contribute their time and efforts, this club will continue to prosper!

Dan



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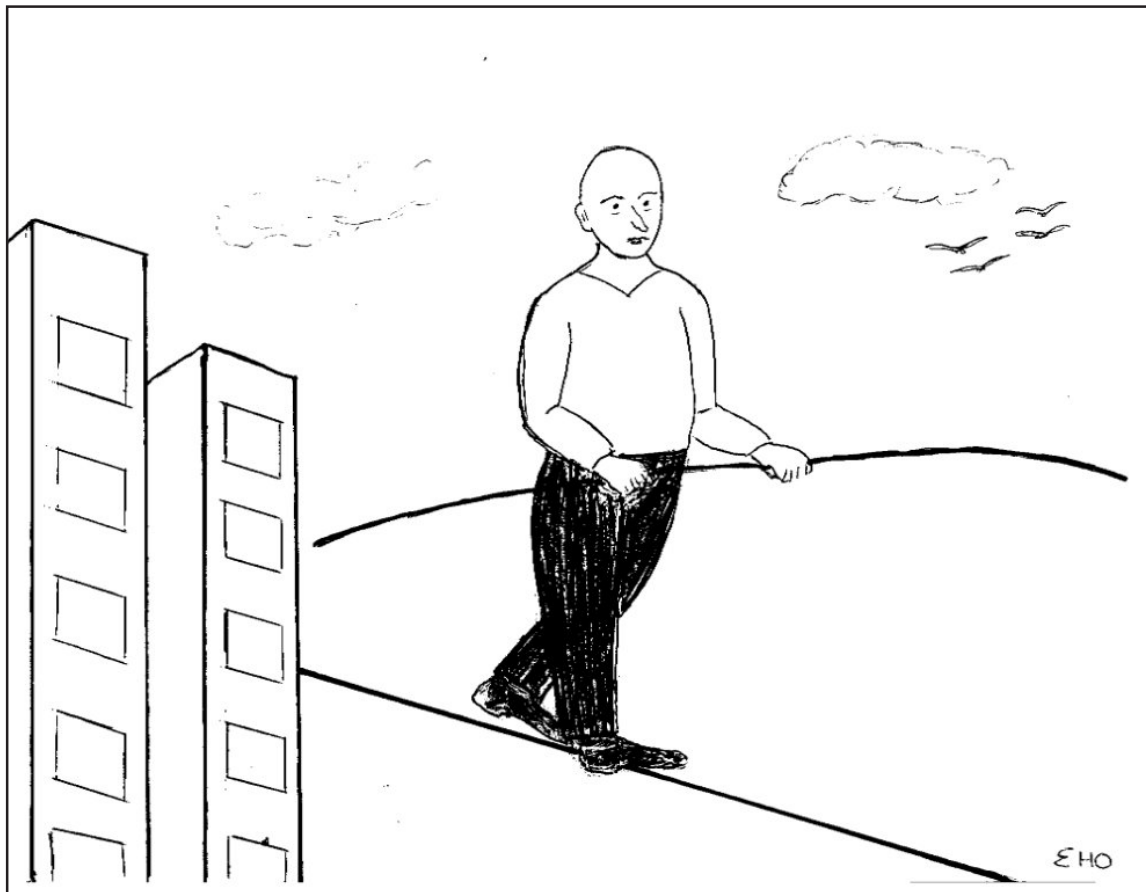
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November's Caption Winner: Denver Lettman



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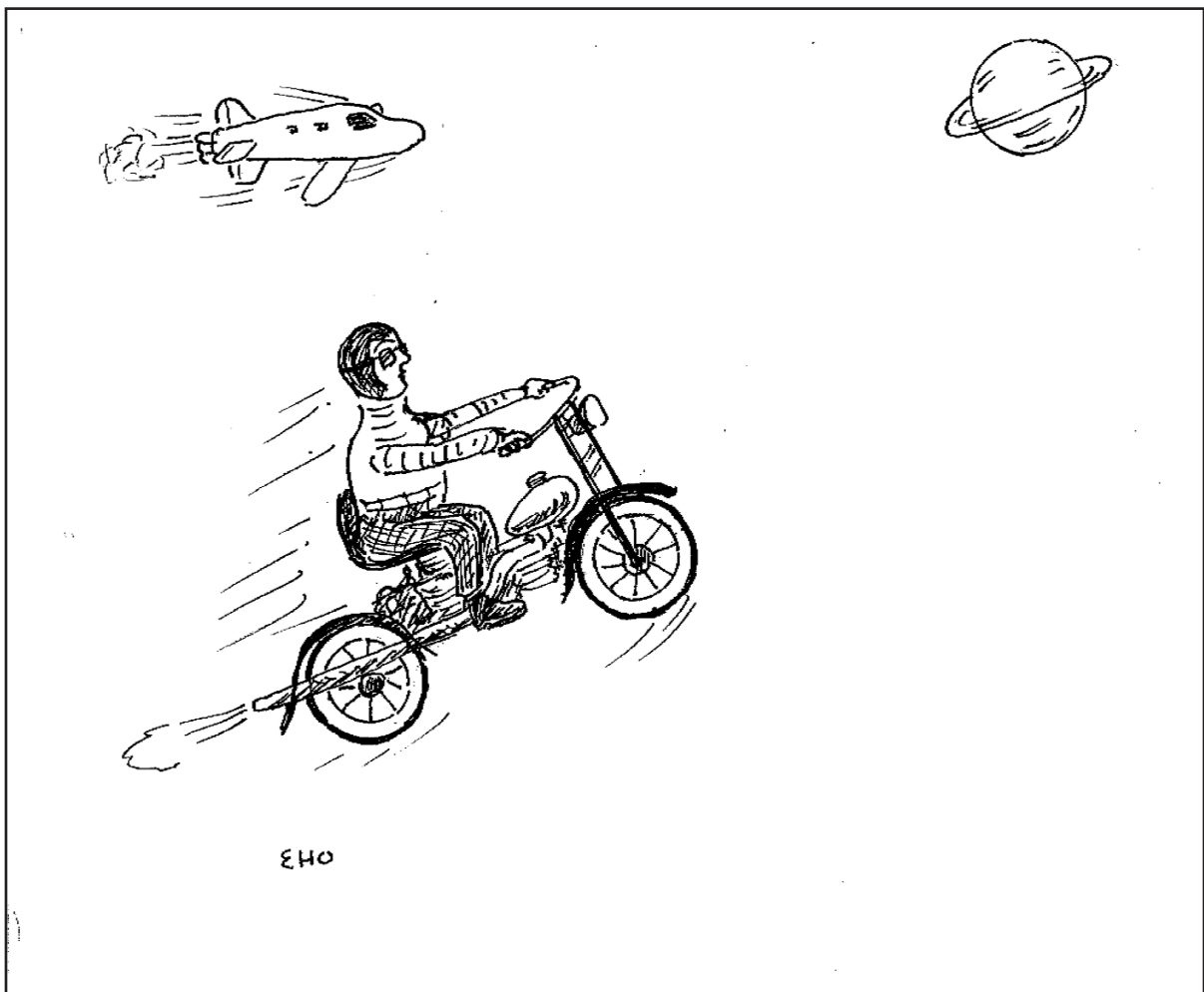
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The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

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



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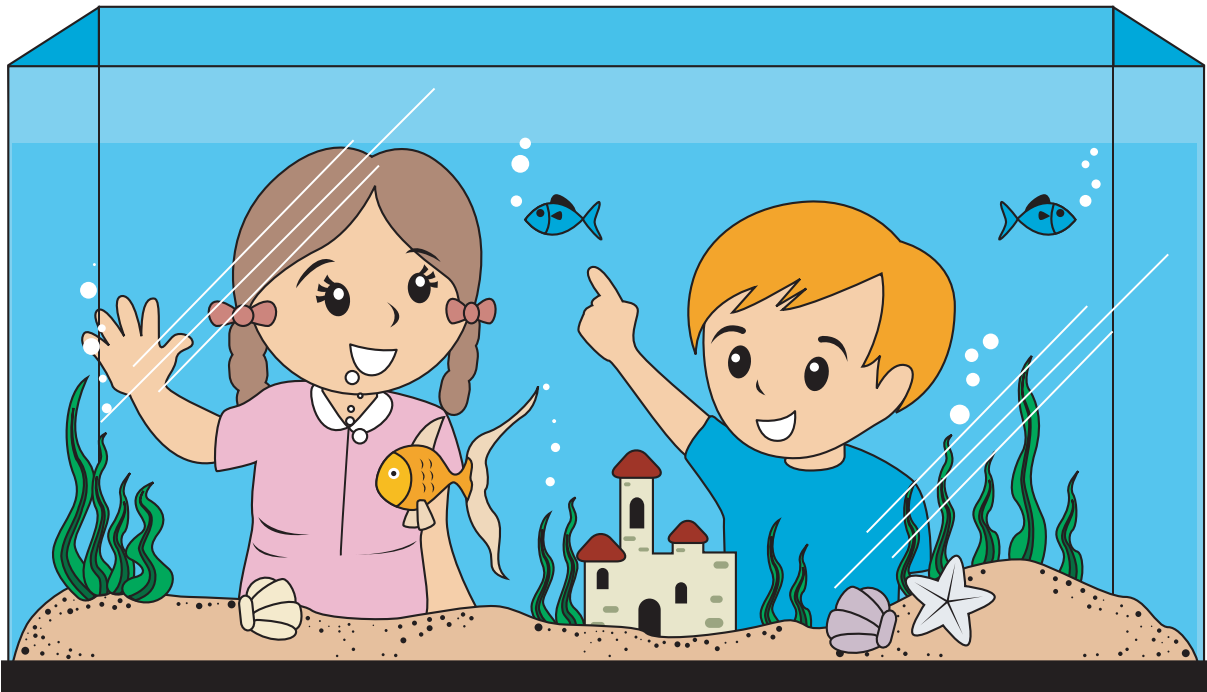


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Whale Shark Express at the Georgia Aquarium

Story and Photos (except as noted) by Stephen Sica

Last Christmas Donna gave me a Georgia Aquarium gift card for a very odd amount of money. When I inquired as to the meaning of her gift and the amount, she replied that it was the price plus tax (rather costly I might add) for one whale shark dive at the Aquarium. Then she said that it would give us a reason to take another road trip with Cordelia, our dog.

On September 11, 2014 we left home at 5:40 AM to begin a seventeen-day (weather permitting) road trip in our ten year old Subaru Forester. Since Cordelia rides in a crate that takes up seventy percent of the rear seat, our car was packed to the gills, if I might use a fish expression. After stops in Troutville, Virginia that I contend is famous for its stinkbugs and other odd insects, and Asheville, North Carolina, known for a few stinkbugs too, but also for the Biltmore Estate, we arrived in Atlanta. Make a note that Donna was quite fond of the Biltmore's wine tasting room, where Cordelia was welcomed as a therapy dog. We never saw the inside of the winery itself, since it is not pet friendly, but two wine tasting visits on consecutive days more than made up for this.

Flash forward to Monday, September 15th. Donna and I, our nephew Chris, and Donna's sister Karen arrived at the Aquarium at exactly 11:30 AM. After touring the Aquarium on our own and a light lunch, we reported to the tour desk, where the volunteers verified our paperwork and waivers. We met three other individuals who would complete our six-person team of divers this day. A dive team employee named Chris conducted a brief tour from above the exhibits, and showed us a video of what to expect during the dive. We reviewed a large laminated card with pictures of many of the fish inhabiting the Aquarium. Many species were from the South and Indo-Pacific and Australian seas.

Finally, at about 3 PM we were led up a staircase to the highest point of the Aquarium. Entering through a steel door, we looked out on the surface of a 6.3 million gallon fish tank. Chris, our guide, said that it was about the total area of a football field. It looked immense to me. We started snapping photographs,

and were told that there would be plenty of time to do that after our much anticipated dive. We were then introduced to the dive staff, all of whom were women. Shelly would lead us, Liz would follow as safety diver, and the third diver, whose name I cannot recall, would swim alongside us, filming a brief video that we could purchase for \$50 plus tax. I was informed beforehand that no one was permitted to bring a personal underwater

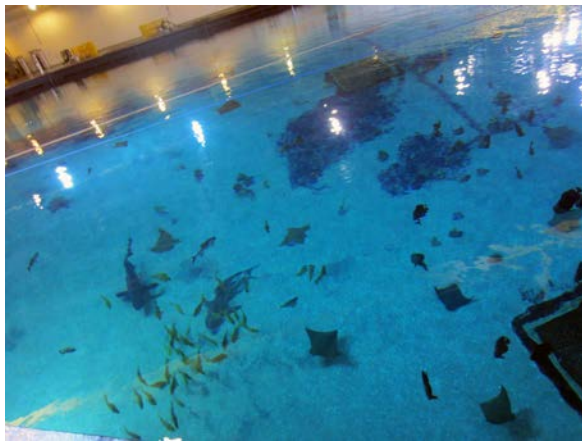
camera on the dive. Needless to say, considering that we were paying more than \$1,000 for three dives, I was very disappointed! I took a few photos from the surface, and Karen took a few more from her VIP vantage point outside the tank while we were in the water.



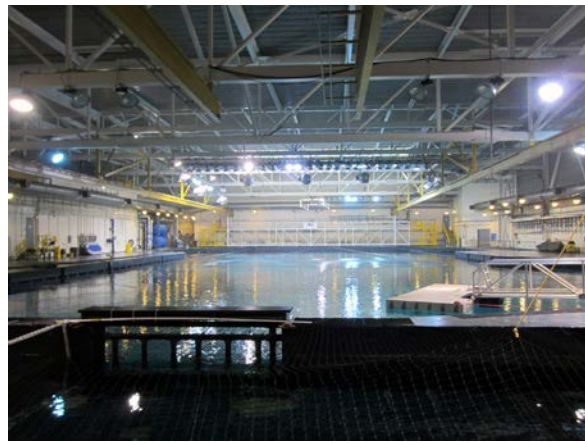
Profile of a whale shark. I don't know if this shark was a male or female. The two females in the Aquarium were about eight feet longer than the two males, whom I assume were younger. I don't know if age is related to size. The two original males had died and were replaced with the current males. Would the original males be alive if they had remained in the wild?



The entrance to the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.



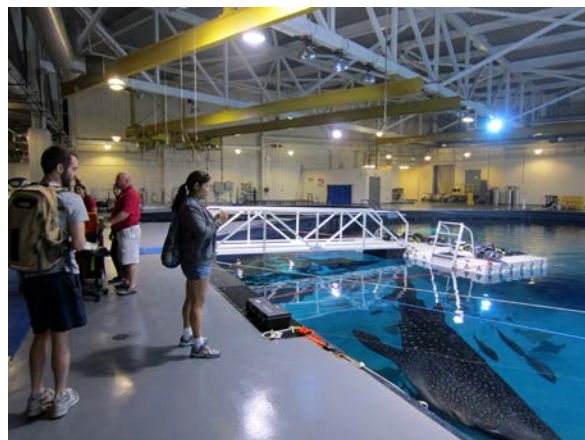
Myriad fish and rays swim beneath the surface of the largest man-made indoor aquarium ever constructed.



The foreground is a quarantine section of the huge tank. Looking out on the surface of the tank was like scanning a football field, with numerous bright lights to illuminate the fish below.



Donna, Steve and Chris. Photo by Georgia Aquarium Dive Staff.



Bridge with railing leads to dive platform where our scuba gear with each diver's name was laid prior to our dive. A whale shark swims by after passing under the dive platform. We were anxious to take photos even before we began our experience.

Before donning our wetsuits and dive gear, we were adamantly told to swim close to the bottom. Shelley said that whale sharks are like school buses without brakes. If any of us got in front of these fast swimming animals, the shark would be unable to avoid us, and would plow into us at full speed. We were not informed as to what effect that would have on either the diver or the shark but I was truly impressed at the high speed with which all four sharks swam around in the huge tank, each shark accompanied by an entourage of miscellaneous fish. The sharks all swam independently, so you never quite knew where one was coming from or whether their swimming pattern was uniform. With all of the excitement and action, it was difficult to determine whether the whales traveled the same route throughout the aquarium.

A few times I rose several feet above the sand covered cement bottom to view the mouth and white underside of a fast moving whale shark swimming directly at me. I would duck down as the huge fish swam just a few feet over my head. It was both harrowing and exciting at the same time! The only thing that I could think of as the shark swam by was that it must hurt an awful lot to be run into by such a large animal. Even though the shark's mouth or snout

would be your first contact, I was happy that whale sharks are plankton feeders. Still, I wondered, if any of us was small enough to fit into a mouth.

The female sharks were larger than the males. The two females resided in the aquarium since its opening while the two younger males had replaced male sharks that did not survive their long term captivity. This leads to the question should wild animals be kept in captivity to amuse humans? Look at what Sea World does to its orcas. There is a documentary motion picture, **Blackfish**, about some of these whales and their former trainers.

I think that public aquariums, whether for profit or not, should not remove most fish and animals from their natural habitat. However, this belief is contradictory to my own actions. Donna and I have participated in dive programs in five public aquariums. We have also dived in Epcot's Living Seas twice.

While the whale sharks were exhilarating, there were many other unique fish in the aquarium. There was one small Napoleon wrasse that must have weighed about fifty pounds. These fish are common on the Great Barrier Reef. There were many Manta rays. One huge ray was black, with a wingspan in excess of ten feet. There were lesser devil rays that

looked like small manta rays. These fish were not known to me prior to this dive. There were leopard whip rays and black blotched fantail rays. I had never heard of most of these fish. There were two types of woebegone sharks. There were giant guitarfish and zebra sharks. We saw goliath groupers, sandbar and hammerhead sharks. On the swim back to the dive platform there was a sawfish lying on the bottom with no other fish nearby. The fish with its saw was at least eight feet long. I eased next to its right side and lay on the bottom about two feet away. The fish's eye was looking at me as I was looking at it. I marveled that such a majestic fish has such a small eye. I admired its sword, protruding from the snout. Its teeth were perfect on both sides of the shaft, which seemed over two feet in length. I wondered if this sword was used to carve up other living organisms.

After a few more seconds I continued to the dive platform and rose to the surface where we were assisted out of our gear. Donna has a prescription lens in her facemask; otherwise, all of our equipment was supplied by the aquarium. Most divers prefer to use their own masks. I think that your mask and the regulator that you use to breathe are the most personal

pieces of diving equipment. I'll put swim fins third.

A few minutes later we were taking warm showers and marveling at the impressive experience we had just had. Afterwards we were taken back to the meeting room and given a photograph of our group, a certificate to authenticate our experience, and a tee shirt. The underwater photographer had recorded a brief ten minute video of the adventure, which we viewed. It was sold to us for fifty dollars plus tax. After this once in a lifetime experience, you just had to purchase the video no matter what the cost! We were hoping for a longer video, based upon prior experiences, but we purchased one copy. We were at liberty to duplicate the video for our nephew since there was no copyright or Aquarium stipulation against reproducing the disk and its contents.

When we were ready to exit the aquarium we discovered that it was already closed to ordinary visitors. I thought that 5 PM was an early closing time, and they informed us that until Labor Day it had been open to 9 PM daily. That evening during a late outdoor dinner with Cordelia, Donna and I reviewed the photos on our cameras that we each had taken inside the Aquarium. Donna had given Karen her



Divers swim into the "wild blue under" to begin their Georgia Aquarium whale shark adventure. Note tail of one of four whale sharks that inhabit the aquarium on right side of photo. Photo by Karen James.



Diver in lower left hugs the sandy aquarium floor. A whale shark a few feet above the diver cruises around the 6.3 million gallon tank accompanied by an entourage of jacks. Photo by Karen James.



Safety diver Liz follows the six divers in our group. Her priority is to keep divers below the whale sharks to avoid collisions. The Aquarium dive staff told us that a collision with one of the four whale sharks would feel like being hit by a school bus without brakes. Photo by Karen James.



"Which way did they go?" Even without my camera, I can't find the whale sharks, or in which direction I'm going! Photo by Karen James.



Six divers embrace after our thrilling experience. Donna, Steve and Chris are second onward from the left. Photo taken by the Aquarium dive staff member with my camera.

camera when we went diving to take a few photos of us in the big tank. We then took a walk with our dog, and retired for a good night's sleep. Tomorrow we would be rising early for the 500 mile drive to Clearwater and the continuation of our southern adventure!



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TIPS FROM THE FISHROOM

by Jules Birnbaum

The tips I discuss herein are from my own experiences, are not original, and as they say, “whatever works for you.” If you pick up one tip that works for you then the article has succeeded.

I’ve had several hobbies during my life, in the following order: horseback riding, tropical fish, competitive weight lifting, ice dancing, antique clock collecting, and again, tropical fish. There is one constant in all these activities, and that is that you always have more to learn. I have little patience with someone who is content to keep one polluted 10 gallon tank, and when fish die, simply goes to the pet shop to buy new ones. Whether you have 50 tanks or just one 10 gallon tank, you should never stop learning something new each day. Isn’t that why we humans were given the brains to absorb information until the day we die?

Experts are all around us at the GCAS, and are willing to help you learn. Don’t be shy; ask for help and advice. There are other ways to further your knowledge in this computer age. I look up everything using Google and Wikipedia. Then I follow up with the references given. There are web sites that offer free information with the hope you will purchase their products. Select Aquatics has wonderful articles on keeping tanks and caring for livebearers. Angels Plus has come a long way in providing information on how to keep angelfish, and has videos offering tips on how to do things.

The Cichlid Forum is an excellent reference for those maintaining cichlids. There are two magazines that have useful articles, **Tropical Fish Hobbyist** and **Amazonas**. YouTube has many videos that show how to do it yourself. There is so much information online that sometimes it is overwhelming.

Try to use multiple sources to acquire information. I started a library of old books, some purchased and some received as gifts. It is a far cry from Joe Ferdenzi’s library, but it is a start. Try to pick up old books at our auctions. Ebay, Amazon, and Aquabid are good places to find them.

Here is a tip for those of you who are still using the bucket brigade to do your water changes. Several years ago when I was still using a syphon and a bucket to perform water changes, Jeff Bollbach told me my back would eventually give me trouble, and that I should get in touch with JEHMCO, the fish supply house. They sell a water changing device to draw water out of the tank and refill it with no lifting. It is called a Safety Syphon Aquarium Drain. They also

will attach a faucet adapter for refilling the tank. The cost is around \$20, and includes a length of hose. If you want to make it easier, they will add a water pump for about \$20 more. They also can add a \$5 ball valve to shut off the water on the unit when moving from tank to tank. John is very helpful, and if you tell him something about your tank or tanks he will help you purchase the correct piece of equipment. To see this device go to Jehmco.com. There are other water changing devices available that work well, but I’ve found that some of these devices waste water.

I recently learned something about using my extra old 2" and 4" Poret sponge or fiber sheets (from Swiss Tropicals). These filters work well, and are large, covering the entire end of a tank. They don’t need cleaning as often as box or ordinary foam filters. However, I found them difficult and messy to remove when they do need to be cleaned. This is another case of “whatever works for you”. I now have lots of extra sponge sheets. These 2" and 4" sheets make excellent tank dividers. Another idea is to use the leftover pieces of sponge sheets to construct your own sponge filters.

If you have bare-bottom tanks, but like live plants as I do, use clay pots to house the plants. The bottom hole lets gravel slip through, sometimes causing a mess. You can fill the hole in many ways, but here is one that I will use in the future. Cut a piece of filter sponge sheet to fill the bottom of each pot. Also, if your cichlids are removing gravel from the planted pot, use a piece or pieces of foam to fit and cover the top of the pot around the plant. You can also use pieces of Lava rock that they can’t lift.

Another use for a clay pot is to make a combination sponge and box filter of it. Cut a piece of the sponge sheet to cover the bottom of the pot. Then cut a larger piece of sponge sheet to fit across the top, and cut a slit in the center to allow a 1" piece of hard tubing the size used as lift tubes for store-bought foam filters. Cut the tubing to a 6" to 8" length, and drill a small hole in the tube near the top to accommodate an airline. Sink the hard tubing with the airline inserted in the small hole and place it 2" from the bottom of the pot. Media can be added, like bits of lava rock, crushed coral, or peat. The result is an attractive, large combination sponge and box filter with very little labor and at little cost. Fry won’t get caught up in the filter, and the foam will house microorganisms that will supply some food for the fry.



Occasionally you should use some live, frozen, or raw food to feed your fish. All dry fish food, both flake and pellet, lose some vitamins during preparation. When you read the label and see, for example, 48% protein, remember this is before the food is cooked and dried. Important vitamins have to be lost. I'm not a scientist, but do notice the difference in the look of my fish, and certainly in other fish that are fed large amounts of live, frozen, and raw blended frozen gel foods.

It goes without saying that buying fish food in larger quantities saves money. The tip here is to store larger bags of fish food in the freezer or the refrigerator, and only remove enough for one week, and place it in a small container. Remember, when the big bag of food comes out of the freezer it is cold, and there is condensation as water is removed from the air. The tip here is to let the bag come to room temperature before opening it. When sealing it again squeeze all the air out of the bag. Dry your hands before feeding the fish. Air and humidity are the enemy of dry fish food.

Recently, I have been experimenting with preparing a beef heart recipe given to me by Joe Gargas (you can substitute low-fat meat, chicken, or turkey breast). He uses baby food vegetables, menhaden (bunker fish) oil, an attractant added to fish bait, which is loaded with vitamins. Most online bait shops handle it. A color enhancer is added purchased from Brine Shrimp Direct. The color enhancer brings out the red color in tropical fish. A cold binder is used so as not to destroy any vitamins. It is supposed to be more easily digested than Knox® gelatin, but I'm not so sure this is true. It was messy to make, and very bloody-looking, but the fish love it. I serve it several

times a week in small frozen chunks, and am careful not to overfeed, which could foul the water. I also use a razor blade to cut it into smaller portions. The mix should last a few months.

If your tank has a large bio-load, as some of mine do, clean your filters with every few water changes, or you are partially defeating the fresh water entering the tank. If a dirty filter stops running for even a few hours, clean it before restarting. I've heard several horror stories where whole tanks were wiped out, by poisons built up in a dirty filter from lack of water movement. Cleaning a dirty filter is important, due to all the recent power outages in our area.

I see no reason for keeping a dirty filter running. Some aquarists think the mulm build-up in the filter helps the filter catch more dirt. This is just not true because eventually the water will channel around the heavy build-up, and travel around the media.

I've been using a washable, 100% polyester fiber fill in my 33 Rocket™ box filters. I got this tip from Joe Gargas, a GCAS guest speaker a couple of months ago. He has written a book entitled, **Water and the Aquarium**. This fiber is designed for pillows, toys, dolls, and crafts. I purchase it from Jo-Ann, the arts and crafts store. 32 ounces is just \$7 and change. Contrast this with what you see on Amazon, and you will realize there is a huge savings. Both are 100% polyester, and my experience indicates both work equally well, but why pay the extra dollars?

I'll keep spending time in my fishroom and online reading books, and hopefully more tips will be coming in the future.



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Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

Here is another installment of our newest ongoing column—photo submissions to our “Fishy Friends” Facebook group. Once again, I’ve left the species unnamed, but not the photographer. If you see a shot you like, and want more info, ask the photographer about it! I’m sure he or she will be glad to tell you.



Photo from Ruben Lugo.



Photos (above and below) from Joseph Gurrado.



Photo from Al Shunmugam.



Photo from Jeff Bollbach.

Angelfishes Don't Eat Broccoli

a story about who eats what by Sue Priest - photos by author

Cory catfishes and clown loaches don't eat broccoli either, but that doesn't stop them from occasionally trying. In our ninety gallon community aquarium there are mouths of many different shapes and sizes. This is a story about what the occupants of "the 90" are eating. The fishes therein don't know what is good for them, so we have to give them what they need.

Some of the fishes are carnivores, others are herbivores, and there are even a few true omnivores among them.

The only way to adequately feed all of them is to offer a varied diet to the entire population. Some of them will pick out one or two items from among the choices, while others will attempt to consume as much as they can, with the emphasis on volume. The criteria for them is "will this fit in my mouth?"

Let's start by describing the fishes which make up this community. The first thing you will notice is a large grouping of angelfishes (*Pterophylum scalare*), no two of which are the same size. Dodging in-between them, and occupying the center of the water column, are a variety of small tetras, rasboras, and most recently, some *variatus* platys (*Xiphophorus variatus*). The bottom dwellers include three cory catfishes (*Corydoras aeneus*), two bristlenosed plecos (*Ancistrus* sp.), an undeterminable (yes, that's a real word) number of *kuhlii* loaches (*Pangio kuhlii*) and a very old clown loach (*Botia macracanthus*), which is missing a couple of fins.

The aforementioned varied diet consists of an assortment of foods, some of which we have gotten off of a raffle table, some that have come out of a goody bag, and some which we have chosen and purchased ourselves. Without listing the brand names, this assortment

includes pellets of more than one size, three varieties of flake foods combined into one container, shrimp pellets, sinking spirulina disks, crumbles, golden pearls, and occasionally live foods (snails). The combination of flakes includes a spirulina based food, color enhancing flakes, and one which claims to provide "daily nutrition for all tropical fish." Last, but not least, is the broccoli.

Now it is feeding time. Most days I start



the tank out with a couple of shakes from the container of flakes. The tetras, rasboras, and platys get most of their nutrition from these. In spite of the many mouths between the surface and the substrate, I can tell that a few of the flakes have made it all the way to the bottom when I see a couple of *kuhlii* loaches foraging shortly thereafter. The *kuhlii*s and the corys both tend

to be omnivorous in that anything small enough which makes it down to them will be eagerly consumed.

Every three days or so I reach for the vegetable pellets. They are round and hard, and too large for all but the largest of mouths, so I grind them up in a mortar and pestle. That way I know that there are morsels of a suitable size for every mouth.

The crumbles are also large, but are much softer. After you crush them between your fingers you can be sure that even the rasboras and the corys will be able to nibble at them.

There are two varieties of very small pellets which are eagerly consumed by every one. The golden pearls are a particular favorite, not just of the inhabitants of this tank, but of every fish in the house.

Angelfish are aggressive eaters. They will eat from every level of the tank. They

will eat from every level of the tank. They will gobble whatever hits the surface, they will swoop up anything which passes in front of their faces as it falls past them, and they will forage the substrate in an effort to beat out the bottom feeders to the spoils. The straight angle of their mouths should indicate that they feed from the center of the water column, and in nature this is probably what they do. However, in the closed environment of an aquarium, they are more opportunistic. They will eat everything from the list of foods except the broccoli.

The clown loach is a dedicated carnivore. Its favorite food are the shrimp pellets. They sink quickly, and evade most of the angel fishes which are grabbing at them on the way down.

Back in the fourth paragraph I mentioned live foods. At least twice a week I pluck a few snails out of each of the nearby Endler's livebearer (*Poecelia wingei*) and black-finned goodea (*Goodea atripinnis atripinnis*) tanks, and drop them into the 90. They are never seen again, as snails are another favorite food of the clown loach. (If you have an aquarium which you would like to rid of snails, a clown loach will do the job for you.)

By now you must be asking yourselves "what about the broccoli?" At this point I must drop a name that long time members will recognize: Charley Sabatino. Many moons ago he authored a column in **Modern Aquarium** called "Catfish Chronicles." One of the most astute pieces of advice which he offered us was that NON-blanching broccoli STEMS are an

excellent food for plecos. The conventional choice for plecos is blanched zucchini. Those



of you who have tried this know that small particles become free-floating in the water, and can only be removed by the filter. Extra filter cleanings sound like extra work to me! Also, depending on the number and size of your plecos, you will need to replenish the zucchini two or three times a DAY, (at least that's what I had to do when I tried the zucchini). Also, if the plecos run out of

zucchini they will start snacking on the leaves of your plants. Hmmm!

BUT, the very firm core of broccoli stem in its raw state is equally relished by the plecos. In the aquarium under discussion, one half of one stem of broccoli sliced lengthwise will last three days. It will meet most of the nutritional needs of these



dedicated herbivores, will serve to protect the plant leaves, and will not foul the water. I supplement the broccoli stem with sinking spirulina disks to bridge any nutritional gaps, as broccoli stems are not found in the natural habitat of plecos. One last point, if you are feeding broccoli stem, you will have to weigh it down. I use a plastic

clip with a 2"X 2" piece of slate.

Occasionally I spot a cory surveying the surface of the broccoli. There is no way to tell if it is actually eating any. Even the clown loach can sometimes be spotted sniffing around, but perhaps there was a shrimp pellet nearby!



Pictures from

Photos by Al Priest



**Our esteemed speaker, Gary Lange,
prepping his Rainbowfish program**



**Joe Ferdenzi auctioning rainbowfish
eggs donated by Gary**



Jason Kerner



"D. J."



"Gypsy Mermaid"



Jerry the Cookie Monster



Long time friend, Sal Silvestri



Good to see you, Anton



Joe Graffagnino



Gilberto Soriano

our last meeting

Welcome new member:



New member Larry D. Whitfield (L)
with top aquarist Ruben Lugo

Bowl Show Winners:



2nd Place: Ruben Lugo



1st Place: Mario Bengcion

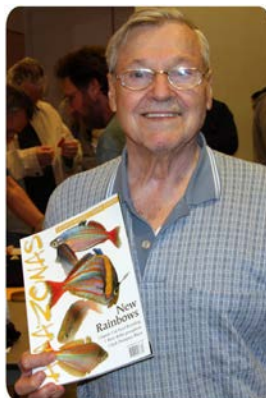


3rd Place: Mario Bengcion

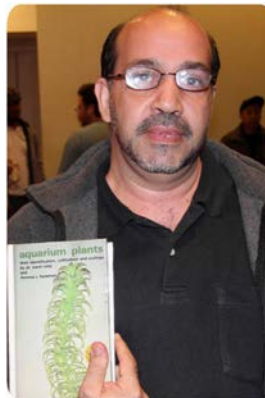
Door Prize Winners:



Tamer Altan



Victor Hritz



Jason Irizarry



Bob Klein

AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

Story and Photos (unless noted) by Rosario LaCorte

Chapter 10

When I first became involved in the Instant Fish project I needed to dispose of my collection of rare fishes, which included a wonderful cross section of Congo fishes that Aaron Dvoskin, Bill Harsell, and I had imported a few years earlier from Pierre Brichard. I had a magnificent pair of *Distichodus affinis*, at the time uncommon, and they were one of the species I had to move out. Two years earlier I had met Fred Gloede, a professional breeder who had two large fish houses in Parsippany, New Jersey. One of these housed 500 large aquariums, as well as a large greenhouse that housed 24 4'x8' cement pools. Fred and I became great friends, and I trusted him with my collection. Upon placing the pair of *Distichodus* into a large tank, they spawned, and Fred became the first aquarist to spawn them. The spawn was huge, but only sixteen eggs were fertile. Several months later I mentioned to Fred that I would like to start getting some of my collection back. Fred replied he would like to keep them a little longer and attempt to spawn them again, to which I agreed. Several months passed, and while visiting Fred one day I said in passing, "Freddy, how are the *Distichodus* doing?" "Well, I was hoping you wouldn't ask me. They died". I wasn't very upset, and quickly forgot about them.



Distichodus affinis.

Photo from thechandarangawall.blogspot.com.

Fred was the kind of guy you could never be angry with, even though I had only met him a few years earlier at the grand opening of Global Aquarium, a wholesale establishment that was started by our friend Aaron Dvoskin, along with Lee Melwright. Our friendship lasted a lifetime, and our children

referred to him as Uncle Fred, and his wife as Aunt Edna. He was one of the most colorful characters that I've met during all my years of fishkeeping. Fred could not have a conversation with anyone without a string of cuss words. He was not a well-educated man, and he would admit that he was held back in the sixth grade three times. His family was in the agriculture business, and raised many types of flowers, as well.



Fred Gloede collecting daphnia in his constructed pond.

When he became interested in tropical fish, he set up several tanks in one of their greenhouses. He was quite successful in reproducing fish, and found that he could do quite well at it financially. His father was the owner of the business, with Fred and younger brother Bill assisting.

In the very early 1950s Fred's dad, getting on in age, decided to sell the seven acre farm and greenhouse to a developer who wanted to construct houses. It was a time when housing was undergoing a boom; homes were in demand, as many World War II vets were in the market for their first homes. Fred's father sold the land for \$96,000—in those times a handsome amount of money. The boys talked their dad into purchasing 16½ acres in Parsippany, which included a small home, for \$35,000. One of the greenhouses was dismantled and reconstructed on the new property, and Fred and Bill added a building connected to the greenhouse. The furnace and air pump area had their own room. The building was constructed of cinder blocks, and contained a number of skylights for natural lighting. The room had 500 aquariums—30-gallon longs. One section contained racks, which housed 5-gallon aquariums for breeding. A well supplied their water, and despite it being slightly hard and alkaline, they were extremely successful, raising thousands of fish. It afforded them a comfortable life with little stress.

In those early days, with the tropical fish hobby experiencing a boom, there were many wholesale establishments doing business. The Gloedes raised what were referred to in the trade as bread and butter fishes: angels, an assortment of barbs, glo-lite tetras, and other popular tetras. Wholesalers would purchase fish in lots of hundreds; most of these fish were sold for 15¢ each. Wilmar Aquarium of Pine Brook, New Jersey, was the principle purchaser of the Gloedes production.

In those days live food was plentiful, and one of the reasons why there were so many successful breeders. The Passaic River was a wonderful source of live food, even though it was considered one of the most polluted rivers in the United States. It was one of the bodies of water from which I collected daphnia. The daphnia also helped maintain a thriving fish population in the river. There were large carp that brought fishermen to its banks to enjoy a day of fishing. The Whippany Paper Mill, situated upstream, dumped paper manufacturing waste products into it. Nevertheless, the river still supported a seemingly inexhaustible supply of daphnia. The daphnia were so abundant that the carp, despite their enormous appetites, could not eat them all. The shoreline was red with daphnia, and collecting was a simple process, with not much effort needed to collect more than one needed. The river flowed under Route 46, in the Parsippany area.

Under the bridge one could collect large amounts of tubifex worms. A stainless steel potato strainer was used to scoop up the mud, and then shaken from side to side to remove as much of the silt as possible. The remaining material was tubifex, larger stones, and detritus too large to pass through the strainer's openings. This remaining messy sludge was then placed into a bucket until filled. It was messy and smelly, but laden with tubifex. We had a novel method of removing the worms from the sludge. Once returning home, a 1-inch thickness of number 3 aquarium gravel was carefully layered at the surface. Within a few hours, the tubifex worms would work their way to the surface, and you would have a solid mass of worms, clean and healthy-looking. These we then placed in running water for a few days to purge any impurities from them. This same area also contained some wooded areas that held ponds rich in fairy shrimp during the spring months. It was a wonderful time to be in the hobby.



Fairy Shrimp. Photo from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Artemia cysts could be purchased for ten dollars per gallon. Hatches were excellent. Fred would purchase 100 gallons at a time, and then would hatch one gallon of *Artemia* per week. Instead of collecting his own tubifex worms from the Passaic River, Fred purchased his worms from John Haydek, a professional food supplier. The worms were collected from the Delaware River, where the Heinz Tomato Company would dump its tomato production wastes. There were a number of collectors who supplied worms to

the Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey area. A hobbyist could purchase a quart of tubifex worms for two dollars. Bloodworms were another plentiful commodity collected in the Philadelphia area. All this kept a fair number of people in a profitable business supplying live food to the tropical fish industry.

Years later, the federal government began to pass laws prohibiting the dumping of industrial waste into rivers. Once the rivers were purged and returned nearer to their original state, it was the end of the live food business for many suppliers.

Fred supplied only one livebearing species from his hatchery, and that was an albino swordtail. To this day I have never seen any albino sword that could match the quality of those that Fred produced. They were reared in the cement ponds in his greenhouse. Many a hobbyist would buy Fred's swords and then enter them in weekend aquarium shows. I knew quite a few hobbyists who did that and won first prize with Fred's swords. It really wasn't fair to those hobbyists who toiled through several months cultivating a particular specimen in the hopes of winning an award, but a lot of people did it nonetheless.



Barbus cummingi, one of the barbs that Fred cultivated.

As I mentioned earlier, Fred's well water was quite alkaline, and medium hard, which made for some unusual results in his spawns. In particular, quite a few barbs that Fred cultivated were born without tails, which made them unsaleable. For more than twenty years, Fred would come to my home with Edna, bringing about 20 fish boxes with large plastic bags, to be filled with my city water, which was excellent for reproducing all of the soft-water fishes. Using this water, tailless spawns never occurred. Thursday evenings we would sit in the kitchen over a cup of coffee and some sort of refreshment. Fred would put milk and sugar in his coffee, and then stir and stir while speaking, oftentimes for several moments, getting a comment from me, "Keep going Freddy, you should hit oil soon." It would always bring a chuckle.

While visiting Fred's home one Saturday, I met his new purebred white boxer pup. It was staying there because his son-in-law, Joe, who worked for a veterinarian, had the dog in his care. It was given to the vet by a dog breeder to be put to sleep, as the American Kennel Club did not recognize white boxers. The vet



Chrissy as a pup just after the Gloedes gave her to us.

didn't have the heart to put the pup down; hence it was in Joe's care. It was his job to find a home for the dog. Our two daughters, quite young at the time, fell in love with the pup and asked their mother if they could keep it. Jean turned to me, "Dad, can the kids keep the dog?" I couldn't say no, and the dog became an important part of the family for 15 years.

Chrissy (the dog) loved Freddy, and could recognize the sound of his car coming down the street. Every once in a while Fred would stop to pick up freshly made donuts. I never cared for them, as they were greasy and would cause burping for hours. Freddy would sneak pieces to Chrissy under the table. This always gave Chrissy diarrhea, but Chrissy always waited for Freddy because she knew she would receive a treat from him. One summer day Freddy was smoking in front of the fish house situated about 30 feet from the back of our home. The dog, sensing he was there, pushed the screen door open and at full speed jumped up on him, knocking him into a 200 gallon metal liner, where fish were housed during the summer months. Just then I came upon the scene and said, "Freddy, what the heck are doing in the pool?" His laughing response was, "The G__ damn dog knocked me into the pool!" I had to help him up, as his legs were hanging over the edge and he could not grab onto anything to pull himself out of the water. Fred was about 6'2" and a string-bean. I gave him a pair of my work pants, which fit him well in the waist, but the leg



Chrissy grown up and strong enough to give Fred a dunking in the pool.

length was comical, as the cuffs were about five inches above his ankles. For many years we would recall the moment for a good chuckle.

Fred was a very generous guy; in exchange for getting water from me for years, he often brought me a quart of tubifex worms. For almost 20 years I never had to purchase tubifex, and from time to time Fred would also drop off a gallon of *Artemia* cysts.

Aaron Dvoskin would periodically purchase large quantities of Fred's fish for his wholesale establishment, Global Aquarium. Aaron was beginning to over-extend himself financially. He had the habit of purchasing beyond his means, and was having problems with foreign exporters. He owed Freddy \$1,200 for a large shipment that he had purchased. He kept promising Fred that he would pay him, but it just wasn't happening. Fred came up with a clever way to get what was owed him; he called Aaron and made a proposal that was just too good for Aaron to pass up. Freddy said it had to be cash only, no checks. "I will have everything packed and ready for your quick pickup." Aaron had the cash in hand, and arriving at Fred's fish house, handed him \$1,500. Freddy counted the money and handed him \$300 back. "What's this for?" said Aaron. "Well that takes care of what you owe me," Said Fred. The boxes (empty) were there alright, but Aaron knew Freddy had him.

The hatchery was heated by oil, and In 1973, when the first oil embargo hit the U.S., Fred and Bill shut the business down, as the cost of the heating oil now exceeded their income.

For 25 years Fred and I maintained a wonderful friendship, and I was able to solve a number of problems for Freddy. He was a great breeder, but did not read much, and knew little about the scientific aspects of aquarium management, or how important a role nitrifying bacteria play in water quality.

During the winter months he would complain about getting ich (a protozoal parasite of fishes, sometimes known as white-spot disease) in his hatchery. I peppered him with questions, attempting to solve his problem, until one Saturday while visiting him I watched his brother Bill doing water changes. Bill would drain a line of tanks, and then with a one-inch hose would refill them to their previous levels. Since their water was from a well, chlorine poisoning was not a consideration. Bill would adjust the hot and cold water valves so that the temperature would match that in the tanks. They had a very large boiler, but as I watched Bill go down the line, I noticed that the water was entering the tanks at a very high volume, and I became concerned that the water was being replaced at much too great a rate to allow the water heater to keep pace, and that after a time the replacement water temperature would drop too low. Going to the tank currently being refilled, I placed my right hand on the hose, and finding it quite cold, told Bill to shut it down. That was the source of his ich problem—they were creating it themselves.

From that time on, Bill would periodically adjust the valves to maintain the proper temperature. Mixing valves were available in those days, and should have been the order of the day. One of Fred's other problems was periodic mortality of entire tanks of fish. As I mentioned earlier, Fred's tanks were mostly 30-longs. Most of them had undergravel filters, which I have never liked much. Number three aquarium gravel covered the filters, in a layer about three inches deep. The air source was a Conde Milking Machine—a pump that had a solid metal drum in which three slots held graphite vanes. The spinning of the drum created centrifugal force. The vanes in turn were pushed outward, creating a high volume of air. The vanes could be replaced very easily, and the mechanism did not require lubrication, as the graphite itself served as a lubricant. It was extremely noisy, but because of its tremendous air output you could have all of your airstones and filters working at high volume.

Fred's undergravel filters were running at full force, but his tanks were overcrowded. He fed large amounts of newly hatched *Artemia*, as well as flake foods, all of which created a water quality problem. When the tanks were newly set up the filters worked great, but once enough organic waste had been pulled into the gravel, those deep gravel beds would begin to clog, making the undergravel filters work very inefficiently. Eventually the gravel bed would totally clog, anaerobic bacteria would replace the aerobic bacteria, and the resulting toxic conditions would be devastating, killing all the inhabitants of the tank. This happened to him over and over, until I convinced him that his filter system was the problem.

I also introduced Fred to the virtues of peat moss. Fred's greenhouse contained large cement pools, one of which could be used as a large reservoir. The pool would be filled to capacity, and a bale of peat moss placed into the water. Aeration was vigorous, and eventually he had a source of concentrated blackwater that he could collect and add to his breeding tanks. Tannins are important in the development of eggs, and some spawns are doomed to failure largely because of the absence of tannins. This addition of peat extract increased Fred's production.



Gold gourami that appeared in a spawn from Fred Gloede. Photo taken 1963.

Fred raised large quantities of pearl gouramis, *Trichogaster* (now *Trichopodus*) *leerii*. One spawn

included a gold-colored specimen—the first and only gold *leerii* that I had known of. Fred brought it to me to try to fix the strain, but unfortunately I never got around to doing anything with it.

I first met Fred at Global Aquarium in 1961, shortly after Aaron imported some interesting fish from the Congo. At that time cyprinodonts of any variety were few and far between, and one of the killies that then made its appearance was probably *A. striatum*—though at the time we didn't have a name for it. Aaron called to tell me about them, so I drove over to Ridgefield Park, where his company was located, and was the first person to pick up a pair of this new fish. They were magnificent! There was nothing around quite like them. Unfortunately, the male jumped on me, and upset, I quickly called Aaron, hoping he would have some more. "No," he answered, "as you saw, there weren't many to begin with, but call Fred Gloede. He bought all the rest that I had—about six pairs." Aaron gave me Fred's phone number, and I called him in great haste. He invited me to come over and "just pick out what you want." Once I arrived at Fred's place, he told me to pick out the best pair. Impressed by his generosity, I chose a pair, and he insisted I take a second pair as well.



This is *Aphyosemion striatum*, the cyprinodont that Aaron Dvoskin imported, through which I eventually met Fred Gloede and we became lifelong friends. Photo taken in 1960.

During that time I had been corresponding with Jorgen Scheel, and told him of the handsome addition to my collection. I offered him some eggs, and sent him 15 or so, placed in a small portion of moist peat and sealed in a small plastic bag. These hatched, and Jorgen subsequently developed an aquarium strain. In his book **Rivulins of the Old World**, on pages 280 and 281, you can see the fish that was first imported by Aaron Dvoskin through his Global Aquarium. I subsequently wrote a breeding article on this new import, which appeared in the **Aquarium Journal**. At the time, Stan Weitzman, the Editor, considered it to be *A. lujae*.

In the late 1950s I received a call from the world famous photographer Doug Faulkner, asking if he could spend an afternoon taking photos of my fish collection. We set up a date, and he did spend some time taking photos, and promised to send me prints of his shots. At the time he was married to a girl from my

home town of Elizabeth. Unfortunately, I never did see the prints, and I often wondered about them. In 1969 he went to Pelau, in the Pacific, where he did a great deal of work. I have seen some of his published works of marine life. His photographs are wonderful, and have been published in many very popular magazines, including **National Geographic**.

I had a number of friends from some of the New England societies, and I gave some presentations there. There were some 16 clubs from New England, New York, and New Jersey that formed the North East Council of Aquarium Societies. Some of the members who were good friends of mine were Ed Le Vasseur, Arnold Sweeney, who was from North Bergen, New Jersey, and Emil Paro, from Boston. All three gentlemen were champion guppy breeders of their time. They were also close friends with Larry Konig, and all cooperated in the advancement of guppies.



Jeff Campbell. Photo from *Tropicals*. He was certainly the best speaker I ever encountered. His love of fish was evident from his presentations, and he was particularly fond of dwarf cichlids. Jeff and I became friends, and periodically our paths would cross. I was happy that he was able to hear one of my presentations during our friendship.

In 1933 Jeff became the first African American to graduate from Saint Lawrence University. He was a teacher of English at the Putney School in Putney,



Julidochromis ornatus, first given to me by Jeff Campbell. It was new to the hobby, and Jeff had some of the first specimens. I went on to reproduce many of them, though they were not very prolific.

Vermont. The Putney School had a high regard for Jeff, and named the school's theater the Jeff Campbell Theater. A Unitarian minister, Jeff was ahead of his time in being involved with social problems. He was also active in politics, even running for Governor of Massachusetts in 1938.

During the 50s and 60s there were many wonderful fish stores in the area, and I devoted Saturdays to visiting stores and wholesale establishments. I was always on the lookout for something new and exciting to take home to our collection. One of the establishments that I frequented, and always enjoyed visiting, was Henry Huber's retail store on Staten Island. Mr. and Mrs. Huber were German immigrants, who put a lot of work into their store. Besides a retail section, they had an adjoining greenhouse, where they housed many of their breeders. One of the greenhouse residents was a magnificent *Allamanda cathartica*, a tropical yellow flowering vine that spread through a good part of the greenhouse. The very first time I had seen that species, in the 1950s, I was quite impressed, having had an interest in plants, and this was the first time I had seen this particular plant.



Allamanda cathartica. Photo from *Floridata.com*.

Mr. Huber always referred to cichlids as chicklets, and of course I know several other aquarists refer to cichlids the same way. As Mr. Huber approached retirement age, he decided to move to Florida and establish a small breeding farm. He wanted his son Henry Jr. to take over the Staten Island business, but there was some friction between father and son. I knew Henry Jr. pretty well, and I don't think he was happy with the financial situation, so he decided to go into construction, in which profession he was involved in the building of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

The elder Mr. Huber eventually rented his business to another German immigrant, named Joe Neumann, whose wife also became part of the work force, along with another woman. I got to know Joe pretty well, and in the beginning everything seemed to be running smoothly. Mr Huber was pool-raising *Microgeophagus ramirezi*, and they were large and very colorful. These would be shipped to Joe. However, I began to have reservations about Joe, as

he had too many stories, one of which was being a survivor of the German battleship Bismarck, sunk by the British navy during World War II. Of course it turned out to be a fabrication. Not too much later, the whole group abandoned the place, leaving a mess, as well as unpaid utility bills. Henry Jr. then returned to the business and completely renovated the place.

In 1963 I received a call from Jack and Dora Galway, of Kitchener, Ontario, in Canada. They were both very active members of the Kitchener Aquarium Society. They were in the area, and wanted to know if they could visit us. Of course we welcomed them, and they arrived at our home, accompanied by Dora's father.

We enjoyed their visit, and as we consumed refreshments that Jeannie had prepared and served, Dora mentioned that the Kitchener Aquarium Society would be holding their third annual convention, and asked if I would give the banquet presentation. They said that their home had a guest room, where we would be more than welcome to stay. We agreed to attend. Jean and I were elated to have an opportunity to visit Canada. My parents agreed to care for our five children, so all was set for the long ride.



Convention promotion from 1963.

We arrived in Buffalo during a heavy rainstorm, so we decided to stay overnight, allowing us to visit Niagara Falls the next day, which neither of us had

seen. After some sight-seeing we departed for Kitchener, arriving a few hours later. Our visit was wonderful, and Jack and Dora's young daughters were delightful, well-brought-up children.

Since I was the guest of honor, I told Dora that for the auction I would donate 27 bags of fish eggs in peat. I brought the eggs of five different species of *Nothobranchius*. It was the first time some of them would be available in Canada.



Nothobranchius jubbi.

As I was being introduced to many of the society members, who turns up but Joe Neumann? He now had a beard, and as he extended his hand to me, I said without thinking, "Are you in disguise?" He apparently didn't know that I knew of his disappearance from the authorities in New York. One of the *Notho*'s I donated was *N. neumanni*, which Bruce Turner and I had imported from Jonathan Leaky (son of famed anthropologists Louis and Mary Leakey). It turned out that, though at the time we were told that it was *N. neumanni*, it was determined to be a new species, *N. jubbi*, named after Reginald Jubb, the well-known South African ichthyologist. Some of the society members informed me that Joe had been telling people that the fish had been named in *his* honor. When I presented my slide program I recounted the history of the fish, shooting down his story in an indirect way.

The convention was a huge success, and the club realized a nice return on the auctioned items. The club also had a TV crew visit the convention, and they recorded the event for the evening news.

One other little anecdote from that convention: Some of the members mentioned and pointed out a particular member who boasted constantly about what a great breeder he was. But they told me it was his wife who actually did all the breeding, while he took the credit for her accomplishments. I was able to react quickly, and coined a phrase which I still use when someone acts in that manner, "Oh! We have a mouthbrooder in our midst!"



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GCAS Past Award Winners

JOSEPH FERDENZI ROLL OF HONOR

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

DON SANFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR (Since 1981)

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		

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	 Mark Soberman	2004-05	 Claudia Dickinson
1993-94	 Warren Feuer	2006	 Anton Vukich
1994-95	 Steve Sagona	2007	 Ed Vukich
1995-96	 Alexander & Susan Priest	2008	 Al Grusell
1996-97	 Joe Ferdenzi	2009	 Dan Radebaugh
1997-98	 Claudia Dickinson	2010	 Pete D'Orio
1998-99	 Vincent & Rosie Sileo	2011	 Jeffrey Bollbach
1999-00	 Pete D'Orio	2012	 Jules Birnbaum
2000-01	 Bernard Harrigan	2013	 Dan Puleo
2001-02	 Jason Kerner		

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPIONS (Since 1983-84)

1983-84	 Tom Lawless	1992-93	 Steve Sagona	2002-03	 Evelyn Eagan
1984-85	 Tom Lawless	1993-94	 Steve Sagona	2003-04	 William Amely
1985-86	 Joe Ferdenzi	1994-95	 Carlotti De Jager	2004-05	 Evelyn Eagan
1986-87	 Joe Ferdenzi	1995-96	 Mary Eve Brill	2006	 Ed Vukich
1987-88	(tie) ... Mark Soberman	1996-97	 Steve Sagona	2007	 Ed Vukich
	and Mary Ann & Joe Bugeia	1997-98	 Steve Sagona	2008	 William Amely
1988-89	 Jason Ryan	1998-99	 Tom Miglio	2009	 Mario Bengcion
1989-90	 Eddie Szablewicz	1999-00	 Tom Miglio	2010	 Alexander A. Priest
1989-90	 Eddie Szablewicz	2000-01	 Pat Coughaine	2011-12	 Richard Waizman
1991-92	 Steve Sagona	2001-02	 William Amely	2013	 Jerry O'Farell

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)	2009-14	Dan Radebaugh (6)
1965	Andrew Fazio (1)	1978-79	Louis Kromm (1)		
1966-68	Charles Elzer (2)	1979-81	Don Sanford (2)		

Greater City Aquarium Society

— 2014 Awards —

To Be Awarded December 3, 2014

GENE BAIOTTO AQUARIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

LEONARD RAMROOP

DON SANFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

MARK SOBERMAN

WALTER HUBEL BOWL SHOW CHAMPION

RUBEN LUGO

JOSEPH FERDENZI ROLL OF HONOR

DAN & MARSHA RADEBAUGH

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Continuous GCAS membership for more than 30 years

BEN HAUS, EMMA HAUS, HORST GERBER

AUTHOR AWARD PROGRAM (AAP) AWARDS

Only authors making contributions printed during 2014 (or who received AAP points as a result of NEC and/or FAAS publication awards announced in 2014) and whose AAP levels changed are listed below.

Jules Birnbaum Laureate
Jeff Bollbach Correspondent
Leslie Dick Author
Warren Feuer Columnist

Jeffrey George Essayist
Joseph Gurrado Author
Steven Hinshaw Writer
Dan Puleo Writer

Alexander Priest is Author of the Year for 2014!

The GCAS Author Award Program

We are always very pleased to welcome new names to our member/author list, and you will see several 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, and I'm very glad to see this participation continue.

Several of our authors have moved up in our overall Author Award points rankings: Congratulations are due Leslie Dick and Joe Gurrado, who achieved Author status, Jeff Bollbach, who moved up from Author to Correspondent, Steve Hinshsaw, who moved up from Correspondent to Writer, Jeff George and Dan Puleo, who moved from Writer to Essayist, Warren Feuer, who moved from Journalist to Columnist, and Jules Birnbaum, who moved from Columnist to Laureate. In an *extremely* close race, our **Author of the Year** for 2014 is Al Priest! Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to all of our contributors. We hope to hear more from each of you in 2014!

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.

2014 Totals	Art Work	Number of Articles ¹		Awards	Total	Prize
	(in points)	500 Words Or Less	Over 500 Words Or Caption Contest Winner	Bonus ³ Points	Points	
Author	Photo/ Drawing (up to two per article) ²				Current Year Total March to December	Raffle ⁴ Chances

Bill Amely			10		10	2
Jules Birnbaum	10	0	6	50	120	24
Jeffrey Bollbach	25	0	1		35	7
Leslie Dick	5	0	3		35	7
Joseph Ferdenzi	10	1	3	30	75	15
Warren Feuer				10	10	2
Jeffrey George				20	20	4
Horst Gerber		1			5	1
Joseph Gurrado	20	1	0		25	5
Steven Hinshaw	20	0	2		40	8
Denver Lettman	0	0	3		30	6
Rich Levy	10	0	1	10	30	6
Ruben Lugo	10	0	0		10	2
Beth Macht	10	0	0		10	2
Elliot Oshins	0	11	0		55	11
Alexander A. Priest	115	0	8	70	265	53
Susan Priest	105	2	11	10	235	47
Dan Puleo	0	0	4		40	8
Dan Radebaugh	10	0	2	20	50	n/a
Al Sunmugam	5	0	0		5	1
Stephen Sica	125	0	10	30	255	51
Gilberto Soriano	5	0	0		5	1
Ed Vukich	0	0	1		10	2
Undergravel Reporter	0	10	0	30	80	n/a

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 2014

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

Here are the total AAP points for all GCAS
members as of December 2014.

If you have questions, or feel that there are errors,
please contact Dan Radebaugh.

William Amely.....	95
Sharon Barnett.....	30
Fred Bellise.....	10
Mario Bengcion.....	15
Steve Berman.....	25
Jules Birnbaum.....	580
Tom Bohme.....	15
Victoria Bohme.....	25
Jeff Bollbach.....	50
Roger Brewster.....	10
Tommy Chang.....	100
Donald Curtin.....	10
Doug Curtin.....	90
Carlotti De Jager.....	30
Wallace Deng.....	70
Les Deutsch.....	5
Leslie Dick.....	35
Brad Dickinson.....	20
Claudia Dickinson.....	3,195
Al DiSpigna.....	5
Pete O'Orio.....	5
Rod Du Casse.....	5
Evelyn Eagan.....	25
Frank Fallon.....	65
Harry Faustmann.....	50
Anita Ferdenzi.....	15
Francesca Ferdenzi.....	5
Joseph Ferdenzi.....	1,445
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.....	135
Steve Giacobello.....	15
Joseph Graffagnino.....	270
Steve Gruebel.....	10
Al Grusell.....	25
Joseph Gurrado.....	25
Bernard Harrigan.....	1,800

Steven Hinshaw.....	115
Jason Kerner.....	140
Charlie Kuhne.....	10
Denver Lettman.....	95
Rich Levy.....	90
Bill Lockett.....	10
Ruben Lugo.....	10
Beth Macht.....	10
John Malinowski.....	5
Desiree Martin.....	45
Tom Miglio.....	25
Jackleen Minassi-Haftvani.....	20
Temes Mo.....	5
Jerry O'Farrell.....	205
Eliot Oshins.....	480
Jim Peterson.....	5
Margaret Peterson.....	10
Alexander Priest.....	3,480
Susan Priest.....	3,055
Dan Puleo.....	100
Dan Radebaugh.....	580
Marsha Radebaugh.....	275
Jannette Ramirez.....	220
Leonard Ramroop.....	30
Mark Rubanow.....	5
Charley Sabatino.....	170
Donna Sosna Sica.....	10
Stephen Sica.....	1,880
Vincent Sileo.....	50
Danielle Soberman.....	5
Ilyssa Soberman.....	15
Robin Soberman.....	10
Mark Soberman.....	75
Al Sunmugam.....	5
Gilberto Soriano.....	5
Jack Traub.....	20
Undergravel Reporter.....	1,410
Anton Vukich.....	5
Edward Vukich.....	65
Michael Vulis.....	40
Greg Wuest.....	25



GCAS BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM 2014

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPECIES BRED</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st - GCAS</u>	<u>CARES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
JEFF BOLLBACH					
	CERT #				
	1882	<i>PACHYPANCHAX SPARKSORUM</i>	10		6/4/2014
	1883	<i>MELANOTAENIA SP "WAPOGA RED LASER"</i>	5		6/4/2014
	1895	<i>CYPRINODON ALVAREZI</i>	25	✓	11/5/2014
		Number of species:	3	Total Points	40
JOSEPH FERDENZI					
	1876	<i>GEOPHAGUS IPORANGENSIS</i>	15		3/5/2014
	1877	<i>PACHYPANCHAX SPARKSORUM</i>	20	✓	3/5/2014
	1878	<i>ORYZIAS MEKONGENSIS</i>	5		3/5/2014
	1879	<i>XIPHOPHORUS VARIATUS</i>	5	✓	3/5/2014
		Number of species:	4	Total Points	45
WARREN FEUER					
	1880	<i>PROTOMELAS TAENIOLATUS</i>	10		3/5/2014
	1881	<i>MAYLANDIA SP. "RED TOP GALLIREYA" GALLIREYA REEF</i>	10	✓	3/5/2014
	1892	<i>ASPIDORAS ALBATER</i>	15		11/5/2014
		Number of species:	3	Total Points	35
JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO					
	1893	<i>TROPHEUS MOORI SP. "BEMBA"</i>	15		11/5/2014
	1894	<i>HAPLOCHROMIS (PUNDAMILIA) NYERERI</i>	25	♥	11/5/2014
		Number of species:	2	Total Points	40
MARK SOBERMAN					
	1887	<i>XIPHOPHORUS EVELYNAE</i>	5		11/5/2014
	1888	<i>ANCISTRUS SP. "L184"</i>	25	✓	11/5/2014
	1889	<i>SCRIPTAPHYOSEMION EZEKIEL LUNGI 99/10</i>	15	✓	11/5/2014
	1890	<i>JULIDOCROMIS MARLIERI</i>	15		11/5/2014
	1891	<i>MAYLANDIA SP. "RED TOP GALLIREYA" GALLIREYA REEF</i>	10		11/5/2014
		Number of species:	5	Total Points	70
EDWARD VUKICH					
	1884	<i>NEOLAMPROLOGUS BRICHARDI</i>	15		6/4/2014
	1885	<i>JULIDOCROMIS MARLIERI</i>	15		6/4/2014
	1886	<i>FUNDULOPOCHAX SCHEELI</i>	15	✓	6/4/2014
		Number of species:	3	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	1,685	122	40 DICK MOORE	160	5
2 JOSEPH GRAFFAGNINO	1,240	87	41 JEAN BRAUDE	155	12
3 JOSEPH FERDENZI	980	65	42 BARRY LYNCH	150	18
4 MARK SOBERMAN	945	51	43 SHARON MIRABELLA	135	10
5 ANTON VUKICH	910	70	44 THADDEUS TURA	135	9
6 TOM MIGLIO	865	66	45 JOE CUCINIELLO	135	9
7 WARREN FEUER	850	57	46 JORGE RODRIGUEZ	135	9
8 EDWARD VUKICH	735	56	47 HARRY EVANS	125	11
9 STEVE SAGONA	655	47	48 KEN BRUST	120	15
10 JOHN STORA	540	47	49 FRANK GANNON	120	16
11 JOSE ARANDA	505	47	50 JERRY SCHULTZ	120	11
12 JOHN IANNONE	485	45	51 THE KELLYS	115	12
13 THE ECKSTEINS	455	39	52 GEORGE MAROTI	115	8
14 CARLOTTI DE JAGER	440	33	53 JOE MANCUSI	115	8
15 CLAUDIA DICKINSON	435	27	54 HERB FOGAL	100	13
16 RICHARD SORENSEN	420	33	55 JERRY MAYER	95	7
17 FRANCIS LEE	390	28	56 JOE FLANAGAN	95	12
18 GERALD GORYCKI	370	41	57 DENNIS EGIELSKI	95	4
19 CHARLEY SABATINO	360	20	58 BRIAN KELLY	90	6
20 THE REPANES	355	27	59 PETE D'ORIO	90	9
21 JACK OLIVA	345	42	60 ROBERT MC KEAND	85	5
22 HAROLD KETTERER	335	30	61 EDWARD SZABLEWICZ	85	7
23 AL PRIEST	330	8	62 NOEL RODRIGUEZ	85	7
24 THE LOMBARDIS	325	32	63 BOB KUHLE	80	7
25 GREGORY WUEST	310	30	64 LEONARD RAMROOP	80	11
26 DON SANFORD	310	25	65 BRADLEY PLOTKIN	80	6
27 TED KURDZIEL	295	24	66 JOHN LEE	75	5
28 TONY FERRARO	275	23	67 DOUGLAS CURTIN	75	12
29 THE BUGEIAS	270	31	68 JOSE PEREZ	75	6
30 DOMINIC ISLA	235	20	69 TOM BOHME	75	7
31 STEPHAN ZANDER	230	14	70 BOB RADAMACHER	70	9
32 YEZID GUTIERREZ	206	20	71 DONALD CURTIN	70	10
33 PHILIP INGENITO	205	13	72 PAT PICCIONE	70	7
34 ROD DU CASSE	190	14	73 SARA MONHEIT	65	6
35 THE DONATONES	175	18	74 CHARLES KUHNE	60	8
36 JOHN MORAN	170	11	75 JOEL FORGIONE	60	4
37 LOUIS KROMM	170	16	76 BOB DU BOIS	55	5
38 JEFF GEORGE	165	17	77 HORST GERBER	55	4
39 LESLIE DICK	160	8	78 BOB WRANOVICS	50	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 BRANDOFINC	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 SADARA	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





GCAS Happenings

December

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

- 1 MARIO BENGION
- 2 RUBEN LUGO
- 2 MARIO BENGION

OFFICIAL 2014 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

RUBEN LUGO	28	MARIO BENGION	28	RICHARD WAIZMAN	9	WILLIAM AMELY	5
CARLOTTI DeJAGER	1	LESLIE DICK	1				

2014 WINNER IS RUBEN LUGO (TIE-BREAKER IS MOST 1ST-PLACE AWARDS).

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBER LARRY WHITFIELD!

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 4, 2015

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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

Contact: Dan Radebaugh (718) 458-8437

Email: gcas@earthlink.net

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

BIG APPLE GUPPY CLUB

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

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

Contact: Donald Curtin (718) 631-0538

BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: December 12, 2014

Speaker: N/A

Event: *Holiday Party*

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

NY Aquarium - Education Hall, Brooklyn, NY

Call: BAS Events Hotline: (718) 837-4455

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

LONG ISLAND AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: December 12, 2014

Speaker: N/A

Topic: *Holiday Party*

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 9, 2014

Speaker: N/A

Topic: *Holiday Party*

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 14, 2014

Speaker: N/A

Event: *Holiday Party*

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 15, 2015

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/>

60 Tons, What Do You Get?

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.

Have you ever visited Rockefeller Center in New York City, perhaps to see (or even be one of) the ice skaters or to see the annual massive Christmas tree (that just today—the day of our December 2014 Holiday Party—had its first lighting)? If you have, you no doubt have also seen the statue of Atlas holding the globe, that faces Fifth Avenue.

Well, sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor's "Ocean Atlas" is a 60-ton, 18-foot-tall statue of a young Bahamian girl who seems to be holding up the ocean, much like the Atlas of Greek mythology who held up the celestial spheres. It was commissioned by the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation, and recently was installed on the western shore of New Providence, Nassau, Bahamas. Ocean Atlas "is said to be the 'largest single sculpture ever to be deployed underwater,' and was assembled underwater in sections 'using an ambitious new technique developed and engineered' by the artist."¹

Constructed with sustainable pH-neutral materials, it creates an artificial reef for marine life to inhabit, while simultaneously drawing tourists away from over-stressed natural areas.² It is the first work in a planned underwater sculpture garden.

And, there are still some (unnamed) members of the GCAS who object to figurines in an aquarium!



Before and after



Above the surface, before installation



Under the water, after installation

¹ <http://boingboing.net/2014/10/23/60-ton-underwater-sculpture-to.html>

² <http://www.designboom.com/art/ocean-atlas-jason-decaires-taylor-sculpture-bahamas-10-20-2014/>

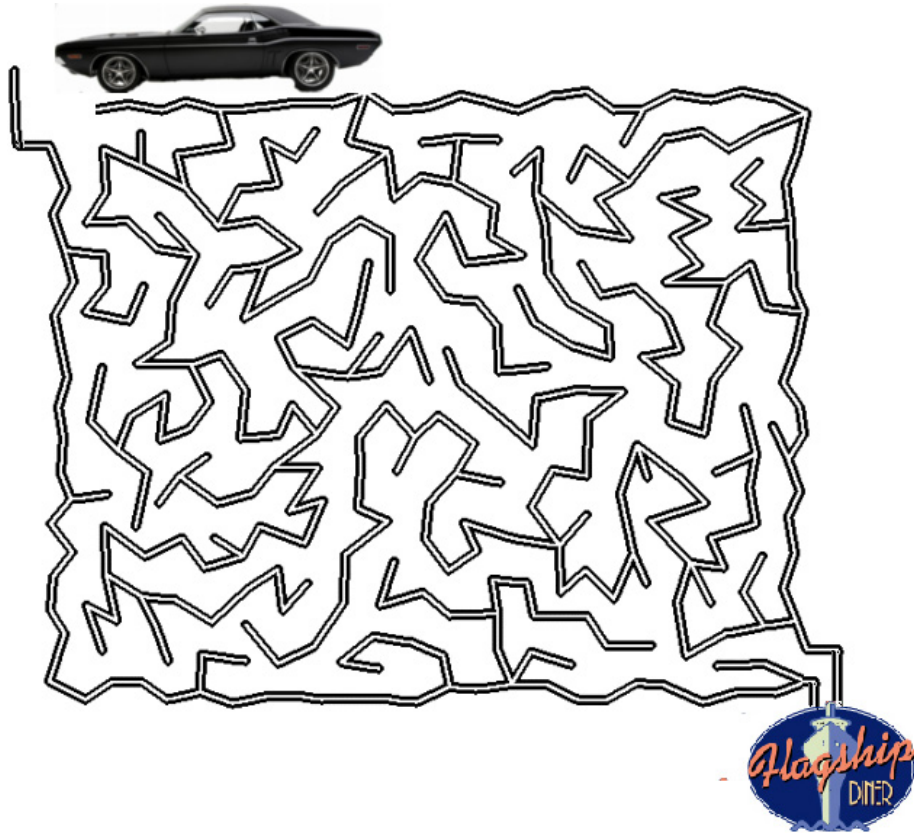


Fin Fun



Diner Maze

You found the site of our Holiday Party once Can you do it again?



Answer to our last puzzle:



<i>Chilatherina bulolo</i>	-----	Bulolo rainbowfish
<i>Kiunga ballochi</i>	-----	Balloch's rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia caerulea</i>	-----	Blue rainbowfish
<i>Marosatherina ladigesii</i>	-----	Celebes rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia praecox</i>	-----	Dwarf rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia trifasciata</i>	-----	Banded rainbowfish
<i>Pseudomugil furcatus</i>	-----	Forktail rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia sexlineata</i>	-----	Fly River rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia splendida tatei</i>	-----	Desert rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia solata</i>	-----	Northern Rainbowfish

GCAS Member Discounts at Local Fish Shops

The fish shops listed below offer discounts to members of Greater City Aquarium Society. To take advantage of these generous offers, just present your Greater City ID before checking out.

STORE HOURS
 Mon.: - Fri.: 10:00 A.M. - 9 P.M.
 Saturday: 10:00 A.M. - 7 P.M.
 Sunday: 10:00 A.M. - 6 P.M.

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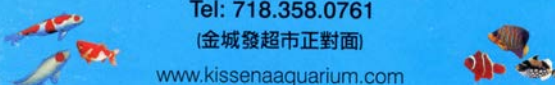


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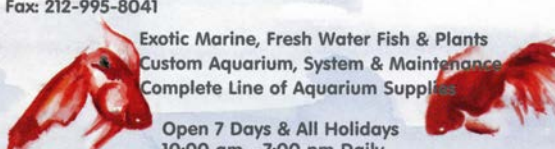
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