



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

September 2024, Volume 49, Number 1

CNYAS 4th Annual Tropical Fish and Reptile Swap Meet Saturday, September 14th

10AM - 2PM

Elks Lodge
3730 Cold Springs Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027



CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Cover - Red Shoulder Peacock by: Donna Castle | 1 |
| About CNYAS | 3 |
| President's Message | 4 |
| CNYAS Swap Meet | 5 |
| Meeting Minutes | 6 |
| Convention Report: American Cichlid 2024 by: Clifford Crain | 7 |
| WAP / AHAP | 11 |
| BAP / Bowl Show | 12 |
| The CNYAS Losses long time member Steve Van Camp | 13 |
| Grand Master Breeder Steve Van Camp by: Herschel Beeman | 13 |
| Memories of and a Tribute to Steve Van Camp by: Sue Kotcher | 14 |
| Fish Friends From Afar "Exchange Report" by; Clifford Crain | 15 |
| 2024 CNYAS Award Banquet Photos by: Doug Hillman | 18 |
| Club Info / Coming Events | 19 |
| TFCEC Fall Auction | 20 |
| ARVASNY Tropical Fish Auction | 21 |
| CNYAS Thanks our Supports | 22 |
| Classified | 24 |

CNYAS GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION

**The Dewitt Community Center
148 Sanders Creek Pkwy
East Syracuse, NY**

DATE / TIME

**Wednesday September 18, 2024
@ 7:00 pm**

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CNYAS will exchange publications with any non-profit hobby related organization with the following stipulations: 1) The request to exchange must be made in writing. 2) The organization informs us of their reprint policy 3) The exchange is mailed to The **Reflector** Exchange Editor upon publication.

CNYAS Background Information:

The Central New York Aquarium Society, Inc. was established in 1976. It is a non-profit organization under section 501 {c} {3} of the Internal Revenue Code. Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. General meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Dewitt Community Hall in East Syracuse. General meetings normally begin with a brief business meeting followed by a guest speaker, refreshments, door and raffle prizes, and a mini-auction of live fish, plants, and other hobby related items.

Identification Statement:

Publication Title: Reflector

Statement of Frequency: Published ten times per year (monthly except July and August)

Authorized Organization's Name and Address: The Central New York Aquarium Society Inc, PO Box 291, Clay NY 13041

Email: Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com

Officers

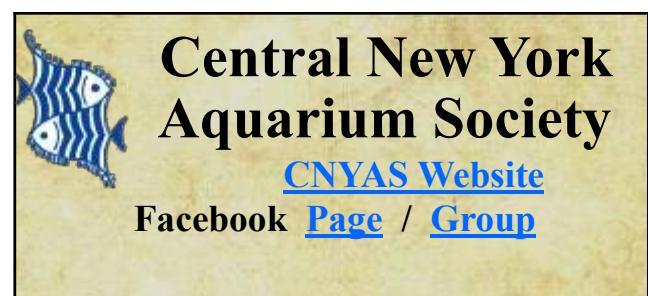
| | |
|------------------------|--|
| President: | Ron Fabiny CNYASPres@gmail.com |
| Vice President: | Len Futterman CNYAS.VP@gmail.com |
| Secretary: | Mary Teelin |
| Treasurer: | Bob Kotcher CNYASTreas@gmail.com |
| Editor: | Doug Hillman Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com |

Board of Directors

Michael Flintrop
Clifford Crain
Ron Alexander
Bill Newell
Herschel Beeman

Chairpeople

| |
|--|
| BAP: Herschel Beeman |
| AHAP: Bill Newell |
| WAP: Arnaud Germain |
| Bowl Show: Arnaud Germain |
| Auction: Ron Alexander & Brian Bowers |
| Membership: Denise Baird |
| Exchange Editor: Clifford Crain |
| Assistant Secretary: Sue Kotcher |
| Hosp. & Refreshments: Mary Teelin |
| Swap Meet: Doug Hillman |
| Webmaster: Tom Garafalo |





PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Ron Fabiny

Presidents Message September 2024

I hope everyone had a great summer. The annual picnic was enjoyed by all that attended. This month's meeting speaker will be determined by the Vice President shortly.

Our annual Swap Meet will be September 14th. I am hoping for a very successful Swap Meet this year. We currently are looking to sell more tables so please contact Doug or Lenny. I am excited to announce that Florida Aquatic Nurseries has said that they are making a donation to the club for our Swap Meet table. We also have a person that has donated all of his fish room. Please see list in Reflector, due to the large quantity of items and some large tanks, all will be available for pickup at the Swap Meet.

I wanted to inform everyone that did not hear that Steve VanCamp passed away this summer. Steve was a founding member of CNYAS and was very actively involved in the club. I wanted to just list all of Steve's involvement:

1. Member of the Board of Directors from 1976-1979
2. Vice President from 1979-1981
3. President from 1981-1984
4. Treasurer from 1984-2019
5. Membership Chair 1980-2008
6. Annual Auction Chair 1980-1983 and 1985-2021

As you can see Steve played a very important role in the club. I learned a lot from Steve and I will surely miss him. Steve may be gone but he will not be forgotten. God Bless.

Ron

Fish Room Items Donated

- 2-75 gal. tanks (1-Oceanic brand)
- 1-30 gal.
- 1-20 gal. long
- 5-10 gal.
- 2-4' cabinets
- 1-6' cabinets (125 or 150 gal. tanks)
- 2-wet/dry sump filters/with bio balls
- Glass lids for all tanks
- 2-4' tank lights
- 4-2' tank lights
- 4-various output water pumps
- 4-various exterior box filters
- 6-small various output air pumps
- 1-large Marineland Emperor 400B hanging box filter
- 11-tank heaters (25-300 watts)
- 2-mini 7.5 watt heaters
- 1-Jemco air pump (will supply approx. 15 applications)

- 1-Super Luft Pump (3.9 psi output, 2.3 cf./min. flow rate)
- 3-venturi valves with hose for tank vac
- 2-multi breeders
- 1-whole house prefiltration unit w/with 2 new filters
- 11 standard tank thermometers
- 8-Coralife digital thermometers
- 5-air gang valves (2-5 way)
- 2-mechanical auto timers
- 1-pack of plant anchors
- Various air stones
- 1-Pinpoint Electronic PH monitor w/probe
- 1-Hagan master test kit in plastic case (fresh and saltwater)
- 1-Dr Axelrod's Mini Atlas
- Large quantity of plastic and silk plants, lava rocks and drift-wood
- 8-10 sponge filters of various sizes
- Various miscellaneous parts and supplies

List contains all used equipment dating back approx. 15 years +/-
No guarantee of equipment functionality

CNYAS

4th Annual

Tropical Fish and

Reptile Swap Meet

Saturday, September 14th

Tables: 1 for \$20 2 for \$35 3 for \$45

WWW.CNYAS.NET and
<https://www.facebook.com/cnyasnet/>

10AM - 2PM
Elks Lodge
3730 Cold Springs Rd.
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Tropical Fish, Reptiles, Plants, Hardgoods, Foods.

Sales are the responsibility Buyer and Seller ONLY..
Central New York Aquarium Society is not responsible for items sold

Contact Doug Hillman or Lenny Futterman
At CNYAS.swap.meet@gmail.com

BOARD MEETING



CNYAS Board meeting

6/12/2024

Attending: Ron Fabiny, Ron Alexander, Len and Mary Futterman, Doug Hillman, Bob Kotcher, Bill Newell, Hershel Beeman, Clifford Crain, Brian Bower

1. Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer—Report
2. AHAP— see Reflector, No Green Thumb award this year as AHAP is just restarted.
3. BAP- see Reflector, Hunter Collins got Breeder of the Year Award for 2024
4. WAP- see Reflector, Scaly Eraser Award to be awarded
5. Membership-71 paid members.
6. Auction - Auction was a great success! Thanks Ron A, Brian B and Ron F plus all the members who helped with the auction. Ron A to look into getting a table sign. Shrimp raffle and sales were very successful. How to keep people there longer. 2 people to help bring up tables. May start earlier. Bring sound system from storage locker. New tee shirts this year.
7. Bowl show- see Reflector.
8. Webmaster- Tom Garafalo is taking over as Webmaster, thanks Tom!
9. Exchange editor- still getting articles. Cliff is doing a great job.
10. Reflector— Doug is doing a great job!

2. Old Business:

1. The swap meet was a huge success! Next time 10-1400. Got new members. Len thanks all members that helped. Next swap meet Sept 14th at the Liverpool Elks. Doug Volunteered to chair the swap meet
2. Voted to Change Superbowl prizes to cash, talk about increasing prize amount next year. Voted to increase prizes to 1st 35.00, 2nd 25.00 and 3rd is 20.00.
3. Len to work on speakers for this year.
4. Next board meeting Ron F Sept; decide rest of year in Sept.
5. Going forward with the Banquet for June. Cost is \$10 per person

3. New Business:

1. Need flyer for Swap meet in Sept.
2. Picnic is August 3rd at Ron's House
3. Send speaker info to Len
4. Aquariast of the year award, to be awarded at Banquet.

CNYAS General Meeting 6/19/24 .

1. Instead of a regular meeting we had the yearly Banquet at The Retreat in Liverpool. Enjoyed a great buffet, gave out awards and had a overall great time!!



Convention Report: American Cichlid Association 2024 Part One: The Convention

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

As a cichlid enthusiast, I've been looking forward for months to the American Cichlid Association (ACA) convention, held this year in July in Cincinnati. As with any fish convention, I faced the problem of getting approval from The Chief to attend it. This is best accomplished by making sure she has something fun and interesting to do while my mind is on fish. I have explained how I solved this problem for the previous two conventions I attended, the Keystone Clash and the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies (*Reflector*, October 2023 and May 2024). Unfortunately, I could not come up with something interesting and non fish-related for her/us to do in Cincinnati. We agonized over this for months (literally!) until the answer presented itself: her sister would come to Syracuse from Pittsburgh and stay with her while I was away.

That problem being solved, I booked my hotel room and registered for the convention. I'm not a newbie for ACA conventions; I attended the one in Cleveland in 1980, Indianapolis in 1981, Milwaukee in 1982 and Detroit in 1983, so I kinda knew what to expect.

I spent Tuesday, the day before departure, gathering equipment and supplies needed to keep the fish alive until they found new owners in Cincinnati. I also caught the fish and put them in buckets that day too so I could get an early start Wednesday morning. It was a trip of more than ten hours with only a brief lunch break and a bathroom stop.

In two of the buckets were six adult *Chromidotilapia guntheri*, a large riverine mouthbrooding cichlid. Through the ACA classified ads website, I located a person who wanted these fish, and I was eager to reduce the number I had (my group was overcrowded in a 60 breeder). I told her I would bring her six for free, so I caught them and put them in two 5-gallon buckets. All eight buckets that I took had a sponge filter and heater. When I closed the buckets for transport the next morning, I was surprised to find that the pump for the *guntheri* buckets had stopped working.

A heat-reflective shield combined with the Subaru's air conditioning kept the water in the buckets at a constant 76°F temperature. The arrival evening at the convention hotel, a Delta Hotel by Marriott in Shadyside, Ohio (a suburb north of Cincinnati) was spent getting the buckets hooked up with air and heaters. I was dismayed to find that two of the *guntheri* had not made it. I sent messages and emails to the new owner that evening but did not get a response. By luck I ran into her the next morning (I knew it was her because of the name on her convention lanyard) and told her that two had expired. She had two 10-gallon tanks in the rental room and told me to put the remainder in them. To my horror I discovered that two more had gone to fish heaven during the night. I put the remaining two in her tanks and apologized for not getting all six to her alive. I was both saddened and deeply embarrassed by this episode.

I picked up my registration packet and goody bag Thursday morning and was pleased to find that the hosts very helpfully included in the goody bag a list of recommended local fish stores. I ended up visiting six shops, and I'll cover that adventure in next month's *Reflector*.

The first speaker Thursday night was Rich Bierbower, "Keeping, Raising and Breeding Quality Angelfish: My Journey From Casual Fish Keeper to Accomplished Breeder." Bierbower Aquatics has been in business for 15 years, maintains 75 tanks and sells goodeids, orange koi angels and orange marble angels. Rich must be a busy boy, as he has a day job as a teacher. His very informative talk started with a list of success factors: research; start with quality stock; consistency; quality filtration; use best products and foods; preventive treatments; learn from mistakes; time and attention to detail; and have fun. Rich discussed angelfish genetics and listed what he looks for in a quality angelfish: round in shape, taller than long; no bumps on the head; straight, smooth fins, no bends or curves; rich color, never pale; true to variety; active, thick full body; and high fecundity. Eggs are removed to 2½-5 gallon tanks with a vigorous flow from the airstone until the fry fall off the slate. Water is half tank water and half RO water, which he changes twice daily. His tips for raising fry to maturity: do not crowd; continue to spread the fry out to larger tanks as they grow; feed quality live and flake foods (Rich loves the flake food from brineshrimpdirect.com); frequent water changes, cull weak, deformed fish immediately.

The next speaker was Jeremy Basch, "Collecting Cichlids in Colombia." Jeremy has 110 tanks in his fishroom and has been on numerous collecting trips to the Amazon and its tributaries. His talk consisted primarily of what I guess to be several hundred slides of where he has collected and the fish he has caught. His website is www.amazontopics.com.

Friday evening's first speaker was Sam Borstein, "Current Cichlid Research." This was the only talk I missed as I was late returning from my Friday shop hop activities.

The second speaker was the well-known collector and author, Ad Konings, "Lake Malawi Cichlids." I didn't realize there are about 850 species of cichlids in Lake Malawi, about four times the number in Lake Tanganyika. Scientists have documented extreme fluctuations in Lake Malawi over the centuries, and Ad related how this affected cichlids and the formation of crater lakes to the north of the lake. Using DNA, he illustrated the evolution of different types of cichlids in the lake.

The final event Friday night was a speaker panel. The speakers sat in a row facing the audience, and a moderator asked each of them questions, starting with basic ones such as "How did you get started in fishkeeping?" and moving on to deeper ones such as "What will put the most pressure on the aquarium hobby in future years?" and "How can we stop the continual renaming of fish?" The answers from this cast of super-knowledgeable aquarists were quite varied and interesting.

The "Babes in the Cichlid Hobby" (check out the acronym) auction was held at 10:00 PM, which I missed since that's past this old man's bedtime. I'm told it was a terrific event, held at each convention, so I'll endeavor not to miss it at future conventions.



The Lineup of Convention Speakers

Saturday started off with Ron Coleman, “Costa Rican Cichlids: Reproduction.” Ron is a professor in the California State University system and gave a fascinating talk covering several different topics of cichlid reproduction, starting with a citizens science project, involving measuring the size of cichlid eggs that people send the university. The goal of the project, ongoing since 1996, is to understand the cost and benefits of different cichlid egg sizes. (In case you’re wondering, the smallest egg size measured so far is that of rams and the largest buffaloheads.) Also discussed was a cichlid fry project, ongoing since 2016, and a discussion of different cichlid mouthbrooding techniques. Interestingly, he has gathered so much data, that if you tell him the cichlid’s length and height, he can tell you within a few percentage points the fish’s weight.

Melanie Stiassny was up next with “Cichlid Relationships.” Her talk involved how cichlids evolved in the Congo River. (Fun fact: the Congo River has three times the water volume of the Mississippi River.) Research has shown that the Congo River Lamprologine cichlids evolved many years ago from Lamprologine cichlids that swam out of Lake Tanganyika. Near the end of her talk, Melanie brought up *Lamprologus lethops*, the only blind cichlid, which is never found alive. It inhabits the bottom of a canyon in the Congo River that is 520' deep—the deepest point of any river in the world. The water here moves rapidly from the surface to the bottom and back, and if the fish gets caught in the updraft, it surfaces so fast it suffers catastrophic decompression syndrome. During the lengthy Q&A period, the audience was silent about the first ¾ of Melanie’s talk and focused on the fascinating blind cichlid.

After lunch, Gabe Posada talked about the history and operation of his Florida discus operation and featured videos of the impressive facility. He no longer exports fish due to heavy government regulation, and for the same reason he is finding it increasingly difficult to import fish. I found it interesting that his facility is open to the public for tours. Although Gabe lives in Florida, during the Q&A it was obvious from his accent and attitude that he’s pure New Jersey!

Ad Konings returned to talk about “Tanganyikan Cichlids.” He showed us photos of newly-discovered deepwater cichlids. He explained the relationships between various *Petrochromis* and illustrated his points with family trees.

The last speaker for the afternoon was the always fascinating Dan Hodnett of dansfish.com. I heard his talk previously at the 2023 Keystone Clash and wrote two articles reviewing his talks at the Clash (*Reflector*, January 2024 and February 2024), so I won’t repeat what he covered in his talk, “Building A New Kind of Fish Store.”

I sprang for the banquet, which was provided by the hotel, and sat at a table with people I had not previously known. We had a great cichlid-related conversation. After the award ceremony for the cichlid show, the banquet keynote speaker was Lawrence Kent who provided a wide-ranging, engaging and humorous talk about his worldwide travels.



Legendary aquarist Charlie Grimes was there. I met Charlie at the Indianapolis ACA in 1981 and was pleased to have my picture taken with him 43 years later.

Throughout the convention a vendor room was available with lots of interesting stuff for sale. I told the ZooMed employee that I bought their new 28-gallon lowboy aquarium a few months ago and loved it. I bought a book by the late well-known aquarist Wayne Leibel about new world cichlids from a guy who had hundreds of aquarium books for sale. I picked up an extra large 12" net from another

There was a rental tank room for attendees to house their fish that they bought or were going to sell at the auction. There was a silent auction of an amazing variety of fish-related stuff (I won the bidding on several books and back issues of *Buntbarsche Bulletin*). A room for the kids and activities for them, including a tank decorating contest, was also part of the convention.

The convention wrapped up on the last day, as these conventions always do, with an auction. I got up early Sunday to bag the fish that I brought for the auction in six buckets. The auction rules allowed participants to submit cichlids, catfish and plants. However, there were many donations of equipment, supplies and fish other than cichlids and catfish, so the cichlid convention auction was not just cichlids. When I asked what order the fish were to be auctioned, for example the ten-table method or colored dots, I was told there was no particular order. The problem with random auctioning is that fish that the seller believes will bring the highest bids may not be put up for auction near the beginning when the crowd is at its peak. As I always do, to stave off boredom, I volunteered to be a runner. I got to pick which fish got auctioned first, and I made a conscious effort to pick what I thought would be high value lots.

I knew I would not be able to make it back to Syracuse without falling asleep at the wheel following a mid-afternoon departure, so after four hours of running, I left at 2:00 and spent the night at a Red Roof Inn (only \$83!) just outside Cleveland. I had only two empty aquariums available at home which limited me to just two bags of fish. I picked up a bag of eight Bolivian rams (*Mikrogeophagus altospinosus*) from a seller prior to the auction and four *Lamprologus cylindricus* at the auction.

I had a great time and hope to attend the next American Cichlid Association convention as long as it's within reasonable driving distance.



This guy won a bunch of awards in the show but now had to hoof 18 buckets of fish back home to Chicago. He was able to fit all the buckets and his luggage in his Honda minivan.



View of the Auction



**WRITERS AWARD
PROGRAM**
Chairman– Arnaud Germain

PEN & QUILL

| | | | |
|----------|------|------------------|-----|
| Crain | 1683 | Teelin-Futterman | 711 |
| Spahn | 1416 | Pitzeruse | 652 |
| Vormwald | 1260 | | |
| Kotcher | 831 | Smith K. | 600 |
| Fowler | 751 | Fabiny | 521 |

WORDSMITH

| | | | |
|---------|-----|------------|-----|
| Kinney | 470 | Rademacher | 215 |
| Hillman | 200 | | |

AUTHORS AWARD

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------|-----|
| Baird | 120 | Doyle | 115 |
| Futterman | 105 | | |

WRITERS AWARD

| | | | |
|----------|----|---------|----|
| O’Neil | 90 | Cody | 70 |
| Beeman | 85 | Collins | 75 |
| Rafferty | 80 | | |

PARTICIPANT

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----------|----|
| Armstrong | 40 | Pomeranz | 15 |
| Smith I | 40 | Kocak | 15 |
| Van Camp | 30 | Sandler | 10 |
| Harris | 20 | Newell | 10 |
| Bertrand | 20 | Cepeda | 10 |
| Flintrop | 20 | Pope | 10 |
| Wisneski | 20 | | |

SUBMISSIONS:

Clifford Crain: “Fish Friends From Afar”,
REFLECTOR, June 2024

Clifford Crain: “Flying with the Flier Cichlid”,
REFLECTOR, June 2024

Doug Hillman: “Club Members Fish and/or Aquarium”, REFLECTOR, June 2024

Crain: “The Easy Way to Fill Aquariums: Handy Hose and Faucet Devices” by Clifford H. Crain, Jr., Reflector April 2024, reviewed in *Aqua Antics*, Sarnia Aquarium Society, May-June 2024

Crain: “A Better Way of Shipping Fish” by Clifford H. Crain, Jr., Reflector January 2024, reviewed in *Fins and Tales*, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, June 2024.

Crain: “Building a New Kind of Fish Store” by Clifford H. Crain, Jr. Reflector February 2024, reviewed in *Fins and Tales*, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, June 2024.

Crain: “Flying With the Flier Cichlid” by Clifford H. Crain Jr., Reflector June 2024, reviewed in *The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, July/August 2024.



**AQUATIC HORTICULTURE
AWARD PROGRAM**
Chairman– Bill Newell

Name **Points** **Species**

Grand Master

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Spahn* | 4,015 | 288 |
| 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 | | |
| Pitzeruse, W* | 1,230 | 87 |
| 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|
| Fabiny* | 940 | 68 |
| 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14 | | |

Master

| | | |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Van Camp* | 465 | 36 |
| 1,7,8,9,11,14 | | |
| Lee* | 575 | 42 |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14 | | |
|---------------------|--|--|

Expert

| | | |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Senior | | |
| Snead* | 460 | 26 |
| 2,4,7,10,14 | | |

| | | |
|----------|-----|----|
| Kotcher* | 165 | 11 |
| 10,14 | | |

Aquatic

| | | |
|------------|-----|----|
| Futterman* | 180 | 16 |
| Beeman | 190 | 19 |

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 3,4,6,7 | | |
|---------|--|--|

Beginning

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| Wisneski | 65 | 7 |
|----------|----|---|

Participants

| | | |
|--------|----|---|
| Janus | 25 | 4 |
| Smith | 20 | 1 |
| Taylor | 50 | 6 |
| Yard | 95 | 9 |
| Newell | 35 | 7 |

Additions:
None



BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman - Herschel Beeman

| Name | Points | Species | Name | Points | Species | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|--|-----------|---------|--|
| Grand Master | | | Participants | | | |
| *Van Camp | 965 | 77 | Spahn | 30 | 3 | |
| 1-2-3-4-6-7-8-9-11-13-15-16 | | | Domanowski, S | 25 | 4 | |
| Master Breeder | | | Chris Pollard | 20 | 2 | |
| *Pitzeruse, W. | 610 | 50 | Maxwell | 20 | 2 | |
| 1-2-3-4-7-8-9-11-12-13-14-15-16 | | | Kotcher | 10 | 1 | |
| Beeman | 615 | 46 | Futterman, L | 10 | 1 | |
| 4-7-8-11-12-16 | | | Futterman, M | 5 | 1 | |
| Fabiny | 525 | 46 | Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups. | | | |
| 1-7-8-11-12-14-15-16 | | | *Indicated Species Classification Award | | | |
| Expert Breeder | | | ^Indicates first spawning | | | |
| Hunter Collins | 235 | 13 | New Additions: | | | |
| 8, 11 | | | Clifford Crain | 10 Points | | |
| Clifford Crain Jr. | 200 | 17 | <i>Rubricatochromis exsul</i> (First in Club) | | | |
| 7,8 | | | Bill Newell | 10 Points | | |
| Advanced Breeder | | | <i>Ilyodon furcidens</i> | | | |
| Newell, William | 165 | 13 | Doug Hillman | 30 Points | | |
| 8 | | | <i>Limia perugiae</i> 5 Points | | | |
| Doug Hillman | 125 | 14 | <i>Archocentrus centrarchus</i> 10 Points | | | |
| 11 | | | <i>Steatocranus casuarius</i> 15 Points | | | |
| Breeder Award | | | | | | |
| Wisneski | 65 | 7 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | |
| Denise Baird | 65 | 4 | | | | |
| Chris Allen | 60 | 4 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | |



BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

2023-2024 Bowl Show Winners

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Place | Bill Newell |
| 2nd Place | Doug Hillman |
| 3rd Place | Denise Baird |

Thank you to the many fish participants this year!

The 2024-2025 Categories will be as follows:

September: Livebearers

October: Killies

November: New World Cichlids: North Centra

December: Barbs, Rasboras & Danios

January: Goldfish & Koi

February: Catfish & Loaches

March: Bettas, Anabantoids & Gouramis

April: Old World Cichlids: Africa & Asia

May: Super Bowl

Don't forget the OPEN category option at each meeting.

All bowl show guidelines are available online in the Members Handbook (pages 5-6)

To participate, either bring your fish in person or submit pictures to ag297@cornell.edu before noon on Tuesday before the general meeting. Online submissions will be displayed during the meeting break using the projector for judges to award points.

The Central New York Aquarium Society losses a long time club member

Stefan L. “Steve” Van Camp



A Short BAP overview of Grand Master Breeder Steve Van Camp

By Herschel Beeman

I was saddened when I heard the news of the passing of Steve Van Camp. I didn't know Steve as well as some of the other club members but I knew enough to understand that Steve was an interracial part in CNYAS for many years, since the beginning I believe. He served as Vice President from 1979-1981. He became President from 1981-1984. In 1985 he took the office of Treasurer which he held until 2019. During that time he was able to become the only Master Breeder within CNYAS history, amassing 965 point and spawning 77 different species of fish across 12 differing spawning classes. He had 34 first time spawns for the club. Some of the species he spawned are common in the hobby today but when he spawned them they were most likely very rare. Some honorable mentions of his 1st time spawns, *Corydoras aeneus* in 1978, *Odessa barbs* in 1987, *Congo tetras* in 1979, *Lemon tetras* in 1986, *Hoplosternum catfish* in 1984, *Heterandris Formosa* in 1987 and the list goes on and on. There are multiple different Goodied species. 13 anabantoids species 9 of which were different species of *Betta*. There are lots of tetras, rainbow fish and cichlids. Steve obviously was very dedicated to his fish and their husbandry to be able to pull off such an impressive feat. Although I see that both Steve and Sally's name is listed on the BAP spreadsheet so I am sure she probably helped him along the way as any loving wife would do, some of those fry are very small and need constant food and water changes to make it J J..

Steve's commitment and contributions to CNYAS will be greatly missed. His knowledge and history of fishkeeping and the club might be gone, but through his BAP achievements they will not be lost or forgotten. Rest in Peace my friend.

MEMORIES OF AND A TRIBUTE TO STEVE VAN CAMP

by Sue Kotcher

In February 1981 I went to my first meeting of the CNY Aquarium Society. I was excited about it and joined at the next meeting in March. In June of 1981, Steve Van Camp became President, a post that he held for 3 years. Shortly after I got a call from Steve asking me to be the Public Relations officer, a post that I held for two years (this is no longer an officer position as of recently). After I found out what I had signed up for, lol, it was the beginning of my career in CNYAS and a long friendship with Steve.

Steve was an incredible force in the Club. He was mild mannered, respectful but always working for the benefit of CNYAS. Ron included in his President's message all of the positions that Steve held in the Club, a very impressive listing. Steve was also a member of other fish organizations such as CAOAC, FAAS and the International Betta Congress to name a few. He was in contact with other fish people and clubs also. He was very well known.

Some of my memories in no particular order...Steve and I made an appearance on one of the local TV programs many years ago on how to set up an aquarium. A few years later we were going to make another one but that one did not come to fruition. As annual auction chair, for a couple of years he had a giant salami or pepperoni as one of the raffles—there was a lot of interest in that!

FAAS (Federation of American Aquarium Societies) was very big at the time. They held many conventions all over. The one that sticks in my mind though, which several of us were working on with Steve, was the FAAS Convention of 1988. It was a collaboration of 3 Clubs—ours, South Towns Fish Fanciers and Chautauqua County Aquarium Association. It was an incredible weekend. There were many highlights. One was from the dinner/dance on the Saturday night. Dr. Gene Lucas, an expert on bettas, drew in chalks 2 gorgeous bettas while we all enjoyed the evening. They were both available for auction the next day. Incredibly enough no one other than Steve and I bid on them. When he realized that I was bidding against him he dropped out and let me have it. He did get the other one. It was so nice and considerate of him. I have it framed in my dining room area and will always treasure it!

Steve had many souvenirs from other organizations to sell at the club meetings. Patches were something that was in great abundance! I have to say that I was probably one of the buyers who bought almost everyone he had. I sewed them on a jean jacket. I'll have to wear it this fall. Whenever a new one came out Steve made sure I knew about it!

When board meetings were held at Steve's house, we all were anxious to view Steve and Sally's legendary clown loaches—large and beautiful. Sally, Steve's wife, was his partner throughout his entire career with fish. CNYAS would not be today what it is without the two of them.

When the NY State Fair came to town in August one year, CNYAS rented a booth to advertise the club. I was with Steve during my shift. We had set up when he noticed the booth next door was Vietnam Vets. Steve did serve our Country honorably. He went over to the booth and before the man could even ask him a question or begin to talk about the organization, Steve immediately signed up! He was very active in that organization and loved it.

When Steve became the Treasurer of CNYAS, he always brought the turkey for Nov raffle and the ham for Dec. Steve always had small things to give away each month for the lucky person whose name was picked out from the sign-up sheet. In later years, I was lucky to be his assistant at the monthly auctions.

I have so many memories, just one more. At one point the Club met at the Liverpool Library. Part of the deal was that the President would maintain a tank in the children's section. When I became President, Steve passed on the message "your turn, Sue"! He did, however, offer his help if I needed it. Actually, it was a weekly commitment, but it was nice to see the children so excited over the fish. That was a time where many members were breeding fish so replacement was not a problem.

Steve Van Camp was truly a treasure. He was totally committed, hard working but always mild mannered, a good leader and a good friend. Those of us who knew you will miss you, Steve



FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #27 EXCHANGE REPORT

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

By Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

**“Plenty of Fish in the Cenote” by Emily Benham,
Fins and Tales, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, June 2024.**

A photo of a beautiful pond with crystal clear water was the first thing that caught my attention. The article discusses Emily’s vacation in Mexico, specifically her visit to a cenote. (Don’t be embarrassed, I didn’t know what a cenote was either.) “Cenotes, if you aren’t familiar, are cave systems that connect underground and provide a freshwater reservoir.” The clear water contained many aquarium fish with which we are all familiar. After recommending protection against the “cruel Mexican sun,” “I would do it again in a heartbeat. It was like swimming in a giant aquarium and I wholly recommend it.”

**“*Ancistrus* sp. L309” by Eric Bodrock,
Finformation, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. May 2024.**

Well-known super-aquarist Eric Bodrock always has something interesting to say, and in this article it’s about a fairly uncommon species of *Ancistrus* catfish. How rare? Let’s just say Eric paid a hundred bucks *each* for seven of them in 2018! Patience, patience, for five years later they finally spawned for him. Eric has a couple of interesting tidbits about this fish. He put a large piece of wood in their tank for grazing and cover, and “I made sure I used a piece of wood that didn’t have any deep crevasses or holes where the fish could get in and get stuck making it impossible for me to remove them when the time came.” He placed the fry in a breeder box, and “I always add an airstone thru the hole in the top of the breeder boxes as a precaution in the event that the main airline that drives the breeding box is clogged or more likely forgotten to be turned back on. I have heard the story many times of hobbyists forgetting to turn the air back on the breeder box, after shutting it off to feed live food to the fry, and wiping out the entire container full of young!” He fed the fry live baby brine and EBO Youngster Grow Paste®. “I think it is important to keep the breeding box clean from any foods that the fry don’t eat, so I use a baster to suck out anything they didn’t eat.” Several great tips from a master fish breeder.

“A Frustrating Five Months: Trials and Tribulations Breeding *Hyphessobrycon herbertaxelrodi* (The Black Neon)” by Edward Moats, *Finformation*, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. July 2024.

I can attest to the statement that we sometimes don’t succeed in our hobby. I’ve had more failures than successes, to be sure. When Ed worked in a fish store, he noticed that black neon tetras always had heavy losses, so he decided to spawn them so that “I would be able to offer young that may have a better chance of survival.” Black neons are not the easiest fish to spawn, and Ed describes that when he found fry in the spawning mop, he moved them to a breeder box. The fry were actively feeding and appeared healthy. “On the second day I walked into the fish room only to find every single fry dead in the breeding box.” Can you relate to that feeling? I know I can. Anyway, the next time they spawned, he “moved the fry to a 2½ setup with sponge filter and java moss.” The fry have survived, Ed has since spawned and raised more black neons, and the moral of the story is to “not give up.”

**“Accidentally Spawning *Chilodus gracilis*” by Regina Spotti
Finformation, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. August 2024.**

Ed Moats must be grumbling under his breath (see the review of his article in the paragraph above). He tried so hard to spawn and raise black neons, only eventually finding the secret of success. Along comes Regina Spotti, who acquired 10 elongate headstanders, another fish that's not easy to breed. Summer came and she inadvertently failed to do a water change in the headstandler tank for a few months. With “the tank looking like a neglected swamp with a gray-green mulm on the bottom, I couldn't stand it anymore and gave it a 50% water change with cold water.” After a while, “I saw fry! Holy Moly! I couldn't believe it!...Since I had never siphoned the gunk from the tank, they had plenty of foods to eat.” I guess this hobby features not only failures and planned successes, but also sometimes just plain ole good luck.

**“*Hoplisoma* sp. CW111 The Vulcan/Zebra Cory” by Eric Bodrock
Finformation, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. August 2024.**

The folks in Pittsburgh must be on a roll of good luck. Eric, one of the best-known catfish breeders in the world, was grateful to acquire a group of these expensive catfish. Despite following good practices for breeding Corydoras-type fish, among them clean water and nutritious food, “I found a male dead in the tank for no apparent reason. A week or so later, another male turned up dead! I carefully reviewed my efforts with them and couldn't think of anything that I may have done that would have led to their deaths.” See, it can happen to the best of us. Eric has recovered from those two unexplained deaths to get regular spawnings from this fish.

**“Never Feed a Dead Fish!” by Susan Priest,
Modern Aquarium, Greater City Aquarium Society, July 2024.**

A Greater City member wrote an article consisting of random fishkeeping tips, so Susan decided to reciprocate with her own. First, skip the gravel. Reason: seeing crud on the bare-bottom tank will give you an incentive to make regular water changes. When you open a container of dry food, label it with the date. “If you are still using it a year later, assume that it is past its nutritional peak, and toss it out.” Store dry fish foods in the freezer. Mix the various flake foods and store in a container with a tight-fitting lid. “Then you can feed a varied diet all in one meal without the need to open several containers.” Keep unused sponge filters in a tank with fish, so they'll be loaded with bacteria in case they're needed in another tank. Siphon water into a white bucket, so if you inadvertently remove some fry, you'll have a better chance of spotting them. Keep and breed C.A.R.E.S. (threatened) fish. Water your terrestrial plants with nutrient-rich water from your water changes. And finally, never feed a dead fish; what she means is, be observant of your fishes every day. Are they eating? Are they being bullied? Are they vigorous? I appreciated (and follow most of) Susan's tips.

**“A Second Look at the Kuhli Loach (*Pangio kuhlii*)” by Steven Bieda,
Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, August 2024.**

Like the author, and a good indication of how long this fish has been in the hobby, I also kept the Kuhli loach when I was a kid. I did not know that it is named after the German ichthyologist Heinrich Kuhl, who died in 1821. “While many of you may have considered this as a fish that you have ‘graduated from,’ this attractive and peaceful odd-ball aquarium denizen deserves a second look.” It is attractive, hardy, inquisitive and playful. Kept in a group of no less than three in a tank with a sandy substrate and plenty of hiding places, this fish should live for 12–15 years. Steven notes that breeding this fish almost certainly requires hormone treatment, which neither he nor I would want to bother with.

“Capturing Aquatic Life: History, Techniques, & Reflections on Ichthyological Illustration”
by Dorian Noel,
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., July/August 2024.

Now here's a topic you won't read about every day: fish drawings. The author explains there are two types of fish illustrators: scientific and naturalistic. The author is a scientific illustrator, and his job is to draw the most accurate picture of a fish he can. The naturalistic illustrator includes the fish's environment in the illustration. The illustrator first must gather voluminous information about the fish, and this may include expeditions to the fish habitat. Details are key. For example, “The work on scales is particularly important and time-consuming. It's all about how they are organized on the body of each fish. Their shape and size vary according to the part of the body.” Dorian notes that “it's not uncommon to spend up to 20 hours on an illustration.” This one-of-a-kind article is supported by more than 20 of the author's illustrations.

“Smooth Operator: Care of the Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*” by Steve Hopman,
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., July/August 2024.

I didn't realize that while these newts in nature go through two phases, an aquatic phase and a terrestrial phase, in captivity they can be kept in the aquatic phase simply by keeping them in an aquarium with water. Steve notes two reasons to do this: ease of feeding (not having to depend on a constant supply of live crickets) and ease of waste removal using a sponge filter. Newts can be fed frozen or live bloodworms, blackworms or brine shrimp. A 20-gallon tank without a heater should suffice for a half dozen adults, but a tight-fitting top is absolutely essential. Regular water changes, sponge filter cleanings, plants and rocks round out the requirements for successful newt-keeping. Steve's article is generously illustrated.

“(Re)Building a Fishroom” by Mike Hellweg, C.F.N. (Certified Fish Nut),
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., July/August 2024.

Mike's articles are always worth reading, and in this one, he begins a multi-part series of designing and building a fishroom. In this article, Mike details all the changes he's made in his fishroom over the years. I'll bet, yeah, most of us have changed our fishrooms too. The most recent iteration was forced on him when his house flooded following a major storm, and he was forced to remove everything from his basement fishroom. “Everything had to go so the flood mitigation team could get to the floor and the walls.” He leaned on support from fellow MASi members (see, another reason to be an aquarium society member) who tore down racks, moved tanks, and took fish and equipment that was now excess. I'm looking forward to future articles detailing what he did to design and build his current fishroom.

“Easymode An Introduction to CO₂ Part V: Optimizing Pressurized CO₂” by Andrej Spec,
The Darter, Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., July/August 2024.

In this fifth article of Andrej's incredibly informative series on using carbon dioxide to get plants to flourish, he focuses on efficiently circulating the CO₂ in the tank. CO₂ misted in a “dead zone” of the tank does not help the plants. Andrej's solution is to saturate the tank with CO₂ and use a pump to circulate it through the tank. He recommends a power head at one end of the tank and the CO₂ diffuser near the bottom of the tank at the end farthest from the power head.

CNYAS articles reprinted/reviewed/mentioned in other publications:

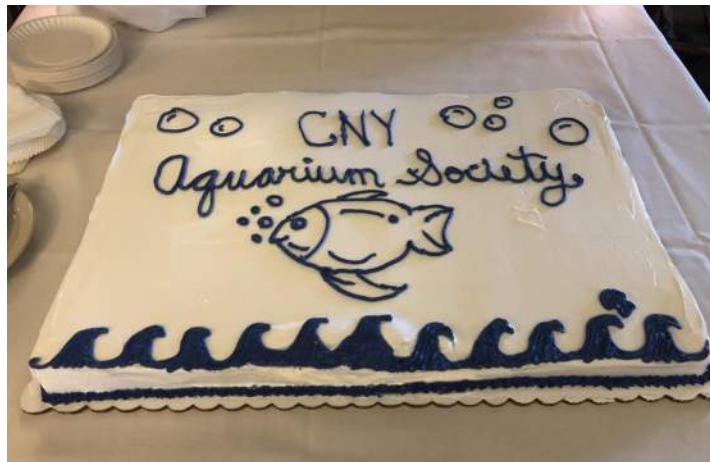
“A Better Way of Shipping Fish” by Clifford H. Crain, Jr., *Reflector* January 2024,
Reviewed in *Fins and Tales*, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, June 2024.

“Building a New Kind of Fish Store” by Clifford H. Crain, Jr. *Reflector* February 2024,
Reviewed in *Fins and Tales*, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, June 2024.

“Flying With the Flier Cichlid” by Clifford H. Crain Jr., *Reflector* June 2024,
Reviewed in the *The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, July/August 2024.

2024 CNYAS Annual Award Banquet

The Retreat Restaurant





UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 11, Board Meeting**
- Sept. 14, CNYAS Swap Meet**
- Sept. 15, TFCEC Auction**
- Sept. 18, General Meeting**
- Oct. 9, Board Meeting**
- Oct. 13, ARVAS Auction**
- Oct. 16, General Meeting**

CNYAS CLUB MEETINGS

Each monthly meeting consists of :

- Short business meeting; program (slide show, movie, guest speaker, etc.).
- Break (refreshments/social gathering)
- Bowl Show bi-month.
- Mini auction of member items (plants, fish, equipment, etc.).
- Raffle (equipment, books, food, magazine subscriptions, etc.).
- Free door prizes; question and discussion session.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and are open to all members who would like to attend.



CNYAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Witnesses for the BAP and AHAP Programs

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Sue Kotcher | BAP |
| Clay (315) 622-9668 | |
| Winnie Pitzeruse | BAP AHAP |
| Syracuse (315) 488-0133 | |
| Ron Fabiny | BAP AHAP |
| Clay (315) 440-5806 | |
| Len Futterman | BAP |
| East Syracuse (315) 560-0955 | |
| Herschel Beeman | BAP |
| (315) 663-8694 | |
| Bill Newell | AHAP |
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Central New York Aquarium Society



CNYAS is a non-profit educational organization with a goal of furthering the study of all forms of aquatic life. In order to achieve this, we promote the interest in, and encourage the breeding of, aquatic life. Through the exchange of ideas and distribution of information concerning the hobby, we will advance our members' knowledge of the hobby, providing valuable information to those who seek it.

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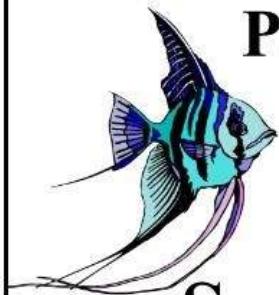
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CNYAS has made our archives of past published Reflectors available online to all members. They go all the way back to 1976, to the inception of our club. The link below will take you to the archive. Enjoy your trip through our fishy past!

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