



# REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

October 2024, Volume 49, Number 2

## **This Month's Presentation** **"Aquarium Shrimp 101"**

**By: Ron Kline**

Cover Photo by Ron Kline



# CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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## CNYAS GENERAL MEETING

### LOCATION

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

### DATE / TIME

Wednesday October 16, 2024  
@ 7:00 pm



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- 2) The article is reprinted in its original form.
- 3) The original author is credited appropriately.
- 4) An author's copy is provided to the Editor at the time of distribution of the reprint.

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### 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.

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### Officers

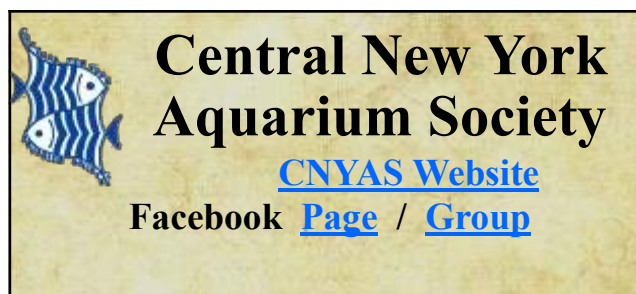
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### Board of Directors

Michael Flintrop  
Clifford Crain  
Ron Alexander  
Bill Newell  
Herschel Beeman

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**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**

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### Presidents Message October 2024

Hi everyone we are starting out this year on a positive note with a very successful Swap Meet. Please remember that dues are now due this month. If they are not paid you will not be receiving an email with the Reflector.

This months October meeting's guest speaker is Ron Kline. His topic will be "Aquarium Shrimp". Ron will be giving his talk on "Aquarium Shrimp 101". It's a basic overview of keeping shrimp, including breeding, taxonomy, anatomy and tank set up.

Please note that I will not be running for President next year so if you are interested please let me know and that way you can shadow me and see what is involved.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Ron

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## **CNYAS 2023-2024 Aquarist of the Year Xiaoyu "Suzie" Rafferty**



**Lenny Futterman, Suzie Rafferty, Mary Teelin**



**Doug Hillman & Suzie Rafferty**

## **This Month's Presentation by: Ron Kline**

### **Aquarium Shrimp 101**

#### **Basic information on keeping shrimp in the Aquarium**

#### **Anatomy, Taxonomy, Water Parameters/Health, Breeding/Reproduction and Tank Setup**



Photo by: Ron Kline



# It's Time For A Field Trip!

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

At the CNYAS meeting in May our speaker, Dr. Elisa Livengood gave a fascinating talk on the work she and her students are doing at the Aquaculture Center at SUNY Morrisville. She offered to host a field trip for our club, so we're taking her up on her offer!

We will meet at the hatchery at SUNY Morrisville at **11:00 Saturday morning, October 26**. Dr. Livengood will give us a tour of the facilities, followed by a trip through the Wildlife Museum. Following that, we will make our way to one of our nearby local fish stores, Empire Aquatics, where the owner, Shelly, will give us a personal tour. We then return to Morrisville for a group lunch at the Copper Turret Restaurant, which is run by SUNY Morrisville students. After lunch we will make the short trip to Doug Hillman's fishroom. Doug has a large, extremely well-organized, clean fishroom that you don't want to miss!

Everyone who joined us on the field trips to Rochester and Buffalo the last two years agreed that the trips were well worth the time. I expect we'll have the same very positive experience nearer to home this year.

We will provide details about where to park and meet. If you are interested in what promises to be a very enjoyable Saturday, please contact Clifford Crain at [chcjrbone311@gmail.com](mailto:chcjrbone311@gmail.com) so we can get an approximate headcount.



**BOARD MEETING****CNYAS Board meeting**

9/11/2024

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

**1. Committee Reports:**

1. Treasurer—Report
2. AHAP— see Reflector
3. BAP- see Reflector
4. WAP- see Reflector, Clifford to take over
5. Membership-3 paid members
6. Auction - Will plan for starting in Jan 25. 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. Next swap meet Sept 14<sup>th</sup> at the Liverpool Elks. Doug to chair
2. Voted to Change Superbowl prizes to cash, talk about increasing prize amount next year. Voted to increase prizes to 1<sup>st</sup> 35.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> 25.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> is 20.00.
3. Len to work on speakers for this year. Sept 24 speaker is Mark Duffil speaking on Loaches. Oct 24 speaker is Ron Kline speaking on shrimp.
4. Board Meetings 2024-2025  
Sept— Ron Fabiny, Oct— Doug Hillman, Nov—Chip Alexander,  
Dec—Mary and Lenny Futterman, Jan—Bob and Sue Kotcher, Feb—Mike Flintrop  
Mar—Bill Newell, April—Ron Fabiny, May—Hershel Beeman, June—Clifford Crain
5. Picnic and Banquet were both a great success! Suzie Rafferty awarded Aquarist of the Year award, Congrats Suzie!

**3. New Business:**

1. Send speaker info to Len
2. Mike Flintrop contacted TFH and they want to do an article about the club, he will gather info about the club through a survey next meeting
3. 50th Anniversary of CNYAS in 2026. Sue and Mike to head up a committee for celebration.
4. Ron and Len plan to step down for Pres and VP next year. Need to fill these roles.
5. Clifford to plan field trip to Morrisville college this fall

**CNYAS General Meeting 9/18/24 .**

1. Regular business meeting. Looking for new president and VP for next year.
2. Great speaker Mark Duffil gave a presentation on Loaches.
3. Guest auctioneer Randy Seufert did a great job!!





## Convention Report: American Cichlid Association 2024 Part Two: Shop Hop

**By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.**

I arrived in Cincinnati for the American Cichlid Association convention Wednesday evening and picked up my registration packet and goody bag Thursday morning. While the ACA had speakers scheduled for Thursday and Friday evenings, my intention was to shop hop during the day. The hosts very helpfully included in the goody bag a list of recommended shops to visit. The list included complete contact information for each shop but even more important, for someone like me who doesn't know where anything is in Cincinnati, they suggested itineraries: visit these three shops close to the hotel if you don't have a lot of time, visit these further out, visit these if you cross the Ohio River and want to see shops in Kentucky. They also had recommendations on how to avoid traffic. I really appreciated this detailed shop hop information. With it in hand, I hit the road.

The following is a detailed report on the six shops that I visited. Of course I'm not expecting Central New Yorkers to make the 10 hour trip to Cincinnati just to visit shops. I found something of interest in each of the shops.



**Finspiration owner Chris Benes  
In Front of his Store's 700 gallon Display Tank**

see a single sick or dead fish. His system changes 10% of the water in every tank daily. Probably the most impressive thing about this store is that the tanks were fully stocked with fish. (So often I see fish store tanks that are empty or only lightly stocked.) Besides the usual livestock, I was thrilled to find archerfish, a tank of atabapo pike cichlids, copperhead barbs, schoutedeni puffers and if you have \$1,600, a pair of black diamond rays! In business at this location since 2022, Finspiration Aquatics is an example of a high quality fish store owned by an enthusiastic hobbyist.

The first shop, Finspiration Aquatics, was only minutes from the hotel and is owned by Chris Benes, the son of the late famed cichlid hobbyist Phil Benes and Jan Benes, the current chair of the ACA board of trustees. A big, 700-gallon, 10 foot long display tank welcomes visitors to the store. Chris carries a full line of high quality dry food from New Life Spectrum, Sera and Bug Bites along with a very generous selection of driftwood. Here's something you don't see in stores any more: a selection of *Amazonas* magazines for sale. The aquariums are filtered with matten filters and each is standalone with no sharing of water to prevent the spread of disease. Chris quarantines all fish, and it shows, as I did not



**Some of the Immaculate  
Well- Stocked Tanks  
At Finspiration**



**Amazonas Magazines  
for Sale  
At Finspiration**



The next store is also owned by an enthusiastic hobbyist but has a different business model. All About Pets, proudly owned by Dave Simmons for 28 years, has the biggest selection of used aquariums, equipment and supplies that I've ever seen in a fish store. Dave told me that after his lease ended at a previous location and the owner did not wish to renew it, Dave did not want to go through that again, so he bought the building that houses his current store. It's his retirement nest egg. Dave uses a Python for water changes and follows the desirable practice of not sharing water among the tanks. I spent a long time admiring the most beautiful, healthy adult pair of Jack Dempsey's I've ever seen.

The last store for the day on the "Quickest Short Trip Shop Hop" list was Aquarium Artisans, in business at this location since 2019. This was the largest store on the shop hop, and about half of the store was devoted to saltwater. There were four huge "low boy" tanks featuring a varied selection of coral frags. Aquarium Artisans is the only store in my recent memory to have live adult brine shrimp for sale, at \$6.99 per teaspoon. The store has really caught on to the nano tank craze and featured 21 fully decorated and stocked nano tanks. I also saw equipment that would appeal to serious hobbyists

including a large selection of UV sterilizers and many different filters and pads. One of the tanks had a mist floating above the water, something I hadn't seen before. The manager took time to show me how it works and said it has been reliably running for several years. The Ultum Nature Systems Atomizer Mist Maker "is an ultrasonic mister designed to emulate jungle-like conditions for tropical terrestrials and aquatic plant species grown emergent. Atomizer produces a gentle layer of fog to increase humidity levels and support healthy plant growth." Way cool! [UNS Atomizer](#) If you want to chill, the store has a comfy couch, reading material and display tank for your convenience.



**Generous Collection of Nano Tanks and Fish at Aquarium Artisans**



**Chill Out at Aquarium Artisans  
Note the unusual Two Level Aquarium**



**Live Adult Brine Shrimp  
For Sale  
at Aquarium Artisans**



**UNS Atomizer Mist Maker  
At Work  
at Aquarium Artisans**

I only had time to visit one of the “Farther Away Stores,” and that was the Montfort Aquarium & Pet. This store has been in business since, yikes! 1963 and has about 100 freshwater tanks and 60 saltwater tanks. The store has been at the current location for 38 years, but never fear, the owner, Dave, proudly pulled out his photo album of the store with photos and news clippings of the business through the years. Did you know that years ago, if you agreed to include the Coca-Cola name on your store sign, the company would help finance the sign? Dave had a photo to prove it! As was the case in all the stores, each tank is separate to prevent the spread of disease. The tanks are filtered with old school undergravel filters, and water changes are performed manually by siphoning water into large barrels and then emptying the water into a system of PVC piping that is hidden below the tanks and empties into a drain in the store’s basement. I was impressed that many of the saltwater tanks were spacious 75 gallon units. The star of the show, however, is a huge, and I mean ginormous, bubble anemone that was acquired at a few inches of size **38 years ago**. Its attendant clownfish is also a mind-boggling 38 years old. Dave said that when the anemone “stretches out,” it takes up more than half of the 135 gallon aquarium!



### **The Gigantic 38 year-old Anemone and Anemone fish At Montfort Aquarium**

The only ACA-sponsored activity outside the convention was a trip to Jungle Jim’s. What is Jungle Jim’s, you say? From their website: “With more than 200,000 square feet of shopping space in each of our stores, there are over 180,000 products from which to choose.” This is the biggest friggin’ store I’ve ever seen. If Wegmans has 50 kinds of cheese, Jungle Jim’s has at least ten times that many, probably more. A visit to the store was on the ACA activity list because, get this: it has its own live tilapia, lobster, shrimp etc. environment. Not just tanks, but an entire aquatic system to keep seafood alive and fresh for sale. It resembles the “behind-the-scenes” setup of a large public aquarium. I intended to sign up for the Thursday tour, but by the time I registered, that tour was cancelled, and I did not have time for the Friday tour, so I did not actually get to go on the tour with the ACA, but I viewed the many photos taken by ACA members and posted online. If for some reason you find yourself in Cincinnati, besides visiting the fish stores of course, make time to get lost wandering around what must be one of the biggest stores in the world! [Jungle Jim's](#)



**At Jungle Jim’s, Darth Vader breathes heavily, and if you press  
The Red Button, the *Storm Trooper’s March* plays  
Really, Really Loudly.  
I Slinked away in Newbie Embarrassment**



The reason I couldn't take the ACA tour of Jungle Jim's on Friday is I scheduled a visit with my cousin Betzy, who grew up in Pittsburgh but has lived in Lexington, Kentucky for about 60 years. After a nearly two-hour drive, I had a delightful visit which included a speakerphone call back to Syracuse so Emily could be in on the conversation.

I was warned by locals that if I tried to return to the hotel from Kentucky via I-75 after 3:00, I would get stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic. I scheduled my visit with my cousin early enough, I hoped, to avoid sitting in traffic while hitting several fish stores in Kentucky on the way back.

First up was World of Pets, a busy store that's been around for 40 years that also sells birds, reptiles and small mammals. I really liked how they arranged a collection of display tanks of different sizes, giving the customer a great vision of how small, medium and large tanks could be laid out. When I commented to the owner about the large selection of tanks he had, he said he did this because he could lose a sale if he had to order a tank for a customer. Direct quote: "I'll send you home with an aquarium." World of Pets conveniently shares the building with a gun store! Hey, ya'll are in Kentucky!



**Ideas for Aquascaping different size Tanks  
"I'll send you home with an Aquarium"  
Is the Store's Motto**



**You can take home a gun  
Along with your Aquarium**

Uh oh, I didn't make it to the final shop in time and got caught in the dreaded I-75 traffic jam. After much delay, I found Discover Aquatics Shop. This store was the smallest of the ones I visited and was focused mostly on saltwater. In fact, it was strictly saltwater when it opened in 2015 and moved to the current location two years ago. They are branching out to freshwater. The store has a devoted following, as I found out when I approached someone and started to ask questions, only to find out he was an enthusiastic customer. Both he and the store employee were quite familiar with the ACA and the convention. Of the stores I visited, this is the only one that is an Aquarium Co-op dealer. Most impressive was a large open tank at floor level containing a bunch of rays, a shark and an eel



**A Tank of Rays, a Shark and eel  
At Discover Aquatics**

About the traffic. Instead of getting back on I-75 I took the more roundabout beltway I-275 back to the hotel. A lot more miles but a lot less traffic and aggravation.

The Cincinnati metro area is large enough to support a number of independent local fish stores. If you're in the area, it would be worth a trip to see them.



## WRITERS AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman– Arnaud Germain

### PEN & QUILL

Crain	1743	Teelin-Futterman	711
Spahn	1416	Pitzeruse	652
Vormwald	1260		
Kotcher	851	Smith K.	600
Fowler	751	Fabiny	521

### WORDSMITH

Kinney	470	Rademacher	215
Hillman	235		

### AUTHORS AWARD

Baird	120	Doyle	115
Futterman	105	Beeman	105

### WRITERS AWARD

O'Neil	90	Cody	70
Rafferty	80	Collins	75

### 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 #27", REFLECTOR, September 2024

Clifford Crain: "Convention Report: American Cichlid Association 2024 Part One: The Convention", REFLECTOR, September 2024

Hershel Beeman: "Stefan L. "Steve" Van Camp - A Short BAP overview of Grand Master Breeder Steve Van Camp", REFLECTOR, September 2024

Sue Kotcher: "Memories of and a Tribute to Steve Van Camp" REFLECTOR, September 2024

Doug Hillman: "Club Members Fish and/or Aquarium", REFLECTOR, September 2024



## AQUATIC HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman– Bill Newell

Name	Points	Species
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### 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
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### 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
<b><u>Grand Master</u></b>			<b><u>Participants</u></b>		
*Van Camp	965	77	Mike Flintrop	40	3
1-2-3-4-6-7-8-9-11-13-15-16			Spahn	30	3
			Domanowski, S	25	4
			Chris Pollard	20	2
<b><u>Master Breeder</u></b>			Maxwell	20	2
*Pitzeruse, W.	610	50	Kotcher	10	1
1-2-3-4-7-8-9-11-12-13-14-15-16			Futterman, L	10	1
Beeman	615	46	Futterman, M	5	1
4-7-8-11-12-16					
Fabiny	525	46			
1-7-8-11-12-14-15-16					
<b><u>Expert Breeder</u></b>			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
Hunter Collins	235	13	*Indicated Species Classification Award		
8, 11			^Indicates first spawning		
Clifford Crain Jr.	220	19	<b>New Additions:</b>		
7,8			Clifford Crain	20 Points	
<b><u>Advanced Breeder</u></b>			<i>Chapalichthys practices</i>	10 Points	
William Newell	165	13	<i>Skiffia multipunctate</i>	10 Points	
8					
Doug Hillman	125	14	Denise Baird	10 Points	
11			<i>Pomacea birdgesilli</i> (First Recorded)		
<b><u>Breeder Award</u></b>			Mike Flintrop	40 Points	
Wisneski	65	7	<i>Ancistrus cirrhosis</i>	20 Points	
11			<i>Neolamprologus multifasciatus</i>	15 Points	
Denise Baird	75	5	<i>Steatocranus casuarius</i>	15 Points	
Chris Allen	60	4			
11					



## **BOWL SHOW**

**Chairman - Arnaud Germain**

### **YTD Scores:**

**Doug Hillman: 47 Points**  
**Denise Baird: 21 Points**

### **The 2024-2025 Categories will be as follows:**

September: Livebearers  
**October: Killies**  
November: New World Cichlids: North Central  
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](mailto: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.

## We had 6 entries for the September Bowl Show!

- A: *Poecilia latipinna* (Calico Balloon Molly male) – First place – Denise Baird – 21 points
- B: *Poecilia latipinna* (Dalmatian Molly) – Second place – Doug Hillman – 16 points
- C: *Poecilia latipinna* (Black Sailfin Molly) – Third place – Doug Hillman – 10 points
- D: *Poecilia latipinna* (Dalmatian Balloon Molly) – Denise Baird
- E: *Poecilia latipinna* (Calico Balloon Molly female) – Denise Baird

### OPEN:

- A: *Ancistrus* sp.(Long-Fin Snow White Bristlenose Pleco) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points

**A**



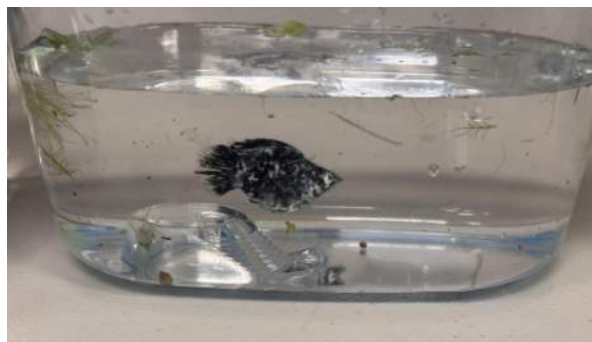
**B**



**C**



**D**



**E**



**A**







## FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #28

### EXCHANGE REPORT

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

**“A Look at *Belonesox belizanus*, The Pike Killifish” by Steven Bieda**  
***Tropiquarium*, Motor City Aquarium Society, September 2024**

The pike killifish, actually a livebearer, has been in the hobby for many years. “The long, toothy jaws of the pike killifish distinguish this livebearer from all others.” Adults can grow to six inches and can tolerate low oxygen levels and brackish water. While it belongs to the same family as guppies, *Poeciliidae*, keep in mind its diet is other fish, including guppies.

**“Cherry Barbs VS. Red Tiger Lotus” by Teresa Finley**  
***Aqua Antics*, Sarnia Aquarium Society, September/October 2024.**

Oooh, I liked the title. Fight is on! Teresa bought some red tiger lotus at where else, an aquarium society auction. It’s a red plant that germinates by seed, and after a few months it was getting tall. “I had this plant in with 6 Cherry Barbs a 10 gallon tank...I went away for 1 night and they ate pretty much all of it in the one night/day. I have kept Cherry Barbs for over 10 years and they have never touched any of my plants...They ate it right to the roots and it never came back...That’s the fish hobby though, trial and error.” Teresa includes dramatic before and after photos.

**“This Deadly Fish Is Threatening Our Seafood Supply” by Allison Arnold**  
***Modern Aquarium*, Greater City Aquarium Society, September 2024.**

I didn’t have to guess which fish the author was referring to, as the article starts with a beautiful half-page photo of a lionfish, *Pterois volitans*. Lionfish are native to Asia and have no natural enemies in waters from the Caribbean to New England. They are decimating the native fish population, and they can’t be caught with a net, so the only method of reducing their population is to spear them, one at a time. Allison notes that there are lionfish-catching derbies in Florida which pay cash prizes to those who can spear the most. At this year’s Emerald Coast Open in Destin-Fort Walton Beach, the world’s largest lionfish tournament, 24,699 (!) lionfish were caught. “Unlike other species, there is no limit on how many you can catch which makes it a goldmine for fishermen. It’s always open season.” Lionfish meat is edible: “The light, flaky fish has become a common dish at restaurants throughout the Keys.”

**“Pygmy Corydoras” by Jen Silverman**  
***Tank Tales*, Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, September 2024**

Jen suffered numerous failures trying to breed pygmy corys but kept trying until she found the magic answer. The problem wasn’t getting the fish to spawn; the problem was hatching and keeping the fry alive. At first she collected the eggs and put them in a deli container with tank water; the eggs calcified. She placed the next batch of eggs in a deli container with half distilled water and half dechlorinated tap water, and the eggs hatched. She moved the fry “into my fry system which consists of 4 shallow trays that rest within a 20L tank with recycling water and air lines.” (There are many youtube videos describing this system.) They all died within a week, and she got the same result several more times using this approach. As a last-ditch effort, she simply threw the eggs into a 10 gallon, cycled tank with a sponge filter and fine sand. This did the trick, and she reports repeated success with this method.

**“The Strawberry Betta *Betta albimarginata*” by Carlyn Muchlhauser  
*The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2024.**

Carlyn’s article is a deep dive explaining everything you need to know about this beautiful mouthbrooding betta. By deep dive I mean a thorough explanation of where it comes from, its habitat, and conditions for keeping, breeding and raising the fry of this fish. Her article includes numerous photos.

**“(Re)building a Fishroom Part II” by Mike Hellweg, C.F.N. (Certified Fish Nut)  
*The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2024.**

Mike’s articles are always, and I mean always, informative, but this one is especially interesting to me as he’s on one of my favorite topics, fishroom design. After his fishroom was flooded, he dumped his gear and is starting over. In this installment of his fishroom series, he starts off describing some of the things he tried that did not work in his previous setup.

He acquired many second-hand tanks over the years but discovered that they often arrived in poor condition, with scratches making good photos impossible (Mike is a veteran fish photographer). In addition, “Tanks from different manufacturers are so different that it’s hard to believe they are the same nominal size!...Some are so different in size, that even when they look like they’re the same size, the lids will fall through on some tanks and won’t sit tight on others.” Hear, hear! I’ve experienced the same thing, even when the tanks are from the same manufacturer.

Next, he notes that when he first set up his fishroom, he “set up a drain line around the room that ran to a floor drain.” I’ve done the same thing in my fishroom, so what’s the problem? He used 1½" pipe and discovered that it is not “wide enough to allow enough flow to go through.” I avoided this problem by using 2" pipe. Next, he used fluorescent lights but found out the humidity shortened the life of the ballasts; replacing ballasts is a pain in the neck. He eventually replaced the fluorescents with LEDs but found that “all these do is to grow algae, especially black beard algae.” Same here, and I’ll be interested to hear how he got around this.

His first air system utilized a blower that provided sufficient air but was loud. He has switched to a quiet linear piston pump. My LP pump is pricey but quiet and ultra-reliable. Mike complains of airline that gets hard over time and “becomes a challenge to keep on air outlets in the tanks.” I have experienced this problem too and in fact I had to replace airlines to two filters just yesterday because they would not stay attached to filters that I had just cleaned.

Another design flaw in Mike’s original fishroom was placing tanks down low, near the floor. Not only does that require getting up and down and bending, but tanks near the floor just don’t get the attention they need. I have visited fishrooms of CNYAS members where all the tanks are at waist level or higher and I’m jealous, as space is so limited in my fishroom, I’m forced to locate tanks near the floor.

Mike will be using open storage shelves for his supplies in the next iteration of his fishroom. “It’s a bit less aesthetically pleasing, but over the years I’ve found that I have too many things that go outdated because they got pushed to the back of a cabinet shelf.” I’ll bet we all have stuff we’ve forgotten about because it’s out of sight.

When Mike wired his fishroom, he used ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets to prevent shock (I did too). An electrician told him that GFCI outlets have a limited lifespan and need to be replaced every 10–15 years. I did not know that.

Mike’s new fishroom will have all new tanks, drilled with and automatic water changing system, none on the bottom row near the floor, better LED fixtures, and lids and filters that are all the same for interchangeability. Finally, he’s making room for a comfy chair that encourages fish viewing

**“Fish Husbandry & Water Quality Part I” by Greg Sage**  
***The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2024.**

Greg Sage, a well-known fish breeder and owner of Select Aquatics, is a stickler for producing only the healthiest, strongest, most beautiful fish. How does he do it? “Consistent, top water quality is essential...Not only do the fish thrive, but with proper feeding and care you can produce robust, long-lived fish that are breeding to their potential, while growing to their maximum size and color...The goal is to create cleaner, stable tanks where the fish aren’t stressed and can focus energy on breeding rather than surviving illness.” Some of his ideas are what we all already know: regular water changes, no overfeeding, low stocking levels and mild aeration. Greg strongly recommends against thick layers of gravel, as that tends to trap organic waste which deteriorates into ammonia. Instead, a thin layer of gravel to provide surface area for beneficial bacteria is all that’s needed. He also recommends that we “take full advantage of all that live plants have to offer, they contribute substantially to the health of your water and the fish.” He lists five varieties that do well in a clean tank: Java fern, Java moss, Bolbitis fern, Amazon swords, and *Aponogeton crispus*. (Rooted plants are kept in pots, not in thick gravel, and the soil is replaced annually.) Also, “You never want to put dirt in your substrate.” Greg also recommends using clean, aged water when moving fish to a new tank. “Raw, dechlorinated water can actually be irritating for some species.”

If you find his thoughts on gravel thickness to be, let’s say, independent, you won’t be surprised to hear that he has a contrary view on filtration too. He’s not a fan of sponge filters. He depends on the thin layer of gravel to provide the surface area required by the beneficial bacteria. Instead, he recommends air-driven box filters. Unlike sponge filters (and canister filters, for that matter), it’s easy to tell when the floss needs to be cleaned or changed. And removing a box filter from a tank does not release a bunch of mulm, unlike a sponge filter. Box filters are inexpensive to purchase and easy and affordable to maintain.

**“Bringing Baby Home: Adjusting Plants to the Aquarium” by Andrej Spec**  
***The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2024.**

Andrej’s article deals with the impact that sudden transitions, such as from a dry bag in the store to the home aquarium, have on plants. “Each of these transitions consumes much energy stored and jerks the plant in a new direction. This is why many plants struggle at the beginning.” He recommends fewer transitions, “so getting them locally grown, underwater or from an LFS that uses the conditions that baby the plants (high light and flow, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) will make it easier for you.” His second recommendation is to use Seachem Flourish Advance. “I don’t normally advocate brand names, but to the best of my knowledge, there is no substitute on the market. It is not much of a fertilizer but a mixture of plant hormones.”

**“Aquashella Chicago: The World’s Premier Aquarium Festival” by Christine Richardson**  
***The Darter*, Missouri Aquarium Society, September/October 2024.**

Christine describes her experiences of her first trip to Aquashella, a huge trade show/swap meet/fish show that is held in several cities around the country each year. What caught my attention was her list of “Takeaways from a First Timer.” She says that although it was more expensive to stay in a room at the same hotel that hosted the event, it was worth it: “We were able to buy heavy items without having to carry them for the rest of the day, we could run up to our room for a quick nap, and we could check on our new fish babies as often as we wanted.” Other tips: bring a large water bottle that can be refilled at a water fountain for free; have a plan for food; bring some sort of contact/business card; and bring a backpack or bag (or better yet, an insulated bag) to carry your new goodies.

CNYAS articles reprinted/reviewed/mentioned in other publications:  
None this month.



## CLUB MEMBERS FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Photos by: Suzie Raffery



**Sterbai Cory**



**Hillstream Loach**



**Dwarf Red Gularis**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 9, Board Meeting**  
**Oct. 13, ARVAS Auction**  
**Oct. 16, General Meeting**  
**Oct. 26, CNYAS Field Trip**  
**Nov. 13, Board Meeting**  
**Nov. 20, General Meeting**

## BOARD MEETINGS

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



### 2024-2025 Schedule

Sept: Ron Fabiny	Oct: Doug Hillman
Nov: Chip Alexander	Dec: Mary & Lenny Futterman
Jan: Bob & Sue Kotcher	Feb: Mike Flintrop
Mar: Bill Newell	April: Ron Fabiny
May: Hershel Beeman	June: Clifford Crain

## 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.

## 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  
 (315) 440-9513



# 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.

[CNYAS is now on Facebook!](#)

# TROPICAL FISH,

Plants & Aquarium Supplies

## AUCTION

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

at the John Ash Community Center,  
112 North Barry Street, Olean, NY 14760

Registration starts at 10 a.m. -- Auction starts at 11 a.m.

**\*\* Free admission \*\***

**ANYONE CAN BUY ~ ANYONE CAN SELL**

All items being sold must be aquatic (tropical fish keeping) related

All sellers need a seller's ID#, split is 70% to the seller and 30% to the club



For a seller's ID #, or more information  
phone 716-373-2639 and leave a message

**Cash only – No checks**

Food and beverages will be available

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



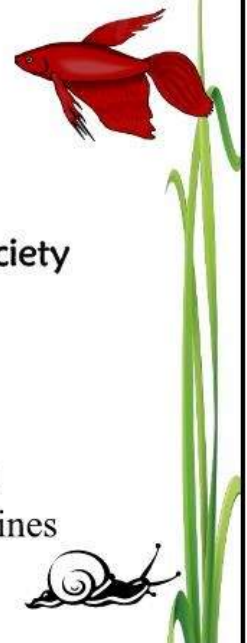
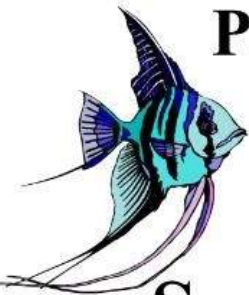
Included in this year's auction will be items like:

Lots of Fish  
Aquatic plants  
Plastic Plants  
New/used Equip.

Filters  
Air Pumps  
Tanks  
Stands

Lights  
Ornaments  
Medication  
Books

Snails  
Gravel  
Magazines  
Etc





# **The Central New York Aquarium Society would like to Thanks these Companies and Individuals for their contributions and support**

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- Regular T-Shirt — \$15
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- Pullover Hoodie — \$30
- Zip-up Hoodie — \$50
- Cap — \$20
- Coffee Mugs—\$5

### ATTENTION LOCAL MERCHANTS

**Advertise in the Reflector!**

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**Business Card- \$30**

**1/4 Page- \$80**

**1/2 Page- \$100**

**For information:**

**Call Len @ 315-560-0955 Or  
email [futtermania@gmail.com](mailto:futtermania@gmail.com)**

### REFLECTOR ARCHIVES

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!

<https://tinyurl.com/CNYASreflectors>

### 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

**\$15.00 - Individual**

**\$20.00 - Family**

**Send to: [CNYASTreas@gmail.com](mailto:CNYASTreas@gmail.com) on  
Paypal.com (send as friend & family)**



**2022/2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES****\$15.00 - Individual****\$20.00 - Family****Contact:**

Bob Kotcher @

CNYAS-Treas@gmail.com for payment details.

**REFLECTOR ARCHIVES**

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