

modern AQUARIUM



March 2017
volume XXIV
number 1

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York

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Series III Vol. XXIV, No. 1 March, 2017

ON THE COVER

Our cautiously curious photo subject this month is *Parancistrus nudiventris*, sometimes known as the peppermint pleco, a welcome visitor to our Fishy Friends Facebook page. It's becoming somewhat mind-boggling to me how many different attractive plecos are out there in the world. Hopefully we'll get to know them better, but their situation in the wild these days is not very secure.

Photo by Ruben Lugo

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

Welcome to another year with the Greater City Aquarium Society, and **Modern Aquarium!** This being the first issue of the year, one of the highlights will be all the photos from our Holiday Banquet and Awards Party, which you'll find beginning on page 10.

Another retrospective piece from last year is the 2016 index of articles from **Modern Aquarium**. If you're looking for an article that appeared last year, this is the place to start your search. Also, for those of you who may have "missed the memo," one of the projects we completed last year was putting all past issues of **Modern Aquarium** (Series III) through 2015 online. They're hosted by Issuu.com, and are accessible from our website (Greatercity.org). We'll begin posting the 2016 issues later this month.

Elliot Oshins' Cartoon Caption Contest returns again this year. I'm tempted to offer a caption for this one myself, but I'd probably best hold that thought and leave it to you. Other returning favorites are Fishy Friends' Photos, and our long-running jewels, The Undergravel Reporter, and Fin Fun.

In fact, if there could be a theme attached to this issue, it might well be "return." After a year's absence from **Modern Aquarium**, Steve Sica is back with an account of his and Donna's return to Antigua (page 15). Jules Birnbaum continues his survey of aquarium filters, "Two Old Filter Ideas with a New Look" (page 7), and after a *really* long absence from these pages (since before my time as editor!), Jerry O'Farrell tells



us about his "charity cases" on page 9. I have a few 'refugee' fish of my own, so this piece struck a chord. I'm wondering how many of our other members are doing something similar. If you are, tell us about it. It might be a nice story. It also might help me and Jerry feel a little less wacked.

In yet another return, Claudia Dickinson gives us an update on new developments with the CARES program. To my reading, these changes, which greatly simplify the process, should help our club and others increase our participation in this very worthy program. Greater City has been without an official CARES coordinator for the past couple of years, and Claudia has volunteered to take on this job for us—even though from afar. Thank you, Claudia!





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GCAS Programs 2017

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 1	Joseph Ferdenzi <i>Killifish Demystified</i>
April 5	Michael Marcotrigiano <i>Breeding Show Guppies</i>
May 3	Michael Lucas <i>Butterflies in the Water: Discovering Hydrophlox Shiners</i>
June 7	Joseph Graffagnino <i>My New Fishroom</i>
July 5	TBA TBD
August 2	Silent Auction
September 6	TBA TBD
October 4	TBA TBD
November 1	TBA TBD
December 6	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 2017 by the Greater City Aquarium Society Inc., a not-for-profit New York State corporation. All rights reserved. Not-for-profit aquarium societies are hereby granted permission to reproduce articles and illustrations from this publication, **unless the article indicates that the copyrights have been retained by the author**, and provided reprints indicate source, and that two copies of the publication are sent to the Exchange Editor of this magazine. For online-only publications, copies may be sent via email to donnste@aol.com. Any other reproduction or commercial use of the material in this publication is prohibited without prior express written permission.

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

President's Message

by Horst Gerber

We all know that old habits are hard to break and new ones difficult to accept, and with this in mind, I have accepted the position of President of the Greater City Aquarium Society. It is an honor to follow in the steps of such a distinguished group of past presidents. But change is unavoidable; it is how we handle it that matters. Of course, a sense of humor helps. There was a time when Joe reached 19 years as president. He was at the top of his career and we were preparing a plaque to celebrate 20 years of service. We thought he would be President here forever, but he threw us under the bus, and Dan assumed his position most effectively.

Joe and Dan have cemented the foundation for this club, secure from turmoil (well, mostly). I expect that their groundwork should make my job easy, and I hope I will contribute directly or indirectly to the continuing success of this prestigious club. I am optimistic that with our combined efforts, we will make this year another wonderful adventure in the aquarium hobby.

Besides having fun at the meetings, I hope it will be a great learning experience for everyone. I also hope that all of you, our members, will take the time and opportunity to share your expertise with our other members, and affiliated clubs. There are, unfortunately, members that are no longer with us physically, but their years of devotion to the hobby remain with us forever, helping us continue to strive toward being one of the most respected clubs in the hobby.

On a lighter note, I hope I will not be deported back to Germany to assume the position of President of the German Aquarium Society, and have to make that club "Great Again."

Horst



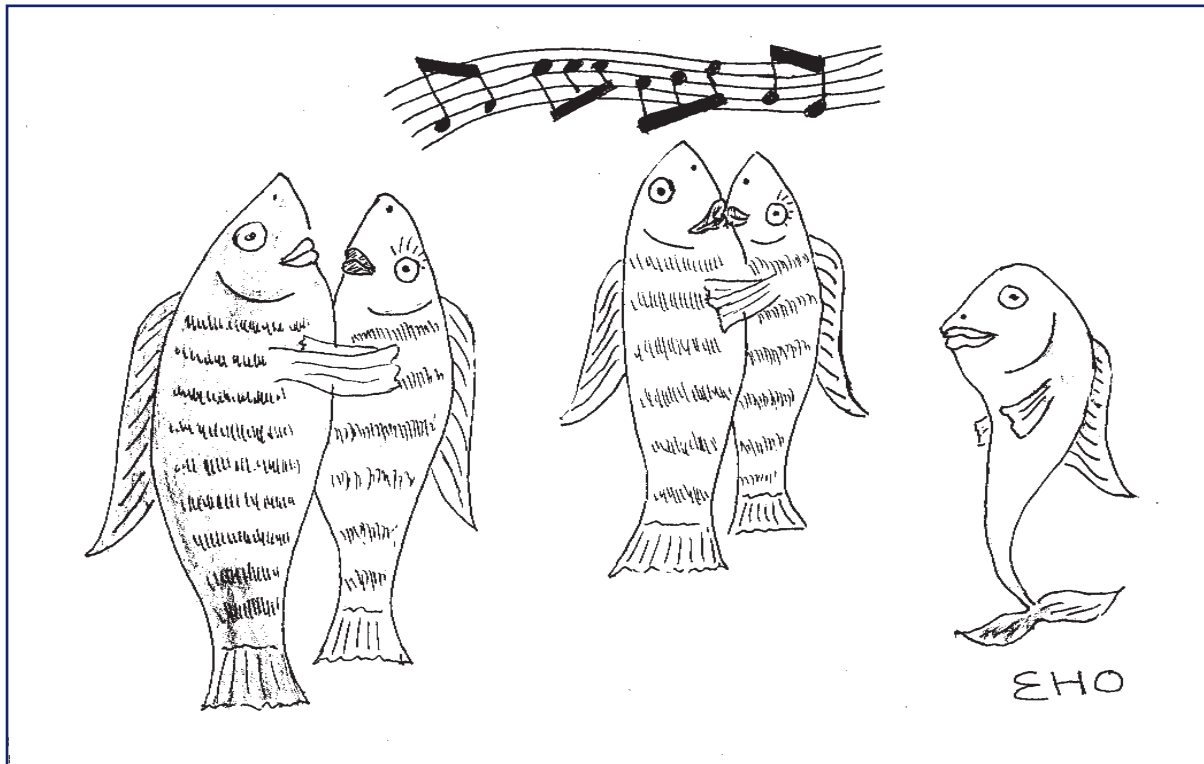
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December's Caption Winner: Leslie Dick



"On the fish day of Christmas, my human gave to me....."

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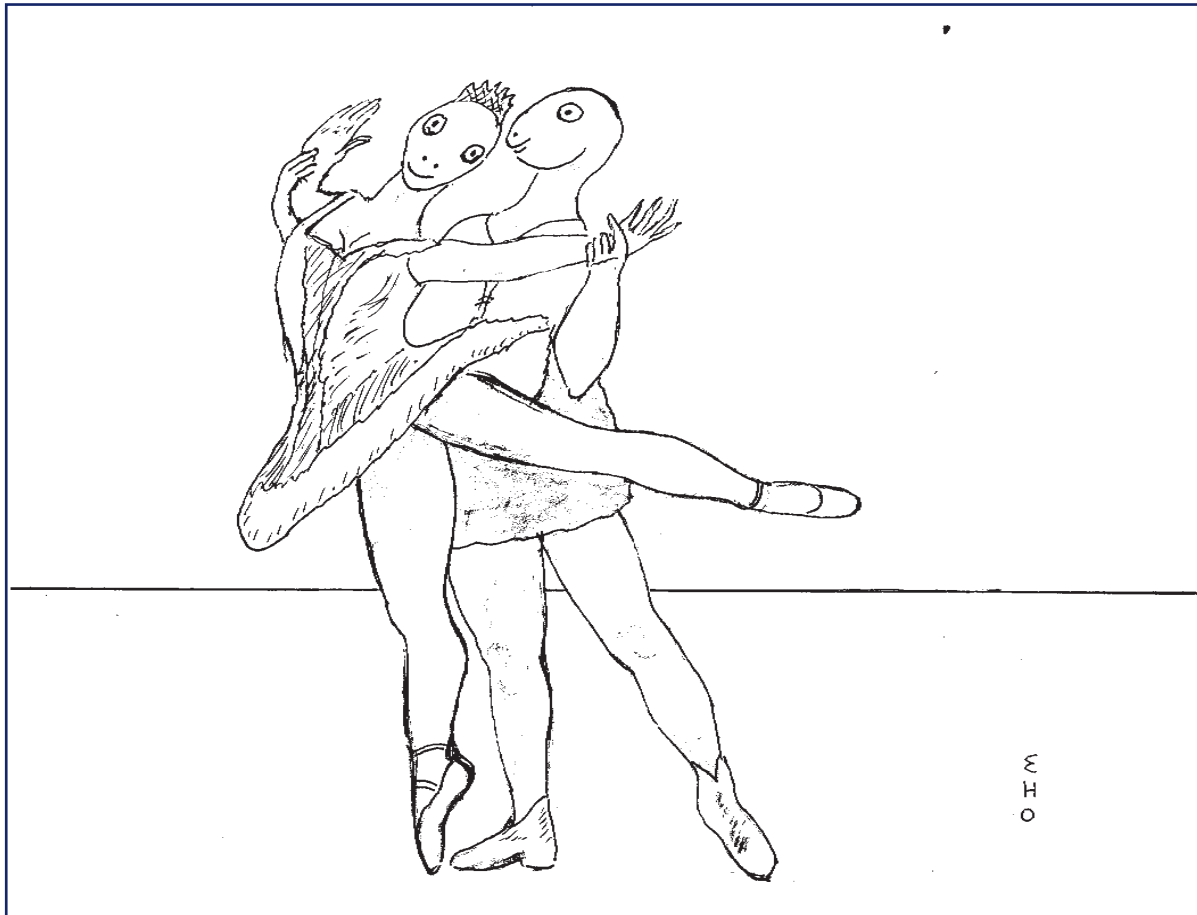
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The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

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!



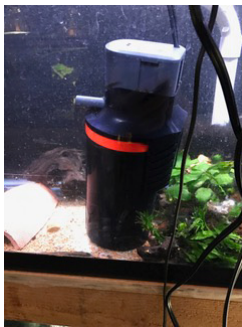
Your Caption:

Your Name:

Two Old Filter Ideas With A New Look

by Jules Birnbaum

There is nothing that has been invented recently for filtering tropical fish tank water, but there have been many recent innovations. We still have canisters, hang-on-tank power filters, in-tank power filters, box filters, and sponge filters. There are also central systems, but I won't be discussing those here. Whatever filter you use, regular water changes and filter and tank bottom cleaning are very important to keep your fish at their best. We are all striving for the same things from our filters, which are clear water and healthy fish.



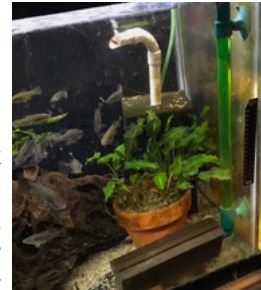
I've just come across two innovations, one a small canister power filter, and the other a sponge filter. I've recently purchased and tried both. The power filter is from Marineland and is called the Magnum P.I. This filter is a tubular, 12" long container with a water pump attached to the top. The pump is powerful enough to agitate the tank bottom sufficiently to remove the dirt through this filter. I've found it has excellent water pressure for stirring up the water to clean between rock formations and plants that we don't want to move for tank cleaning.

This filter can be used as either your main tank filtration system or as an additional filter for water polishing. It comes with an inner container which can be filled to buffer the water. The filter needs no priming, and comes with suction cups to anchor it to the inside glass. Since I've moved this filter from tank to tank I've found it faster to not use the suction cups.

Marineland recommends using diatom powder to increase the polishing function. I've tried this to filter out minute particles and harmful bacteria. They have a video on their website that shows how to set the filter up for either function. The price of the complete filter without the diatom powder is approximately \$43 from Foster and Smith. If you are on a tight budget and are just a little handy, you can make your own polishing filter using a water pump and water bottle for around \$20. I feel the extra money is worth it for this little professionally built powerhouse.

The other innovation is from Sera, and is a sponge filter (Quickfilter). An oblong sponge sits near or on the tank bottom, with a 1" plastic lift tube that reaches the water surface. An air hose is attached to the lift tube, and water is forced through the sponge, up the tube, and the filtered water spills out the top. The long tube attaches to the inside of the tank's glass by supplied suction cups.

This filter can easily be placed to be hidden behind tank decorations. The sponge is easy to remove in order to clean or replace it. The filter circulates tank water very well and does a good job of catching dirt. A nice feature is that the filter can run slower or faster by decreasing or increasing the air pressure. Other manufacturers have produced variations of this idea; this is just one more, done a little differently. Sera says it is excellent for grow-out tanks.



The Quickfilter is made in Germany, and is sold by SwissTropicals for \$12 for 10 to 20 gallon tanks. Other sizes are available. SwissTropicals is a seller of the highest quality sponge material and sponge filters available on the market. I use their sponge filters in all my tanks, and I expect they will last a lifetime. In the future I will be on the lookout for other innovations in filtering tropical fish tank water, and you can be sure I'll give them a try.





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My Charity Cases

by Jerry O'Farrell

Every time I go fish shopping there is always one that needs help. Enter Jerry the merciful. Sometimes I can't help myself. I'll buy six fish in a seven-fish tank that look good and leave the deformed one behind. As I walk up and down the aisles to look for more fish, I'll keep passing the tank with the lone fish, and in the back of my head hear "Save me, save me!" But I keep walking. Then, when I think I'm done, I'll take one more look to see if I missed anything, and again I walk past the lone fish and look at him again, but this time I think I see him crying and afraid. Well, the merciful one starts to break down and feel sorry for it, and then says, "Give me that one too!"



That's how I wind up with deformed fish in my tanks. Not a bad thing, as I believe in karma (what goes around comes around). A lot of times the deformed fish outlasts the good ones, and says "Thank you!" every time I pass the tank. I've had a long-finned black widow tetra (*Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*) for about four years, and that fish is the reason I am writing this article. But as luck would have it, he passed away just before I began. He was missing a gill plate on his left side, but grew to have great finnage.

I once went looking for some discus (*Symphysodon aequifasciatus*) at my favorite fish place in Queens. They keep a "ten-dollar-discus tank,

and sometimes I'll buy one or two. This time there was only one in the tank, and I knew he would die there, so again my bleeding heart took over, and he is now in with the rest of my fellows. I've had him about a year. He was stunted and had bad fins when I got him, but now he has a great personality.

Most people would not waste their time or money on deformed or sick fish, but if I feel I can save them, why not? I feel like I've done a good deed. But don't get me wrong. I have to be in that marshmallow mood and arrive on a horse wearing shiny armor by myself or with the wife to do it (NOT!).

Other times I'll see an ugly duckling in a tank, buy it, take it home and nurse it, and it grows to be spectacular. After years of keeping fish for my own amusement I really don't care what people think about why I do what I do, or what my tanks look like with bad fish. Doing what I think is the right thing is all that matters to me. I love this hobby, and have been in it since the late sixties/early seventies on and off—more on than off. I never get tired of sitting in front of a tank, relaxing and feeling good about giving another day of life to my charity cases.



Photos by the Author

Pictures From



**Outgoing president Dan Radebaugh (L)
receives a gift of appreciation**



**Incoming president for
2017: Horst Gerber**



Aquarist of the Year: Elliot Oshins



**Bowl Show
Champion:
Rich Waizman**



**Ed Vukich accepts Sponsor of the
Year Award on behalf of Florida
Aquatic Nurseries**



**Mark Soberman and Joe Ferdenzi receive
30 Year Membership Awards**

Our Holiday Party/Awards Banquet

Photos by Joe Gurrado



Bob Hamje



Jules Birnbaum



Lamont Brown



Ron Webb, Florence Gomes, Harry Faustmann and Al Grusell



Artie Friedman



Victor Hritz



Jason Kerner



Michelle and Herb Walgren



Sandy and Lorelee Sorowitz

Greater City's Author Awards Program



Marsha Radebaugh
Columnist



Gilberto Soriano
Correspondent



Joe Gurrado
Journalist



Author of the Year:
Sue Priest



Marsha wins the
Author-only Raffle Prize



Michael Henderson



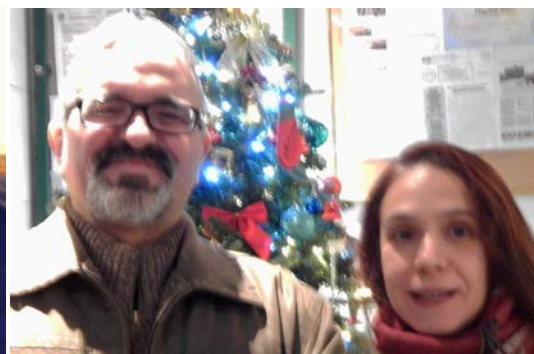
Pete D'Orio



Bill Amely



Michael Gallo (R) and nephew Marty



Walter Gallo and Silvana



Thomas Warns



Barbara Small



Michael Macht



Ron and Fran Kasman with Peter and Lorraine Goldfein



Steve and Donna Sica



Natalie Linden and Rich Waizman



Roberto Comissiong



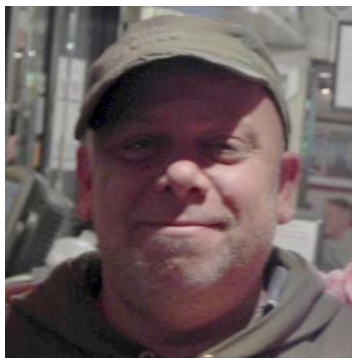
Denver Lettman



Alonzo Garrett



Jeff Bollbach



Steve Miller



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**Gilberto Soriano
and Andrew Jouan**



Sue and Al Priest



**Our waitress wins
a raffle prize**



**Tom Keegan wins
the door prize**



Antigua Revisited

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica

About thirty-three years ago, Donna and I traveled to Antigua for vacation. This past December we decided to revisit the island. We left home two days after Greater City's December holiday dinner at the Flagstaff Diner. I went from a party on Wednesday evening to lounging at the pool of the St. James Club, an all-inclusive resort, on Saturday morning, reading the December issue of *Modern Aquarium*. It was a pleasurable way to enjoy our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary!

I must say that everything I saw on the island was quite different from my recollections. Years ago there were few hotels and resorts, very few tourists, and no traffic. We did rent a car in the 1980s, with the steering wheel on the left. Antigua being a former British possession, driving was also on the left. I distinctly recall scraping my left arm numerous times on brambles as I drove with my elbow hanging out the rolled down window.

A highlight of our original trip was dining nightly at the same restaurant—a brief ride or healthy walk up a hill next to our small hotel. The hotel had few occupants, and part of it was still under construction. The owner and chef of the restaurant up the hill, Sara Lillymas, was a young woman from Great Britain who seemed to appreciate our business. Not only did she cook, but she served us our meals, and partook in lively conversation, as there were rarely other diners in her establishment. I guess it was off-season. In those days Antigua was not considered a hot tourist destination.

Sara's companion was a friendly beige-colored dog who eagerly accepted handouts during dinner. One night, unbeknownst to Sara and us, the dog followed our car down the hill to our hotel. Our room was a small, self-contained Quonset hut set off from the main building, often decorated with small lizards that clung to its walls. It was a mystery to us how they got in. Thankfully for me, Donna enjoyed the harmless creatures. Conversely, she avidly hates spiders and every kind of insect. On many a vacation, she has required me to hunt down and slay an innocent bug.

As I parked the car, a tremendous rain began. We ran to our hut and discovered Sara's dog running behind us. Donna invited the dog in, so as the rain beat down, we petted the dog. After a few minutes we heard, "knock-knock." We opened the door to be confronted by Sara, who politely asked for her dog back. We were too embarrassed to inquire how she tracked us down, and I still don't know to this day. Of course I know this has nothing to do with fish, but it brings back fond memories which I find very pleasing at my current age.

Anyway, back to Antigua. On Monday morning at 7:30 AM the phone in our room rings. Donna is out power-walking, while I'm packing our gear and my camera, and trying to conserve energy. The caller, Linda Swann, the owner of Mamora Bay Dive Shop on the premises of the St. James Club, asks if we still want to dive this morning. I had made a reservation via e-mail about three weeks earlier, and I confirm that we do, so at 8:30 AM we walk to the shop and sign the necessary documents, then haul our gear to the boat, an inboard about forty feet in length with an enclosed cabin. The crew—two

locals—are waiting for us at the dock: Captain "Corn" and Divemaster Teon. The boat accommodates eight divers, but today we are the only passengers. We motor out of Mamora Bay and head up the coastline, to be greeted by six to eight foot waves, so we're sitting down and hanging on for all we're worth. As I look behind the boat, I see that many waves are rising above the top of us every time we enter a trough. After about twenty minutes, we anchor on the leeward side of a spit of land jutting out into the raging sea.

The profile for our first dive is fifty-five feet for about fifty minutes. I inform Teon that we're "pretty good with our air" so he says that if we wish we can stay down longer. Visibility is about thirty feet, and shadowy another twenty feet out. Teon is swimming with a four foot long pole spear. He points to our right, and one of the shadows becomes a white tip Caribbean reef shark. We carefully watch it make two passes near us, then it loses interest and disappears. Even over fifty feet below the surface the surge carries us to



On Wednesday evening last December, Donna and I were attending the GCAS holiday dinner party. On Saturday morning, I was lounging by the pool in Antigua reading the December issue of *Modern Aquarium*.



Local boat crew: Teon, our Divemaster, and "Corn", our dive boat Captain, employ the "no problem, island method" to chill out between dives at anchorage in English Harbor.

and fro. Kick your fins to hold your place, then kick even harder when you are carried forward. Donna and I were impressed with the force of the sea.

The seafloor is covered with soft corals and very large boulders. Some are as big as a small room. Exotic fish appear and disappear beneath these huge rocks. We observe southern stingrays, perhaps the largest spotted drum that we've ever seen, small groupers, and various butterfly fish. I notice that all the fish we see are camera shy. Most disappear when I approach to take a photo, leaving me frustrated. I think to myself, murky water and no fish to photograph. I had better check my pressure gauge and air supply. You never know if this is one of those days when nothing goes right!

After fifty-five minutes we surface, and motor to English Harbor to rest and allow the nitrogen gas that has been absorbed into our bloodstream, muscles and joints from breathing air under pressure, to exit through our lungs. An hour later we cruise a short distance to a tourist attraction known as the Pillars of Hercules. The Pillars is a rock formation with caves at the base. During low tide you can explore them, but don't get caught inside when the tide comes in! A hundred yards offshore is a dive site with the same name. The water is almost forty feet deep just a short distance from the wall. We suit up and jump in, followed by Teon and his spear, and are greeted by the rocking surge. We swim around for another hour.

The highlight of this dive was a graceful school of Caribbean squid, dancing ballet-like towards the surface. They were a delicate pink/lavender color—hardly the formidable giant squid that inhabit colder and deeper waters. I'm becoming seasick underwater. Donna had taken a dramamine over-the-counter



Donna rediscovers an ancient anchor near a basket sponge. This type looks to be from the sixteenth or seventeenth century but I'm no archeologist. It rests at the Pillars of Hercules dive site and is a popular dive attraction due to its perceived age.

generic. She had offered me one as well, but I had foolishly declined. With nausea and a queasy stomach, I try to retch, but to no avail. I did have the foresight to eat a very light breakfast in case I got sick (I've had this unpleasant experience several times before). When we finally arrive back under the boat, Teon signals us to surface, and he goes up. Donna and I check our air, and decide to take a last look around. A minute later, I'm about to swim up to make a safety stop at fifteen

feet. Donna attracts my attention. She has spotted a lionfish under a ledge. I take a few awkward photos while the surge buffets me around, and a few minutes later we surface.

Teon is not bothered that we were not right behind him. I interpret this to mean that he feels we are competent and do not require a "baby-sitter." We tell him that we saw a lionfish, and he shrugs. He

tells us that the dive community has periodic lionfish roundups to remove them from the reefs. Teon won't get a "notch" in his spear today. I understand the threat, but I'm pleased that one will survive—at least for a few more days. I dislike killing any living creature, even ones that I eat.

We head back to Mamora Bay. I try to photograph the high waves that we motor through but they don't appear quite so threatening on digital "film." The trip back is good, because my nausea is finally beginning to pass. Our two travel companions from home are waiting for us on the dock. As I step off the boat, Cindy calls out, "Hurry and clean up. Let's go have lunch!"



Donna finds a sunny seat to warm up and check out her gear while resting in English Harbor between dives.



A school of Brown chromis damselfish, *Chromis multilineatus*, hovers around a coral encrusted rock formation. This six inch fish feeds on plankton. Rarely do I see them more than three to four inches. The two tips of its tail have pale beige markings.



The reef butterflyfish, *Chaetodon sedentarius*, grows to four inches, with a maximum to six inches. This is an adult specimen. They have a yellowish back and dorsal fin with a whitish lower body. There is a black bar running through the face and eyes with another black bar at the rear through the anal fin. They are not common, and swim along the reef tops from 20 to 120 feet. They tend to avoid divers.



What's a dive without seeing a moray eel? This green moray, *Gymnothorax funebris*, stretched out on the sand alongside a large rock. The whole fish was there to see. It was an adult almost three feet long. They can grow to six feet.



Standing on its head or tail in this instance to mimic the seascape, the Trumpetfish, *Aulostomus maculatus*, is a steadfast citizen of the sea. One is observed during every dive. Many are juveniles but this adult specimen wants to blend in with these Sea rods, *Plexaura flexuosa*.



The Southern stingray, *Dasyatis americana*, is probably observed by divers more than any ray. We saw four or five during our two dives. Most were lying on the bottom and upon close approach swam away. These specimens were on the small side. Males are much smaller than females.



Synodontis robertsi

by David Marshall

of the Ryedale Aquarist Society, North Yorkshire, England

Aquarticles

In our hobby *Synodontis robertsi* is usually sold under its scientific name as opposed to the common names of Roberts' *Synodontis* and large-blotch *Synodontis*. In the wild this fish hails from Central Congo, Lukeria and the Egohe river system.

Synodontis robertsi is a member of the Mochokidae family. The Mochokidae lack the protection of body scutes (which you will know through *Corydoras*), so nature compensated by the provision of a continuous bony shield that runs from behind the eye to the dorsal fin spine that deflects all but the hardest blows from the teeth and bills of aquatic mammals and fishing birds respectively.

Although I have heard no reports of a *robertsi* squeaking (backed up by the fact that 'squeaker' does not appear in the common names quoted above) when removed from water this is a secondary defence system among the majority of *Synodontis* species.

As with all *Synodontis* the pectoral fin spines are a wonder of nature. Very sharp, they also afford protection (watch your fingers), while recording growth like the rings of a tree. The pectoral fin bone of



each *Synodontis* species is different, and so becomes a 'signature tune' allowing ichthyologists, once the flesh is removed, to tell the true identity of species which may look alike to the naked eye.

A fact file on the Planet Catfish web-site describes the body pattern of our subject species as 'giraffe-like,' and although I go along with this, the pattern of dark brown and white varies greatly among individuals (as readers who know the more commonly seen *Synodontis angelicus* will be familiar) going from crop circle markings to bars as in *Synodontis brichardi*. The body, which can reach a maximum size of 16cm, has a raised appearance like that of *Synodontis contractus*—with whom large 'alberti eyes' are also shared.

Considering the likeness to *Synodontis contractus*, which has plainer and bland body colors in comparison, there is little wonder that one can be offered for sale as the other. The body colors of *Synodontis caudalis* (forked caudal lacking in *robertsi*) and certain color variants of *Synodontis schoutedeni* (smaller eyes and more yellow colour in body) also lead to these two species occasionally being offered for sale as *robertsi*. To see both the



likenesses and differences between the mentioned species visit the fact files and photographic galleries on both the Scotcat and Planet Catfish web-sites.

Before moving on to aquarium care we must note that our subject species can be very delicate, and one which, despite great care, sometimes never settles into aquarium life—literally dwindling away. This is often signalled by the onset of lethargic activity, at which time the *robertsi* will sit close to the front of the aquarium and find a spot from which the only movement seen will be tiny rocking motions.

The roots of such demise are often: 1) A failure to feed. *Robertsi* can go on ‘hunger strike’ following exportation, which also occurs with certain ‘L’ numbered Loricarins, and once out of the eating habit may never resume this vital practice. If you are on good terms with your local retailer always ask to see a *robertsi* feed prior to purchase. 2) The shock of ‘new water.’ Because of their delicate nature *robertsi* need to be placed into a well established aquarium with excellent filtration, in which only minimum water changes are made.

Aquarium care begins with a minimum sized aquarium of 60x30x30cm. The aquarium should be well filtered with a pH between 6.2 and 7.5 and temperature in the range of 23 to 27 C. For décor, plant the aquarium well and provide shelter in the form of Mopani wood, broken plant pots (which should have smooth edges, as the skin of *robertsi* is softer than it first appears), and small ceramic pipes. Medium-sized African characins make good companions. As *robertsi* is a riverine species they should not be kept



alongside Rift Valley cichlids. When eating they will take small living foods and commercial flakes.

Taking the *contractus* and *alberti* (Albert’s catfish) likenesses very seriously, it may well be that like these two species, *robertsi* does not have the long natural lifespan, sometimes in excess of 20 years, that is enjoyed by a number of *Synodontis*, including the well known *decorus* (clown squeaker) and *eupterus* (feather-finned catfish).

Sadly, there are as yet no reports of *robertsi* reproducing within the confines of aquaria. Field reports suggest that distinct pairs form during the Congo rainy season, and that in open water dark-colored eggs are scattered over the available substrate.

As a final point we must mention that *Synodontis robertsi* are not always readily available, so their price in aquatic retail outlets can be very high—in some cases topping that asked for *Synodontis angelicus*.



Reprinted from Tank Talk – March 2013 / Volume 40, Number 07; Durham Regional Aquarium Society.



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GIAS Organizing Committee

Contact person: Mandy Tsang

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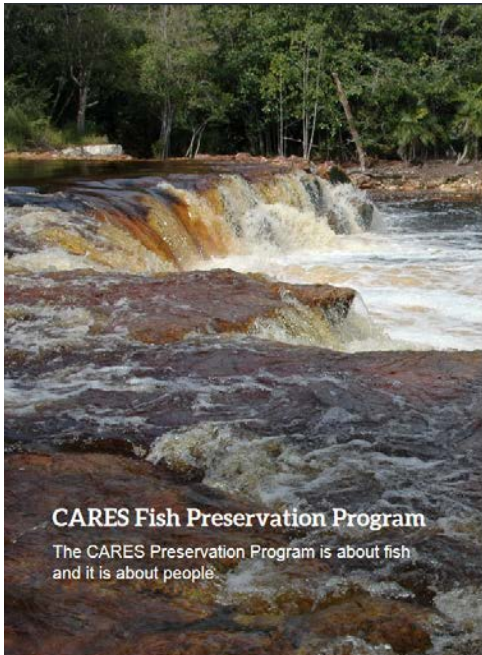
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CARES

A New Website and a New Day!

by Claudia Dickinson



CARES Fish Preservation Program

The CARES Preservation Program is about fish and it is about people.

A Warm Welcome to the CARES Preservation Program!

There is not a continent on earth whose waters and fishes have not been affected by the devastation and destruction caused by deforestation, pollution, agrochemical run-off, overfishing, global warming, and political unrest, all to the great misfortune of those fishes that remain in their natural habitats. As these tragedies to earth are occurring more rapidly than even the most paramount attempts at intervention can match, captive breeding of species at risk, both within the country of origin and outside the country of origin, has become the quintessential answer for both short-term and long-term preservation goals.



Through the sovereign work of dedicated scientists such as conservation champion Dr. Paul V. Loisel, the hobbyist now plays a critical role in the favorable outlook of conservation priority fishes. If each one of us dedicates at least one existing aquarium or sets up one new aquarium with the intent of devoting that tank space to a species at risk, the aquarium hobby as a whole has the opportunity to make a major impact in ensuring a positive future for these fishes. The CARES Preservation Program is a universal means by which, together, we can achieve this goal of success.

As your society or organization embarks on CARES, please know that we are here and always happy to help you in any way we can! Thank you for your invaluable contribution towards preserving our fishes for generations to come! We can and we are making a difference!

History

In May of 2004, Paul Loisel visited the Greater City Aquarium Society to give one of his brilliant presentations. He was an immense inspiration as always, and offered the aquarium hobby as a whole the challenge of saving conservation priority fish in our aquariums. I went home from that meeting inspired and filled with dreams of saving all fish at risk. One person could not save them all, but we could each save at least one, and united together in our combined tanks we could make a difference in the future of many. And so I began writing the CARES Preservation Program. The original CARES took six months of writing and cutting and pasting (literally—not necessarily on a computer), and putting together notebooks and journals. A dear friend to me and to all of us and to the hobby, and GCAS President at the time, Joe Ferdenzi was always ready with an ear to listen and talk through the details.

In November of 2004, the program was ready to be given a test run at the GCAS, and our first CARES Certificates of Recognition for species maintained were given out at our holiday party in December of 2004 (at our original meeting room at the Queens Botanical Garden). Other clubs in the northeast

attended that meeting and began to include the program in their clubs. The second club to implement CARES was our neighbor, the Brooklyn Aquarium Society. Subsequently, the program was pared and molded to a workable form and has since been refined to the CARES of today.

CARES Priority List

Alongside bringing awareness and encouragement to hobbyists to maintain conservation priority species in their tanks and share them with fellow hobbyists, the CARES Priority List is a large part of the program. Al Priest was the first person to take on the monumental task of creating the list. His formatting of our Master List remains to this day, along with his huge contributions.

It Takes a Mountain

The present day CARES could only be possible with the volunteer efforts of so many who have stepped up to donate their time and their talents. From our amazing team of CARES Specialists, a number of whom are part of our GCAS family, to the inimitable Priority List Team and those out in the field who bring us first-hand news of the state of affairs of particular species, and the CARES Administrative Team, the CARES program is able

to provide a viable means of species preservation. Most especially though it is the numerous hobbyists who donate their tank space coupled with their collective years of experience and knowledge who make it possible for species survival. CARES is so grateful to all of you!

New Website

We are so excited to announce that due to the exceptional talents and generosity of Juan Miguel Artigas Azas of the Cichlid Room Companion, the new CARES website has just been launched at www.CARESforfish.org. Please be sure to stop by to visit and see all of the new features available there! You can now register your fish directly on the website, view the CARES Priority List, enjoy editorials and articles, see who else is a CARES Member Club, view the CARES speaker list, and browse the member section.

CARES Exchange

The next exciting venture for CARES is the quarterly CARES Exchange under the skilled editorship of Greg Steeves. Here you will find a listing of verified CARES fry for sale plus a section for all other fish for sale. In addition, there are articles on conservation and recent revisions to the CARES Priority List.

Giving Back

CARES is about benefiting fish. And also it is about people coming together for a common cause. The fish in our tanks can no longer be taken for granted as their situation in the wild has become even more precarious as I have seen with my own eyes. It is our time and our turn to give back. Please, choose one species from the CARES Priority List and place its future under your stewardship. Together, we can do this and make the difference!



Species Identification and Registration

The proper identification of species is critical to CARES as a viable program for both the hobbyist and conservation priority fishes. With your help and the combined knowledge and expertise of the CARES Team we will ensure that your fish are registered with the correct species identification.

Registration by Hobbyist

Species registration is done by the hobbyist through the CARES website www.caresforfish.org contact form titled CARES Species Registration & Photo IDs. You will find registration to be a quick and easy process with a few simple steps.

Photo

Each species registered requires at least one side view photo that displays the characteristics of the fish that will aid in positive identification. Photos can be taken with your iPhone.

File Name

File name format: species name_your name_CARES club_submission date. For instance: Etroplus canarensis_James Fish_FOTAS_1-26-17.jpg

Photos MUST be of Registration Colony

Photos are not expected to be of high quality or with pristine tanks, but MUST be of the fish that you are registering. Photos taken in the past or from the Internet do not identify the fish you are keeping and cannot be accepted for registration. Thank you for your wonderful and much appreciated help with taking photos for the registration process!

Email Photo

Email the species photo via the contact form titled CARES Species Registration & Photo IDs at http://caresforfish.org/?page_id=879 on the CARES website.

Message Box

In the message box please include:

- a) your name.
- b) your email address.
- c) your postal address (optional).
- d) your telephone number (optional).
- e) species name.
- f) where or from whom obtained.
- g) collection location, if available.
- h) when obtained (approximate date is fine).
- i) whether or not the colony has produced fry.
- j) your CARES affiliate organization (GCAS).

One Registration per Email

Register as many species as you would like, but one registration per email please.

Notification to Hobbyist

You will be notified by CARES when your registration is received and a second time when it is approved (or not) for CARES registration.

Notification to Club

CARES will also notify your GCAS CARES Club Chair with the approval for registration.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to let CARES know through the contact form titled CARES Species Registration & Photo IDs or email Claudia@caresforfish.org. I am here for you and always happy to help! Thank you so much for your efforts to ensure that your fish are registered with the correct species identification!



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Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

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



Joe Gurrado



Joe Gurrado



Michael Vulis/Rachel O'Leary



Ruben Lugo



Ron Webb



Ruben Lugo



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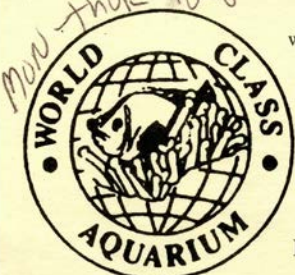
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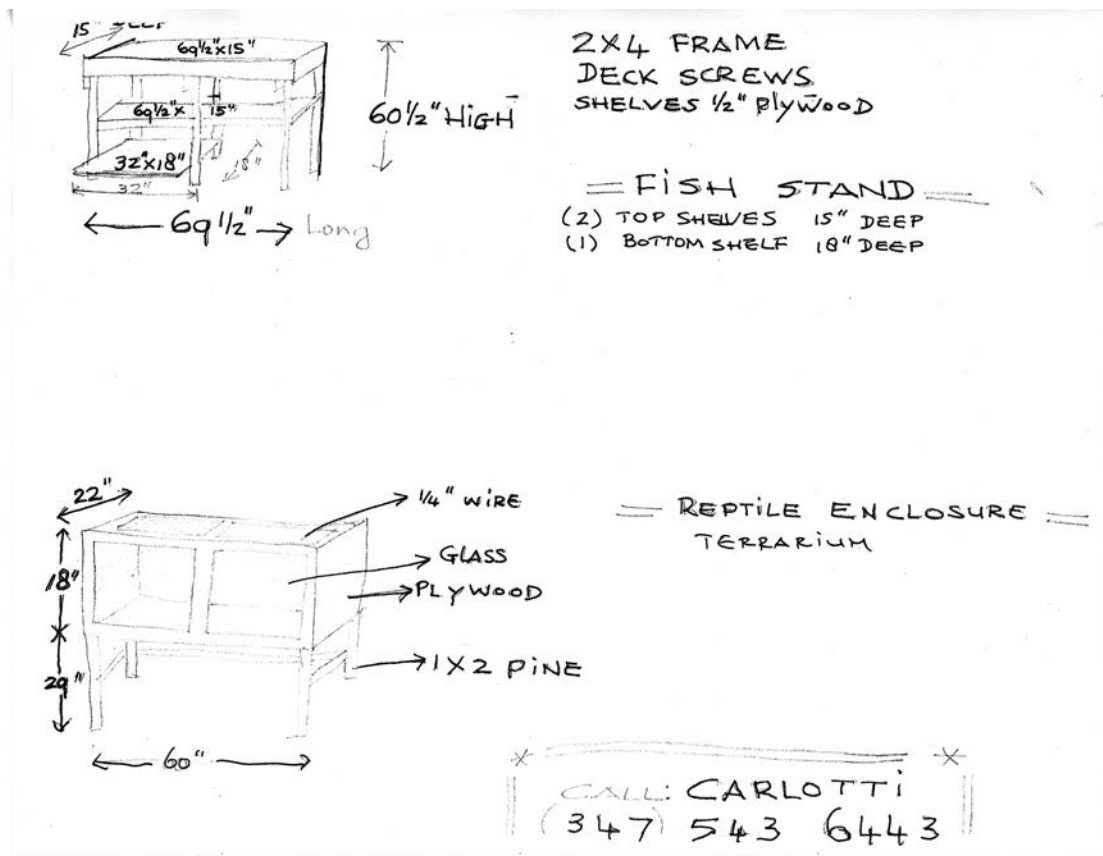
GCAS Classifieds

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Call Derek (917) 854-4405

FOR SALE: Frontosas -- all sizes.
Call Andy (718) 986-0886

FOR SALE: Supreme AP-60 air pump. This pump easily supplies air for 30 to 40 aquariums. It is very quiet, and uses less than 70 watts. They wholesale for \$180. I have a brand-new, never used one for \$120. Contact Joe Ferdenzi at gfcadeo@gmail.com.

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Bus Trip to the National
Aquarium Inner Harbor
Baltimore, Saturday May 20th
2017 sponsored by The
Brooklyn Aquarium Society
(BASNY).



There will also be stops at **Discus Hans** and **the House of Tropicals**. The bus holds 49 passengers and as of this time 22 seats have been taken.

Group prices for the Aquarium are: Ages 3-11 \$17.95, Ages 12-18 \$23.95, Ages 19-64 \$27.95 and Seniors \$23.95.

The cost of the bus ride will be determined once we know how many are going. The cost of the bus is approximately \$1600. The bus cost will be divided up by the number of people going. So currently with 22 people going the bus cost is \$73. The cost at 30 people going is \$53 and the cost for 40 people going is \$40.

Pickup and drop off points will be determined once we know who's going.

Joe Graffagnino needs a firm passenger count by March 19th with payment by April 20th. Contact Joe Graffagnino at joegraffagnino@yahoo.com for additional info.





GCAS Happenings

March

Last Meeting's Bowl Show Winners:

NO BOWL SHOW IN DECEMBER

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: April 5, 2017

Speaker: Michael Marcotrigiano

Topic: *Breeding Show Guppies*

Meets: The first Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 7:30pm:

Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street - Flushing, NY

Contact: Dan Radebaugh (347) 866-1107

Email: gcas@earthlink.net

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

BIG APPLE GUPPY CLUB

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

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

Contact: Donald Curtin (718) 631-0538

BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 10, 2017

Speaker: Emily Voigt

Topic: *The Dragon Behind The Glass*

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: March 17, 2017

Speaker: TBA

Meets: Olive Garden Restaurant

257 Centereach Mall,

Centereach, NY 11720

(631) 585-4027

For map directions, go to olivegarden.com/locations/ny/centereach/centereach-mall/1507.

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: March 14, 2017

Speaker: Mark Soberman

Topic: *Corydoras Catfish*

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: March 16, 2017

Speaker: Dr. Ted Coletti

Topic: *The Hidden History of the Aquarium Hobby in America*

Meets at: Days Hotel, East Brunswick NJ

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 16, 2017

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/>

Mutant Ninja Killis

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.

Instead of dying out due to toxic waste, the Atlantic killifish (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) inhabiting highly polluted waters are actually thriving. Research published in the journal **BMC Evolutionary Biology**¹ details how the Atlantic killifish, common in the 18,000 acre Massachusetts New Bedford Harbor, have evolved a genetic resistance to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

In fact, Atlantic killifish are 8,000 times more resilient to high levels of toxic waste than other fish, allowing them to survive extreme levels of pollution that would normally be deadly.² However, these killies are a food source for many other animals. The effect, if any, on animals eating mutated killies from polluted waters is, as yet, unknown.

While Atlantic killifish are essentially thriving in New Bedford Harbor today, that site is one of the EPA's largest Superfund cleanup sites, and the toxic conditions of the water might not always be there.

Mark Hahn, a biologist at WHOI and coauthor of the research paper, remarked: "Obviously, the fact that they are resistant to PCBs allows them to survive in this really polluted environment, but what will happen once the harbor gets cleaned up? There could be costs that make it no longer adaptive for these fish to live there."

In other words, "clean water" could now have an adverse impact on their survival, unless they are able to readapt rapidly to a non-polluted environment

References



Atlantic killifish have adapted to highly toxic levels of pollution. (Image: Andrew Whitehead/UC Davis)

¹ <http://bmcevolbiol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2148-14-6>

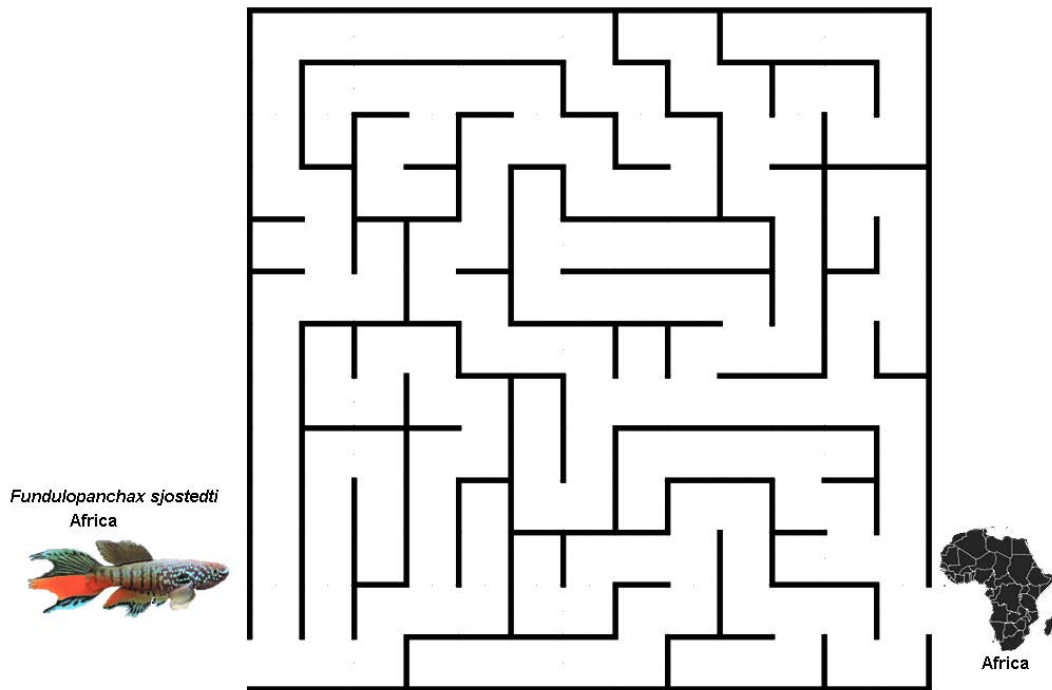
² <http://gizmodo.com/this-mutated-fish-can-now-withstand-absurd-levels-of-to-1789927754>



Fin Fun

An AMAZE - ing Killie

The Blue Gularis Killifish (*Fundulopanchax sjostedti*) is native to Africa. See if you can help this killifish find its way through the maze to its native continent.



Solution to our last puzzle: **Outside In**



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