

modern AQUARIUM



March 2014
volume XXI
number 1

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York



39th Annual Convention

March 28th - 30th

2014

Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies

39th Tropical Fish Convention

March 28 – 30, 2014

**Speakers - Vendor Room
Fish Show – Workshops
All Day Auction Sunday!**

Don't miss this opportunity to see great speakers, get new fish
and learn from others who share your interest!

**THE CROWNE PLAZA
Cromwell, Connecticut**

Exit 21 off I-91 South of
Hartford. Turn left off exit.

**An Educational and Social
Weekend Open To All!**



SPEAKERS

Rick Borstein

Ted Coletti

Ken McKeighen

Matt Pedersen

Roxanne Smolowitz

Mark Soberman

Kris Weinhold

Workshops

**Andrew Murphy
Roxanne Smolowitz**

Leslie Dick(203) 748-7800
ConventionChair@northeastcouncil.org

Joe Masi(845) 896-4793
President@northeastcouncil.org

Nancy Villars.....(732) 787-0654
NECConvention@aol.com Vendor Room Chair

Barbara Romeo..... (914) 433-2556
BRomeo1234@optonline.net Sponsor/Donor Chair

George Goulart.....(401) 331-5376
George@aqualifecentral.com NEC Fish Show Chair

Visit Convention Web Page for All Details
including Auction Info and Rules,
Online Registration, Hotel Reservations, Event
Schedule & Speaker info and Show info!

[http:// www.northeastcouncil.org/](http://www.northeastcouncil.org/)

modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXI, No. 1 March, 2014

ON THE COVER

Our cover photo this month is in honor of aquarium hobby icon Rosario LaCorte, whose autobiography is appearing in **Modern Aquarium** beginning with this issue. The photo features Rosario, his wife Jean, and their son Robert, and is from the May 1969 Show Issue of **Modern Aquarium**. The full article was reprinted in the October 2011 issue of **Modern Aquarium**.

Photo by Ray Juschkus

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

BOARD MEMBERS

President.....Dan Radebaugh
Vice-President.....Edward Vukich
Treasurer.....Jules Birnbaum
Assistant Treasurer.....Ron Wiesenfeld
Corresponding Secretary.....Sean Cunningham
Recording Secretary.....Tommy Chang

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Claudia Dickinson.....Pete D'Orio
Al Grusell.....Ben Haus
Emma Haus.....Jason Kerner
Leonard Ramroop

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

A.C.A. Delegate.....Claudia Dickinson
Bowl Show.....Leonard Ramroop
Breeder Award.....Warren Feuer
Mark Soberman
Early Arrivals.....Al Grusell
F.A.A.S. Delegate.....Alexander A. Priest
Membership.....Marsha Radebaugh
N.E.C. Delegate.....Claudia Dickinson
Programs.....Dan Puleo
Social Media.....Sharon Barnett
Technology Coordinator.....Warren Feuer

MODERN AQUARIUM

Editor in Chief.....Dan Radebaugh
Copy Editors.....Sharon Barnett
Susan Priest
Alexander A. Priest
Exchange Editors.....Stephen Sica
Donna Sosna Sica
Advertising Mgr.....Mark Soberman

In This Issue

From the Editor.....	2
G.C.A.S. 2014 Program Schedule.....	3
President's Message.....	4
Tonight's Speaker: Harry Faustmann.....	5
by Claudia Dickinson	
December's Caption Contest Winner.....	6
Cartoon Caption Contest.....	7
Pictures from our Holiday and Awards Party.....	8
by Susan Priest	
Fishkeepers Anonymous.....	13
by Susan Priest	
The LFS Report.....	16
Kissena Aquarium	
by Dan Puleo	
Our Generous Sponsors & Advertisers.....	17
My Favorite Marine Fish.....	18
The Spotted Eagle Ray	
by Stephen Sica	
Tips From the Fishroom.....	21
by Jules Birnbaum	
An Aquarist's Journey.....	23
Chapter 1: The Beginning	
by Rosario LaCorte	
Bowl Show Rules.....	28
2013 Modern Aquarium Article Index.....	29
Member Classifieds.....	34
G.C.A.S. Happenings.....	36
The Undergravel Reporter.....	37
Clowning Around	
Fin Fun (Puzzle Page).....	38
It's Elementary	

From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

As we begin a new year of **Modern Aquarium**, we're also beginning a new project—an ambitious one that I don't believe we've undertaken before. Alas, I can't take much credit for it; that credit goes to aquarium hobby legend and long-time Greater City friend Rosario LaCorte and our former President, Joe Ferdenzi. Getting directly to the point, Rosario is in the process of writing his autobiography, which will appear, in serial form, in **Modern Aquarium**, beginning with this issue! We are honored to be entrusted with this project, and I'm sure our readers will be delighted to read about Rosario's history in, and tales of, the fish hobby. See "An Aquarist's Journey," beginning on page 23.

Of course all blessings come with unintended complications. If you have ever chanced to read our copyright statement (see page 5), you may or may not have noticed the section (now in bold type) that both gives permission to other not-for-profit publications to reprint articles from **Modern Aquarium**, and notes that sometimes this may not be the case, as the copyright remains with the author. This is one of those times. Rosario retains the copyright (as these chapters will ultimately appear in book form); therefore even other fish club journals may not reprint them—in whole or in part—without specific permission from Greater City Aquarium Society and Rosario LaCorte. So much for the formalities—what's in the rest of the issue? Well, plenty! We have our December Cartoon Caption winner, along with a new cartoon for you to puzzle over. And of course a new Fin Fun puzzle. If all that isn't puzzling enough, after a long hiatus we have a new Anonymous Fishkeeper! Try puzzling out who *that* is!

To help *un*-puzzle us, we have "Tips from the Fishroom" from Jules Birnbaum. We also have a *lot* of photos from our December banquet. Dan Puleo's "The LFS Report" this month features a shop I am not familiar with, the Kissena Aquarium. Looks as though it might be worthwhile to plan a visit there. Meanwhile, Steve Sica tells us about



his newest Favorite Marine Fish in "The Spotted Eagle Ray," and The Undergravel Reporter teases our fancy with strange facts about Nemo, in "Clowning Around." Happy reading!

* * * * *

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 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 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 2014

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 5	Harry Faustmann <i>Live Foods</i>
April 2	Rosario LaCorte <i>The Fish I've Worked With</i>
May 7	Leslie Dick <i>Fish Jeopardy</i>
June 4	TBA
July 2	TBA
August 6	Silent Auction
September 3	TBA
October 1	TBA
November 5	Gary Lange <i>Rainbowfish</i>
December 3	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 back to another season at Greater City! This year's winter was certainly one to make us feel even better about changing our meeting schedule a few years ago to avoid January and February! With all the days of sub-freezing temperatures and twice-weekly snowstorms, it's hard to believe that, worldwide, this January was the fourth-warmest on record. I guess the cold had to come somewhere!

As you look at the Contents page of **Modern Aquarium**, you'll see a couple of changes worth mentioning. One change was actually made last year, but our Editor forgot to include it: Sharon Barnett is now our Chairperson for Social Media. Many thanks to Sharon for setting up and administering our "Fishy Friends" group on Facebook. You will also note that our new Speaker chair is Dan Puleo. Mark Soberman will still be available as backup and support. Dan has done a great job of lining up some exciting speakers for us this year. Most of the meeting dates are now covered – there remains only the working out of which person is taking a couple of the specific months. Dan has done a great job on his "LFS Report" column for **Modern Aquarium**. He's off to another great start as our Speakers chair.

While on the subject of speakers, if you take a look at the convention flyers for the NEC (inside front cover) and the ACA (page 20), you'll notice that both conventions feature Greater City members as speakers.

We do have some sad news to report. In our Member Classified section you'll have noticed over the past year that former Greater City members Charlie and Shirl Kuehne have been trying to sell their home in Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico. Marsha and I stopped in to visit them last year, and they

made us feel very welcome. Unfortunately, we've received news from Charlie that Shirl has passed away after a lingering illness. I'm sure the Greater City community will join us in conveying our sorrow and supportive wishes to Charlie on the loss of his lovely wife.



Dan



There is no joy in Mudville tonight.

The excitement is gone.

*Shirl passed away at 2:45 p.m. on Monday,
December 2nd, after 6 months of a debilitating
illness that left her weak and unable to go on.*

She bids everyone a fond farewell.

Charlie

Tonight's Speaker:

Harry Faustmann

by Claudia Dickinson

Renowned for his expertise with all tropical fish, **Harry Faustmann's** major focus is on killifish, about which he has written numerous articles, and with which he has competed in many shows. Winning top honors across the country since 1977, Harry's awards include Best of Show at Nassau County Aquarium Society and Best of Show at the American Killifish Association annual show. A celebrated breeder, Harry has been active in the hobby since 1967, and has been keeping killifish since 1973. He is currently a member of the American Killifish Association, Long Island Killifish Association, Metropolitan Area Killifish Association, Nassau County Aquarium Society, Greater City Aquarium Society, Long Island Aquarium Society, and Long Island Herp Society.



Harry is well known for his skill and knowledge in the art of culturing live foods, and for passing along notes to fellow hobbyists detailing how best to maintain them. Having had numerous outstanding spawns in his fishroom, one of the most exceptional was *Nothobranchius korthausae* sp. 'red,' which resulted in over a thousand fry after eight weeks of dry incubation. Another outstanding accomplishment was the breeding of *Simpsonichthys reticulatus* sp. 'Xingu.'

Generously filling our GCAS auction table with his wonderful and kind donations of fish, plants, and live foods (that even include those detailed instructions!), Harry's greatest joys are the challenges of breeding fishes and socializing with other fishkeepers. We are most proud to have the great fortune of welcoming Harry Faustmann as our speaker this evening.



CORAL AQUARIUM

Your Holistic Pet Food Center
In Jackson Heights



- Freshwater Fish •Saltwater Fish •Live Corals •Fancy Goldfish
- Live Plants •Food & Supplies for All Pets
- Extensive Selection of Holistic Dog & Cat Foods

Open Monday-Friday 10 am – 8 pm
Saturday 10 am – 7 pm & Sunday 12 pm – 6 pm

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

75-05 Roosevelt Avenue, Jackson Heights
718-429-3934

December's Caption Winner: Denver Lettman



Those two are *really* doing the Robot Dance!

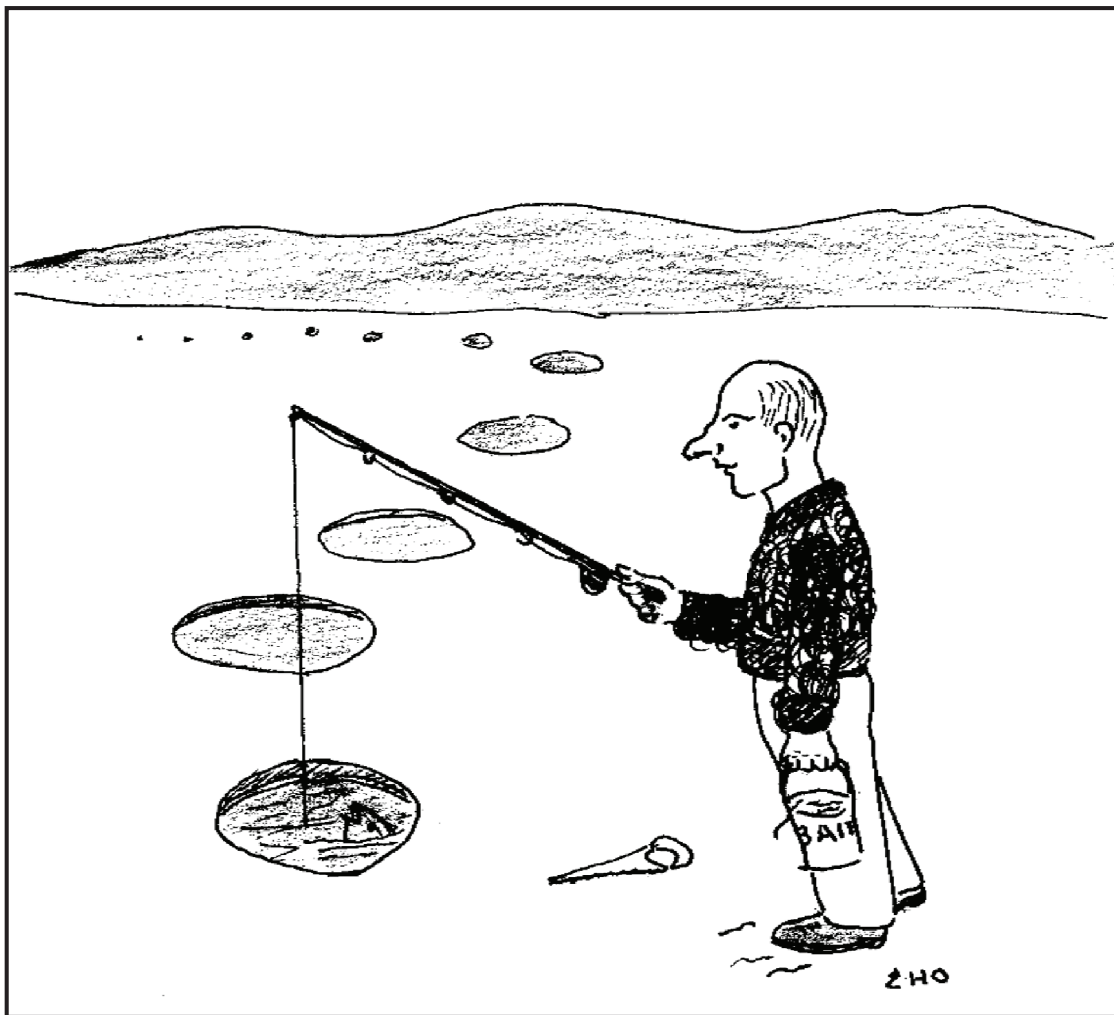
KINGFISH SERVICES.NET

(<http://www.kingfishservices.net/>)

Good for the
Hobby – Organizations – Industry
Ray “Kingfish” Lucas
Celebrating 24 years in the business
(1989-2013) of participating at your events.

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!



Cartoon by Elliot Oshins

Your Caption:

Your Name:

Pictures from our Holiday



Steve and Sharon



Bill



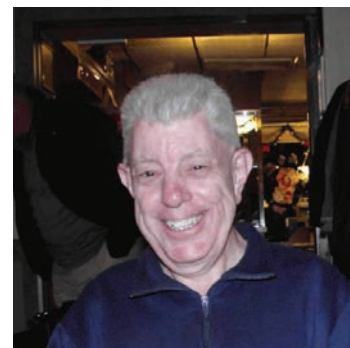
Andrew and Jillian



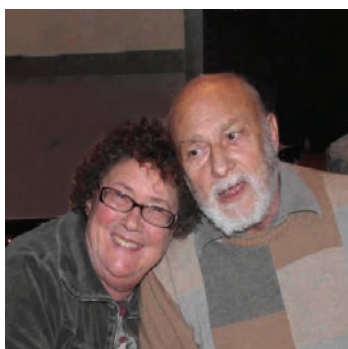
Gilberto



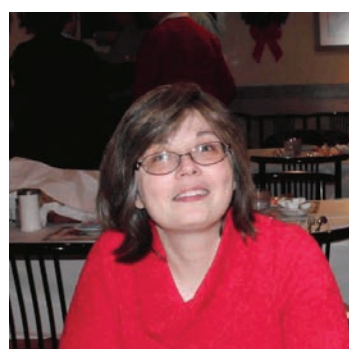
Ming and Mau



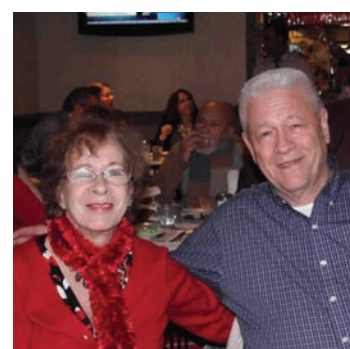
Bob



Emma and Ben



Barbara



Michelle and Herb

and Awards Party

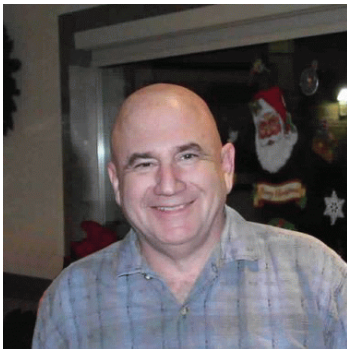
Photos by Susan Priest



Harry, Florence, and Bill



Joe



Michael



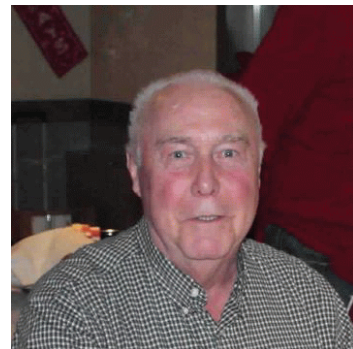
Michael, Ron, and Michael



Ed



Joe and Horst



Al



Rich and Natalie



Jeff



Sean and Marty



Peter, Ron, Lorraine, and Fran



Donna and Steve



Michael and Rhonda



Pete



Renee and Lamont



Fernando



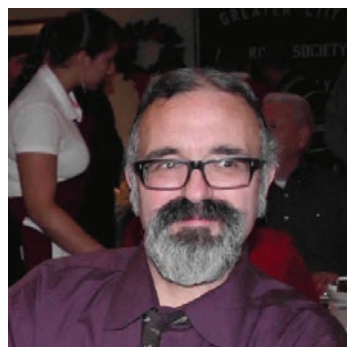
Ruben and Ruben



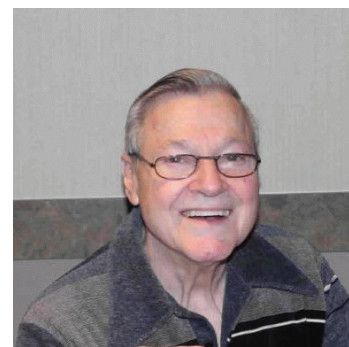
Barbara



Mario



Walter



Victor



Sebastian, Jael, and Juan



Door Prize Winner,
Sebastian

2013 GCAS Society Awards



Bowl Show Champion
Jerry O'Farrell



Breeder of the Year
Leslie Dick



Aquarist of the Year
Dan Puleo



Our 2013 Author Awards



Steve



Marsha and Dan



Dan



Rich



Denver



Jules

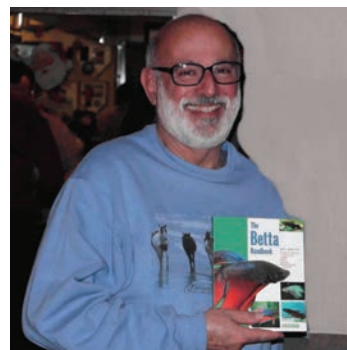


2013 Author of the Year
Susan

Author Award Raffle Winners



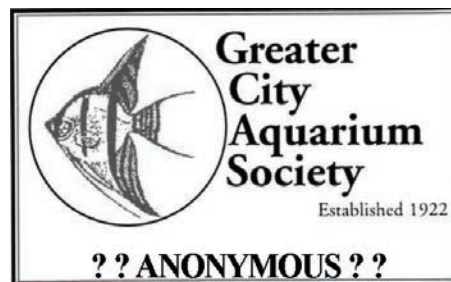
Dan



Steve



FISHKEEPERS ANONYMOUS



by SUSAN PRIEST

Take a guess as to how long it's been since you have seen "Fishkeepers Anonymous" among the pages of **Modern Aquarium**. If you guessed two years, you would be wrong, because that's what I guessed. I was startled to discover that it has actually been four years! It made its debut in March of 2006, and the first anonymous fishkeeper was our Gypsy Mermaid, Sharon Barnett. In April of 2010, we revealed Tommy Chang as our 26th autobiographer. Since then it has been hibernating.

I know that a lot of you have joined our ranks since then, and that you don't know what I'm talking about. Therefore, I will pull a few excerpts from the introductory article in 2006. "It had often been suggested by the editorial team at the time, 'Wouldn't it be great if we had an interview column; questions and answers to and from our members.' 'We could generate biographies of the best fishkeepers in the world-US!'"

This brings us to the part where **YOU** come in. "You can answer as many or as few of the suggested questions as you want to, or you can make up your own questions and answer them, or you can just ramble,

tell stories, or give advice. Tell us what you enjoy about being a fishkeeper, why you come to meetings-WHATEVER! Talk to us about those aspects of your 'Fishkeeper Within' which you feel will be of interest or assistance to your fellow GCAS members. To those of you who find yourselves completely overcome with silliness, I offer you the option of creating a 'Fictional Fishkeeper.' Whatever approach you choose to take, have fun with it."

I have to admit that I never would have thought of re-introducing this column if

it hadn't been for this month's author. I have had so much fun as I looked back over past issues, thinking I know who each fishkeeper is, and being wrong most of the time.

I realize that I am rambling, and that it is time to move along. In my closing comments I will tell all of you how to participate. Until then . . .

I know you will enjoy our Anonymous Fishkeeper for March 2014.

Suggested Questions

- ✓ Please introduce yourself.
- ✓ Tell us about your favorite aquarium.
- ✓ What was your very first fish?
- ✓ Tell us about your education as a fishkeeper.
- ✓ Is there someone you think of as a mentor?

Tell us about him or her.

- ✓ Describe your "Fantasy Fish Tank."
- ✓ If you were a fish, which one would you be?
- ✓ Who is your "Hobby Hero?"
- ✓ What fish which you have never kept would you like to acquire?
- ✓ Describe your biggest fishkeeping "blooper!"
- ✓ Describe your most memorable fishkeeping experience.
- ✓ What changes have you seen in the hobby during your tenure as a fishkeeper?
- ✓ What advice would you give to a beginning fishkeeper?
- ✓ What are your fishkeeping goals?

- OR write a narrative story -

Please introduce yourself.

I am a longtime fishkeeper who is new to the GCAS. I have been a member for about a year now, and I wish I had found it sooner.

Tell us about your favorite aquarium.

My favorite aquarium is my 29 gallon planted tank. I currently have 4 tanks running.

What was your very first fish?

My father had an aquarium since I was very young and I really can't remember our first fish, but it was most likely a molly, a platy, a neon, or a swordtail. The tank had some live plants where the babies would hide.

Tell us about your education as a fishkeeper.

My real fishkeeping education began when I joined the Brooklyn Aquarium Society. At that time I had 3 tanks, 2 of which were saltwater. During the years attending the Brooklyn Society I learned a lot from the wonderful guest speakers and by reading aquarium magazines.

**Is there someone you think of as a mentor?
Tell us about him or her.**

I attended the meetings with two friends, and my brother-in-law who was an avid fishkeeper, and one of my friends was also a very experienced keeper.

If you were a fish, which one would you be?

This question about what fish I would like to be is tricky, but I would say a marine Emperor Angel.

Who is your "Hobby Hero?"

As far as hobby heros go I like Jack Wattley for his work with discus. Also, I really like the many folks around the world who keep beautiful freshwater planted show tanks. One of my favorites is World Ranking #1 International Aquatic Plants Layout Artist Truong Thinh Ngo from Viet Nam. As you might be able to tell by now, I'm really into planted tanks. All four of my aquariums are live planted, two of which are running CO₂ systems and high tech lighting. The other two are low tech.

What fish which you have never kept would you like to acquire?

I have never kept Cichlids, but since joining The Greater City Aquarium Society, which appears to be a very Cichlid-oriented group, I have started to become more interested.

Describe your biggest fishkeeping "blooper."

My biggest blooper is a common one. I started off with average equipment, and very quickly wanted to upgrade. Also, when starting new aquariums it was hard for me to be patient. I couldn't wait to stock the tank before it really being cycled, thereby causing delays in the cycle. But now, with the wealth of knowledge I have gleaned from the Brooklyn and Greater City clubs, I know how to do it right.

Describe your most memorable fishkeeping experience.

I really think my best fish keeping experience is happening right now. All my tanks are doing very well, the fish are thriving, and my plants are growing beautifully.

What changes have you seen in the hobby during your tenure as a fishkeeper?

There have been lots of changes since my childhood days. The pumps were belt driven and the lights were not the best. I'm really into the changes in the hobby, especially the great lighting fixtures and CO₂ equipment. The heaters are so much better and the filtration systems are spectacular. On my 29 gallon planted tank I'm running a Whisper EX70 hang on back filter, an Eheim canister filter, and an Aquasun Quad T5 Lighting fixture. I have an Aquarium Carbon Doser CO₂ System with a Milwaukee pH Controller which turns the CO₂ on and off according to the pH and KH which I have set for the plants. The substrate I'm using is Eco Complete Black Planted.

What advice would you give to a beginning fishkeeper?

The best advice I have for new fishkeepers is to buy the best equipment you can afford. This will save you money in the long run because you won't have to upgrade. A new

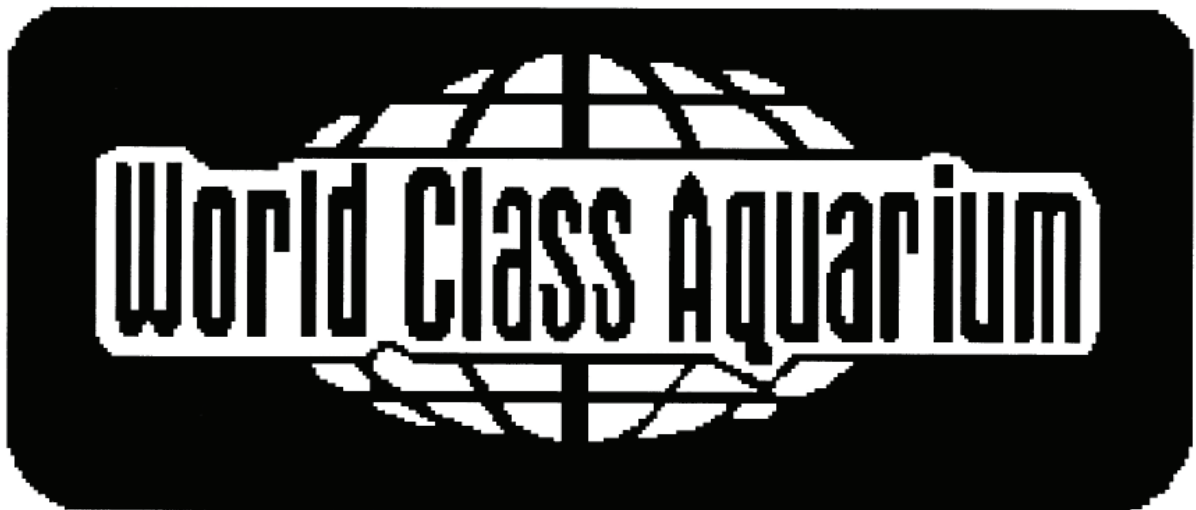
hobbyist can have a great low tech tank with live plants and great fish by starting out right with decent equipment. While the starter sets are nice, and will get a new hobbyist up and running, the first problem to come up will be an underpowered filter. Starting with better lights and filters is the way to go.

What are your fishkeeping goals?

I really like the vintage metal-frame tanks. I recently was given a complete 10 gallon tank with a stainless steel trim and a matching stainless steel hood. The setup even had the original old-fashioned ornaments. The tank was in my neighbor's basement for over 40 years, just tucked away on a shelf. I'm currently testing the tank for leakage, but I can't wait to set it up with the plastic ornaments. It will be a perfect vintage aquarium. Not a "natural" tank, but like the tanks from 1960.

Thank you, #27! You talk about being impatient, and that is how I feel right now. I can't wait to tell everyone more about you, but we'll keep them guessing until next month.

Now, for all of you new and not-so-new members who want to share your fishkeeping adventures and advice with the rest of us, here's how. Just answer as many of the suggested questions from the first page of this article as you want, or tell your story in your own way. We have never had anyone submit a photo layout! And even if you have been an anonymous fishkeeper before, that doesn't mean you can't do so again. You can e-mail your submissions to me at snpriest@yahoo.com, or hand it to me at a meeting in whatever format you like, including hand written. (I'll be the one with a camera.) Will you be #28?



- Marine Biologist On Staff
- Custom Tank Builders for the NY Aquarium
- Manufacturers of Aquarium & Filter Systems
- Custom Cabinetry & Lighting
- Largest Selection of Marine & Freshwater Livestock in NY
- New York's Largest Custom Aquarium Showroom
- See Working Systems on Display

2015 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11234
(718)258-0653

Open Saturdays and Sundays
Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa
2 miles off exit 11N of the Belt Parkway

www.WorldClassAquarium.com

The LFS Report

by Dan Puleo

LFS in the spotlight: Kissena Aquarium

46-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing 11355

(718) 358-0761

This month the LFS Spotlight falls upon a store that I consider one of the best of the “Asian based” aquarium stores. By this I mean that the owners and (from what I’ve observed) the majority of the clientele are of Eastern heritage. I feel that we as aquarists are lucky to have as many stores that fit this general description as we do in the city. To me, the more shops the better, and “better” definitely describes Kissena Aquarium for many reasons.

The first reason I feel this shop is better than most is the quality of the fish. You can really see that the owners love what they do by the quality, and more importantly, the demeanor of the fish in their tanks. The fish here are all very active and vibrant. Water changes are done twice a week, and it shows. There are no dull, lethargic fish here unless they have evolved to be that way. A perfect example are the flowerhorns. In other stores I’ve been to they just sit there like a lump. Here they are constantly on the move and displaying for all to see. Of course this relates to the second reason I feel this store ranks among the top shops in the city. That is the dedication and enthusiasm of the owners and staff. Like all of the best shops, they love fishkeeping and sharing the hobby with others.

On a recent visit I had a chance to speak to co-owner Sam Fu, and among other things, we discussed the different types of customers he typically sees. Sam feels that most of his customers come in two basic types: those who are rabid fishkeepers, and those who are buying tanks and fish because they have been told that having an aquarium in their home will improve the feng shui of their living space. The challenge, Sam says, is to guide the latter into becoming the former, and save them from making horrible mistakes. (“Why can’t I put a Nemo in with my goldfish? Oh, they’re saltwater fish? Well can’t I just put some salt in and the goldfish will be OK with it?”) These customers benefit from Sam’s and partner Jackie’s experience after years as hobbyists and 15 years in business. The good side of the feng shui philosophy of course is that it helps to provide for a regular flow of new customers

that many other LFS’s lack. So much the better for the fish-heads like me, who want as many quality fish shops around as possible.

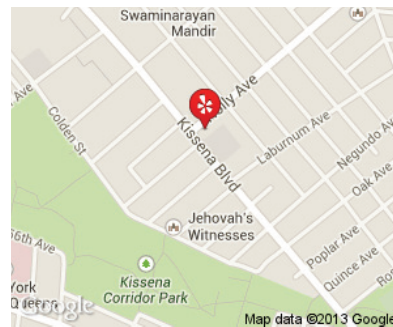
Another reason I think of Kissena as better than most is that their prices are better than most shops, especially with that quality factored in. As an example of this, let’s check out some tetras. On a recent visit they had pristellas, bloodfins, black neons, head & tail lights, and flame tetras for just \$2 each. There were zebra danios 10 for \$10, and larger long-fin zebras for \$1.50 each. Fancy bettas are well priced at \$4 and \$8. For the livebearer fan I noticed particularly nice lyretail high-fin mollies whose lyretails are exceptionally broad and well formed in golds, blacks and black spotted golds for \$3 each, and at \$4 a pair the quality and selection of fancy guppies were a no-brainer.

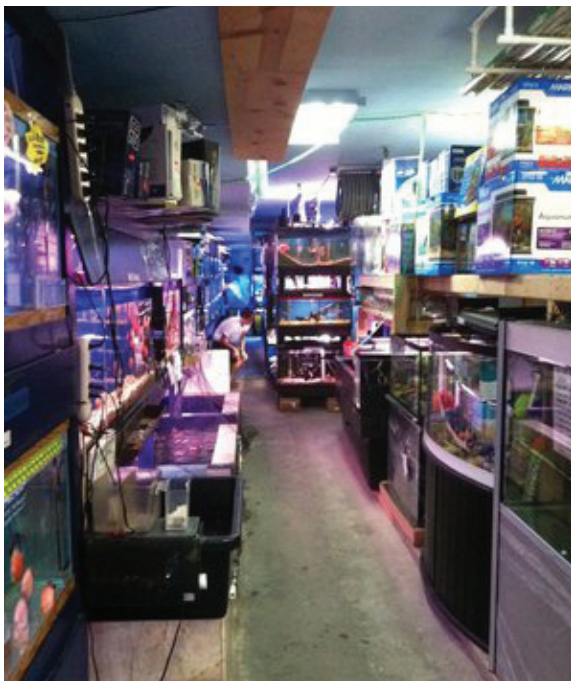
How about some silver dollar sized red head angels, 2” Congo tetras with excellent color for their size, or Boesemani rainbows, your choice for \$8 each? Have I gotten your attention yet? What about freshwater invertebrates? They have red cherries 4 for \$10, crystal reds 5 for \$30, blue pearls for \$6 each, yellows for \$5 each and bamboo shrimp with coloring superior to any I’ve seen for \$6 each.

Looking for something bigger, you say? They have a 9-inch silver arowana with beautiful red and turquoise markings through the scales and fins for \$60, Australians for \$120, and black arowanaa with red fins for \$180. If you crave catfish you can be tempted by large L200s for \$60, L52s for \$35, 3-inch imperial tiger plecos for \$45, or *Panaqolus* species (L002, I think) for \$35.

As for plants, they have a large tank where I found narrow leaf or Windelov Java fern, melon and Amazon swords, myriophyllum, bacopa, ludwigia, corkscrew vals, hygros species, and pennywort, all for \$5 each!

This favorable pricing isn’t limited to the livestock, either. Their tank prices are very competitive, and for those who like to have Malaysian driftwood in their tanks, this is the place to go. Nano tank sized





This month's LFS Report was originally distributed in flyer form at our July, 2013 meeting.

pieces are only \$4. For \$18-25 you get what goes for \$20-35 on other stores and I have spent \$65 here and gotten a gorgeous piece that I know would go for \$90-120 anywhere else.

There's also plenty of saltwater stock to be had, with engineer gobies for \$10, zebra gobies for \$20, PJ cardinals for \$18, and coral frags going for \$10 each/4 for \$30, \$25 each/2 for \$45, and \$45 each/2 for \$80.

Two final things you need to know about Kissena Aquarium. First is that the owners have graciously extended a 10% discount on livestock to all GCAS members, so bring your card with you and please remember to thank them for doing that. The second thing is that if you've never been there before, the store can be a little hard to spot. It's between Holly and Kalmia Avenues on Kissena Blvd., next to an Allstate office on the corner. It's in the underground level of the building, with blue signage at the door and a pharmacy on the sidewalk level above it.

If you take the time to find it the first time, I'm sure you'll remember it for the next time, and yes, there will definitely be a next time. It's just that kind of shop where you've got to go back!



GCAS Thanks You!

Our Generous Sponsors and Advertisers

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

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals

Aquarium Technology Inc.

Aqueon

Brine Shrimp Direct

Cobalt Aquatics

Coralife

Ecological Laboratories

Florida Aquatic Nurseries

HBH Pet Products

Kent Marine

Oceanic

Omega Sea

Red Sea

Rena

Rolf C. Hagen

San Francisco Bay Brand

Seachem

Zilla

Zoo Med Laboratories Inc.

Cameo Pet Shop

MY FAVORITE MARINE FISH: THE SPOTTED EAGLE RAY

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica

Although some people who read my articles think that every fish is really my favorite, I wish to state for the record that this is not quite true. While I do like *almost* every fish, I also do like a few a bit more than I do others. Saltwater fish that I tend to like are usually less common, have unique coloration, a unique shape, or it may be just because I never see them, even though they're supposed to be fairly common in the areas where I dive. I guess that these qualifiers are common to most fish fans.

I think this article deserves another name, or at least a subtitle. Rather than change the title above, let me give it another one here: "The Magnificent Eagle Ray!" Now I feel a little better that I don't have to say that every fish is my favorite—contrary to what I just said above. Does this make sense? It doesn't have to make sense; I just want to see if anyone reading this is listening.

For potential authors, **Modern Aquarium** is always seeking fresh perspective. You already know this from reading Dan's "From the Editor" each month—assuming you know who Dan is and who the Editor is. Yes, this is a trick question. You can absolutely write about anything in this publication and it will be printed. This is one reason that some of what I write always doesn't make sense, even though Donna proof-reads it and corrects my errors.

Recently, a friend told us that her husband had one and one-half vacation days left to use. "Are you taking a drive to see some fall foliage?" Donna inquired. "We're going to Grand Cayman," Cindy replied. Cindy's husband is a naturalist type. Last summer he purchased an upscale camera and matching waterproof housing, and I suspected that he wanted to try it out. While not a diver, Jean-Michel enjoys snorkeling. Two years ago they visited the Galapagos, and he prepared a coffee-table book of his magnificent photos.

When Donna informed a surprised Cindy that we had traveled to the Cayman Islands more than

eighteen times, she was overjoyed. Coincidentally, a few weeks earlier they had invited us for dinner at their apartment, so I decided to prepare a photo slide show on my computer of some of our Cayman Island land and sea adventures.

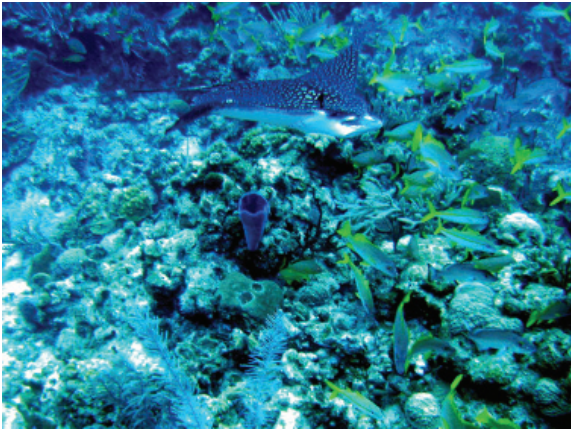
While preparing the photos I reviewed one of our trips to Little Cayman, and saw three photos of



one of my favorite fish—the spotted eagle ray. I had seen eagle rays in Cayman Brac many years ago; they were swimming a few yards from the sea floor. I recall photographing them with a film camera. I have probably seen this fish on only one or two other occasions.

I remember the incident when we saw the eagle ray that is pictured in the attached photographs. Donna and I had been swimming through a shallow canyon between two built up coral reefs. We had stopped to look around and communicate, and were facing one another. In the watery haze behind Donna I observed a ray swimming toward us. I motioned for Donna to turn around, while I pointed my camera to try for a quick shot. By the time Donna understood me, the ray swam over us to my right. I took three quick point-and-shoot photos as it swam by. All of this occurred in a few quick seconds, as the stately fish steadily undulated its wing-like fins to swim forward into the haze. Afterward, I told Donna that this eagle ray swam in a majestic manner.

I have never seen these fish in a group; in fact we have seen very few eagle rays at all. The single specimens that I have observed were always swimming from one place to another, as if on a mission. They knew where they were going, suddenly appearing and disappearing just beyond the realm of visibility, or before I could attempt to take a photo. Most would parallel the hull of a shipwreck, such as one that I saw in Cayman Brac, or swim a few yards above a patch of sand. I doubt that this was a preferred swimming style—it was just how I happened to observe that particular eagle ray.



The most distinctive feature of the spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, is its dark back, overlaid with numerous white spots or circular-like markings. The underside is white. This fish has a distinctive head with a tapered snout. Its long tail contains one to five venomous spines at the base. From wing-tip to wing-tip the average size is four to six and one-half feet. Maximum size can be eight feet. They inhabit depths of from six to eighty feet. The first one that I can remember seeing was swimming just off the bottom at eighty feet.

This is a circumtropical fish, common to occasional in Florida, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean. Spotted eagle rays have been seen in the Gulf of Mexico, near Bermuda, north to Virginia and south to Brazil. Most are solitary, but occasionally they swim in pairs, and on rare occasions in schools. They dig in

the sand for mollusks. If one sees a diver, it usually veers away.

To illustrate my luck with eagle rays, Donna and I were diving off Key Largo the first three days of November last year. After our final dive we were on the boat removing our gear, when a friend named O'Boyle surfaced and clambered onboard. He looked at us and said, "Did you see that huge eagle ray down there?" I answered, "No." The water wasn't very clear that day, and observing a particular fish is almost always a matter of having the good fortune of being in the right place at the right time.



Reflecting on our dive over dinner that night, I forlornly said to Donna, "Was it the luck of the Irish, or the blarney?"



CAMEO PET SHOP

TROPICAL FISH AQUARIUM

Specializing in Tropical Fish and Aquarium Supplies

Large Selection of Aquatic Plants

Knowledgeable Staff

Same Location Since 1947.

(718) 849-6678

115-23 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418



Louisville Tropical Fish Fanciers Presents
AMERICAN CICHLID ASSOCIATION
2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 10-13, 2014

Crowne Plaza Airport

888-233-9527

Louisville, Kentucky

Kentucky Bourbon Trail, Louisville
 Slugger Museum, Churchill Downs Tours
 And Many More...



Buy, Sell, and Trade
 Exhibition Hall

Speakers Include:

Juan Miguel Artigas Azas • Ad Konings
 Sam Borstein • Sandy Moore • Dr Paul Loiselle
 Joe Ferdenzi • Spencer Jack • Les Wilson
 Patrick Tawil • Willem Heijns • Steve Lundblad

Like ACA on Facebook! facebook.aca-convention.com

Early Registration Special

*Includes: t-shirt, admission to all talks,
 workshops, awards dinner and convention program.*

\$100 (XXL add \$5.00)

Mail Check and T-Shirt Size to:

Rusty Wessel 6815 Carolyn Road
 Louisville, KY 40214
rusty@wesselinsurance.com
 Please make checks payable to: ACA 2014

UNBRIDLED CICHLIDS

For additional information on showing fish, renting tanks, and attending tours please visit:

www.aca-convention.com

Tips from the Fishroom

by Jules Birnbaum

None of the ideas in this article is original. I “borrow” from many sources. If you pick up even one idea you can use, then reading this will be worthwhile. So here are some random fishkeeping tips.

Introducing new fish food can occasionally be a problem. Some fish don’t take kindly to a new food. In my experience, your fish should be hungry when being introduced to a new food. Try withholding food for a day or two, and then introduce small amounts of the new food. Continuing on the subject of food, many breeders and hatcheries skip feeding their fish one day per week. Some breeders say skipping a day or two helps the fishes’ digestive systems, and helps your biological filter keep up as well.

A one-to-three bleach/water solution may be used as an overnight solution to clean and sanitize plastic filter parts and other items such as thermometers and heaters. Also, tanks that had an outbreak of disease can be sanitized with this solution. I use white vinegar to clean aquarium glass and tops. It’s cheaper and less toxic than commercial glass cleaners.

When packing fish for auctions, add 1/4 volume of fresh aged water just before sealing the bag. You don’t need more than 4” of water to 8” of air. Since the fish don’t need more than a few inches of water, it puts less pressure on the bag, and means less weight for you to carry. Do not feed the fish for a day before bagging for transport. This will result in less fish waste to foul the bag water. Try not placing more than four to six juvenile fish in a bag, and also limit the amount of adult fish per bag. When packing, try to double-bag. To avoid having the bag leak, don’t place too much pressure on the bag while sealing.

If you are rich enough to use breather bags, you can double-bag with a regular plastic bag (not recommended by the manufacturer), but there must be a space between the two bags. This can be accomplished by using newspaper between the two layers. When you arrive at the auction you can then remove the newspaper and the second bag.

When bringing cory catfish to the auction, don’t feed them for a day or two. Place them in a bucket, and kick the bucket every 15 minutes for an hour or so to get them to purge the toxins they secrete when stressed. Then use the aged water from their tank to bag them. Always double-bag to avoid having these spiny fish pierce the bag. Use thicker gauge bags if you can find them. I recently purchased a heat sealer, which is another way to completely seal the plastic bags. You can also heat seal down the middle of a bag, forming two attached bags to accommodate a pair of fish.

To polish the water, a Marineland H.O.T. Magnum filter can be moved from tank to tank after

cleaning the gravel. It is amazing how much dirt is picked up, and how clear the water becomes in a very short time.

I have never changed T5 or T8 fluorescent light bulbs until they failed. Sure, they lost some intensity, but my plants did just fine, and the light was adequate for viewing the tank. With 25 tanks the cost of replacing 20-plus T5 bulbs every two or three years was a big factor to be reckoned with. My fishroom now uses all LED light fixtures.

For aquarists with limited room, I’ve written about the following tip before. A small hang-on incubator box filter, run by a small air pump, can be used to start fry, which can be syphoned from the main tank where they were spawned. This incubator is made by Marina and called a Multi Breeder. The unit can also be used as breeding trap for livebearers. There are two sizes, which cost between \$7 and \$12. It can serve a number of uses. The fry are confined to a small space, making it easier to feed

them. The lift tube brings fresh water from the main community tank where the fry were born and keeps the temperature in the incubator constant. You are able to start a large number of fry for the first month of their life. I’ve used this for livebearers, cichlids, and to hatch small catfish eggs. My fry survival rate is very high.

Some equipment you will buy will fail, and sometimes this happens after the warranty expires. I usually go directly to the manufacturer to ask for a replacement. They usually ask me when I bought it, and I usually can give them the date. In fact one manufacturer sent me a new LED light fixture, and told me to keep the old light fixture even though the old one still worked with its broken on/off switch. I just attached a \$5 timer to turn light off and on. An expensive 200-watt Cobalt heater recently cracked open, and Cobalt sent me a new one with no questions asked. If you buy a quality product it should not fail during its normal lifetime even after the warranty period, and reliable manufacturers always want satisfied customers.

While setting up a new tank there are alternatives to waiting six weeks or more to cycle the new tank. Why not place your new filter in a well-stocked tank for a few days and then move it to the new tank? If this is your only tank you can ask a friend to do this for you in one of their tanks. Another shortcut is to take media from a box filter presently in service and place it in the new one.

I hope you’ve gotten at least one tip from this article that you can use. If you have a tip you think I can use in my fishroom, please reciprocate!



The Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island presents



Triple Crown Fish Auction Saturday, March 15, 2014



**St. Joseph's Parish Center
1303 Mendon Road (Rte. 122)
Cumberland, RI**

Free Admission! All are welcome!

Doors will be open at 10:00 AM.

The auction starts promptly at 12:00 PM

DIRECTIONS TO THE AUCTION:

Route 295 to Route 122, (exit 10). Take a left off the ramp, proceed past the Burger King on your left and Route 116 on your right. Continue on route 122 for approximately one mile. St. Joseph's church will be on your left. Turn left into the driveway immediately before the church, and follow the driveway around the rear of the church and proceed to the top of the hill. The Parish center will be on your right.

The Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 PM. Meetings are free and all are welcome to attend. Go to www.tfsri.net for meeting location



BRING YOUR BEST FISH!

For a \$1 fee you can put a reserve on any lot! YOU set the minimum bid, if the lot doesn't sell for your price or better, you get it back!

TFSRI's split is \$3 per bag sold, all the rest goes to the vendor.

No limit on the number of lots submitted. All lots must be live fish, plants or aquarium-related items. See rules for complete details.

Preregister by March 10th and get a red dot sticker to bump one bag to the start of the auction.

All lots open at \$3. Lots not selling for the minimum bid of \$3 are returned to the seller. Lots selling for only \$3 are considered donations to TFSRI.

Vendor Fee: \$2

Bidder Card: \$2 (Waived for Vendors)

Bump any lot \$2 Rebagging fee: \$2

**Visit www.tfsri.net for
complete rules and auction forms.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Al Wagonblott

401-619-7805

mr_wiggles_sr@hotmail.com

or visit us on the web at: www.tfsri.net

AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

by Rosario LaCorte

Introduction

With this first installment of Rosario La Corte's long-awaited autobiography, you are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime in the aquarium hobby. Rosario's participation in our hobby goes back further than anyone currently living. But it is not just the depth that makes his story so meaningful, it is the breadth of his experiences—the sheer number of fish species he has bred, many for the first time in our hobby, the discoveries he has made, and perhaps most importantly, the many people he has met along the way. These stories would have no way of coming to light were it not for Rosario's remarkable ability to remember and document them.

This is a story told in Rosario's own words—there are no ghost writers. All the illustrations that accompany it are from Rosario's own collection of photos and other documents. It is truly his story, set out as he wants to tell it.

I have written this before about Rosario, but it is worth repeating: if there were ever to be an American Aquarium Hobby Hall of Fame, there is not a shred of doubt that Rosario La Corte would be one of its first inductees. His integrity and accomplishments richly merit such an honor. With the publication of this autobiography, Rosario makes yet another significant contribution to our hobby.

Joseph Ferdenzi

Chapter 1

This book is dedicated to my wife Jean, who has been so kind and generous throughout our 63 years of marriage. If it were not for her I could never have written this account memoir. She is without a doubt the most unselfish person I have ever met. Over the course of these many years we've had guests from all over the world, numbering in the hundreds. She has welcomed them and made them feel very much at home, always serving refreshments, or in many cases, even lunch or dinner. I have had many comments from people who have told me what a treasure I have, and I know it very well. In my eyes she has always been my greatest treasure. I can never thank her enough for all she has done.

For many years, quite often after giving a presentation to an aquarium society, someone would speak to me and suggest that a book should be written about my experiences through the years. I would agree and comment that it would be a major project, and though it would be a fulfilling undertaking, I doubted that I would get around to it.

Fast-forward to November 9, 2008. As my wife Jeannie and I were saying our good-byes to a number of friends at the AFISH Convention II on Long Island, the Chairman of the show, our close friend Joe Ferdenzi, embraced us to thank us for our participation

in the convention. Joe said, "Rosario, you need to sit down and write a book describing all your experiences and travels in your life while you can still remember them."

That Friday evening's entertainment centered on "The Golden Years of the Aquarium Hobby: the era of 1950-1960." The program was a dual Powerpoint presentation presented by Alan Fletcher, the former Editor of **The Aquarium** magazine, and myself.

The comments from the audience on completion of the show were positive, and Joe relayed those to me. That evening as I retired to bed, many memories of the events, and of the wonderful people I've met, all important for their contributions to the hobby, and of collecting journeys to South America, began to unfold to me. At that precise moment I decided yes, it would be a major project, but I would attempt it. The historic events are too important to be lost to my forgetfulness or demise.

I forwarded an email to Joe informing him of my decision. Joe's response was positive—he even offered to proof-read and edit the whole book! Now the rest was up to me.



Family photo: Brother Frank, parents, big brother Joe, me in shorty pants next to Pete and sister Ann, circa 1935-6.

The Beginning

I entered this world on March 16, 1929, the son of Italian immigrants, both of whom arrived in the United States around 1915. When World War I broke out, my father was drafted and sent to Fort Dix for one month. I suppose they felt he had enough basic training, as he had served a few years in the Italian Army. Until the day he died he still had shrapnel in his shoulder from wounds he received in the trenches during the Great War.

My father loved gardening, and I suppose some of that rubbed off on me, since it is a form of love for nature.

There were six of us children in the family, and we were all given very common names of the kind you would expect in an American family: Joe, Frank, Pete, Ann, Lucy, and *Rosario*. My sister Lucy, the youngest, died after only a day of life. All of my family members are now gone, with the exception of my sister, Ann Benz, who is the second youngest. As a child I always wondered why my siblings all had simple names, while I had one so hard for most people to pronounce. The answer was that I was named for my father, whose name was Rosario, and a great uncle who also bore that name (and who in the late 1800s had emigrated to Rosario, Argentina).

In my senior year of high school we had a new home-room teacher who, upon her initial roll call, called out her rendition of Rosario, “Rose ā’ rio.” Wow! That was the pits! I swore then that if and when I ever had children they would be given common names, and so they were: Robert, Michael, Maryann, Eileen, and Thomas. All good American names.

In my mature years I no longer feel so persecuted. Today, in the aquarium hobby, I don’t need a last name. Like Sting or Madonna, I can get by with a single name.



Brother Frank and me with our dog Nellie. Circa 1931/32.

Before the Depression my mother purchased an upright piano that also was a player-piano (it had a feature whereby a roll of perforated paper could be placed in a “window,” and by pumping foot-pedal bellows you could entertain yourself by listening to the music encoded in the perforations of

the paper). I remember one of my favorite songs was from an opera called **Zaza**, by Ruggiero Leoncavallo. I listened to it so much that my second oldest brother Frank began to call me Zaza. Well, the name stuck, and before you knew it even my parents were calling me by that name. It got out of the house, and soon all my boyhood friends and neighbors referred to me as Zaza, which was better than my given name, as far as I was concerned. Now, in the twilight of my life, I have several names, depending on the length and closeness of the friendship. I’ve

been called Rosie, Za, and of course the ever-present Rosario (which does not bother me as it did in my youth). Of course in the Latin languages Rosario is quite common, as it means Rosary. It can apply to either gender, with the final vowel being indicative—Rosario for males, Rosaria for females. (In Spanish, Rosario can also be used for women—on one occasion, upon sending some fish eggs to a hobbyist in Argentina, the return thank-you note also queried whether I was male or female.)

My interest in nature developed at an early age. I often collected tadpoles to watch their metamorphoses. Our family lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and the Arthur Kill (the body of water between Elizabeth and Staten Island) was only five blocks from our home. As eight and nine-year-olds we used to go there and collect killies (*Fundulus heteroclitus*).

On one occasion while trying to capture some fish, I inadvertently slipped and got my pants wet. Upon returning home, I ran into my older brother Joe, who was on his way to Mount Washington, New Hampshire, with a group of scouts (Joe was heavily involved in scouting). I had my milk bottle of captured killies in hand. He didn’t like the idea that I was going down to the water, and became quite angry, feeling that it was a dangerous area for youngsters to be playing. Well, we were young, and at that time none of us were good swimmers. Brother Joe was overprotective of his younger siblings, and was standing in for our father, who was spending all his time struggling to keep us afloat. This was 1938, and America was still in the grip of the Great Depression.

Life at that time was extremely difficult for immigrants. My



Older brother Joe, number 2 brother Frank, and number 3 Pete. My father holding me along with my mother. Circa 1929

father was a cobbler, and worked in a shop in New York. To travel back and forth to his job was a major undertaking, as we—like most people at that time—did not own a car. During the week he would sleep in the back of the shop, and come home on weekends. So brother Joe effectively took over as head of the household. Joe told me that he would deal with my disobedience when he returned from the scouting trip to New Hampshire, which would be in about a week.

All of that week I was quite apprehensive about the fate awaiting me, and when Joe did return I hid in the bathroom, hoping he'd forgotten about the promised punishment. I listened from behind the door as he exchanged pleasantries with my mother, and told her about his adventure and about the large moose that had crossed his path. I kept waiting for him to bellow out, "Where is Za? I have to take care of him for going to the sound." ("The sound" was what everyone called the Arthur Kill in those days.) Finally the dreaded question came. "Ma, where is Za? Oh, is he in the bathroom? Hey, Za! Are you coming out? Wait till you hear about our trip!" Whew! Joe had forgotten all about the falling-in-the-water incident. What a wave of relief came over me!

Brother Joe didn't always have a good memory. Years later, I remember having conversations with him about the old days and family happenings. He always marveled at my memory. What a stroke of luck for me that day that his wasn't so great!

Not too many years ago there was a question about the word "killie." What was the origin of this word as it applied to fish? As far as I can remember, some people in the neighborhood who were fishermen would talk about going to the Sound to catch killies and

use them for bait. By "killies," they meant *Fundulus heteroclitus*.

Little did I realize in my youth that someday I would be heavily involved with cyprinodonts, or "killies," a word that probably originated in Elizabeth and "The Sound," which was Arthur Kill (Kill being a Dutch word that meant riverbed or water channel). The word killifish now refers to all of the "killies" found all around the world. How ironically amazing that I grew up only five blocks from the Arthur Kill, and that the name derived from it would become such an important part of my life as an aquarist.

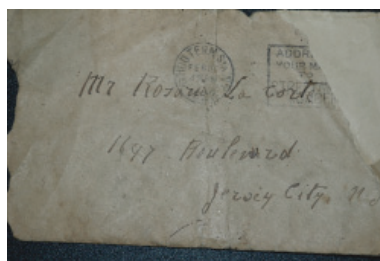
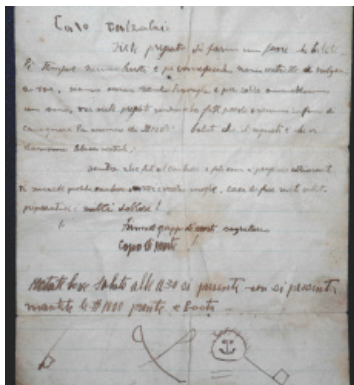


There were other adventures of course. In May 1937, brother Joe ran outside with his Brownie camera and captured a beautiful photo of the airship Hindenburg (see above) as it flew over our home on the way to its tragic ending in Lakehurst, New Jersey. I vividly recall the low hum of its engines. It was a very impressive sight for an eight year old boy. Later in life, I learned that on a previous voyage, the Hindenburg had carried in the first neon tetras that

The Black Hand

Immigrants were faced with many pressures, such as criminal activity, one being "The Black Hand." The Black Hand goes back to the 1750s, originating in the kingdom of Naples. In the early 1900s its ugly head surfaced in many parts of the U.S. They threatened kidnappings, arson, murder, etc., They attempted to intimidate, especially Italians, by Italians. My father received such a letter in 1922, demanding \$1,000. My father only a few years earlier had been in the trenches with the American army and faced greater danger. He was not to be frightened by this sort of demand. Instead, he purchased a .38 caliber pistol, and maintained it for protection. When my father passed away in 1966 we found the pistol, wrapped in a cloth along side a round of ammunition. Nothing ever came of the threat. Below are the extortion letters from the Black Hand, directed to my father in 1922, the post originating in Jersey City, N.J. At the bottom of the letter, you can see a saber, meant to frighten him, I assume, by threatening to either stab him in the head or cut off his head. Translations below are courtesy of Joe Ferdenzi:

Some it is very hard to make out, but here goes some excerpts. The first letter: "Dear shoemaker, You are begged to do me a favor ... the times are ugly and ... we are forced to turn to you ... to consign us the sum of \$1,000. ... Signed group of death ... Head of death!" The second letter: [Begins by issuing a series of idiomatic insults, e.g., "miserabile dio cane" (miserable god dog).] "You think we are kidding—see that we are not kidding in fact." [Again requests consignment of \$1,000.] "Company of death - signed Death"



were sent to Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Only one specimen survived the long flight, and was given the name “Lonely Lindy,” after Charles Lindberg’s epic solo flight across the Atlantic.

Life in our home could be uncomfortable, especially during the winter months. It was a coldwater flat, and underneath a blanket was a pleasant place to be during the harshly cold winter evenings. The killies I captured were kept in glass jars or milk bottles. The survival rate was terrible—it wasn’t an ideal way to house fish. The first decent receptacle I had was a round goldfish bowl, which housed the tadpoles I collected.

Fish food was usually dried daphnia—though at the time I didn’t know what daphnia were. There were other foods as well, usually granular and quickly sinking. My early years were with the captured killies or with goldfish. This changed when one of my boyhood friends, Tommy Trowbridge, got some guppies from our neighborhood physician, Dr. Edward Boller, who lived four houses away from my father’s shoe store.

Two houses away was Bollers Beverages, which was owned by the doctor’s brother, Frank Boller. They manufactured great tasting soda and on-tap birch beer.

One day while we were in Tommy’s house he showed me his guppy collection (which was in reality cared for by his mother). There were a few small aquariums, but mostly large beer glasses and some fancy stemmed goblets. I was really fascinated by the array of colors, and—Wow!—Look at all the babies swimming around! I asked Tommy if he thought Dr. Boller would give me some guppies too. He thought I should ask him. I never could understand why Tommy never offered me any of his, since he had so many, but with some persistence I finally got some from the doc.

Now I was touched with exotic fish, rather than the less colorful *F. heteroclitus*. Summer months were not a problem in our coldwater flat, as the temperatures remained comfortable for warmwater fishes. The cold winters presented a problem. There was one stove in the kitchen, and it required my father to get up early and start the fire, which in turn required the four of us boys to take turns going to the cellar and collecting the stacked wood and a bucket of coal. That was a chore I never liked. I frequently listened to **The Shadow** on the radio, with his signature, “The Shadow knows! HaHaHa!” Believe me, that preyed on the imagination of a pre-teen going down into a dark cellar to fetch coal. I always envisioned a ghost or other creature jumping out of the gloom at me. I was always scared going down into that dark, dingy place!

There was many a day during the winter that my fish were listless and close to dying because of the cold. A number of fish did die, but some were saved by adding a little warm water to elevate their temperatures. I was strictly on my own as far as information was concerned. I had no books, nor any friends who had experience with fish. Nevertheless, I remained focused with the fish and never gave up, despite the pitfalls of the situation.

There were times when aunts or uncles would visit us, and occasionally they would give me a dollar—a large sum of money in those days. As I reached my twelfth year or so, I was able to venture further from home, and with the few dollars I had saved I could take a bus to Broad Street, the commercial section of Elizabeth. I discovered that Woolworth’s and Green’s department stores had small aquarium sections, where I could purchase platys, swordtails, guppies, and zebras. It was a small selection, but to a kid it was great. I would look for pregnant platys and swords, as I knew they would enlarge my collection in a few days.

The purchased fish were placed in waxed paper containers, much like we get today when we order Chinese food. On cold days I carried them under my coat to preserve warmth for them during the trek home.

Around the age of thirteen, my boyhood friends and I discovered Kean’s Woods, a large, wooded area that the Elizabeth River ran through. Midway into the wooded area we could pick lots of blackberries and see many wildflowers. Two swimming holes were magnets for kids on hot summer days. One of these had a rather elevated bank, which allowed us to get on the higher bank and swing from a rope attached to a tree that overhung the river. It was almost like a page out of **Tom Sawyer**. Every Friday the river turned black from charred cork products that were discharged upstream. It was a time in our history when laws were lax, and polluted streams were not high on the local government’s agenda. While none of us liked it, we swam in this water with no apparent ill effects. In a day or so the river would flush itself out, but it contained no fish life.

The swimming hole that was further into the woods had a pond that was connected to the river by a small inlet, and with the agility of youth we were able to jump over it. In this pond were yellow water lilies, snapping turtles, and black-nose dace (*Rhinichthys atratus*). On later excursions to this swimming hole I was able to capture some of these dace for my aquariums, where they did not fare well, my fish knowledge being in its infancy.



Rhinichthys atratus, The black-nose dace, in spring dress. I used to collect them in Kean's Woods.

If we had a nickel in our pocket we could take the number 30 bus and get off on North Avenue, which was about five to seven miles from our home. If we didn't have the money we would walk the distance. Most of the time we walked, as all of us came from poor families, and coins were hard to come by.

Kean's Woods was owned by the Kean family (from which later came Tom Kean, the now former governor of New Jersey. There was a house which belonged to the Kean family and dated back to the 1700s. There were still visible scars on the banister left by British soldiers, raising Hell and leaving their marks with their sabers.

Returning home from swimming we had to cross North Avenue and walk a path that ran parallel to Ursino Lake, which we referred to as "the reservoir," for until 1929 it was indeed used to supply the drinking water for Elizabeth. A pumping station still stood, but had no remaining internal workings. At the lower end of the reservoir there was a lock that was still working. When the lock was in the "down" position a spillover resulted, creating a nice waterfall, a novelty for kids who never travelled much, and saw only our little world. The lock in the "down" position would create

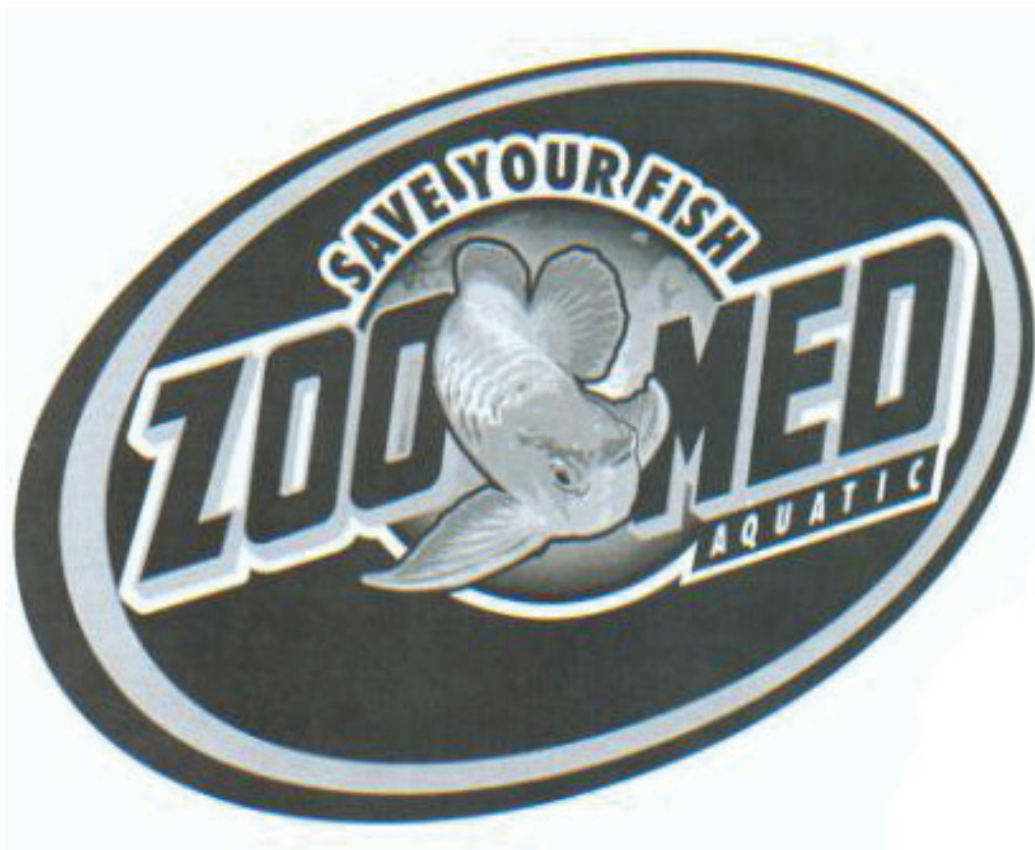
a deep area behind it, allowing the bigger kids to dive into it. One boy had drowned in that area, and I was always hesitant about swimming there.

One summer day while walking home by the path along the reservoir, I noticed a couple of men with long-handled nets treading among the lush growth of cattails along the water's edge. I wondered what they were catching, for I knew there were no fish present. My friends and I stopped to question them. "What are you catching, mister?" "Daphnia," was the reply. "What's that?" "Well," he said, "we use it for feeding tropical fish." Gee, I had never even heard of that! I looked in their bucket and saw all these red "bugs." It was an exciting moment for me. A new food for my fish!

I soon purchased a small net, and started collecting my first live food. I couldn't manage large amounts. The net was small, and reaching some of the pockets of daphnia with it was difficult. Later on in this memoir I'll talk about collecting daphnia from Lake Ursino, which was an important phase of my adventures in fishkeeping.



Copyright 2014 Rosario S. La Corte and the Greater City Aquarium Society. No duplication in any medium is permitted without express written permission. This prohibition includes not-for-profit aquarium societies.





BOWL SHOW RULES

There is a Bowl Show at every GCAS meeting, except our Silent Auction/fleamarket meeting (August) and our Holiday Party and Awards Banquet meeting (December). These shows are open to all members of GCAS. Rules are as follows:

- Only current GCAS members may enter fish in the Bowl Show.
- There is a limit of 2 entries per member per meeting.
- Unlike some other clubs, every month is an “open” Bowl Show at the GCAS (i.e., there is no “theme,” such that one month cichlids are judged, the next livebearers, the next anabantoids, etc.).
- Any fish that wins any prize (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) may not be entered again in the same meeting year.
- The current Bowl Show Coordinator is Leonard Ramroop, who usually also serves as judge (although guest speakers are often asked to do the judging honors).
- 2.5 gallon containers are available for use (brought to the meetings by the Bowl Show Coordinator), but entrants are responsible for providing enough (and suitable) water for their fish.
- For a fish too large (or too small) for those containers, entrants must supply a suitable container, which must be clear on at least three sides.
- Only one fish per container (i.e., no “pairs”).
- No plants, ornaments, or equipment (filters, airstone, etc.) are allowed in the judging tank (an external mirror, or opaque cards between containers is acceptable, as is a cover that does not obstruct side viewing).
- Points are awarded: 5 points for 1st Place, 3 for 2nd Place, and 1 for 3rd Place.
- Ribbons are awarded: blue for 1st Place, red for 2nd Place, and green for 3rd Place.
- The person with the most points at the end of the meeting season receives the Walter Hubel “Bowl Show Champion” trophy at the Awards Banquet.
- The decision of the judge(s) is final.
- A running UNOFFICIAL total of the points awarded is printed in **Modern Aquarium**. Only the tally of points maintained by the Bowl Show Coordinator is official.
- **In case of ties:**
 - 1st Tiebreaker – most 1st Places
 - 2nd Tiebreaker – most 2nd Places
 - 3rd Tiebreaker – most entries

2013 Modern Aquarium Article Index

Month/Pg

ANABANTIDS

“The Most Ornate African: <i>Microctenopoma ansorgii</i> ” by Alexander A. Priest.....	03/26
“The ‘Eyespot Betta’: <i>Betta ocellata</i> ” by Alexander A. Priest.....	11/13
“Moonlight Gourami, the Fish of My Dreams” by Susan Priest.....	12/15
“The Ultimate Nano Fish: <i>Dario dario</i> ” by Alexander A. Priest	09/09

AQUARIUM HOBBY HISTORY

“The Guppy King – Paul Hahnel” by Dan Carson (MA Classics)	04/13
“Considering 90 Years” by Joseph Ferdenzi	03/05

BOOK REVIEWS

“WET LEAVES” Column - by Susan Priest

Amazonas Magazine	03/15
Author Profile: Steve Sica	11/17
TFH : “Into the Labyrinth” by Mark Denaro	09/23
Will This Fish Transform Medicine? By Virginia Hughes	04/21

CARTOONS

“CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST” – by Elliot Oshins

March Cartoon.....	03/07
April Cartoon.....	04/07
May Cartoon.....	05/07
June Cartoon.....	06/07
July Cartoon.....	07/07
August Cartoon.....	08/07
September Cartoon	09/06
October Cartoon	10/07
November Cartoon	11/07
December Cartoon.....	12/07

“CARTOON CAPTION WINNERS”

December (2012) Winner: Dan Puleo	03/06
March Winner: Horst Gerber.....	04/05
April Winner: Alexander A. Priest.....	05/05
May Winner: William Amely	06/05
June Winner: Denver Lettman.....	07/05
July Winner: Denver Lettman	08/05
August Winner: Horst Gerber.....	09/05
September Winner: Susan Priest	10/05
October Winner: Mike Gallo	11/05
November Winner: Dan Puleo.....	12/05

CARES-RELATED ARTICLES

“Bad Rap for Goodeids?” by Dan Radebaugh	07/09
“Black Eggs: <i>Tilapia snyderae</i> ” by Joseph Graffagnino	04/27
“ <i>Melanotaenia</i> of New Guinea, Part I” by Derek P.S. Tustin	11/19
“ <i>Melanotaenia</i> of New Guinea, Part II” by Derek P.S. Tustin	12/21

“Paratilapia sp. ‘fony’” by Dan Radebaugh	11/28
“Who CARES?” by Tommy Chang	11/06

CATFISH

“Unexpected!” by Charlie Kuhne.....	12/12
-------------------------------------	-------

CICHLIDS

“Black Eggs: <i>Tilapia snyderae</i> ” by Joseph Graffagnino	04/27
“ <i>Gymnogeophagus balzani</i> : A Fun Fish to Keep and Breed” by Steve Berman.....	03/21
“ <i>Labidochromis joanjohnsonae</i> ” by Jeffrey George	05/13
“ <i>Bujurquina Vittata</i> : The Banded Acara” by Joseph Graffagnino.....	07/20
“Breeding A Real Jewel: <i>Hemichromis</i> Sp. ‘moanda’” by Jules Birnbaum	08/14
“Paratilapia sp. ‘fony’” by Dan Radebaugh	11/28

CONSERVATION

“Key Largo Revisited” by Stephen Sica.....	07/17
“Lionfish of the Turks & Caicos” by Stephen Sica	04/17
“Lionfish of Nassau, Revisited” by Stephen Sica	10/20
“Who CARES?” by Tommy Chang	11/06
“What’s In a Name?” by Dan Radebaugh	06/21

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

<i>Betta ocellata</i> – photo by Alexander A. Priest	11/C1
<i>Dario dario</i> – photo by Alexander A. Priest.....	09/C1
<i>Hemichromis</i> Sp. “moanda” – photo by Jules Birnbaum	08/C1
Jules Birnbaum – photo by Alexandra Horton	07/C1
<i>Labidochromis joanjohnsonae</i> – photo by Jeffrey George.....	05/C1
<i>Microctenopoma ansorgii</i> – photo by Alexander A. Priest	03/C1
Moonlight Gourami – photo by Susan Priest	12/C1
<i>Pterois volitans</i> – photo by Stephen Sica	10/C1
<i>Tilapia synyderae</i> – photo by Marsha Radebaugh	04/C1
<i>Xenomystus nigri</i> – photo by Susan Priest	06/C1

FISH STORE REVIEWS

“The LFS Report” Column - by Dan Puleo

“Fish Town USA” by Dan Puleo	09/13
“House of Fish & Pets” by Dan Puleo.....	12/13
“Pacific Aquarium” by Dan Puleo.....	10/10
“World Class Aquarium” by Dan Puleo	11/11
“Zoo-Rama” by Dan Puleo.....	08/11

GCAS Society Issues

2012 Modern Aquarium Article Index.....	03/29
GCAS 2013 Award Winners	12/29
GCAS Past Award Winners	12/28
The GCAS Author Award Program Report for 2013.....	12/30
GCAS Breeders Award Program Report for 2013.....	12/33
GCAS Breeders Award Program Points Totals.....	12/34
Rules for August’s Silent Auction/Flea market	07/22
Rules for August’s Silent Auction/Flea market	08/20

Exchange Articles and Reprints

“Adventures in DIY — River Tank” by Ryan Barton	08/22
“Aquarium Superstition & Cultural Belief” by Derek P.S. Tustin	05/20
“Fish Bytes” by Stephen and Donna Sosna Sica.....	04/07

“The Guppy King – Paul Hahnel” by Dan Carson (MA Classics)	04/13
“Paratilapia sp. ‘fony’” by Dan Radebaugh	11/28
GENERAL INTEREST and Miscellaneous	
“Brine Shrimp” by Jules Birnbaum.....	06/13
“Collecting Vintage Aquarium Pumps” by Jules Birnbaum.....	03/24
“Divide and Conquer!” by Jules Birnbaum.....	05/11
“Expect the Unexpected” by Susan Priest.....	08/21
“The Frugal Aquarist, Part I” by Alexander A. Priest	09/18
“The Frugal Aquarist, Part II” by Alexander A. Priest	10/23
“Good-Bye, Old Friends...” by Warren Feuer	03/22
“How to Get Out of the Fish Biz? Move!” by Charlie Kuhne	11/16
“Random Ruminations from a Fellow Fish Fanatic” by Jules Birnbaum	12/08
“Should You Be Cooking for Your Fish?” by Jules Birnbaum.....	04/08
“The Tao of Greater City” – Photos by Wallace Deng.....	04/22
“Three Years in the Fishroom: My Grades” by Jules Birnbaum	07/14
“Your Fish Are What They Eat” by Jules Birnbaum	09/15
KILLIFISH	
“The American Flag Fish: <i>Jordanella floridae</i> ” by Joseph Graffagnino.....	10/19
KNIFE FISH	
“The Fish from Outer Space” by Susan Priest	06/09
LIVEBEARERS	
“Bad Rap for Goodeids?” by Dan Radebaugh	07/09
MA CLASSICS	
“The Guppy King – Paul Hahnel” by Dan Carson	04/13
MARINE FISH	
“Goliath Groupers of the Gulf” by Stephen Sica	03/17
“Hurricane Sandy, and Sandy!” by Rich Levy.....	10/15
“Lionfish of Nassau, Revisited” by Stephen Sica	10/20
“The Sand Tilefish” by Stephen Sica.....	09/27
“Sharks of Grand Bahama” by Stephen Sica	05/17
MEMBER PHOTOS	
“Pictures from Our Holiday Party/Banquet” by Susan Priest	03/10
“Pictures from our Last Meeting” by Susan Priest.....	05/25
“Pictures from our Last Meeting” by Susan Priest.....	06/18
“Pictures from Our Last Meeting” by Susan Priest.....	07/12
“Pictures from Our Last Meeting” by Susan Priest.....	08/08
“Pictures from Our Last Meeting” by Susan Priest.....	10/12
“Pictures from Our Last Meeting” by Susan Priest.....	11/08
“Pictures from Our Last Meeting” by Alexander A. Priest	12/19
NEC and FAAS News/Events	
“The 2012 FAAS Publication Awards” by Alexander A. Priest	08/12
“News from the NEC: 2012 Article Competition Results” by Mike Liu	05/08
OPINION AND/OR HUMOR	
THE UNDERGRAVEL REPORTER - a column by <i>The Undergravel Reporter</i>	
“Fluorescent Food”.....	12/39
“Headstands & Sign Language”.....	06/27
Modern Aquarium - Greater City A.S (NY)	March 2014
	31

“Remember When All Fish ‘Swam’?”	07/27
“Satellite Spawners”	11/35
“Save The Ugliest!”	10/29
“Slime Is...Beautiful?!?”	08/29
“Spawned in the USA”	04/29
“Stoned Fish”	03/35
“These Fish Know How to Use Their Heads”	05/29
“The Ultimate Waterbed?”	09/29

PUZZLE: “FIN FUN” Page

“An Angelfish in a Pear Tree”	12/40
“Aquarium Hopping”	08/30
“Heads Up!”	07/27
“Headstands & Sign Language”	06/30
“How Many?”	10/30
“In The Labyrinth”	09/30
“It Must Be April!”	04/30
“Not So Ancient History”	03/36
“Searching for Cichlids”	05/30
“True or False”	11/36

RAINBOW FISH

“ <i>Melanotaenia</i> of New Guinea, Part I” by Derek P.S. Tustin	11/19
“ <i>Melanotaenia</i> of New Guinea, Part II” by Derek P.S. Tustin	12/21

SPAWNING

“Breeding A Real Jewel: <i>Hemichromis</i> Sp. ‘moanda’” by Jules Birnbaum	08/14
“ <i>Bujurquina Vittata</i> : The Banded Acara” by Joseph Graffagnino	07/20
“ <i>Gymnogeophagus balzani</i> : A Fun Fish to Keep and Breed” by Steve Berman	03/21
“The Most Ornate African: <i>Microctenopoma ansorgii</i> ” by Alexander A. Priest	03/26
“Unexpected!” by Charlie Kuhne	12/12

SPEAKER PROFILES

Our Guest Speaker: Mark Denaro	09/07
Our Guest Speaker: Mark Soberman	10/08

TRAVELING AQUARIST

“Goliath Groupers of the Gulf” by Stephen Sica	03/17
“Key Largo Revisited” by Stephen Sica	06/15
“Key Largo Revisited” by Stephen Sica	07/17
“Lionfish of the Turks & Caicos” by Stephen Sica	04/17
“On the Road: Owl’s Well that Ends Well” by Dan Radebaugh	08/17
“Sea Life of New Providence, Bahamas” by Stephen Sica	12/09
“Shark Diving at the North Carolina Aquarium” by Stephen Sica	11/25
“Sharks of Grand Bahama” by Stephen Sica	05/17



NEED COMPUTER HELP?

Virus/Spyware Removal \$79.00*

Wireless Setup \$49.00**

Optimization Special \$39.00*

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



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

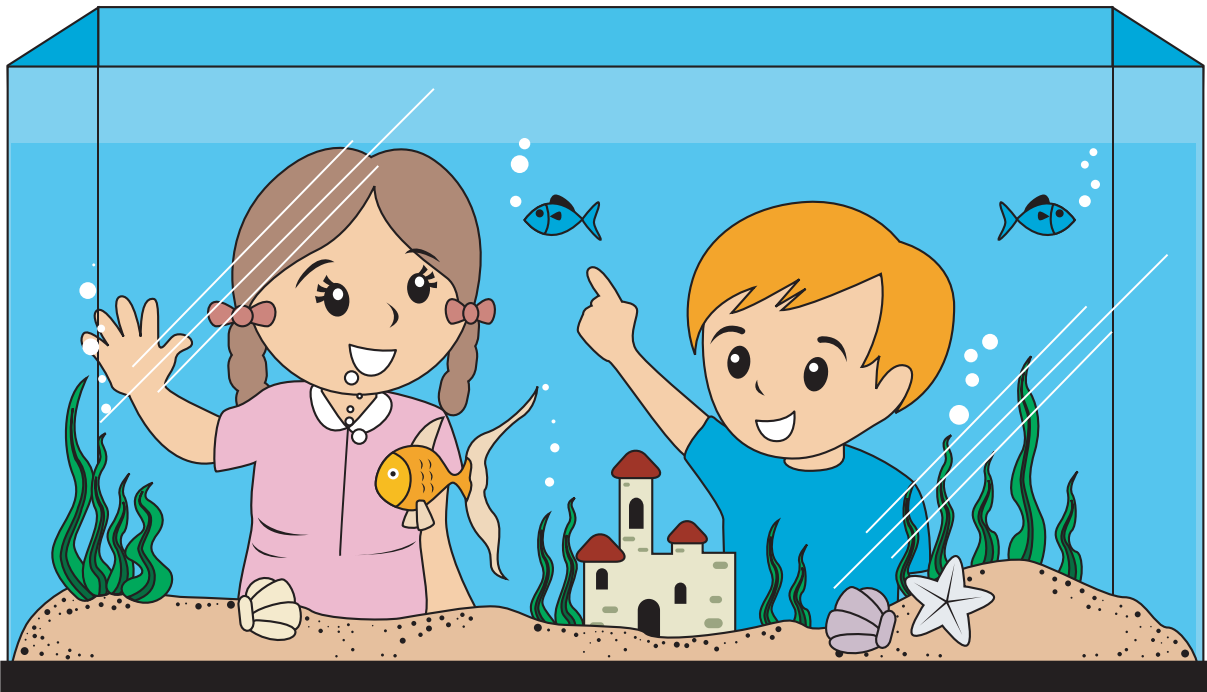
CompTIA® A+ Certified

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

* \$15.00 Mobile charge

** Labor only. Equipment additional

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



Support Fish in the Classroom!

If you have any 5 or 10 gallon tanks, or any filters, pumps, or plants that you could donate to NYC teacher Michael Paoli's classrooms, could you please bring them in or email Rich Levy (rlevy17@aol.com). If you'd like to donate larger tanks, be sure and email Rich so he can make sure Michael can accommodate it.



Member Classifieds

FOR SALE: 29 gallon tank with wood stand, 35 gal high tank.

Call Rod: 516-731-1719

FOR SALE: 75 Gallon Tank, custom wood stand, lighting, 2 filters.

Call Paul or Debbie: 718-908-8127

FOR SALE: 210 Gallon Tank, wood stand, glass canopies. Tank & stand both need some repair.

Call Dan: 718-458-8437

FOR SALE: Fish Hobbyist's Dream Home: \$169,000!

Fishroom: 15 X 26 – Almost 400 square feet. 10 Picture-window tanks, with built-in wall shelving underneath for storage. Room for more tanks, with pressurized air system throughout the room. Full sink (hot/cold) with work space; ceramic tile floor.

Pond Room: 12 X 16 – Almost 200 square feet. 300 gallon indoor pond for tropical fish. Mag pump, ceramic tile floor, large cathedral windows, lots of light for growing plants. Gorgeous views. Great place to read the Sunday papers.

Rest of House: 2 BR, 2 BA, HUGE kitchen with 49 cabinets and drawers. All rooms huge, LR/desk area. Almost 2,000 square feet. Central A/C.

Climate: 340 sunny days last year.
Mild winters with absolutely NO snow shoveling.

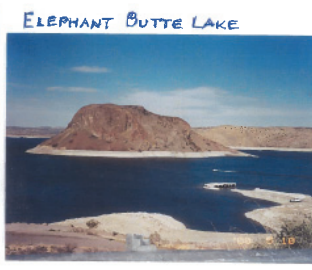
Location: Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico. Great name, huh? Was formerly called Hot Springs (and yes, we've got 'em). Very friendly community. Cars actually stop for you to cross the street. Rarely hear a car horn. Two blocks from town.

House Location:
On historic site for Geronimo and his





VIEW FROM FRONT PORCH



ELEPHANT BUTTE LAKE

RAFTING ON THE RIO GRANDE NEARBY



braves, where they ground holes in huge boulders (on the southern edge of the property) for cooking maize. Evidence still there (placard next to property). Just 20 feet below us stands a fish pond stocked with trout, and another hundred feet down is the Rio Grande River, for rafting, tubing, and fishing. For even greater bass fishing, we're only five miles from Elephant Butte Lake, the largest lake in New Mexico, which also features water sports such as boating, swimming, fishing, jet skiing, etc. There are

two marinas.

View: Tremendous! From the front porch (completely tiled) you have the best view of Turtleback Mountain rising majestically above the park and river in front of you. Breakfast on the porch is breathtaking! Lunch too!

Taxes: Only \$600 per year.

Summing Up: We've lived here for 19 years, and I both the fish pond and the fishroom built for my hobby, but I'm now 83, and it's time to retire from the hobby. We watched our grandchildren grow up as they spent all their summers here. Irreplaceable memories. You could have them too.

Charlie Kuhne: (575) 894-2957



POND ROOM (12x15)



FOR SALE: African Cichlids -- Fry to Adult size; plus filters heaters, etc.

Call Derek: 917-854-4405

FOR SALE: *Herichthys carpintis*, Escondido: Fry -- 1" to 3."

Call Dan: 347-866-1107

NEEDS PERMANENT HOME: Beautiful young orange & white tabby. Neutered male with chip. Smart, loving, exhuberant. Needs to be your one and only kitty.

Call Dan or Marsha: 718-458-8437



GCAS Happenings

March

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: April 2, 2014

Speaker: Rosario LaCorte

Event: *Fish I've Worked With*

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: March 14, 2014

Speaker: Gene Ritter

Topic: *Diving In New York Harbor*

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 15, 2014

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Meets: 3rd Fridays (except July and August) 8:00pm.

Room 120 in Endeavor Hall on the State University at Stony Brook Campus, Stony Brook, NY

Email: Margaret Peterson - president@liasonline.org

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

EAST COAST GUPPY ASSOCIATION

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

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

Contact: Gene Baudier (631) 345-6399

NASSAU COUNTY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 11, 2014

Speaker: Dan Radebaugh

Event: *Herichthys carpintis*

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 18, 2014

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Meets at: The Lyndhurst Elks Club, 251 Park Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: March 20, 2014

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/>

Clowning Around

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.

Clownfish (or anemonefish) are members of the subfamily Amphiprioninae in the family Pomacentridae. According to the Wikipedia, "In the wild, they all form symbiotic mutualisms with sea anemones."¹ Even if you don't keep marine fish, you probably recognize the species from the popular cartoon movie "Finding Nemo" (the species of clownfish featured in that movie was *Amphiprion ocellaris*).

Because clownfish are so brightly colored (making them easy to spot) and can't swim very fast, they are at risk of being eaten by predators if they leave the protection of the anemones' toxin-producing tentacles. Up to now, it was assumed that the clownfish alone benefitted from their relationship with anemones.

A study published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*² now shows that the sea anemone may also benefit from this relationship. While coral reefs are richly oxygenated during the day, at night (when photosynthesis has ceased), oxygen levels drop. By moving and flapping their fins, clownfish circulate the water within and around the anemone. In turn, this causes water circulation within the otherwise stationary anemone, allowing

it to access more oxygenated water, speed up its metabolism, and grow faster. That's also good news for the clownfish, which have more room to hide within the anemone. In fact, it was discovered that clownfish and anemone consumed 1.4 times more oxygen when together than when they are apart.

While they wiggle and dance in their anemones, clownfish make no sound when mating, unlike other species of territorial marine fish in the Pomacentridae family. But, researchers have discovered³ that larger dominant clownfish do make popping sounds, while the more submissive clownfish only make "static-like" noises.

Clownfish have a unique social organization. Up to six fish form a group around a single sea anemone. The largest of the group is a female, the second largest is a male, and the rest are immature fish that do not have a gender. (Once they do, they will be able to change their gender as mating pairs

die out.) Researchers now believe that clownfish make sounds to reinforce their individuality since, for mating purposes, sound is not needed to attract females as there are no competitors. (When the dominant female dies, the male becomes the alpha female and the next largest in size becomes the breeding male.)

"Sound could be an interesting strategy for preventing conflict between group members," lead study author Orphal Colleye, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Liège, Belgium, told LiveScience. "In terms of cost energy, you don't have to interact with another individual to determine which is the dominant and which is the subordinate, you just need to make a sound."

So now we discover that Nemo works nights as an "anemone fluffer," pops to show that he's boss (or, when needed that she's boss). Who knew?



Credit: Orphal Colleye

References

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphiprioninae>

² J. T. Szczebak, R. P. Henry, F. A. Al-Horani, N. E. Chadwick. Anemonefish oxygenate their anemone hosts at night. *Journal of Experimental Biology*, 2013; 216 (6): 970 DOI: 10.1242/jeb.075648

³ <http://www.source.ly/10SDL#.Uu21bRGJuSo>





Fin Fun



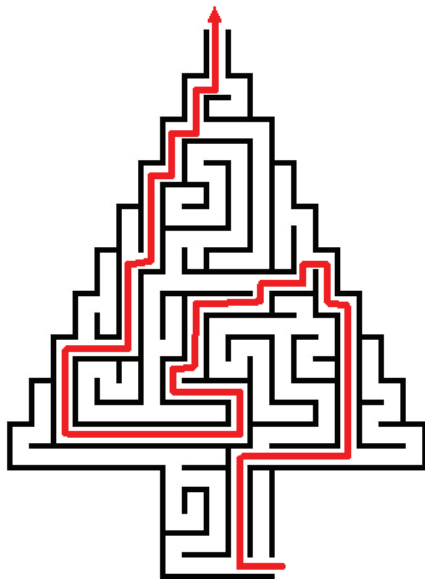
It's Elementary



If you are an experienced fish keeper, then you will have no trouble answering these questions. If you are new to the hobby, then you need to learn these basic facts. In either case, **it's elementary!**

- 1) If you have a 30 gallon tank and you remove and replace six gallons, what percentage of water change have you done?
- 2) If you add black water extract to an aquarium, will it make the pH go up or down, or stay the same?
- 3) If you treat your tap water with a chlorine/chloramine remover and make any needed adjustment in hardness and pH, what else must you do to the water before you can use it for a water change?
- 4) If you include dolomite as part of your filter media, will this affect the water's hardness? If so, in what way?
- 5) If you have two identically sized and decorated aquariums except that one has a gravel substrate and one is "bare bottom" (no substrate), which will support a larger amount of nitrifying bacteria?

Answer to our last puzzle: **An Angelfish in a Pear Tree**



ZOO-RAMA PETS®

Home of Quality Pets & Aquatics

Puppies • Kittens • Birds • Fish • Supplies
Pet Grooming



ZOO-RAMA PETS
2566 EAST TREMONT AVE.
BRONX, NY 10461
718-430-0909

ZOO-RAMA PETS & AQUARIUM
475 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE
ELMONT, NY 11003
516-216-1349

ZOO-RAMA AQUARIUM
2574 EAST TREMONT AVE.
BRONX, NY 10461
718-430-1992

QUALITY PUPPIES FOR SALE!
WWW.ZOORAMAPETS.COM

Pet Grooming

Appointments & Walk-ins



Haircut \$65 & up

Sanitary Cut \$45

Nails \$10 & up



Exotic
Birds



WE CARRY ONLY THE
FINEST PUPPIES FROM
EXCELLENT BREEDERS.

**VISIT OUR STORES
TO SEE THE QUALITY
FOR YOURSELF !**

WE ALSO CARRY
TANKS, CAGES, SETUPS,
AND EXOTIC BIRDS & FISH.



Find us on
[Facebook.com/zooramapets](https://www.facebook.com/zooramapets)

