

modern AQUARIUM



August 2014
volume XXI
number 6

Greater City Aquarium Society - New York



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Series III Vol. XXI, No. 6 August, 2014

ON THE COVER

Parrotfishes come in all sizes and colors. Perhaps the most colorful is this spotlight parrotfish, *Sparisoma viride*. Adults may attain a length of twenty inches. If you can get close, you can identify an adult by a yellow spot at the upper corner of the gill cover and the base of the tail. For parrotfishes of a different color, see Steve Sica's article on page 19.

Photo by Stephen Sica

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From the Editor

by Dan Radebaugh

As regular readers of this column will likely recall, sometimes I scan the table of contents, looking for “themes” that often unintentionally emerge as an issue comes together. Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn’t. It almost happened with this one, and I almost got greedy enough to force it, but in the end reason prevailed. I’ll explain.

One of the things that could be claimed about this issue is that it almost certainly contains an article by our youngest author to date, Zachary Hammerman (see “What I Learned” on page 7), as well as an article by Elliot Oshins, very likely our *oldest* contributing author (“Rules & Options” on page 21). So right away we have one potential theme. What else might be lurking? Hmm – there’s an interesting title: Steve Sica’s “Midnight and Blue in the Coral Gardens of the Parrotfish” (page 19). So we have old, new, blue... What are we missing? Something borrowed? Well, perhaps I could find a worthy article from another club to reprint. Clearly losing perspective a bit, I began looking through my collection of exchange publications for something to “borrow.” I found a few nice articles, but I finally snapped out of it when I remembered that I begin writing this column when the issue is FINISHED! So, pouring a mental glass of cold water on my head, I now return to *this* issue. No themes.

There is something else new, though. Leslie Dick has contributed this month’s Fin Fun puzzle! Thank you Leslie, and welcome to **Modern Aquarium**’s list of authors! While speaking about our monthly Fin Fun puzzle, I also want to take my hat off to Al Priest, who comes up with these puzzles issue after issue. I don’t know if I could devise even one, let alone ten a year!

This month being August, GCAS Treasurer Jules Birnbaum reviews the past fiscal year in his fishroom. What’s new and different, and how is it all working? See page 10. In “The Cycle of Life” on page 13, Rich Levy also reviews new projects in *his* fishroom, as well as updating us on the status of Sandy, the pinfish he wrote about last year. Joe Ferdenzi, in his intriguingly titled “Do Guppies Get Along With Oscars?” (page 9), offers us some reminders about how aquarium societies can succeed or fail.

Following our photo spread from last month’s meeting, Rosario LaCorte treats us to Chapter 6 of his autobiography, “An Aquarist’s Journey.” I trust all of you have been enjoying this journey as much as I. Thanks, Rosario!



Finally, The Undergravel Reporter tips his hat to the World Cup, followed by Leslie’s Fin Fun “Cross-fish Puzzle.” Enjoy!

* * * * *

Remember, we need articles. We always need articles! **Modern Aquarium** is produced by and for the members of Greater City Aquarium Society. Our members are our authors, and with ten issues per year, we always, always need more articles. I know several of you are keeping and/or breeding fish, or working with plants or inverts 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	Joseph Ferdenzi <i>Aquascaping</i>
July 2	Joseph Graffagnino <i>Tips & Tricks on Breeding Fish & Raising Fry</i>
August 6	Silent Auction
September 3	Joe Gargas <i>Water and the Aquarium</i>
October 1	Vinnie Ritchie <i>Lake Malawi Cichlids in a Community Tank</i>
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

The evolution of the Internet as an information resource over the past decade or two has been nothing short of phenomenal. Curiously though, I find myself using it these days rather less than I once did. Perhaps the time it takes to edit this magazine has something to do with that. Many of the sites where I used to spend time I now hardly ever visit. Truth to tell, in addition to having less time to browse, there has also been a fatigue factor. How many times can you slog through the same (well, similar) questions and answers about species of interest? Well, some good things are happening. Check out this email I recently received from one of the premier cichlid sites that I sometimes visit:

"Dear Dan:

The purpose of this e-mail is to remind you that as a **Cichlid Room Companion** user you can get the latest news about your favorite cichlids species by subscribing to the particular species profiles. To do this all you have to do is click on the "get news" link to the left of the profile picture in the desired species profile. You can stop receiving news about the species you are subscribed as easily as you subscribe by clicking at the "unsubscribe" link that replaces "get news" when you are subscribed to that particular species.



You can subscribe to as many species profiles as you want. The news are sent on a daily basis in a single digest e-mail (providing there are news to report about your subscribed species). News sent include new papers or articles published that deal about the species, updates to the species profile, as well as new pictures or videos about the species.

We hope we can provide you the best information available about your favorite cichlid species.

Sincerely
Juan Miguel Artigas Azas
Site editor
The Cichlid Room Companion"

This is great! Now I don't have to go and browse each species on the site to see if there's anything new. They'll let me know! All along, special interest forums have automatically notified us of new activity on specific threads we were subscribed to. This is at last a great leap forward. Hopefully, other sites that we depend on for reliable information will pick up on this!

Also, I received a note from Joe Graffagnino that the Brooklyn and North Jersey clubs are proposing bus trips to the following conventions:

Catfish Convention, Oct 17 - 19 at the Hyatt Dulles, Herndon, VA for 2 nights.

Ohio Cichlid & Catfish Convention 20th Anniversary, Nov. 21 -23 at the Holiday Inn near Cleveland, Ohio for 2 nights.

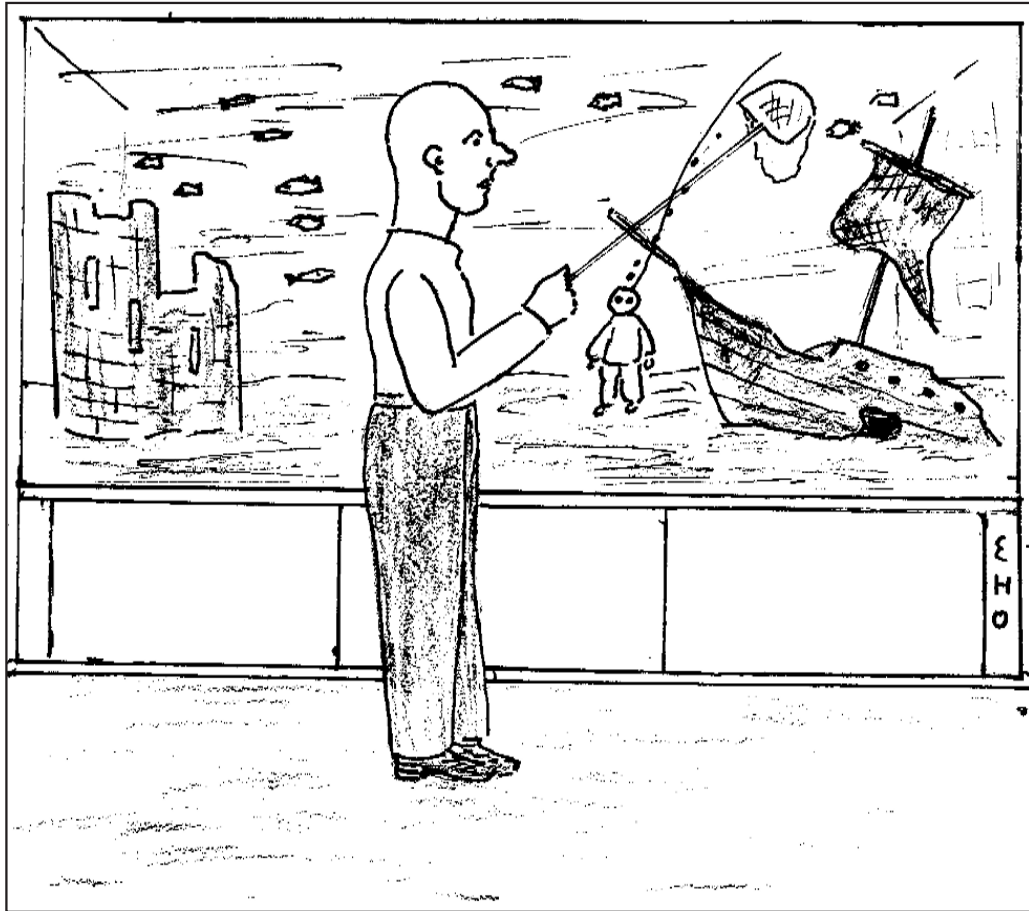
Contact Joe if you're interested in going.

Dan



July's Caption Winner:

Bill Amely



I wonder if this is how Jacques Cousteau got started?

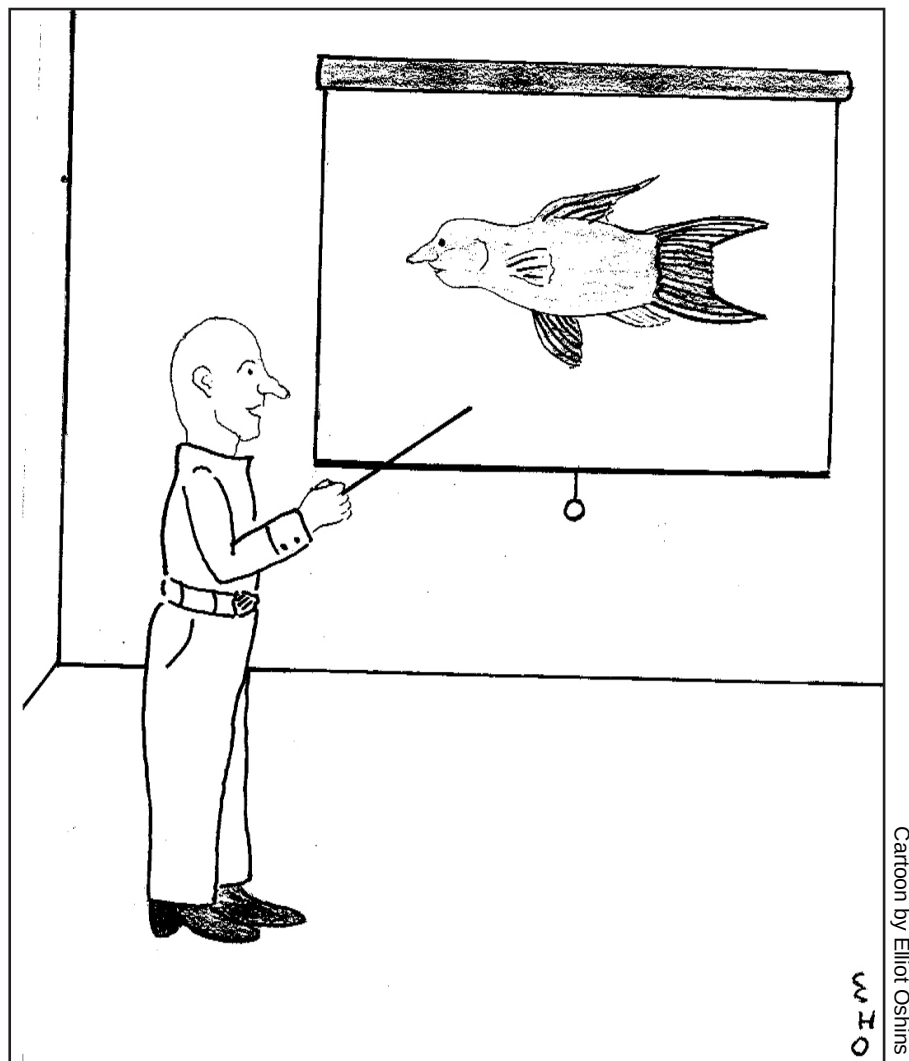
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The Modern Aquarium Cartoon Caption Contest

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



Cartoon by Elliot Oshins

Your Caption:

Your Name:

Our Youngest Author?

Via Email: gcas@earthlink.net

To: Dan Radebaugh

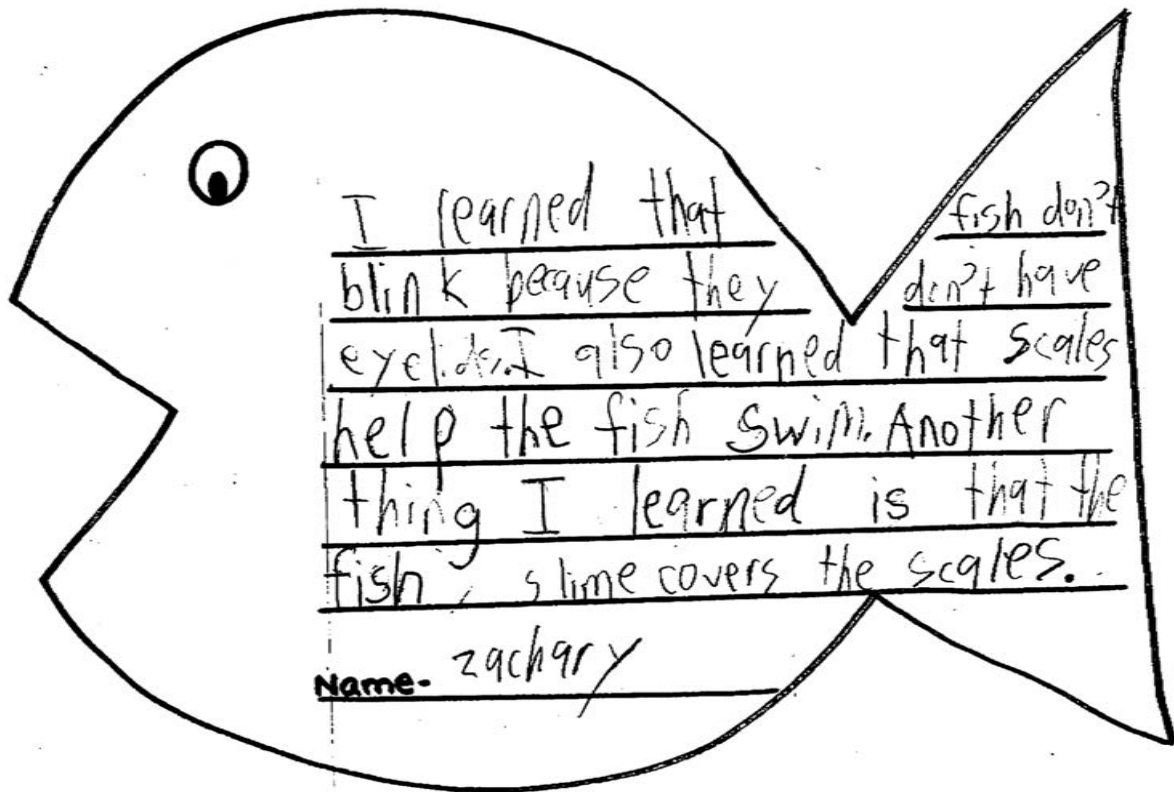
Dear Dan,

I am submitting a letter that my grandnephew, **Zachary Hammerman**, sent me. Zachary has a small tank in his home that houses a goldfish. He knows that his Uncle Elliot is very interested in fish and that I have many tanks in my home. As a matter of fact I have helped him set up his tank.

I would like to submit the letter that he sent me telling me about his fish. It looks like Zachary is starting his interest in fish at the right age, as he just turned eight in March. I believe this would make him one of the youngest writers about the hobby!

Sincerely,

Elliot Oshins



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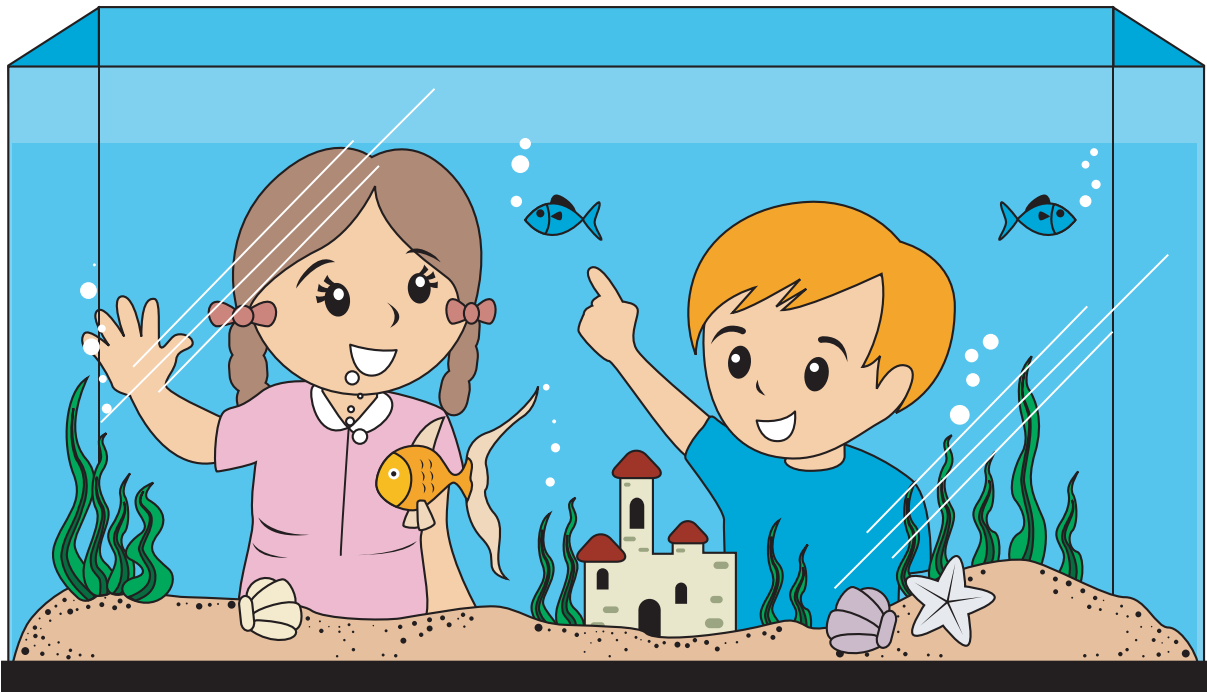
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If you have any 5 or 10 gallon tanks, or any filters, pumps, or plants that you could donate to NYC teacher Michael Paoli's classrooms, could you please bring them in or email Rich Levy (rlevy17@aol.com). If you'd like to donate larger tanks, be sure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

Do Guppies Get Along With Oscars?

by Joseph Ferdenzi

Once upon a time (isn't that how all fairy tales begin?), there was a man who came to his first aquarium society meeting. After listening to the presentation given by a very experienced guest speaker, this man raised his hand. "Yes," the speaker acknowledged, and the man replied with a question, "I have Oscars, and I wonder if they get along with guppies?" There was a pregnant pause, and then the speaker answered, "Why, Oscars simply adore them!" As peals of laughter rang about the room, the speaker quickly realized that the man had not asked the question in jest, and he tried to assuage any hurt feelings by saying that he was only kidding, and proceeded to give a serious answer. Everyone lived happily ever after.

The moral of this story? Never underestimate how little beginners actually know. Therefore, keep this in mind if you are the President of an aquarium society or the Editor of its publication, and allow me to make a few suggestions (especially if you are a beginner at either of those two positions).

At meetings, always announce that your club is very happy to have anyone who is a beginner in attendance. Explain that you have many experienced members who are all only too happy to answer questions, and that all anyone has to do is come see you during a break, ask the question, and, if you cannot provide the answer, you will introduce them to someone who might be able to. This simple introduction of your club will go a long way toward making beginners feel appreciated and want to join.

When they do join, make it a practice to introduce them to the assembled members, or do so in your monthly publication or on your web site. How you do it is not so important as simply doing it.

Always have at least one program a year that is geared toward beginners. Such a program can be about many topics. For example, it can be about community aquariums, easy-to-breed fish, how to aquascape, what is or is not safe to use as aquarium decorations, fish

foods, basic equipment and how to use it, gadgets you can make from everyday items—the subject matter is limited only by your imagination. And here's the other wonderful part: almost any experienced member of your club is qualified to give it. Not only will this showcase your members, but it will save money and be easy to schedule.

If you are the Editor, be on the lookout for articles that contain advice or information that may not be understood by a beginner. For example, if a breeding article says that a particular fish is a "mop" spawner, don't assume that a beginner will understand what that means. Ask your writer to explain what a "mop" is, how the eggs are laid in it, and what to do with them. This kind of explanatory writing is also useful if the article is reprinted and read by a beginner in another aquarium society. In certain instances, a writer does not have to revise his material because the explanation is simple and can be supplied by a judicious Editor—perhaps the writer has stated that a fish likes alkaline water, and the editor inserts a parenthetical that says "ed. comment, when your pH measures above 7.0." Again, never underestimate what beginners need to be told.

We all realize that without beginners (which all of us were at one time), this hobby (or any hobby for that matter) cannot survive. And even if the hobby could, your aquarium society almost certainly could not. If you wish to learn about an historical example of a once-great club that did not survive because it failed to attract the allegiance of newcomers, see my article entitled, "The Aquarium Society of New York: A Study in Extinction," published in the April 1998 issue of **Modern Aquarium**. Be nice to beginners, and your aquarium society should live happily ever after.

Photos:

Guppies from newenglandguppies.org
Oscars from Dan Radebaugh



A Fiscal Year In My Fishroom

by Jules Birnbaum

Since its construction, my fishroom has been well documented in the pages of **Modern Aquarium**. Let's take a look at what changes have been made in this small 9 X 11 foot room.

- 1 Different filters. There are 33 new ones.
- 2 New (for me) fish food.
- 3 New LED lights
- 4 Many new fish.
- 5 A new antique sign that reads, "Gone Fishing."

The things that did *not* change are the plants, tanks, and the heat pump for air conditioning and heat. My fishroom is a converted garage, which can be hot in the winter and cold in the summer. The heat pump has worked out very well since I had it installed 5 years ago.

I read a lot while watching the Mets lose, so the learning process is ongoing. There is a wealth of information on the internet, and I also seem to be developing a little library. Maybe it's Joe Ferdenzi's influence, our fellow member who is a nationally recognized authority on the history of the aquarium hobby.

The change of filters is an experiment. I've tried canister, hang on, box, and sponge filters. Each has its advantages. With regular water changes and filter maintenance all will work well. The jumbo box filters do a great job; the water can be buffered with different media, and you can easily see what is going on. If the tank's bio load is heavy the filter will show it by showing dirt faster. Some breeders say they are not as effective for breeding purposes because the fry can get caught in the filter, but that problem is solved by simply removing the cover.

Most canisters are powerful, and do the job if properly maintained, but unless you have deep pockets, they are much too expensive. Of course for a very large tank this type of filter might be the most practical for you.

Sponge filters are inexpensive, and they also do a very good job. This type of filter offers fry a place to get their first food. However, to properly clean them you have to remove the filter, and squeeze and squeeze in aged water to get the dirt out. I was never

able to tell when the sponge needed cleaning. Also the sponge material eventually wears out.

Whatever filter you use, make sure there is a slight current produced in the tank to circulate the water. The easiest way to do this is to put an air hose or a second filter at the other end of the tank. How fast this current should be depends on the species you are housing. I use two filters each in my tanks of 20 gallons or more.

After trying all of the above my personal choice is the large box filter. I ended my last article in *Modern Aquarium* with the mention of a new version of a box filter called the "Rocket" by its developer, Joe Gargas. Joe is a water expert and breeder of fine angels, rams, and discus. Joe will be the guest speaker at our November meeting. The "Rocket" is properly named, as it looks like a rocket on the launch pad.



As I mentioned, this filter is a variation of the common box filter. I tried a few, liked them, and replaced all my box and sponge filters. The basic difference is that the water enters the filter from the bottom and flows through pea-sized lava rock, then through a clear tube filled with fiber, and finally up the lift tube back into the tank. The filter works in a reverse order from the regular box filter, which draws water through holes in the top hitting the fiber first. The Rocket filter is made from PVC, and a clear plastic tube housing the

fiber. This filter takes up less space than my previous filters, and should last a long time.

Joe Gargas feels that water finds its path of least resistance, so channeling is a problem in every filter. When a filter gets dirty the water bypasses much of the media, causing the filter to do a poorer job. His Rocket was developed with this in mind. My son-in-law, an engineer and VP with ConEd, confirmed the channeling effect on filters. The Rocket filter does cost more than the ordinary box or sponge filter. However, it seems to me to do a better job, it's sturdy, and will last much longer than a sponge filter. So we don't go out to eat for a year or two—the fish come first. Of course don't let your spouse read this.

If you want crystal-clear water using the Rocket only, use a thin layer of gravel on the tank's bottom. It is even better to keep the bottom bare and place rooted

plants you might have in clay pots. Since the Rocket's water intake is from the bottom it is advantageous to keep the tank's bottom clear.

The change in fish food came about by trying many different flake and pellet foods. I've purchased dry fish food from several sellers, such as Ken's, JEHMCO, and Angels Plus. These are all good sources, but I like to try new things, so I sent for samples from Brine Shrimp Direct. This is also the company I buy my brine shrimp eggs from. I recommend asking for samples before ordering any large amount of fish food. Brine Shrimp Direct's brine shrimp flakes contain a color enhancer (astaxanthin), and you can see the difference in the color of your fish. I still use frozen bloodworms, live brine shrimp, and in cooler parts of the year, blackworms.

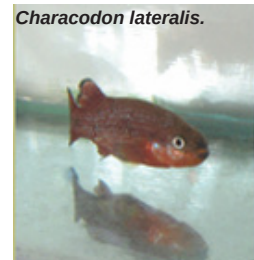
The LED lights are from Current. LED lights use much less electricity than traditional bulbs, are lighter, cooler, last longer, take up less space, and make the fish look their best. I also had to adjust my timers, as these LEDs are very intense and encouraged algae. Overall I like them. The down side is the very high initial cost. I replaced 12 lights, but feel more up to date and will eventually get back the initial cost with savings in bulbs and electricity.

The new fish were necessitated by several tanks crashing. My fish in these tanks were keeling over and I could not figure out why. The mystery however, was finally solved. I was using a water-polishing filter on those tanks. I did not read a label on a container of bleach that I used to clean algae off plastic parts and my water polishing filter cartridges. My wife bought bleach with added cleaner, and I never noticed until it was too late. Read labels, and keep anything toxic away from your fishroom. Wash your hands before and after working in your fishroom.

I maintained rams years ago, and decided to purchase some on Aquabid. They are German blue rams and gold rams. I also was high bidder for two groups of *Apistogramma cacatuoides*. I added some of Joe Ferdenzi's magnolia leaves to the tanks to help lower the pH somewhat, and more than that, offer some hiding places. I also added a group of 16 of Joe Gargas' dime-sized koi angels. I ordered eight based on pictures of the parents, and he sent an extra eight as a bonus because of the small-size fry. To my surprise he later sent me a gift of 16 dime-sized blue angels. Since this is overload, I will grow them out and bring the juveniles in to one of our auctions.

These angelfish are kept in two five-gallon tanks to assure they find food easily, and to facilitate easy 50% daily water changes. Each tank has two cory catfish to catch any uneaten food. After a month the angels will be moved to larger tanks.

I am also maintaining a couple of rare livebearers: *Ameca splendens*, given to me by Joe Ferdenzi and Allen Wood, and *Characodon lateralis*, purchased from Greg Sage of Select Aquatics. Greg sells rare and endangered livebearers. I have previously written



an article about Greg for Modern Aquarium. Lastly, I purchased a group of tank-raised *Corydoras sterbei* and a group of *C. laxozonus* catfish from Ted Judy. These are very interesting, active little catfish that I've had on my wish list.

The antique sign, "Gone Fishing," was a Fathers' Day gift from my son, who has a good sense of humor. Stay tuned for next year. I'm bound to try a few new things in my fishroom.



References:
www.brineshrimpdirect.com
www.aquaresearch.com
www.selectaquatics.com
www.tedsfishroom.com





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The Cycle of Life

Story and Photos by Rich Levy

I wrote an article last year on LIKA's annual saltwater collecting trip, noting that I grew attached to the pinfish who survived both my tank and tropical storm Sandy. I also enjoyed writing the story. But what to write about this year?

The answer came when Joe Fredenzi (good things always come from Joe) offered his water lilies to anyone in our club. I was interested, and accepted his offer. I went by his house a few days later, and Warren Feuer and Joe helped me get everything in my car. There were two beautiful tropical lilies, one whitish yellow, the other reddish pink. They were still in bloom, and I decided to enjoy them in my pond before wintering them over in my fishroom. Everyone knows that a fishroom contains much more than fish.

My idea was to see if they would survive the winter in my fishroom. Because they are tropical, Joe told me that he could either pay the supplier to winter them over in their greenhouse, or buy new ones each year.

Since I am retired from teaching science, I miss doing experiments, so I decided to make one up and do it. I could then write an article about it for **Modern Aquarium**. However, if it turned out to be a failure, it would not make such a great article.



I went online and researched what others had done to winter over tropicals. The two methods were basically wet versus dry. The dry method involves removing the tuber, treating the roots with a fungicide, and setting it up in wet sand. Boy, was I surprised when I took it out of the pot Joe had used. It was tiny! For the wet method, I needed to return Joe's pots

anyway and I knew that the tropical also was not large, so I kept the soil around the roots and put it into a smaller pot, and put it into a tub that was in my fishroom. I let the plant die back and only had the light available in the fishroom. We were leaving on a cruise, and I wanted to get the plants indoors. At the same time, I was getting my fishroom ready and putting the

lights on timers to make Jeff Bollbach's life easier looking after the room.

I didn't realize that my filter for the marine tank (Sandy's) was on the timer. When I woke up next morning I was shocked and saddened when I noticed that the filter was off and Sandy was dead. Sandy had made it through nine days of no power during the storm, but because of the growth spurt, nine hours of no filtration did her/him in.

It took me awhile to see a bright side. I would have felt even more terrible if the fish died on Jeff's



watch. Also, I was so excited about how well I felt the lily experiment was going, my thoughts made me think of the life cycle and tie it in with the plant experiment.

On returning from the cruise and finding everything the way I had left it, I had to hope that the lily would start to grow again. Getting impatient, I made a trip to Scherer and Sons, where Joe had purchased the lilies. Obviously business was slow, and the owner took me on a tour of where they over-winter the plants. Most of them looked just like mine—with no growth.

As soon as I saw new leaves coming up, I bought an inexpensive fixture and 600 lumens LED light at Ikea. I started it high, and lowered it as time went on. I felt great when I had a LIKA meeting at my house and Joe was able to see the success of the experiment. I asked Joe when a good time would be to put the plant outdoors, and he said to wait until a few weeks after Mother's Day to be safe. I always listen to Joe.

To get my little pond ready for the summer, I always drain it. I forgot to mention that this winter I did something a little different with the pond. I knew I

had two green frogs, and I also wanted to over-winter them. Harry Faustmann uses a pump and airstone in his setup. I covered over the pump and set up the airstone. No problem all winter, even after the huge snow buildup. To my surprise and joy I started to fish out my frogs, and not only did I get two, but a third, which was probably one I never realized I had.

Putting two and two together (lilies plus frog), the title of my article came to me: "The Cycle of Life." By the time I finally got time to sit down and write the article several other cycle-of-life experiences came to mind. For example, Jeff had brought in some praying mantid cocoons, and I put them in an enclosed container and watched them hatch, and released them outside. So far I have not seen them again.

I plan to continue over-wintering the lilies, as well as documenting other summer through winter cycle-of-life experiences. It's always good to have different things to look forward to.







The All-Aquarium Catfish Convention

Presented by
**Potomac Valley
Aquarium Society**

October 16-19, 2014

Hyatt Dulles
2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard
Herndon, VA 20171

Registration:
<http://www.catfishcon.com/register.php>

All individuals registering for the conference prior to August 1 will be entered into a drawing for a prize valued at \$200

Early Conference Registration Package - \$165

Late Conference Registration Package (after July 31) - \$175

Convention Packages include access to all speakers and include meals Friday night, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Banquet and Sunday Pizza party during the Auction.

A la carte prices:

Speaker presentations

Early registration - \$45

Late registration (after July 31) - \$55 (NO entry to the drawing)

Meals

Friday dinner - Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna - \$32

Saturday breakfast - Elements Restaurant on Level One, Attendees on own (10% discount with convention badge) Saturday lunch - Deli Bar - \$26

Saturday Banquet - Choice of pork, catfish, chicken or vegetarian - \$50

Sunday Pizza during the Auction - \$12

Field Trips

Collecting Trip - \$45 (details are TBD)

Winery Tour - \$90 - visit 3 wineries

Souvenirs

Convention Glasses - \$6

T-shirts (info and pictures coming)

Margarita Tours Raffle - \$50 entry

Speakers



Hans Evers



Julian Dignall



Birger Kamprath



Ian Fuller



Melanie Stiassny



Ingo Seidel

Midnight and Blue in the Coral Gardens of the Parrotfish

Story and Photos by Stephen Sica

When you do something often enough, occasionally you notice a trend. I have noticed many during my years of diving. One that I find to be unique is that parrotfish that are either blue or a bluish shade congregate in schools more often than not, and much more often than other species of parrotfish. I have unsuccessfully tried to research my observation. As a result, I am hesitant to say that my observations are valid. But I do believe this to be a trait of some species of parrotfish, even though my evidence is scant.

I always admit without hesitation that my experience in the underwater world is very limited. One or two occasional dives and a few minutes underwater hardly equal a grain of sand in all the oceans of our planet. It's evident that the scientific method is not my definitive research tool. In fact, I hardly remember how to implement it. Let's just say that a keen eye is what I depend upon, and that keen eye usually belongs to my wife Donna! In this respect Donna is sort of my assistant, but please don't tell her that I put it like that or I might be eating leftover pizza crust for the rest of the week. I use the term assistant in a literary sense, since I think that I have the best wife, and I know that she would agree.

There are two species of parrotfish that I have often observed in schools. Both are attractive and interesting. They are the blue parrotfish, *Scarus coeruleus*, and the midnight parrotfish, *Scarus coelestinus*. Most schooling fish that I have observed of these two species are fully grown. While there may be an occasional smaller straggler, the primary fish in the school are always adults. Unlike the vast schools of the much smaller grunts and snappers, these schools usually consist of a dozen or fewer parrotfish. One of my goals when I observe a school, or if the school happens to swim by me, is to try to determine if there is a primary or lead fish. When I think that I

have found the leader, a different parrotfish is off and running, or should I say swimming, usually followed by the school. Then another fish appears to take the lead. It's difficult to say if these fish schools have "pack leaders" in the sense that canines do.

In my own aquariums, I enjoy the action of small schooling fish, such as tetras and rasboras. Often, I wonder if there is a fish leading the school. Is one even necessary in a twenty-four inch long "ocean?" It would be interesting if there is a definitive answer.

Fortunately, parrotfish like shallow waters. You don't have to swim down to 100 feet or more to find them and observe their behavior. They are always in motion, swimming around the reef looking for food, except when one or more actually stops to nibble on a sponge or coral. The lead fish, or should I more accurately say the fish in the lead, is almost always scouring the

reefs and sands for food.

Since most reefs start at less than sixty feet, with twenty to forty feet being the average depth, it is fairly easy to observe parrotfish. They are not shy around divers. While they do not go out of their way to interact, neither do they flee. They tend to ignore divers, and just go about their business to find and eat food.

The blue parrotfish is all blue. An adult measures from two and a half feet up to a maximum of four feet. The former size is common in adults. Rarely will you find a four foot blue parrotfish. A fully grown fish has a bump on its head that seems to me to be more like a squared-off head, versus a sleek head leading into the body like a long tube. Younger or juvenile parrotfish are lighter blue with yellow highlights on top of the head. A very young fish is faded blue/white with a yellow head leading back to its dorsal fin.

The blue parrotfish is occasionally found in Florida, the Bahamas and Caribbean. They commonly feed over reefs and occasionally in sand. They usually



A school of blue parrotfish search a reef in the Bahamas for a meal of coral polyps, algae, and seaweed.

ignore divers, but move away if you approach too closely. I have found that if this fish is grazing or concerned with its search for food it will ignore the diver.

The midnight parrotfish is mostly navy blue with bright blue or white markings around the head. These fish are also occasional in Florida, the Bahamas and Caribbean, where they swim along the reefs to scrape algae and seaweed from rocks and coral. They also nibble in the sand. What they find in the sand is unknown to me. The midnight parrotfish averages two feet in length with a maximum size of three feet.

I find both species to be an impressive sight when swimming in small groups in the water column. All parrotfish have powerful jaws with fused teeth or “beaks.” Their coloring is bright. While the blue and midnight may be uncommon, parrotfish in general are commonly seen on reefs. They eat by scraping algae and polyps from coral and rocks. Residue is often observed and regularly excreted on the reef as parrotfish grind corals when they feed. These fish undergo dramatic changes as they mature, and learning to identify parrotfishes in all their phases is very difficult.

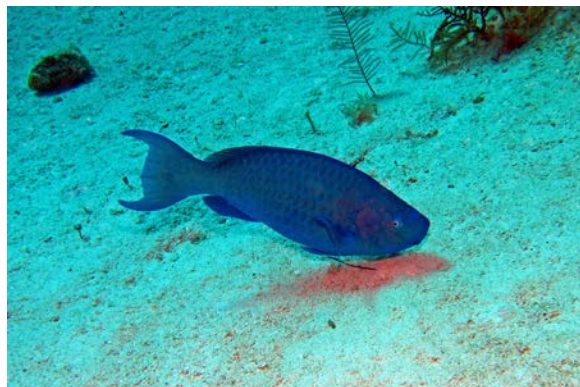
Another interesting note comes from **Modern Aquarium’s** Editor, who sent me an e-mail on July



The midnight parrotfish has lighter markings around the face and head area. Its shape is sleeker in comparison to the bump-like squared head of a blue parrotfish. The coral polyps behind this fish offer a delicious meal.

2nd in reference to a study by several international organizations. The study concludes that Caribbean reefs *need* parrotfish and sea urchins. A drop in their population is a great contributor to the decline of coral reefs, because both of these animals feed on seaweed. The decrease in their numbers has led to an increase in seaweed that smothers the coral reefs. The report claims that the main culprits in the decline of reef systems are overfishing, coastal degradation, and diseases introduced into the region. The report blames climate change, more specifically, the warming of the oceans, for only a ten percent responsibility in the decline of coral reefs. Hopefully, over time the true reasons will be either verified or discovered.

If you happen to find a parrotfish in a pet shop, it’s probably a juvenile. Remember, if you decide to purchase one for your marine aquarium, you may be helping to destroy a coral reef. But if you do purchase it, unless it’s a four inch long adult greenblotch (*Sparisoma atomarium*), a diminutive parrotfish, you may not recall what the fish looked like two, three, or four feet later. Then, I’m sure that you’ll put it back on the reef!



This blue parrotfish, *Scarus coeruleus*, is easily identifiable by its blue color and squared-off head. This specimen was leading a small group scouring the sand. It appeared that they were searching for food. They swam quickly, hardly stopping to examine the contents in the sea sand.



The blue parrotfish at right leads its small school through coral heads above the sandy seafloor searching for food.



In the cool, early spring ocean waters near Grand Bahama Island, less than 100 miles from Miami, Florida, blue parrotfish scour the sand in about forty feet of water.



Midnight parrotfish, in their continuous search for food, inspect the corals on a shallow reef off the shores of Key Largo, Florida.



This small school of midnight parrotfish attacks its dinner of coral polyps with gusto in Key Largo, Florida.



Midnight parrotfish attack the living coral to begin feeding. Notice the poor quality of these Key Largo corals. Some have large dead areas indicated by white and lighter shades.



Once these midnight parrotfish find a food source, a "food fight" begins as they attack the reef with their beak-like teeth.



This adult midnight parrotfish prepares to nibble on a section of living coral. I wonder how the polyps feel about becoming a fish's meal?



A school of midnight parrotfish swim in the forefront of a dying coral reef. Note the large whited-out areas of dead corals. Many marine and climate change experts believe that more parrotfish in the oceans will reverse the trend of dying corals. Parrotfish eat seaweed and algae that often smother reefs and hinder growth.





Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies

Serving the Northeastern Portion of the United States

SUMMER AUCTION – 2014!

SUNDAY August 10, 2014

OF FISH (All Species), AQUARIUM EQUIPMENT AND RELATED DRY
GOODS,

Location: THE CROWNE PLAZA

100 Berlin Road

Cromwell, CT

(860) 635-2000

Registration: Register at the auction, 50/50 split, 10 or more lots 60/40 split, 1 red dot per vendor, add'l red dot/10 *lots, please label your bags

*Acceptable lots will be determined by the auction committee

Food & Refreshments will be available

AUCTION HOURS:

REGISTRATION.....8:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

VIEWING OF GOODS.....9:30 AM TO 11:15 AM

AUCTION.....11:30 AM TO 6 PM

RAFFLE.....50 / 50

Rules & Options

by Eliot Oshins

I look forward to the first Wednesday of every month from March through December for the fish meetings of The Greater City Aquarium Society. My good friends Ed Vukich or Jeff Bollbach are nice enough to pick me up and take me to the fish meetings. Thanks again guys.

Seeing old friends and listening to guest speakers is a good way of spending an evening and the coffee and cake isn't bad either. Picking up a copy of **Modern Aquarium**, I find the articles very interesting and educational. Also, the smiling faces in the photos, thanks to members taking the photos, and you know who you are.

I learn something new in every article that I read. Of "Do's and Don'ts" I would like to mention a few of my own:

1. When doing tank maintenance, always disconnect the electrical cord from the outlet. You never know if the heater is very hot or is working right. Check out the lights and timer. I have dropped the lights into the tank; that can be very scary. Turning off the power is a must.
2. Never eat a large meal on the night of a meeting. It could be your favorite dish: steak, lamb chops, chop suey, pizza, meatballs and spaghetti, etc. If you're lucky, someone feeds you. Tell them a large meal will make you sleepy, unless it's the chef at the Four Seasons. I know if I've eaten too much and the lights go out for the presentation, I fall asleep. The speaker spends a great deal of time preparing the text and the photos, and it's not fair to him or her if we're falling asleep during a presentation. And if you snore, turn in your membership card. Please don't smoke, and eat light. It's healthier.
3. A good water change once a week to clean the glass in your tank is important. I use very fine steel wool, the kind they use to polish furniture. It can be purchased at Lowe's or Home Depot. I also use it to polish my sink after using it for shaving and washing.
4. If you have a large tank on a stand (a hundred gallons or more and the top is too high for you to reach), I use a small footstool, instead of a chair, to feed my fish. It's safer—using a chair you can tip over and fall.
5. If you have a fish room, always keep one or two extra tanks ready. You never know when some fish might come up for auction or you find some fish that you fall in love with and must have. A spare tank is always a good bet to have.
6. Don't be afraid to spend the extra dollar when you are at the auction; believe me, it's worth it. If you really want the fish or plant, it probably costs more in a store or by mail order. And the seller goes home happy with a smile on his or her face.
7. Some people float the fish bag in the tank. I put the fish in a small container and cover the top, as some fish do jump. It's very important to test the pH so the fish go into a tank with the same pH level. Never put the water that the fish came in into the new tank.
8. Please don't name your fish. Dogs and cats should have a name. They become part of the family. In Florida I saw people putting small dogs in very small carriages. Why? I don't know. There must be a reason, unless the hot sun down there has affected their brains.
9. Photos of family and friends are great, and even photos of your pets are fine. Photos of fish are nice, but should definitely be kept at home behind closed doors. If you start carrying photos of your fish in your wallet or pocketbook, I would suggest that you do not show them to family or friends. You'll be given strange looks and weird smiles. Save them for the fish club.
10. When I go food shopping I make sure to buy zucchini for my fish. I cut it into small slices. You can feed it to the fish raw, or steam it for a few minutes until it becomes a little soft. Tie it onto a small flat rock and drop it into the tank. The rest I freeze. I also buy shrimp, cut it into very small pieces that the fish can eat. One shrimp goes a long way. It's very cheap, and is a good source of food for the fish. Every market sells it.
11. Fish should be given about eight hours of light per day. If you have plants, 12 or 13 hours a day.
12. Spend more time watching your fish than watching television. It's more relaxing, and healthier.



Pictures from



This evening's program was on a topic that all of us are interested in,



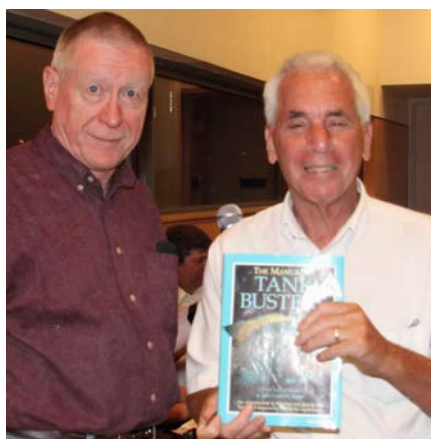
...and was presented by a master breeder and President of the Brooklyn Aquarium Society, Joe Graffagnino.



Jeff George takes time out from his masters degree studies for some "R&R."



Marsha Radebaugh is multi-tasking at the membership table.



Door Prize Winner:
Michael Macht

our last meeting

Photos by Al Priest



A warm welcome to our newest member:
Chris Banwell

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:



1st Place: Ruben Lugo



2nd Place: Rich Waizman



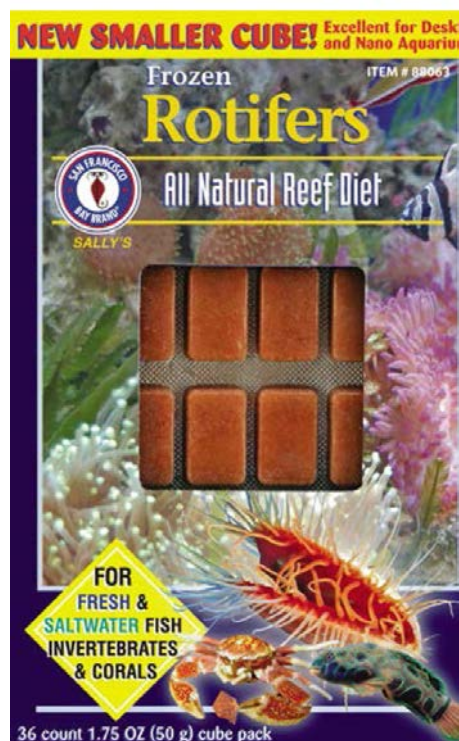
3rd Place: Leslie Dick



The auction is always a highlight of every meeting!

Rules for Tonight's "Silent Auction" / Fleamarket

- ★ The seller sets an opening price for each item.
 - ★ Bidders write down their bids in increments of at least \$1.00 That is, your bid must be at least one dollar more than the previous bid, and **you may only bid in even dollar amounts** (such as \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00, etc.) Bids of dollars and cents such as \$1.50, \$2.75 will be invalidated.
 - ★ A bidder may not cross out his/her own bid to enter a lower bid.
 - ★ The highest bidder at the end of the auction wins the item.
 - ★ Proceeds are split 50/50 between the seller and Greater City. (Of course, the seller may also donate 100% of the proceeds to Greater City!)
 - ★ Items not claimed by winning bids (or if there were no bids, by their owners) at the end of the auction become the property of Greater City.
 - ★ Bids entered after the auction has been declared closed will be invalidated. The decision of the Auction Chairperson or President on whether this has happened is final.
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AN AQUARIST'S JOURNEY

Story and Photos (unless noted) by Rosario LaCorte

Chapter 6

Major General Thomas White, Chief of Staff of the Air Force under the Eisenhower administration, made tremendous contributions to our knowledge of tropical fishes, in particular to the genus known at that time as *Cynolebias*. In 1957 I mentioned to Herb Axelrod that General White had done extensive exploration of the fishes of the Rio de Janeiro area in 1940-1941. Armed with this information, Axelrod contacted General White with the notion of profiling the General and his wife Constance. They did meet, and the General was profiled with a well-deserved article that appeared in **TFH**.

Meeting with General White and learning about his explorations inspired Axelrod to plan a trip to Rio and São Paulo. While I was in his office one day Herb surprised me with an invitation to join him on this journey, and offered to pay for my flight, which I thought was very generous, though I wondered how my wife Jean would feel about it. She was not overjoyed about my going to Brazil, even for a week. In January, my 4th and youngest child Eileen had been born, and was at the time of this story six months old. Had we not lived in an apartment above my parents' home, I would not have gone. I had some brothers still living at home, so there would be some help with the kids. It wasn't an easy decision, but it was a wonderful opportunity to collect in Brazil, a desire I had entertained for many years, even as a teenager. I would only stay for a week, and the rest of the party would continue on to Uruguay.

The party consisted of Herb, his wife Evelyn, and Ulf Hannerz, a young Swede who won \$2,000 on a TV program which imitated our **\$64,000 Question**, which at the time was a popular TV program.



Photo of Ulf Hannerz and myself taken in 1958 prior to our departure for Trinidad.

Ulf became famous for his knowledge of aquarium fishes. He was 15 years of age at the time, and his youth was probably a big factor in his popularity as a TV contestant

in Sweden. In a personal conversation he chuckled and told me the big challenge which netted him \$2,000 was his naming correctly the several tanks of fish that were on display. What the public didn't know was that all the fish that were there to be identified belonged to a close friend of his. The year before, when he won the money, he went to Nigeria on his own to collect fish. When you think about it, Ulf was very courageous to leave home and go to another country, Africa no less, with no contacts, to collect fishes. He was able to collect one new species of *Aplocheilichthys*, which bears his name, *hannerzi*.



General Thomas D. White.
Air Force Photo.

The four of us left Newark Airport in July of 1958. Flying in a Constellation, we stopped in Miami, and then flew to Trinidad, where we would stay for two days. We had nice accommodations in Trinidad, and once we settled in we hired a taxi for the two days of our stay. The cab driver, of African ancestry, was a very cordial fellow named Paul, and his buddy Foster was of East Indian background and also a very amiable fellow.

We had nets and bags with which to collect and maintain our collections. We covered a good deal of the Island, collecting some wild guppies in an upper elevation stream that was cool and very clear. The guppies had magnificent colors! We stopped at a banana plantation and walked through some heavy brush to reach a blackwater pool which sported a magnificent population of *Pristella riddlei*, and to this day I have never seen such a handsome population with such an intense red caudal.

Stopping by a blackwater pool, Foster and I jumped into the water, which reached a few inches



Our guides Paul (on left), me in the center, and Foster on the right. Taken in Trinidad 1958.



Prestella riddlei; one of the species we collected in Trinidad.

below our chins. As we pulled our net and brought it to the surface blood red tetras dazzled our senses. We assumed that this was something new, for at the time only approximately 54 species were known from Trinidad, and there was no mention of this fish. We collected a rather nice assortment, including catfish, *Rivulus*, and assorted characins.

During the evening we were entertained by a calypso steel band. That was a first for me, as this type of music was seldom heard in the U.S. at that time. As we sat around the lobby of the hotel we wondered what we should name this new tetra that we found in the isolated pool. Since we were entertained by the calypso steel band, I thought it would be appropriate to name the fish with a word that would associate itself with the island of Trinidad. Why not calypso tetra? Everyone agreed, and so it was. Unfortunately, I only saw one once, years later, mixed in with a group of other characins from Trinidad.



This is *Corynopoma risei*, the swordtail characin. Found in Trinidad as well as Venezuela. Its unique mode of reproduction made it a favorite at one time. They reproduce by internal fertilization by the male. Females can carry fertile eggs for a period of several months and spawn without a male being present.

The following day we did some more collecting, and after capturing some other species, we got into the car, ready to go to another area. Upon climbing into the rear seat, I placed my hand at the divider door frame separating the front from the back. Before I could remove my hand from the door frame, Ulf slammed the front door on my hand, catching my ring finger. I had a deep gash—I thought I would lose the tip of my finger. We were directed to a Dr. Littlepage,

an English doctor. He gave me some stitches, and also prepared to give me a shot of penicillin. I said, “Doc, I’m allergic to that. I had a bad reaction to it during my military time.” Nevertheless, he gave me the shot, which he said was now prepared in a different form and was slow acting, so I should not have any harmful reaction. He also gave me a prescription for penicillin salve, which I had to apply a few times a day after changing the bandage. It did not stop me from entering the water to collect; I was really making the best of this chance to collect fish in all the varieties of water that we explored. Infection was a good possibility with any carelessness. Ulf never once apologized or asked to see how I was progressing. I guess one could associate that with his youthfulness.

One of the largest specimens we caught in Trinidad was a pleco catfish. We really did not want it, but Foster asked to keep it, from which he intended to make a soup for his family. During our stay we met one of the better known collectors. We could leave our fish there, and then have them shipped at a later date, upon our arrival back in the U.S.



A wild pleco much like the one that Foster took home for his family to make soup.

Our next destination was Rio de Janeiro. We wanted to collect some of the annuals that General White had found 18 years earlier, as a major in the Army Air Corp with the American mission. We contacted Antenor Leitão de Carvalho (1910-1985), a herpetologist assigned to the National Museum in Rio. Although Antenor was a scientist working with reptiles, he nevertheless had a great interest in cyprinodonts. While there, we also met Drs. Haroldo Travassos and Paulo de Miranda Ribeiro. All three were closely associated with George S. Myers, who had spent two years at the museum in the early 1950s. Carvalho spent two years at Stanford University studying with Myers, so his English was quite good. The other two gentlemen were not as well versed, but had a smattering of English. Since Haroldo Travassos was an expert in characoid fishes, Axelrod deposited the specimens of the new tetra we found in Trinidad with him. They were eventually named *Hyphessobrycon axelrodi*.

Our hotel in Rio was quite good, and it was located on the beach, which was sparsely occupied, as July is their winter, so it did not attract the large

crowds that were found during their summers, when temperatures would soar beyond 100° F. It was the same year that Brazil won the World Cup Soccer championship. Sleeping was impossible, as rockets and fireworks filled the air in celebration. Soccer is a very big sport in South America, and to win the world title was an even bigger event.

The following day Carvalho and another scientist, an ornithologist whom I can only remember as Bill, supplied us with transportation. The panel truck was appropriate for us, as it had dual crossed flags of the United States and Brazil. It was used at another time for a dual expedition carried out by the two nations. Since Antenor knew the collecting sites of the annuals, we were in good hands. We crossed Guanabara Bay on a ferry on our way to Cabo Frio. It was a long ferry ride. Today Rio Niteroi Bridge, 8.25 miles long, provides access. It was at Cabo Frio that General White discovered *Cynolebias whitei* and *Cynolebias constanciae*, named for his wife Constance.



Rosario collecting *Nematolebias whitei* in Cabo Frio Brazil 1958.

We stopped first at the temporary pool where White had discovered *constanciae*. The pool had a large amount of water but lacked any aquatic plants, though it did contain a few diving beetles. It was quite clear, but had not much other life in it. Our next stop was at two pools about 20 feet apart. We collected *whitei* that were magnificent. While collecting in one pool, Herb had gone to the second pool, and after catching a couple of specimens he shouted "Za! Quick, look at this. I got a *constanciae*!" I quickly ran to him and said, "No, you have a *whitei*." In my tanks at home I had already been reproducing *whitei* in numbers, as the previous year Henry Hessell, a wholesaler in New York, had imported them from Germany. When they arrived on our shores they were called *Pterolebias elegans* (now *Nematolebias whitei*). General White, while in a shop in Washington D.C., spotted some of the imported specimens and correctly identified them. This was relayed to me by an old friend, Dick Lugenbeel, a killie enthusiast and a resident of Washington, D.C.

I was rather disappointed in not finding any *constanciae*, or several others that White had found during his excursions in the early 40s. Our timing was not good, as many of the other locations were now in the dry state, supporting no fish. While our



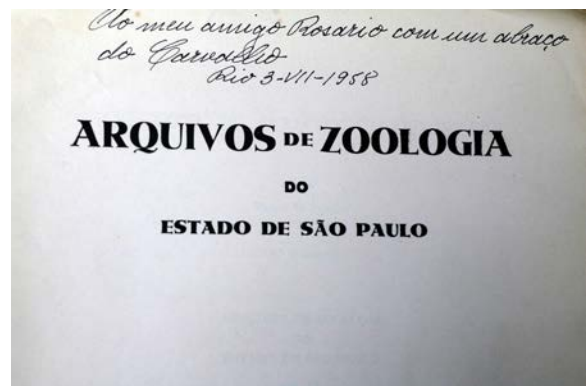
Nematolebias whitei.

Rio trip was not as successful as we had hoped, I did gain more stock of *whitei*, and we collected some nice specimens of *Rivulus dorni* from some very narrow rivulets cascading off a mountainside. I was able to return home with all the specimens collected there.



Dr. Haraldo Travassos and Antenor Leitão de Carvalho.

The well-known and popular beginners' tetra, *Hyphessobrycon flammeus*, also known as Tetra von Rio, was elusive, and we only found a single specimen. I was interested in seeing how they would look in their wild form, and this single specimen was quite intense and attractive. This is a tetra that as years went by always remained a favorite as a fish that was extremely easy to reproduce, and so was picked for beginners to gain some experience in spawning and rearing of young. I had some great conversations with Antenor Carvalho because of our mutual interest in annuals. Antenor was quite generous, and gave me a 4-part volume of Henry Fowler's **Fresh Water Fishes of Brazil**, and on the inside of the cover he autographed it. It is still a cherished gift today.





Simpsonichthys boitonei. Named for Sr. Boitone.

We were invited to Carvalho's home, where we met his wife, who spoke fluent English. She was a very educated woman and did translations for Antenor whenever Portuguese to English was required for his scientific papers. At the time of our visit he was in the process of describing *Simpsonichthys boitonei*, a beautiful annual fish discovered in Brasilia, the new capital of Brazil.

Rio had been the capital of Brazil, but summer months were intolerable, as temperatures would reach 110° F. It was difficult for government employees to perform their duties, so President Juscelino Kubitschek, in power at the time, decided to go inland where temperatures would be more bearable. This would also help develop the interior of the country. Kubitschek had a vision that this would develop into a vibrant city, and he was correct. Inflation did happen, as he printed more money to help finance the project. The major architect was the well-known Oscar Neimeyer, who was the principal designer.

A zoo was part of the city planning, and its inhabitants included a flock of flamingos. Feeding was done by zoo assistants, who traveled to the city's outskirts to collect fish for feed. One of the zookeepers, a Sr. Boitone, was quite impressed with the vivid colors of a particular miniature fish, and thought it was much too beautiful to be fed to fish-eating birds, so it was decided to save the fish and preserve some specimens for deposit and identification at the National Museum in Rio. Carvalho had the specimens, and displayed them to us. He had not had his description published, but did reveal his choice of its naming. He created a new genus, and called the fish *Simpsonichthys boitonei*. The genus *Simpsonichthys* was named for

Donald A. Simpson, a personal friend of Carvalho's, with whom he became acquainted while studying in California for two years. Simpson was the curator of the Steinhart Aquarium. The species name, *boitonei*, was named for Sr. Boitone, who brought the fish to Carvalho's attention. *S. boitonei* became a popular species for those hobbyists who were interested in annual fish.

Some of the other interesting facts that we learned of during our visit to the museum, as related to me from Miranda Riberio, was that the museum in Rio was so lacking in funds that it was difficult to purchase formaldehyde for the preservation of collected species. In its place they used wine, which was more available and inexpensive. Years later (2009), while giving a presentation at the fish convention in Long Island, I casually reminisced about this. Our friend Andre Carletto, a Brazilian, remarked that some people died after consuming some of this preservative. Evidently some formalin had been mixed in with the wine.

Our time in Rio was wonderful, and I was particularly happy to have met Antenor Carvalho. In a 1952 issue of **The Aquarium**, Dr. George S. Myers devoted the entire issue to his experiences while residing in Rio working jointly with the Brazilian ichthyologists. Carvalho figured prominently in aiding Myers in many of the collecting areas visited by the general 11 years earlier. In my eyes Carvalho was very much like a hero, for his collecting knowledge and his historic contribution to the study of annual fishes.



This photo was from a book—a tribute to Dr. George S. Myers. From left to right: Paulo de Miranda Riberio, Dr. G.S. Myers, and Dr. Haroldo Travassos. Photo was taken between 1942 and 1944.



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CORAL AQUARIUM

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GCAS Happenings

August

Last Month's Bowl Show Winners:

1 RUBEN LUGO	SCOBINANCISTRUS CF. PARIOLISPOS L048
2 RICHARD WAIZMAN	BETTA
3 LESLIE DICK	PACHYPANCHAX PATRICIAE

UNOFFICIAL 2014 BOWL SHOW TOTALS:

MARIO BENGION	16	RUBEN LUGO	15	WILLIAM AMELY	5	RICHARD WAIZMAN	7
CARLOTTI DEJAGER	1	LESLIE DICK	1				

A WARM WELCOME BACK TO RENEWING GCAS MEMBER JEFF GEORGE!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW GCAS MEMBER CHRIS BANWELL!

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

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: September 3, 2014

Speaker: Joe Gargas

Event: *Water and the Aquarium*

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: September 12, 2014

Speaker: Greg Sullivan

Topic: *Starting A Saltwater Tank*

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: September 19, 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@lisonline.org

Website: <http://lisonline.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: September 9, 2014

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

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: September 18 2014, 7:45 PM

Speaker: Steve Edie

Topic: *Tank-ganyikan Cichlids*

Meets at: Quality Inn, 10 Polito Avenue • Lyndhurst, NJ

Contact: NJAS Hotline at (732) 332-1392

Email: tcoletti@obius.jnj.com

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

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Next Meeting: August 21, 2014

Speaker: Rit Forcier

Topic: *COLLECTING IN FLORIDA*

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/>

Is it Soccer, or Fish Football?

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.

A Chinese aquarium has been criticized by animal activists for staging a weekly soccer (i.e., "football" outside the U.S.) match to boost visitor numbers – with the match taking place in one of the giant fish tanks.

The Tianjing Aquarium in northern China defended the decision to stage an "underwater World Cup," saying that it was a bid to promote people's interest in the underwater world and encourage visitors to see the huge variety of animal life available.¹

The players in the aquarium were human, and the ball was filled with water to keep it from floating away. While the players were able to execute some spectacular moves, I was far more impressed seeing a trained goldfish playing soccer in a YouTube video.²

While some might say I'm easily amused, the fact is that I find people kicking a ball unamusing, in or out of the water.



YouTube video of trained goldfish



Tianjing Aquarium photo from the online edition of The Daily Mirror

¹ <http://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/chinese-aquarium-stages-underwater-world-3878761>

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7qoQS3EiNE>





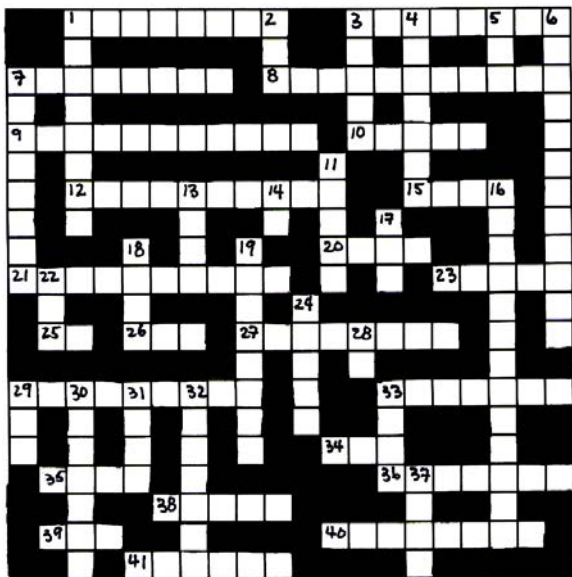
Fin Fun



Cross-fish Puzzle

This month's puzzle is courtesy of GCAS member Leslie Dick

Clues Across



1. *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* is a type of _____ parasite.
3. One side fin.
7. A popular tropical fish hobbyist magazine.
8. The organ in fish that contributes to the ability of a fish to control its buoyancy.
9. The second longest river in North America.
10. Dr. Foster and _____.
12. A member of the subfamily *Oxudercinae* and tribe *Periophthalmini*.
15. Soft detritus found in aquariums.
20. Common name of *Paracheirodon innesi*: _____ tetra.
21. East Coast Cichlid event held August 1-3, 2014.
23. Successful spawners: a _____ pair.
25. Carbonate hardness.
26. Result of 27 across.
27. What hobbyists love to have happening in their tanks!
29. GCAS nature center meeting locale, with "Garden."
33. Quality protein added to homemade fish foods.

34. National aquatic organization that will hold its convention July 10-13, 2014. (abbrev.)
35. *Chrosomus erythrogaster*: southern redbelly _____.
36. A member of the family of livebearers endemic to central Mexico.
38. A critically endangered species of 30 down endemic to Lake Bermin in Cameroon.
39. One can catch native fish using a _____ net.
40. Water with specific gravity between 1.001 and 1.020.
41. One of the names of GCAS' monthly newsletter.

Clues Down

1. Genus name of pygmy sunfish.
2. Goodeid species *Characodon* sp. "____ berros."
3. Units to create aeration in aquariums.
4. A mineral necessary for life, yet the principle cause of hard water.
5. A color found on two popular characins.
6. Family name of suckermouth catfish.
7. An API product that detoxifies a component of the nitrate cycle.
11. Aquatic crustaceans comprising the genus *Artemia*: _____ shrimp.
13. Company that produces Marine Essential Elements.
14. A paternal mouthbrooding Betta that is vulnerable in its native Thailand.
16. African cichlid species that are not substrate breeders.
17. Non-annual killifish lay eggs in a spawning _____.
18. A type of saltwater aquarium.
19. Well-known speaker Dr. Paul _____.
22. A leaf that puts tannins in aquarium water.
24. What species in 6 down use in which to spawn. (pl.)
28. Pine Barrens state.
29. An environment where one can find carnivorous plants.
30. A cichlid genus whose name is the Latinized form of *thiape*, the Tswana word for "fish."
31. *Pungitius pungitius*, also known as the _____-spined stickleback.
32. Ariel Bornstein is the editor of _____ News.
33. Common name of *Acropora cervicornis* "____ horn coral.
37. Largest species of dolphin.

Answer to last month's puzzle: **Three Cheers for the**
Red White and Blue

Common name	Scientific name
White fin cory-----	<i>Corydoras pulcher</i>
Red devil -----	<i>Cichlasoma labiatum</i>
Blue gourami -----	<i>Trichogaster trichopterus</i>
Red three spot barb -----	<i>Barbus callipterus</i>
White cloud -----	<i>Tanichthys albonubes</i>
White barred synodontis -----	<i>Synodontis ornatipinnis</i>
Blue stripe rivulus -----	<i>Rivulus xiphius</i>
Red lyretail swordtail -----	<i>Xiphophorus helleri</i>
Blue gularis -----	<i>Aphyosemion sjoestedti</i>
American flag fish -----	<i>Jordanella floridae</i>



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