

modern AQUARIUM



June 2017
volume XXIV
number 4

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York

長江水族館

Open 7 Days
10am-8pm

MONSTER AQUARIUM INC.

347.732.0373



另有各式
水族器材用品

CARRIES IMPORTED
EXOTIC FISH,
SPECIAL ORDER,
FILTER REPAIRS,
SET UP & MAINTENANCE
(FRESHWATER ONLY).

131-08 40th Rd., Flushing

BJ's / Skyview Mall 天景豪苑旁



modern AQUARIUM

Series III Vol. XXIV, No. 4 June, 2017

ON THE COVER

What's a dive in the Florida Keys without a visit to a school of grunts? The black tails indicate the bluestriped grunt, *Haemulon sciurus*. See more about Steve & Donna Sica's latest diving adventure on page 9.

Photo by Stephen Sica

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

BOARD MEMBERS

President..... Horst Gerber
Vice-President..... Edward Vukich
Treasurer..... Jules Birnbaum
Assistant Treasurer..... Ron Wiesenfeld
Corresponding Secretary..... Vinny Ritchie

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Pete D'Orio..... Walter Gallo
Al Grusell..... Victor Hritz
Jason Kerner..... Leonard Ramroop

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bowl Show..... Joe Gurrado
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..... Joe Gurrado
Programs.....
Social Media..... Sharon Barnett
A/V Coordinator..... Sandy Sorowitz

MODERN AQUARIUM

Editor in Chief..... Dan Radebaugh
Copy Editors:
Sharon Barnett..... Alexander A. Priest
Susan Priest..... Donna Sosna Sica
Advertising Manager..... Larry D. Whitfield

In This Issue

From the Editor.....	2
G.C.A.S. 2017 Program Schedule.....	3
President's Message.....	4
May's Caption Contest Winner.....	5
Cartoon Caption Contest.....	6
Fishy Friends' Photos.....	7
Pictures From Our Last Meeting.....	8
Pictures by Susan Priest	
Our Generous Sponsors and Advertisers.....	10
The Undergravel Reporter Imposter Strikes Again!.....	11
or: Was That Really a Mermaid? by Stephen Sica	
A Fish Named Bo.....	12
The Making (or Undoing) of a Champion by Judy Weinberg	
The G.C.A.S. Breeders Award Program.....	19
A Change to Our August Meeting.....	23
"A Night at the Auction" by Ed Vukich	
Sometimes You Need a Change.....	25
by Jerry O'Farrell	
G.C.A.S. Member Discounts.....	26
G.C.A.S. Classifieds.....	28
G.C.A.S. Happenings.....	30
The Undergravel Reporter.....	31
The Eye of the Beholder	
Fin Fun (Puzzle Page).....	32
Back to Back	

From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

Putting together each issue of *Modern Aquarium* is an interesting exercise. I hardly ever know exactly what's going to be in it until I start assembling it. There are of course some constants. The not-to-be-missed Undergravel Reporter has been a delightful fixture in these pages for far longer than I've been Editor, as has our Fin Fun puzzle. I continue to be dazzled by these. It just can't be easy to come up with them every month! Usually we have some photos from our previous meetings, which is nice, as it really helps us all know who's who. More recently, we've added Fishy Friends' Photos—chosen from photos posted on our Facebook Fishy Friends page. The President and I have ongoing columns, and let me assure you that for both, coming up with something to say each month can be a real challenge. Nevertheless, with a little help from our friends it all somehow works out.

Sometimes there are cues. For instance, at a recent meeting we passed out our Breeders Awards. This is a great program that lets us know which of our members is breeding what. It also serves as a hint to others of us in the club who may be trying to breed a certain type of fish, just who might be a good person to ask for advice. Duly impressed by the award winners this year, I thought it might be a good idea to review the program for newcomers to the club who might like to try their hands at breeding. So beginning on page 19 you'll find a summary of the program and its rules. If you think you'd like to give it a shot, by all means go for it! You'll find the names of the members to contact in the masthead of this magazine.

In honor of the annual American Cichlid Association Convention coming up in July, our exchange article this month features *Paratilapia polleni*, a fish close to my own heart, though not currently resident in my tanks. Be sure and see Judy Weinberg's "A Fish Named Bo" on page 15.

Steve Sica, this month as the Undergravel Reporter Imposter, tells (and shows—great photos!) us about his "mermaid" adventures during a recent diving trip to Key Largo (see page 11). Jerry O'Farrell meanwhile reminds us (page 25) that "Sometimes You Need a Change!"



Remember, we need more articles! We *always* need more 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 need a lot of articles.

Share your experience with us. Write about your successes! Maybe even mention some of your failures—sometimes those are more instructive than the successes. If you're a little unsure about the state of your writing technique, don't worry—that's why editors exist.

If *you* have an article, photo, or drawing that you'd like to submit for inclusion in *Modern Aquarium*, it's easy to do! 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! So will our members!





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	A Night at the Auction
September 6	Emily Voigt <i>The Dragon Behind The Glass</i>
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

Another month has gone by, and here is another message from your Kahuna. No, I am not writing this letter in Hawaii. Time flies when you're having fun! Sorry I could not keep all my campaign promises, but at least I didn't have to use my three famous words: "You're fired!" We did manage to put a stop to the investigation that Brooklyn interfered in my election. So, what is the state of the club?

Money-wise, GCAS is in good shape. Thanks to all of you who donate to our auctions, and to all the companies who donate to our raffles. Members, please take a look at the list of companies who support us. You'll find it later on in this magazine. We deeply appreciate their, and your, generosity. Let's keep up the good work!

I am glad to say that I recovered all my campaign expenses, and that we still have money due to the great job Jules is doing, but we can't celebrate until Jules goes on vacation. Who knows? The whole country may be bankrupt by then. But what's the big deal for a fish club to run a couple million dollar deficit? It's only money, and we can always stage a hostile takeover of a wealthier club.

On a more serious note, I am wondering if we need a sergeant-at-arms during our meetings to help keep the racket from our more unruly members down to a dull roar. I tried my best at raising my voice at our last meeting, but it only worked a little bit. Al's whistle proved very helpful. Do we really need to resort to that? Ed is also trying hard to be heard during the auctions, but it's very difficult to hear him over all the talking, especially near the end. Your private conversations all add up to a lot of noise. Please help us out by not talking while the speaker is presenting or the auctioneer is trying to be heard.

Remember, we must end the meeting not later than 10:20. That gives us the ten minutes to get to the parking lot before it's closed. That's enough for this month; more to come in July.

Horst



On Monday, May 15, 2017, Herbert R. Axelrod passed away at his home in Switzerland, one month shy of his 90th birthday. Axelrod was



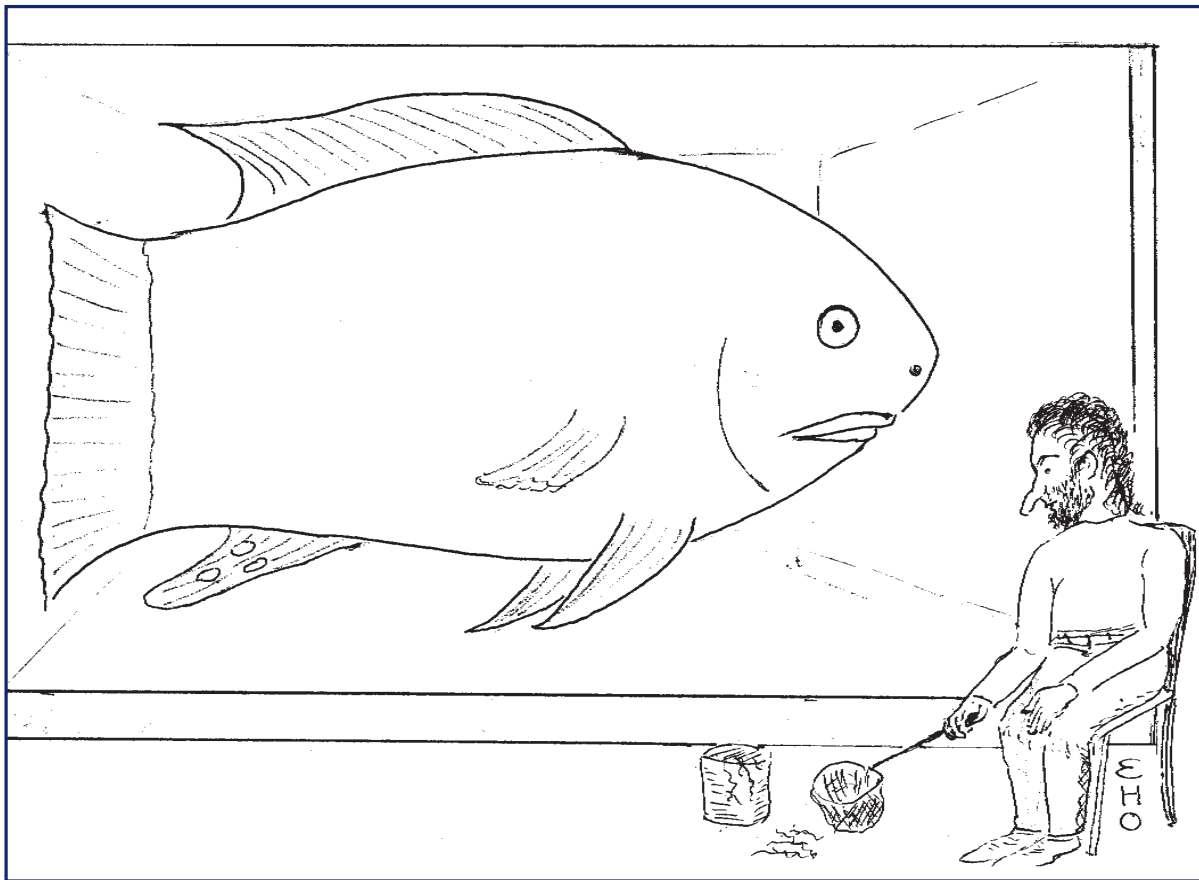
Herbert R. Axelrod (June 7, 1927 – May 15, 2017)
Photo from Wikipedia

the founder of Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine, which began publication in 1952 and is still published today. The magazine gave birth to TFH Publications, which became one of the world's leading publishers of all types of pet books

An avid aquarist, Axelrod traveled all over the world to collect fish, several of which are named after him. After selling his TFH holdings, Axelrod was convicted of tax fraud by the U.S. government, and when he finished his prison sentence the New Jersey-born Axelrod spent his remaining years living in Switzerland. At one time, Axelrod was undoubtedly the most well-known name in the American aquarium hobby.

Joe Ferdenzi

May's Caption Winner: Bill Amely



I guess microworms are out of the question...

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

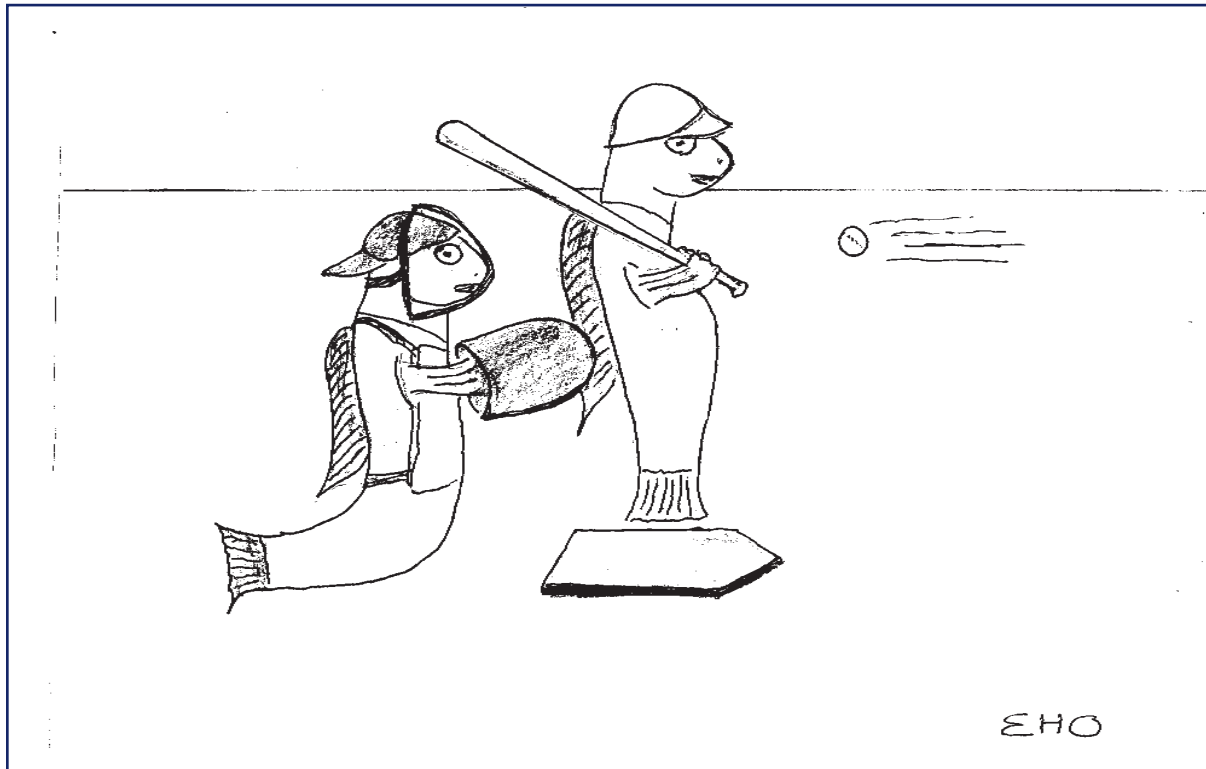
* \$15.00 Mobile charge

** Labor only. Equipment additional

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

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!



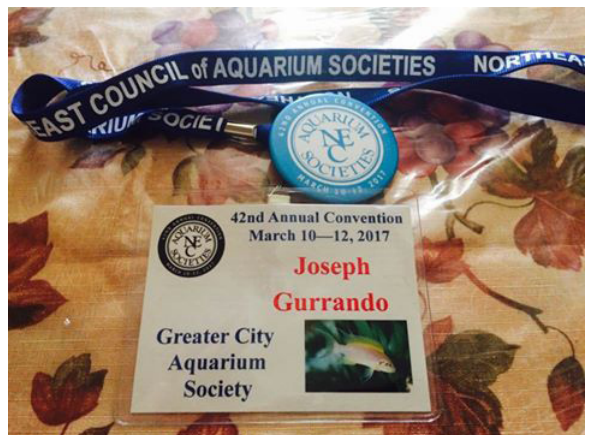
Your Caption:

Your Name:

Fishy Friends' Photos

by Greater City Aquarium Society Fishy Friends

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



Pictures From

Photos by Sue Priest



Tonight's speaker, Michael Lucas, brings us a program on Native Fishes



Would you go wading in a creek if you thought you could net this beauty?



Jeff Bollbach and Ed Vukich accepting breeders award certificates



Artie and Juice



How much am I bid for this box full of fish stuff?

Our Last Meeting

We warmly welcome
our newest member:



Rita Dunne

Bowl Show Winners:



2nd Place: Carlotti DeJager

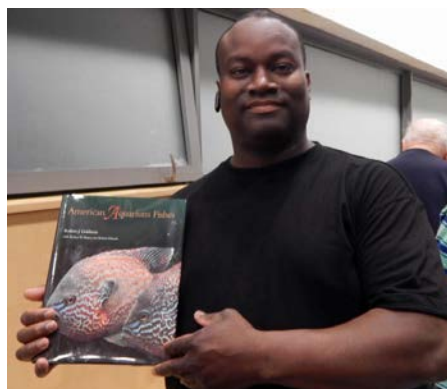


1st Place: Rich Waizman



3rd Place: Bill Amely

Door Prize Winner:



Wayne "Juice" Stephenson



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

Carib Sea

Cobalt Aquatics

Coralife

Ecological Laboratories

Florida Aquatic Nurseries

Fritz Aquatics

HBH Pet Products

Jehmco

Jungle Labs

Kent Marine

Marineland

Microbe Lift

NorthFin Premium Fish Food

Ocean Nutrition America

Oceanic

Omega Sea

Pet Resources

Pisces Pro

Red Sea

Rena

Rolf C. Hagen

San Francisco Bay Brand

Seachem

Sera

Zilla

Zoo Med Laboratories Inc.

Coral Aquarium

Monster Aquarium, Inc.

World Class Aquarium

Your Fish Stuff.com

The Undergravel Reporter Imposter Strikes Again!

OR

Was That Really A Mermaid?

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica

When we travel to Key Largo, we always enjoy our stay at the local Hampton Inn. Our dog Cordelia particularly enjoys this hotel because she has the opportunity to mingle with an array of wildlife right on the property. Unfortunately, she usually either dislikes her fellow creatures, or is afraid of them.

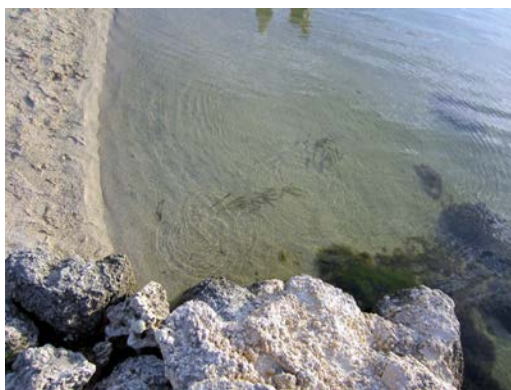
When the water along the shore is clear, Cordelia often mistakes where the land ends and the water begins. There is a small school of fish that swims along the shore in a few inches of water. Cordelia pokes her nose out over the water, and when the fish swim by she jumps back in amazement.

There is a colony of iguanas next to a narrow canal. Did you know that iguanas usually sleep in trees at night? It took us a few years to find them when they would vanish from the grass that they inhabited on the canal's banks. If frightened, an iguana would leap into the water and disappear beneath the surface. I would look long and hard for it to resurface. It seems that they can hold their breath and remain submerged for a long period of time. At night when walking

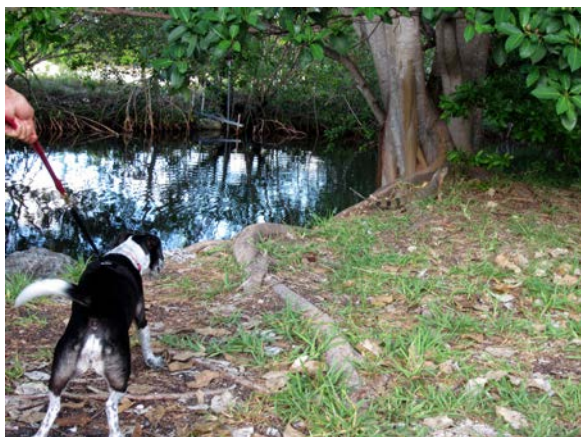
Cordelia we would never find iguanas sleeping on the ground. At dusk we would find them in the trees after we became proficient enough and found a few in the trees during the daytime. They blend in and virtually disappear. It took us until last year to figure this out.

Nightfall ushers in the appearance of other species, headlined by nocturnal raccoons. We see them every night before Cordelia's bedtime walk. You just have to know where to look, and we do—a large open topped garbage dumpster on the edge of the parking lot. Each and every night we spy several furtive raccoons rummaging through the dumpster looking for dinner, or perhaps a late night snack.

During daylight the animal action heats up. Near the pool is a tiki bar. The bartender used to bicycle to work every day with his parrot on his shoulder. He usually kept his pet near to or on the bar to amuse customers. On one trip we didn't see the bird; the bartender told us that Christine, the hotel manager, had finally barred the bird for sanitary reasons. He told us not to fret because he was training a local squirrel, who



This school of small fish has been frolicking in just inches of water for many years. Sometimes Cordelia does not realize there is water because of its clarity. When she sticks her nose out over the shore and the school swims by, she leaps back in amazement.

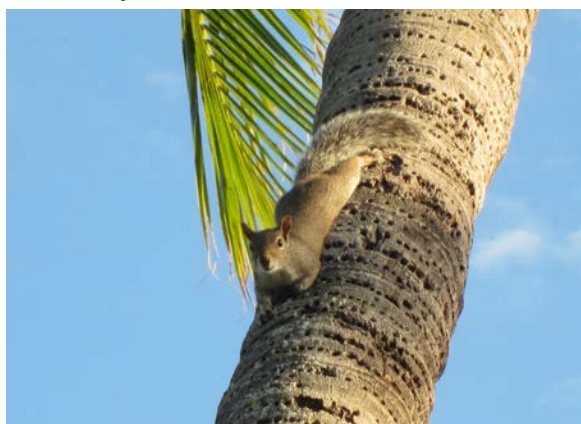


Cordelia tracks an adult iguana on the bank of a narrow canal adjoining Hampton Inn in Key Largo, Florida. If you approach too closely, the iguana leaps into the canal and submerges.



Iguana up a tree.

he had named Rocky, to replace his parrot. He grunted a few times and the squirrel bounded down a palm tree adjoining one end of the bar. The critter helped himself, or herself, to a few peanuts in a bowl on the bar and scooted back up the tree. I thought to myself, "Wait until Christine sees this!" Well, the tourists didn't seem to mind sharing their complimentary assorted nuts with a squirrel, but I wondered, again to myself, if the humans were picking their nuts out of the same bowl! I deemed George, the bartender, to be an official squirrel wrangler! In any event, he is a true Florida Keys character.



Rocky (the bartender's name for this cute rodent), the tree-climbing squirrel, is hesitant to descend his (or her) palm tree. Nevertheless, it poses handsomely for my camera as I stand between it and a pawful of delicious nuts on the tiki bar at the Key Largo Hampton Inn.



Egrets scour tiki bar area--probably looking for fallen bar nuts! Note darkly colored bird bringing up the rear.

Also residing at the hotel is a flock of about twenty-five white egrets. During the day and early evening they inhabit the beach and gardens by the pool area. No worries about sanitation. The pool is enclosed by a fence which keeps the birds out. When there is a passing shower, or it happens to rain a bit, puddles accumulate in the parking area on the other side of the hotel. You can find the flock congregating around these puddles to drink "fresh" water and occasionally dodging cars.

Perhaps the most striking visitors are mermaid-like creatures. On quiet nights the moon cast its beams upon the surface of the rippling waters of the

Straits of Florida. We would gaze out upon the water. Sometimes I would scan the surface with my powerful underwater light. For several years we would see mysterious sights. Could it be sharks or dolphins hunting in the twilight? Was it marker buoys? Was it just reflections flickering along the water? All we knew was that something was out there. We would mostly see it on moonlit evenings, or during those infrequent times when the clarity and stillness of a starry night illuminated the seascape. A non-romantic would say that it was the mind playing tricks, or merely a moonbeam bouncing playfully along the surface of the sea, but we knew better.

About two years ago, I was relaxing in our room at the Hampton Inn when Donna came in to say that our nephew Chris heard a commotion at the beach behind the hotel. A cacophony of accents, mostly British and German, alerted Chris to some event. I walked out back and saw Chris swimming near three manatees that were huddling together in the deeper water a mere thirty feet from the seawall. I went back to my room and grabbed my mask, snorkel, and underwater camera, and returned to the wall. About fifty feet away it sloped down to the water, so I waded in and swam to the manatees. My nephew was gently stroking a mother and her calf. They appeared to be enjoying the petting. The third manatee was probably the father. After observing that we were no threat, he slipped into deeper water and disappeared.



When Donna came to our room to tell me that there was something going on behind the hotel, this is the sight I beheld from the bulkhead (top of photo) I hurried back to the room to grab my facemask and camera. A few yards to the left is a small beach where I entered the water and swam to my nephew Chris and a family of manatees. It was quite a sight!

The water was very green with nutrients and the visibility poor, but I took as many photos as my time with the manatees allowed, from various angles. The manatees would move away only to return for more stroking. They did this several times before swimming to deeper water and slipping beneath the surface to mysteriously disappear. We have seen these, or other manatees, for the past two years. Children and their mothers would stand on the bank where the beach met the entrance of the aforementioned canal. They would scramble over boulders to reach out and offer



Chris caresses a baby manatee. Once the family became comfortable with humans, the father swam away and mother backed off to allow Chris to interact with the infant.



The reflection upon the surface of the water of the leafy tree canopy lining the canal camouflages the manatees. These two mammals appear to be a parent and child.



Manatee versus mermaid. Do you see a resemblance? I see one manatee arm. Is there a human arm sprouting on the other side?



Close-up of iguana preparing to escape into the canal.



All nature is one. When this dingy entered the canal, it was obvious that the dog instinctively understood that something great and mysterious was lurking below the surface.

fresh water to the manatee child and mother. Both eagerly accepted and drank great quantities. George the bartender, only a few yards away, would good-naturedly refill the plastic bottles for the children. Soon a sign was posted on the beach not to touch, feed, or offer drink to the manatees.

There may be something symbolic here for higher life forms: humans and sea mammals linking.



What's an article in a fish magazine without pictures of an actual fish? Uninflated porcupinefish, *Diodon hystrix*, takes a swim in front of my camera lens. At three feet, this is the largest spiny puffer, but this specimen is only about half that size. The spines come erect only when the fish inflates itself.

Perhaps this is another kind of evolution set in motion by children; and if it is not, we can always romanticize the mystery of the manatee as mermaid. You can look it up! Back to you, **true** Undergravel Reporter!



Michigan Cichlid Association Presents *Cruisin' for Cichlids*



ACA 2017

*July 13th - July 16th
Sheraton Hotel*

*21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-4000
Novi, MI*



*Facebook:
ACA Convention*

*First Class Tours
Belle Isle Aquarium and
Scripts Conservatory
Henry Ford Museum*

*Babes Auction
ACA Members-Only Raffle
Dry Goods Auction
Sunday Livestock Auction*

First Class Speakers:

*Juan Miguel Artigas Azas
Pam Chin
Jeff Michels
Chris Carpenter*

*Ted Judy
Larry Johnson
Dale Ernst
Dominic Cerngul*

For more information: ACAConvention2017.com

A FISH NAMED BO

THE MAKING (OR UNDOING) OF A CHAMPION

by Judy Weinberg
photos by Klaus Steinhaus

It started one horrible rainy night, almost ten years ago, when wind-whipping water from the skies came down in drenching sheets. You couldn't get to your car without getting soaked, no matter how fast you made a run for it. This was the night I acquired my first aquarium fish, the fish we have all come to know as Bo.

Wait, there is a prologue to this remarkable event. Standing before the central 100 gallon tank in Uncle Ned's Fish Factory in Millis, MA the winter before, I was mesmerized by the frenetic energy of a medium-sized, velvety-black cichlid. This fish was covered in large iridescent spots, was of a chunky build, and attacked the glass madly whenever I came near, and by this I mean, repeated, vicious, stabbing attacks, up and down the glass. This was the fish for me—I fell in love with that fish. The staff knew little about it, except that it was believed to be female, had been a trade-in because of its nasty temperament, and that it was a primitive cichlid from Madagascar.

I had previously kept bettas for many years. I had struggled to breed them and my efforts were largely a failure. The summer before, after what had appeared to be a successful spawn, several hundred larvae were bouncing happily underneath daddy betta's bubble nest. I counted at least two hundred baby fish that made it to the swimming stage, but from there things went downhill. The parent fish were very exotic—the male was a red double-tail super delta and the female was a large, turquoise crowntail—and I think this was the factor in the demise of their young. After ten weeks of nursing along a few remaining babies, it all came down to one lone individual, which I dubbed Intrepid. Intrepid was a beautiful blue-green, looked to be a crowntail like his mama, but he was a crooked, humped thing, missing a dorsal fin altogether,

evidently the result of too much inbreeding. He died after three months, and I mourned his loss. But I was ready to move on to other fish.

I went back to Uncle Ned's to visit the spotted, black cichlid from Madagascar. She was gone! Sold for forty dollars! I put Dan and Ned on notice that I wanted that fish should another appear, and I figured that would be the end of it. But no! One day I got a call from another customer there, he was looking to unload a 75-gallon tank. So, I drove to his house and shoved the tank and stand and a box of mostly useless equipment into the back seat of my Camry. I took it home and my practical and pragmatic husband helped me lug it into our sunroom—a room we had built off of our dining room. The fact that the price was right was the only thing Neal liked about it.

Still, something told me to set up the tank. I bought a new filter, cover, and lights. I read about cycling the water, and diligently followed directions and assiduously tested for ammonia and nitrates. That same week I got a call from Ned's. They had another bespangled black cichlid from Madagascar! I started doing research that night: this fish was known as a large spot *Paratilapia*, perhaps *bleekeri*, a fish endemic to the east coast rivers of Madagascar. This nomen has since proved to be an erroneous one, as *P. bleekeri* are extinct in the wild, have not been farmed anywhere else, and have died off among aquarists. This information came to me first-hand from Paul Loiselle, formerly of the New York Aquarium, who was the first to collect these fish in Madagascar, recognizing their extremely endangered status. Bo is among a threatened variety of small spot species.

So, on that fateful rainy night I found myself peering into a PVC pipe in the big tank at the back of Ned's. What looked back at me was Bo; he was at



Reprinted from *The New England Cichlid*, New England Cichlid Association, December 2015.

that time, about 6 or 7 inches, a drab brown-black, and covered in small spots. He was nothing to write home about. He was not a *Paratilapia bleekeri*, or any of the other large spot species; he was a *Paratilapia polleni*, small spot, exact species unknown. As it turns out, according to Loiselle, even large spot species found today are *P. polleni* too, and even they are hard to find.

I bemoaned the fact that I had missed out on the large-spot I had seen that first time. Bo, who was not beau in the least, checked me out from his hiding spot with large yellow eyes. “This is a *polleni*,” I said, and with those words, our fates were sealed. I took him home in the pouring rain on that dark and stormy night.



His story was this: A man from Rhode Island had raised the fish at home in a mixed cichlid tank. Bo had killed all of his tankmates, save for a red devil, and the guy had opted to keep the red devil. He chose poorly, in my book. This is how BO got his name: it is an acronym, short for Bad One. He has proven to be a bad one from that first night.

I let him loose in the 75-gallon tank when I got home. Neal's reaction: “What? That ugly thing?” Bo proceeded to attack his cave, a giant bean pot I had provided for him. He thoroughly shredded his fins and ripped a hole in his lower lip by thrashing around in the gravel between the glass and the cave, as though showing his new home a thing or two. He sulked in a corner, mean and mad, and turned a hideous brown.

The cut on Bo's lip took weeks to heal. While I worried about water parameters, this was an unnecessary concern, as I learned that *polleni* can survive in tough, brackish conditions, or in practically any water at all. What you want to avoid with these fish is ich or any fungal infection. Treatment at the first white spot is vital; the infection need not be very bad at all, but the fish have a very low tolerance for it and can succumb quickly.

Bo's injury healed slowly and became a huge, white scab that hung from his mouth. Very attractive. But he was, in fish lingo, “coloring up,” which made me think of what my obstetrician had said after the birth of my son, who “pinked up” after being born blue. Bo was now taking on a velvety, blue-black background and sported shimmering stars of pink, yellow, white and blue. These spots had aurora borealis-like properties, iridescent and undulating, as

he swam through the water. Each spot had a tiny black spot, an “eye,” to scare away predators during his dusk and dawn, crepuscular, feeding times. His head started attaining a hump, although it was low and sloping at first. His face was a hazel brown, his eyes were large, wide-spaced and yellow with a huge black iris. He looked as though he were wearing green lipstick on his broad lips. But his large and expressive eyes were the feature that really did me in. He looked at you as though he knew you and what you were thinking.

In fact, he did recognize the members of the family, and had preferences, too. Even though I was the one who fed and took care of him, he was in love with my daughter, Abigail. The fish would go into orgiastic frenzies whenever she walked past the fish room. I implored her to go in and visit with him for a moment—a poor, dumb, animal—but she staunchly refused and said we were both a couple of nutcases.

Speaking of being a nutcase; I have been accused of that in my fishkeeping endeavors, especially in the affectionate bond that I developed with Bo. Or, shall I say, in the bond he forged with me. It became apparent early on that Bo loved the way my hand would brush by his flanks when I was vacuuming the gravel of his tank. Before long, I could pet him like a dog. Anybody with an Oscar or a red devil knows that this can happen. Well, the members of the club I joined, TFSRI, thought that this was a total riot—a joke, even—until I was filmed petting him at one of the club shows. This was more than a case of a novice trying to treat her fish in some sort of anthropomorphic way; it became clear to them that Bo sought me out. One time, when I was stroking the fish at George Goulard's store, Aqua-Life, in Providence, RI after George had taken Bo to the Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza, an older gentleman paused in disbelief. I explained, “Bo likes to be scratched behind his hump.” The man replied, “So do I!”

George and Rich Pierce, of the NEC, were my mentors in my early years of serious fish keeping. Since Bo was my first, I ran to them with all kinds of questions. As Bo settled in and started to really grow, he attained a nuchal hump and what looked like a bulge in his nether region, in front of the vent. Fearing something serious, I sent a picture of this area to Rich Pierce, before I reached George. He said that it might be a hernia, as cichlids, particularly obese fish, can develop them, but added that he really didn't know. He suggested that Bo be put on a diet. So, for a time, I fed poor Bo a paltry diet of a pellet or two of medium-sized cichlid pellets. When I showed George the pictures I had shown Rich, George threw his hand at the notion of a hernia. George said that the fish needed to eat and proclaimed of the spot in question, “That is his manhood.”

As that first year wore on, I was learning to be an aquarist and it was Bo who ultimately showed me

the way. My sun room was quickly a real fish room, with more tanks skirting the eight, five-foot windows. And herein began a spate of disasters which were the making of my total ineptitude and my unintentional efforts to kill Bo.

I turned to goldfish next; big mistake. I learned the hard way that goldfish are among the hardest fish to keep. Anyway, I got a lionhead first and a big, shiny Hikari bag of lionhead food. This fish lived next door to Bo and beginner that I was, I would carelessly leave the goldfish food on top of Bo's tank. Well, do I have to tell you? The metallic, slippery-when-wet bag at some point slid into Bo's tank. It was before I went to bed—already three in the morning, when I noticed the beclouded tank and a gasping Bo at the surface of the water.

I don't know how or why exactly, perhaps learning by osmosis, as it were, but the words BIG WATER CHANGE came into my vision. So I hooked up the Python, and at first changed 50% of the water. The fish wasn't dead yet, but still at the top in a corner, looking less than well. Strangely, when I tested the water, the parameters still seemed fine: no ammonia or nitrates, and otherwise running straight down the middle of a 5-in-1 test strip, as per usual. I must have gotten to it early enough. If I had gone to bed without checking, the fish would have been dead as the tank crashed.

I waited 20 minutes and decided to do another water change. I repeated the 50% change and—Bo seemed better, able to swim a little. Now, the sun was coming up and I went to bed, not knowing what I would find in the morning. Of course he wasn't dead. He swam happily toward me the next day, greeting me in the way that is the reason why people keep cichlids. Maybe the goldfish food had easily digestible ingredients, maybe it was the water changes, I don't know. At any rate, there were no ill effects—that time.

The next mishap, if that is the way I can delicately put this ridiculous blunder, was Bo's near electrocution. I actually didn't think such a thing was possible, as fish aren't grounded in their tanks, and people are much more likely to get seriously zapped from, say, a malfunctioning glass heater. In this case, it was Bo's four-foot florescent light. Those were the

days when I bothered with lights. These days I've dispensed with them altogether, and the fish thrive on the natural, ambient light of the sun room. That night I was doing a water change and must have jiggled the glass tops a little too hard, as one side folded, fell into the tank and dragged down the light with it. The light was on, of course, and I jumped quickly to pull the cord from the wall but I was not in time. Bo's curiosity beat me to the punch and he swam after the light and touched it with his snout.

I watched in complete horror as the fish recoiled

sharply and was thrown backward in an arc to the top of the tank. All the color drained from his body and he was a sickening white. Then he fluttered to the bottom of the tank like a dead leaf and lay there, flat out. I started screaming for my husband. "Oh my god, I've killed Bo! I've electrocuted Bo!" I keep shrieking, "Get me a pail! I'm bringing him to Tufts!" I was out of my head. Bo looked back at me in his blanched state, his eyeballs still moved and there was a faint fluttering of his gills. He was still stretched out on the bottom, like a corpse stretched out on a coroner's table.

Neal came running over with a bucket. "What are you going to do? Shock his heart with little fishy paddles?" he asked, ever the

voice of reason. I was thinking fast, thinking that if I got him to a vet, something could be done. I planned to flush him back and forth in the bucket (as I have done many times in resuscitating a fish) to keep him alive. I don't really know what I was thinking. I was afraid to look—but Bo had somehow raised himself to a half-mast position.

He recovered very slowly. He was upright in an hour's time, horizontal, but still on the bottom and still grey. Another night was spent in a nervous vigil. He colored up, but when I approached the tank he turned a lighter shade of pale. If I attempted to pet him he avoided my hand. He finally came around, but he was royally pissed off at me. He hardly ate, and I feared he was damaged internally. My fears proved to be unfounded. He bounced back, flourished, and became the resplendently beautiful fish he remains today. Alas, there were a few more murderous attempts, but yet the fish lives.



There was also the time his heater broke, and instead of it shutting down, it almost cooked Bo. I understand they are good eating fish, and part of their endangered status is that they are overfished or devoured by invasive species. But I couldn't eat a fish like Bo!

Then there was the time I dropped him at a show as I removed him from a tank. He flipped and flopped his way across the showroom floor. And another time, when I crashed his tank after I did a 95% water change on a tank that had been left dirty during a vacation. I forgot that the siphon was still draining the water. In each of these embarrassing and grossly amateurish scenarios, Bo made a triumphant return, rising like Lazarus from the dead in spite of me.

George first took Bo to the OCA Extravaganza several years ago. I got a last minute call that George had room in his van to drive Bo there with his own fish.



I did a hasty clean-up of his tank, which he travelled and showed in. My fingernails had grown long, a rarity for me, and Bo, in his zeal for being petted, met up with a fingertip too closely. I scraped him badly.

Still, George dosed him with Melafix and took him to the show anyway. Bo did very well and won his class. The show chairman later told George that he had wanted to assign him Best of Show, but just couldn't do it, he said—because of the knife wound.

The rest of the story of Bo's showing and breeding adventures is for another time. For now, just know that, in a small town outside of Boston, there lives a once-in-a-lifetime fish, a black and bespangled creature, a starry-night cichlid, a moving Van Gogh. His good nature is irrepressible and his intelligence obvious. I am resting my head and lips against his tank. His humpy head is up against his side of the glass and his green lips are kissing me back. Two nutcases indeed.



- 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

Greater City Aquarium Society

Breeders Award Program

The purpose of the Breeders Award Program (BAP) is to give our members the opportunity to gain enjoyment as well as experience in the entire range of fish breeding and maintenance. Questions about the BAP should be referred to any member of the GCAS Board of Directors.

The program has two divisions: the Basic Program and Specialty Program. The Basic Program has five recognized levels; Breeder, Advanced Breeder, Master Breeder, Grand Master Breeder and Senior Grand Master Breeder and classifies fish as to the degree of difficulty and respective point value. Additional levels may be created, if necessary at the 1,000 point level and beyond, as required. The Specialty Program, however, does not recognize point value and only recognizes mastery in one specific category of fish.

THE BASIC PROGRAM LEVELS

Breeder..... 50 points

At least 20 points must be from the 10, 15, or 20 point categories.

Advanced Breeder..... 100 points

At least 40 points must be from the 10, 15 or 20 point categories.

Master Breeder..... 300 points

At least 30 points from each of the 5, 10, and 15 point categories, and 40 points accumulated from the 20 point category. 170 points may be from any category.

Grand Master Breeder.....500 points

Senior Grand Master Breeder800 points

POINT CLASSIFICATION

ANABANTOIDS

5 points	None
10 points	All species not listed otherwise.
15 points	All <i>Macropodus</i> except <i>opercularis</i> , all <i>Betta</i> except <i>splendens</i> and <i>macrostoma</i> , all <i>Belontia</i> , all <i>Trichopsis</i> and <i>Helostoma</i> .
20 points	<i>Osphronemus gourami</i> , all <i>Sphaerichthys</i> and <i>Betta macrostoma</i> .

CATFISH

5 points	None
10 points	<i>Corydoras aeneus</i> and <i>paleatus</i> , including albino forms.
15 points	All <i>Ancistrus</i> , <i>Aspidoras</i> , <i>Brochis</i> , <i>Dianema</i> , <i>Hoplosternum</i> and "Whiptail" <i>Loricariids</i> and all <i>Corydoras</i> not already listed.
20 points	All species not listed otherwise.

Please note: Effective January, 2014, all C-, CW- and L- number catfish will be awarded BAP points in the same manner as catfish that have been identified with a Genus and Species name, including all defined First Time Spawning Bonus points listed in this document.

CHARACINS

- 5 points None
- 10 points All Emperor Tetras.
- 15 points All species not listed otherwise.
- 20 points *Exodon paradoxus*, *Hyphessobrycon herbertaxelrodi*, all members of the “Hatchet Fish” complex, all *Prochilodus* complex, all *Anostomus*, *Paracheirodon axelrodi*, all *Phenacogrammus*, all *Serrasalminae*, including *Metynnis*, *Myleus* and *Serrasalmus*.

CICHLIDS

- 5 points *Cichlasoma nigrofasciatus* and *Herotilapia multispinosa*.
- 10 points All species not listed otherwise.
- 15 points All Lake Tanganyika Cichlids not listed otherwise, “Red Devil” complex, all *Etroplus*, all *Apistogramma* complex (*Apistogramma*, *Apistogrammoides*, *Nannacara*), all *Geophagus*, all Lake Victoria Cichlids, *Cyrtocara moori*.
- 20 points All *Symphysodon*, all *Uaru*, all *Crenicara*, *Astronotus ocellatus* (all color forms,) all Lake Tanganyika mouth brooders except *Tropheus* and *Tilapia*, *Cichlasoma* group *Parapetinia* (except *salvini* and *trimaculatum*), all Madagascar cichlids.

CYPRINIDS

- 5 points *Tanichthys albonubes*, all *Danio* complex, all Australian Rainbows (except *Pseudomugil*).
- 10 points All species not listed otherwise.
- 15 points *Barbus nigrofasciatus*, *Barbus semifasciatus*, all *Rasboras*.
- 20 points *Barbus schwansfeldi*, all Cyprinid “Shark” complex, Koi.

KILLIFISH

Due to the spawning habits of killifish, all species of killifish to be bred must be reported to the BAP Committee Chair prior to spawning so that proper witnessing techniques may be applied. All spawnings must be reported so that the date may be recorded.

- 5 points *Aphyosemion australe** and *gardneri**, all *Oryzias*, *Aplo. Panchax*, *Epiplatys dageti** and *sexfasciatus**, all *Rivulus* not listed otherwise.
- 10 points All species not listed otherwise.
- 15 points All annuals except *Nothobranchius guentheri* and those not listed otherwise, *Fundulopanchax sjoestedii*, *Pseudoepiplatys annulatus*, *Aphyosemion* “Diapteron” complex, all *Procatopus*, *Lamprichthys tanganicanus*.
- 20 points *Cynolebias dolichopterus*, *Nothobranchius rachovii**, *Pterolebias zonatus*, *Rivulus xiphidius*.

*all color forms

LIVEBEARERS

- 5 points All species not listed otherwise.
- 10 points All *Goodeidae* complex, all *Belonesox*.
- 15 points All livebearing Halfbeaks.
- 20 points *Anableps anableps*.

ALL OTHER SPECIES

- 5 points None.
- 10 points All *Badidae*, all Sticklebacks, Peacock Gudgeon (*Tateornida ocellicauda*).
- 15 points All species not listed otherwise.
- 20 points *Scatophagus argus*, all *Monodactylus*, all Loaches, all Eels, all *Mormyrids*, all Lungfish complex, all freshwater Stingrays, Dogfish and Sawfish, all freshwater and brackish Puffers, all Arowanas, Bowfins, *Arapaima*, Mudskippers.

The C.A.R.E.S. Preservation program: the Greater City Aquarium Society supports this program. As a symbol of our support, any fish that is part of the C.A.R.E.S. program and is bred as part of the GCAS BAP will receive an additional 10 points. It is the responsibility of the breeder to notify the BAP Committee that the species that has been bred is part of the C.A.R.E.S. program. The committee will verify that fact and award the bonus points.

First Time Spawning Bonus Points

First time within GCAS	Additional 10 points
First time within the U.S.A.	Additional 50 points*
First time in the hobby	Additional 100 points*

* You must write an article and have it published in an established periodical.

For first breeder points the fish must be identified by both genus and species. At the discretion of the BAP Committee Chair, first GCAS breeder points may be given for a fish that has not been bred at GCAS for a period of no less than 10 years.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SPECIES:

Points are awarded only once for each species or subspecies. "Mollies" are a genus which contains several species: *Poecilia latipinna*, *P. sphenops* and *P. verifera*. Being separate and distinct species, these are awarded separate point values; whereas the different color varieties of the common Molly are not.

Gold, Silver, Ghost, Marble, Black, Black Lace, Blushing, Veiltail, etc., Angelfish are all members of one species *Pterophyllum scalare*. If you spawn *Pterophyllum altum* or *P. dumerili*, these are separate species. A location or color morph variation, likewise, will not be considered a new species nor awarded first breeder points.

CHANGES IN POINT VALUE:

From time to time the point value for a species may be changed due to new experience or conditions. If the number of points is increased, the new point value will go into effect immediately. Should a point value be decreased, a cut-off date will be announced which gives sufficient time to allow breeders who are in the process of qualifying to complete their work. No point increase or decrease shall be retroactive from the date of that change.

BASIC PROGRAM AWARDS

Breeder's Award Committee certificates will be presented to every individual for a successfully completed and witnessed spawning. Distinctive certificates will be issued for the Breeder and plaques or trophies for the Advanced Breeder, Master Breeder, Grand Master Breeder and Senior Grand Master Breeder. To qualify for an award, the following rules for the correct witnessing procedure must be observed:

Witnessing

- 1) Fry are to be witnessed as soon as possible after they are free swimming.
 - A. Eggs must be spawned by the breeder's own fish.
 - B. If witnessed in the breeder's tank, the witness must see the breeding pair.
- 2) The aquarist must raise at least 10 fry to 60 days of age (60 days after free spawning for egglayers), except for species as may be from time to time designated and approved by the Board of Governors. These fry must be brought to a meeting and presented for witnessing.

When an aquarist wishes to have a witness verify fry, he/she should contact a member of the B.A.P. committee or the Board of Governors, who will then designate or suggest a suitable witness. Note that all members of the B.A.P. committee and of the Board of Governors may be witnesses.

Breeders will supply the form which is to be the official record for the Breeders Award. It is the Breeder's responsibility to be sure that all information is complete and that all signatures are properly entered. The completed form will then be taken to the B.A.P. Chairman.

THE SPECIALTY PROGRAM

Please note: Effective this BAP update, dated June, 2017, the Specialty Program has been discontinued. The rules have been kept in this document in the event that the Specialty Program is re-activated in the future.

In the Specialty Program, point values are not counted. However, the same requirements must be met as in the Breeder's Award Program for each class of fish. For example, if as part of an effort to achieve the Catfish Specialist Award, you spawn *Corydoras aeneas* (a 10 point fish), you must abide by the requirements of notifying a witness, 10 fry minimum, etc. If all the requirements are met, the fish is then eligible in both programs.

SPECIALITY PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards in the Specialty Program are given to each participant upon fulfilling the requirements for certification in a class. The following Specialist awards are also given:

Senior Specialist Award	4 Classes
Expert Specialist Award	7 Classes

Below is a list of classes in the Specialty Program and the requirements that must be met for certification in each class:

<u>Class</u>	<u># of Species Required</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Anabantoids	4	
Cichlids (Old World)	8	No more than 4 species may be mouth brooders.
Cichlids (New World)	8	
Characins	4	
Catfish	4	1 species must be other than <i>Corydoras</i> , <i>Aspidoras</i> or <i>Brochis</i> .
Livebearers	8	
Cyprinids	8	1 species must be other than a 5-point fish.
Killifish	7	At least 2 species must be Annuals.



Add the final notch to your belt!






Distinguish yourself as an advanced hobbyist by keeping and breeding a CARES endangered fish **Today!**

Give back to the hobby that has given so much to you!

Together we can and **WILL** make a difference! ❤️

caresforfish.org




Announcing a Change to our August Meeting: “A Night at the Auction”

by Ed Vukich

As most of you know, we have for years titled our August meeting as the Annual Silent Auction. At that auction all items—fish, plants, and new or used equipment were set out on tables, and members bid on the items using a paper bidding sheet located with each item. The highest bidder then pays for the item when the auction is announced to be closed. At this meeting there has been no speaker, bowl show, or raffle.

To change things up a bit, President Horst and the Board have decided to try a different format for this year's August meeting/auction. So, on behalf of our President and Board members I would like to announce The Greater City Aquarium Society's *A Night at the Auction*.

This *Night at the Auction* will work very similarly to our regular meeting auctions, but in the tradition of our Silent Auctions, there will be no speaker, bowl show, or raffle. The entire meeting will be devoted to what we hope will be a larger than normal auction, with more fish, more plants, and more supplies for our members to bid on.

As usual, we will offer our normal 50/50 split on all items donated for the auction, with 50 percent to the club and the balance to the member who brought in the item. You may of course donate 100% to the club if you like. We are also hoping to have various brand new items that have been donated to the club up for auction. Additionally, to liven things up a bit, we are hoping to have a few guest auctioneers participate.

We hope you can all make it, and each of you can help make this a great success by bringing in a donation for the club. And yes, refreshments will be available. See you there!



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



Koi Organisation International

We can help!

Learn Online

www.KoiOrganisationInternational.org

Sometimes You Need a Change!

by Jerry O'Farrell

I have some large tanks, and I need a change! I have been keeping fish for a lot of years—never for profit, just for fun. As many fishkeepers have found, once you get the bug you start coming down with the multi-tank syndrome. I have had as many as 30 tanks of different sizes at one time. Nowadays I have cut it down to five tanks: a two hundred thirty gallon, a one hundred fifty gallon, a ninety gallon, and two twenty-longs.

My fish of choice have always been discus and angelfish, with a splash of tetra.

With the new change I think I'm going to downsize again. Three tanks will be nice, so I will be giving my 230 and 150 away. Why? Because I am in negotiations with CustomAquariums.com for a new eight foot tank. It's not going to be built for a few months, as they have to make the tank, stand, custom canopy, and the sump, which can all take up to nine weeks once the order is placed.

I am re-doing my peace and serenity room, and by getting rid of the two large tanks plus the twenty-longs I will be able to put in some theater seats to view the new large tank. There will also be a flat-screen on the wall, as well as a new sound system to add to the peace and serenity. My official fish cave!

Buying a large tank takes a lot of research—it's a large investment! I went with Custom Aquarium because of their quality workmanship and customer service. The only downside is the wait for the tank. They also offer free curbside delivery and a rental of industrial glass suction cups to move the tank, but not the moving men. It will all come packaged in a reinforced wooden crate—not plastic film and cardboard corners. The rental fee is refundable when you return the cups.

Why am I doing this? So I can cut back on the amount of maintenance, and to make it easy for my grandson to work on and feed the fish while grandma and grandpa do some traveling—something she deserves and needs.

Larger tanks, believe it or not, are easier to maintain than the smaller ones. This tank will have 300 (+/-) gallons of water. A large sump with two returns and one drain with an evaporation chamber will add another 40 to 50 gallons of water. When you keep expensive fish stability is everything, and a large tank offers that. My discus will enjoy the extra two feet in length this tank offers, plus I have around twenty rummynose tetras and about the same number of cardinal tetras, as well as some long finned bushy-nosed plecos that I currently have and will add to the discus tank. I will also be adding a lot of low-maintenance plants and driftwood. Since the 150 gallon tank is full of Anubias and sword plants, plus Java ferns, I won't have to buy them. For the substrate I think I will use pool sand, since it doesn't compact and I won't have to stir it up to get rid of the methane pockets that form with regular sand. The lighting will be four Finnex LED planted-plus and color lights; two four footers and



Bobby's Angels

two three footers.

I mentioned three tanks. I also have a forty breeder in the garage that I will also be setting up again as a high tech planted tank, because I don't want to throw away the plants in the twenty longs. The ninety gallon will be in the living room with the angelfish and ten adult rose-line barbs. I'm keeping that tank because it belonged to my son who passed away last year from cancer (thus the angelfish). I will post pictures and let the club know when I am ready to give the tanks away with filters and canopies. Now to relax and watch the fish!



A selfie Bobby took during one of his stays in the hospital.



GCAS Member Discounts at Local Fish Shops

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

*"Quality and Service
since 1969"*

Find us on
Facebook Twitter



Fish Town, U.S.A.

196-33 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY 11358 • (718) 539-5396
www.fishtown-usa.com

10% Discount on fish.

BIRDS, REPTILES
SMALL ANIMALS

TROPICAL & MARINE FISH

FRANKLIN PET CENTER INC.

FRANKLIN SQUARE'S COMPLETE PET CENTER

212 FRANKLIN AVE
FRANKLIN SQUARE NY 11010
516.775.8183

HOURS: MON-FRI (10^{am} - 8^{pm}), SAT (10^{am} - 6^{pm}), SUN (10^{am} - 5^{pm})



20% Discount on fish. 15% on all else.

New **Kissena Aquarium**
 鴻運水族館

46-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355

Tel: 718.358.0761
 (金城發超市正對面)

www.kissenaaquarium.com



10% Discount on everything.

Monster Aquarium inc
 風水魚

131-08 40th Road,
 Flushing, NY 11354
 T : 347.732.0373
monsteraquarium@hotmail.com



10% Discount on everything.

PACIFIC AQUARIUM & PET INC.
 46 Delancey Street, New York NY 10002

Pacificnyc.com
PacificAquarium@gmail.com
 Tel: 212-995-5895
 Fax: 212-995-8041

Exotic Marine, Fresh Water Fish & Plants
 Custom Aquarium, System & Maintenance
 Complete Line of Aquarium Supplies

Open 7 Days & All Holidays
 10:00 am - 7:00 pm Daily



10% Discount on everything.

Pets Warehouse®

Everything For Your Pet

1550 Sunrise Highway
 Copiague, N.Y. 11726
 Tel: (631) 842-0400
 Fax: (631) 842-1476

Hours: 10-9 Mon. - Sat. • 10-6 Sun.
 E-Mail: Support@Pets-Warehouse.com
www.PetsWarehouse.com



10% Discount on fish.

KHC Aquarium

Your source for wholesale/retail saltwater
 and freshwater aquarium fish

(718) 888-7938

150-01 Northern Blvd.
 Flushing, NY 11354 (Basement)
KHCaquarium@gmail.com
www.KHCaquarium.com

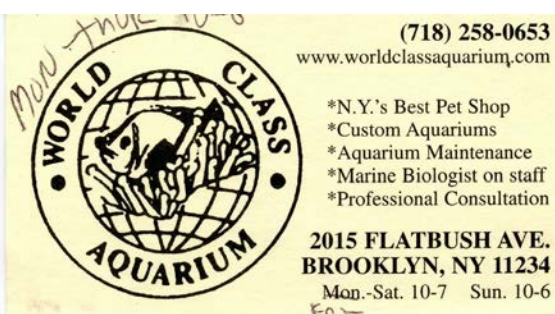


10% Discount on everything.

(718) 258-0653
www.worldclassaquarium.com

*N.Y.'s Best Pet Shop
 *Custom Aquariums
 *Aquarium Maintenance
 *Marine Biologist on staff
 *Professional Consultation

**2015 FLATBUSH AVE.
 BROOKLYN, NY 11234**
 Mon.-Sat. 10-7 Sun. 10-6



10% Discount on everything except 'on sale' items.

718-842-4141

PET RESOURCES

Where solutions are waiting for you



www.petresourcesite.com 814 Westchester Av.
Bronx, NY 10455

10% Discount on everything except 'on sale' items.

Advanced Marine AQUATICS

SALTWATER | CORAL | FRESHWATER |
AQUARIUM INSTALLATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Andrew

1083 WILLIS AVE 516-801-4161
ALBERTSON, NY 11507 ADVANCEDMARINEAQUATICS@GMAIL.COM

10% Discount on everything.



Meeting Reminders



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

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



GCAS Classifieds

FOR SALE: African cichlids -- all sizes, as well as tanks and accessories.
Call Derek (917) 854-4405

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

FOR SALE: 45 gal Tall tank w/black stand, hood, light.
 46 gal Bow brown tank w/stand, hood, light
 20 gal tank w/hood, light, filter
Call 516-567-8641

FOR SALE: Fish Hobbyist's Dream Home: \$149,500!

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 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 FROM FRONT PORCH



ELEPHANT BUTTE LAKE



RAFTING ON THE RIO GRANDE NEARBY

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 lived here for more than 23 years, and I had both the fish pond and the fishroom built for my hobby, but I'm now well into my 80s, 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 some too.

Charlie Kuhne: (575) 894-2957





GCAS Happenings

June

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

1 RICHARD WAIZMAN	PLAKAT DRAGON BETTA
2 CARLOTTI DEJAGER	CROWNTAIL BETTA
3 WILLIAM AMELY	RED GREEN DTM

UNOFFICIAL 2017 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

WILLIAM AMELY	9	RICHARD WAIZMAN	6	JEFF BOLLBACH	5
ED VUKICH	4	CARLOTTI DEJAGER	3		

A WARM WELCOME BACK TO RENEWING GCAS MEMBERS BRAD AND CLAUDIA DICKINSON!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBER RITA DUNNE!

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: July 5, 2017

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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

43-50 Main Street - Flushing, NY

Contact: Horst Gerber (718) 885-3071

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: June 9, 2017

Speaker: Ruben Lugo

Event: *My Adventures Keeping & Breeding L-#...*

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: June 23, 2017

Speaker: Chad M. Clayton

Topic: *Live foods topics for breeders and hobbyists*

Meets: Olive Garden Restaurant

257 Centereach Mall,

Centereach, NY 11720

Phone: (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: June 13, 2017

Speaker: None

Event: *Silent Auction*

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: June 15, 2017

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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: June 15, 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/>

The Eye of the Beholder

A series by “The Undergravel Reporter”

A common parasite that lives in fish eyeballs seems to be a driver behind some fish behavior.

The parasites then penetrate the skin of fish and travel to the lens of the eye to hide out and grow. The fish then get eaten by a bird – and the cycle starts again.

In a 2015 study, Mikhail Gopko at the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution in Moscow showed that fish infected with immature fluke larvae swam less actively than usual, making themselves less visible to predators, and harder to catch with a net.



The parasitic stage that inhabits fish eyes

When the parasite is young, it helps its host stay safe from predators. But once the parasite matures, it does everything it can to get that fish eaten by a bird and so continue its life cycle. The eye fluke, *Diplostomum pseudospathaceum*, has a life cycle that takes place in three different animals.

First, parasites mate in a bird's digestive tract, shedding their eggs in its feces. The eggs hatch in the water into larvae that seek out freshwater snails to infect. They grow and multiply inside the snails before being released into the water.

The same team has now infected rainbow trout with mature eye flukes and found that these trout swam more actively and stayed closer to the water's surface, making them easier for birds to catch. These studies show eye flukes manipulate their host's behavior depending on the age of the parasites. Immature parasites, too young to infect a new host, protect their host fish. Mature parasites, ready to reproduce, make their host fish easier for birds to catch.

Now I wonder if eye flukes are why some of my fish are harder (or easier) to net.



Reference

¹<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2129880-parasite-living-inside-fish-eyeball-controls-its-behaviour/>



Fin Fun



BACK to BACK

At our last meeting, several attendees had colorful tee-shirts. Below are the **BACKS** of some of those shirts. Can you identify the wearer?



Select from the following choices:

Joe Ferdenzi

William Innes

Rich Waizman

Al Priest

Bill Amely

Ron Webb

Ed Vukich

Jason Kerner

Dan Radebaugh

Pete D'Orio

Jeff Bollbach

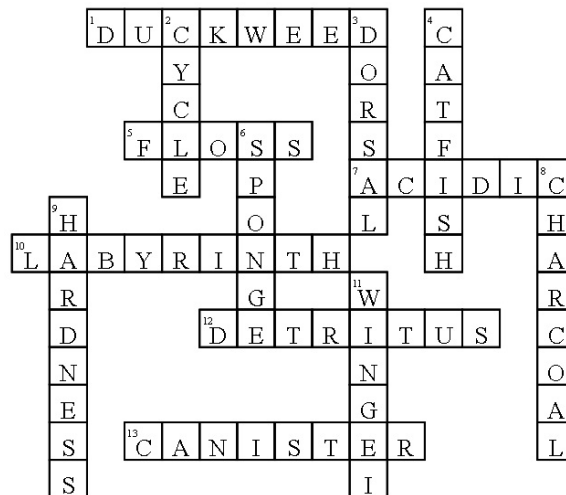
Steve Sagona

Andrew Jouan

Horst Gerber

Elliot Oshins

Solution to our last puzzle: **CROSSED FINNAGE**



The 2017 NANFA Convention

June 8–13, Meramec State Park, Missouri



Hosted in part by the Missouri Department of Conservation

- The Meramec River drainage is home to over 120 fish species, including the Meramec Saddled Darter (below)
- Boat trip to Pelican Island Preserve on Missouri River, with opportunities for collecting, fishing & trawling, plus an evening cookout on the island.
- Fellowship with other native fish fans, including aquarium keepers, anglers, snorkelers, biologists and more
- Presentations by native fish experts
- Annual NANFA auction and banquet
- Fish photography
- Roughly an hour from St. Louis airport
- Hotel (4- and 8-person rooms) & cabins on site (hotel rooms are being held for NANFA until May 1, but cabins could not be held. Reserve soon!)
- Registration includes banquet meal, two sack-lunches for field trips, and the cookout/boil on Pelican Island.
- There are several hotels located along Highway 44.
- *Did we mention the cookout on a Missouri River island?*



ITINERARY



JUNE 8: Travel day and check-in

JUNE 9: Check-in (9–noon). AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP TO THE MISSOURI RIVER AT PELICAN ISLAND NATURAL AREA (accessible only by boat). Buses will be provided. There will be trawling trips and ample space to collect fishes from an expansive gravel bar. Evening cookout on-site.

JUNE 10: MEETING AND PRESENTATIONS The afternoon is free so attendees can explore the park, chase fish, or enjoy area attractions.

EVENING BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER

JUNE 11 AND JUNE 12: COLLECTING TRIPS

Three options each day for exposure to different habitats (big rivers, medium-sized rivers, and smaller streams) and maximum species variety.

TRIP 1: LaBarque Creek Conservation Area. This creek has the highest fish species diversity in the Meramec River basin for a stream of its size.

TRIP 2: Canoe trip on Big River or Meramec River.

TRIP 3: To be determined.

JUNE 13: Bob Hrabik will guide a trip wherever (within reason!) remaining die-hards want to go.

REGISTER NOW! www.nanfa.org/convention/2017.shtml

FISHES OF THE MERAMEC RIVER BASIN: Northern Brook, Least Brook, Silver & Chestnut Lamprey • Lake & Shovelnose Sturgeon • Paddlefish • Spotted, Longnose & Shortnose Gar • Bowfin • Goldeye & Mooneye American Eel • Alabama & Gizzard Shad • Skipjack Herring • Largescale & Central Stoneroller • Goldfish Common, Grass, Silver & Bighead Carp • Red, Spotfin, Steelcolor, Striped, Bleeding, Redfin, Golden, Emerald, Bigeye, Ghost, Bigmouth, Wedgespot, Sand, Carmine, Mimic, & Channel Shiner • Gravel, Shoal, Silver, Hornyhead, Bigeye & Creek Chub • Silverjaw, Ozark, Suckermouth, Bluntnose, Fathead, Bullhead & Mississippi Silvery Minnow • Southern Redbelly Dace • Northern Studfish • River, Quillback & Highfin Carpsucker • White, Blue, Spotted & Northern Hog Sucker • Western Creek & Lake Chubsucker • Smallmouth, Bigmouth & Black Buffalo • Silver, River, Black, Golden & Shorthead Redhorse • Black & Yellow Bullhead • Blue, Channel & Flathead Catfish • Slender & Freckled Madtom • Stonecat • Northern Pike • Chain & Grass Pickerel • Rainbow & Brown Trout • Blackstripe & Blackspotted Topminnow • Western Mosquitofish • Brook Silverside • Mottled & Banded Sculpin • Flier • Green, Pumpkinseed, Warmouth, Orangespotted, Bluegill, Longear & Redear Sunfish White, Rock, Smallmouth, Spotted & Largemouth Bass • White & Black Crappie • Logperch • Western Sand, Crystal, Mud, Greenside, Rainbow, Fantail, Johnny, Stippled, Orangethroat, Banded, Gilt, Blackside, River Slenderhead, & Meramec Saddled Darter • Sauger & Walleye • Freshwater Drum • **AND THAT'S JUST ONE BASIN!**

