



REFLECTOR

PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

January 2025, Volume 49, Number 5



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 January 15, 2025
@ 7:00 pm**

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All original, previously unpublished material will be considered for publication. The preferred method of delivery for articles is via E-Mail in MS Word or Text format to Editor.CNYAS@gmail.com. Alternate means of submitting may be arranged via phone. Articles the Editor deems harmful will not be published. Original articles may be reprinted by other non-profit hobby organizations with the following stipulations:

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- 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.

Exchanges:

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.

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Officers

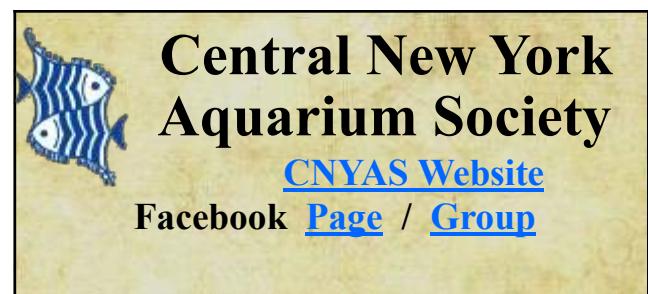
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Swap Meet: Doug Hillman
Webmaster: Tom Garafalo





PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Ron Fabiny

Presidents Message January 2025

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you all had a great holiday. Our December meeting was enjoyed by all, and we had great door prizes thanks to Blue Lagoon Pet Store. This month's speaker is Kapil Mandrekar doing a Zoom presentation on "Project Piaba"

We are starting out the New Year with the planning of our annual auction for 2025. Our auction will be April 26, 2025. I just want all our new members to know that this is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We will need help from everyone. Details will be forthcoming. Ron Alexander is the chairperson and will be asking for help.

Ron



Christmas Toy Drive: Low Tide Corals at the CNYAS Christmas Party
Thiel Valdes and Ron Fabiny

Photo by Doug Hillman

This Month's Presentation: Project Piaba

Presented by Kapil Mandrekar via Zoom

From Wikipedia:

Project Piaba: is a fishery initiative located on the Rio Negro tributary of the Amazon River. The program both promotes and researches sustainable aquarium pet fish collection and its impact on the environment. The name of the project comes from the Brazilian Portuguese word, *piaba* ['pjaba], which means "little fish", referring specifically to the cardinal tetra (*Paracheirodon axelrodi*). Project Piaba is an ongoing project with annual research expeditions to the Rio Negro region. Because of the sustainable nature of the project, its slogan is "Buy a Fish, Save a Tree!"



Project Piaba	
A cardinal tetra , or <i>piaba</i>	
Established	1991; 34 years ago
Founders	Ning Labbish Chao, Gregory Prang
Type	Non-governmental organization
Legal status	Charity
Purpose	Conservation of the Amazon River basin
Headquarters	New England Aquarium
Director	Scott Dowd
Website	http://projectpiaba.org/

BOARD MEETING**CNYAS Board meeting**

12/11/2024

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

1. Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer—Report and budget
2. AHAP— see Reflector
3. BAP- see Reflector, Mike working on changes
4. WAP- see Reflector
5. Membership-44 paid members
6. Auction - Will plan for starting in Jan 25. New tee shirts this year. Projecting fish bag on the screen, Large banner with pictures. Look at getting lightweight banner. Shrimp/Pleco raffle
7. Bowl show- see Reflector.
8. Webmaster- Tom Garafalo is taking over as Webmaster, thanks Tom!
9. Exchange editor- Cliff is doing a great job.
10. Reflector— Low Tide Coral sent a video as for the Reflector. Board voted to put it in

2. Old Business:

1. 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.
2. Len to work on speakers for this year. December meeting is Christmas Party
3. Send Speaker info to Lenny
4. Mike Flintrop contacted TFH and they want to do an article about the club
5. 50th Anniversary of CNYAS in 2026. Sue and Mike to head committee for celebration.

3. New Business:

1. Christmas party Dec. meeting. Bring a dish to pass
2. Ham raffle next meeting

CNYAS General Meeting 12/20/2024

1. Christmas Party
2. Door Prizes donated by: **The Blue Lagoon**
3. Ham raffle



**Aquarium Co-op Door prizes
donated by:
The Blue Lagoon**



Convention Report: Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza 2024 Part Two: The Shop Hop and Ohio Fish Rescue

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

In last month's *Reflector*, I reported on the Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza convention that has been held every year the weekend before Thanksgiving for the past thirty years. I arrived in Strongsville, Ohio the day before the start of the convention in order to allow time to check out the local fish stores (LFS) and to see the Ohio Fish Rescue (OFR) facility. Joe Doyle, well-known Pittsburgh-based hobbyist and speaker, arranged the shop hop tour. He created not only a complete itinerary including the shops and addresses to be visited and a breakfast break, but also a schedule and time allowed for each stop. We needed to return to the hotel by late afternoon in order to not miss the first convention speaker.



Joe Doyle did a great job organizing the day's shop hop and keeping us on schedule

Our first stop was Something Fishy, owned by David Hale.

David, who has been in the hobby for 47 years and in the fish business for 33 years, owns a hatchery, aquarium maintenance service business and the retail store. He has collected fish in Africa and South America, and his business's motto is "Rare breed local fish store." He was kind enough to open his retail store, in business at the current location for five years, early just for us. It's a small store but wow, he really knows how to pack in both supplies and livestock. David has the best selection of Tanganyikan cichlids I've ever seen in any store no matter the size.



Something Fishy has an outstanding selection of healthy Tanganyikan cichlids



Something Fishy's motto comes from years of cleaning fish tanks



When your store is not huge, you use every inch of space to display supplies

As luck would have it, I was running out of dry fish food right about the time of the convention, so I took a shopping list with me to the shop hop. No store had every food I was looking for, but all three stores had some of the food, and I was pleased to be able to support the LFS's by making a purchase at each store.

At Something Fishy I purchased the 8 ounce container of Xtreme Community Crave flakes and the 20 ounce Xtreme Cichlid Pee-Wee pellets. I keep track of my fish food purchases and found that Something Fishy's price for the Community Crave was in line with other LFS's and online. His price for the Cichlid Pee-Wee was 30% less than what I paid on amazon.com in July 2024!



I'm a big fan of Xtreme foods, so I was delighted to note the great selection and prices at Something Fishy

Next stop was Perkins American Food, aka Perkins Pancake House, for breakfast, except I had already eaten breakfast at the hotel, so I just concentrated on conversing with the other dozen attendees. Everyone said the service and food was great, and Perkins even agreed to provide separate checks. I sat across from Dave Costa, the President of the Motor City Aquarium Society; he told me he attends the OCA to get ideas and contacts for meeting speakers. I followed Dave's lead by meeting and getting email addresses and leads for speakers for our meetings. Sitting right next to me was one of the best sources of aquarium society speakers, the afore-mentioned Joe Doyle. Another person of interest I met was Tim Sippel who constructed a separate building on his property in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania just to house his fish hobby. He's in the business of building commercial fish farms for others. Sounds like he would have an interesting presentation, so I made sure to get his phone number. Geoff Humes, the President of the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., has this bumper sticker on the back of his truck: "My fish think I'm cool." Even if my fish don't have that opinion of me, I want that bumper sticker!



Pleco caves anyone?
Something Fishy has 'em



Hungry aquarists enjoying their breakfast at Perkins



What a pleasure it was to chat with Dave Costa, President of the Motor City Aquarium Society

Talking and listening to these other aquarium society enthusiasts was one of the highlights of the whole trip for me.

Breakfast concluded, we made our way to RMS, a local fish store that has been in business for 40 years. This was by far the largest of the three stores we visited, and it also features small animals and supplies in addition to fish. I purchased cans of 17.64 ounce Northfin Cichlid Formula pellets and 8.82 ounce Northfin Bug Pro pellets at prices competitive with other LFS's.



RMS has every size and style of aquarium ready for you to take home



And every size aquarium lid for those aquariums



I love feeding Northfin foods, and RMS has a great selection



Here's something you don't see every day: Largemouth Bass for sale



And when you're done exploring RMS, you can take it easy on the customer couch, as Tom Clinton and Mike Thompson from the Akron Aquarium Society are doing

The final store for the day was Agnoquatics, another small hobbyist-owned LFS. In business since 2019, Alecia, the co-owner, told me that they specialize in personal service and helping hobbyist newbies with the nitrogen cycle. Like any good fish store, Agnoquatics has each tank on its own separate water management system to prevent the spread of disease. They are an Xtreme, Fluval, Oase and Aquarium Co-op dealer. Like Something Fishy, the first store we visited, Agnoquatics packs a lot of dry goods and livestock in a small space. To complete all items on my shopping list, I bought a 20 ounce can of Xtreme Nice pellets and an 8 ounce can of Xtreme Krill Flakes, in both cases for less than I paid for previous online purchases.



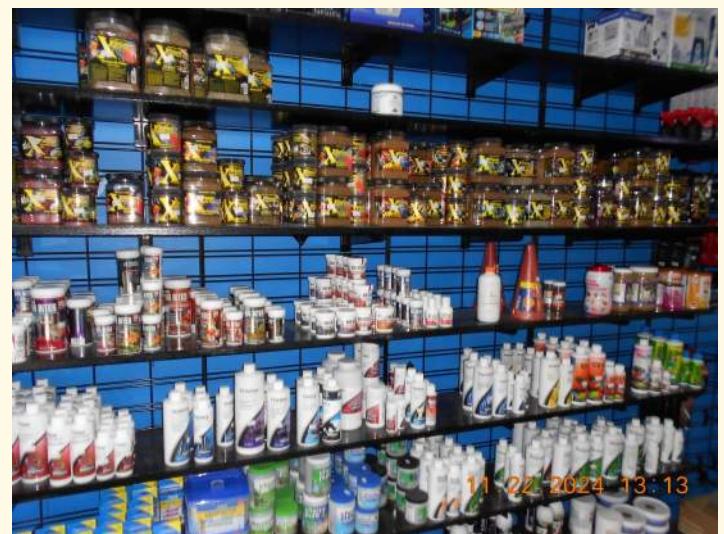
What you see when you walk in the door of Agnoquatics
They display their dry goods anywhere there is room



A Fluval dealer, Agnoquatics had in stock every size canister filter in the Fluval line



A big tank of healthy Frontosa at Agnoquatics



Agnoquatics is another store with a great selection of Xtreme foods

At this point the group called it a day in order to allow those who wanted to see the Ohio Fish Rescue time to catch the last tour of the day. (continued on next page)

The OFR is a non-profit whose purpose is to rescue fish that are too big and rehome them where the fish will be loved. While some fish are rehomed to public aquariums, most go to private homes where the owner wants and has the facility to house a large fish. OFR sells these fish and charges enough to make it uneconomical for the buyer to flip them. The OFR is located in a residential home that has an indoor swimming pool that has been converted to a super-size aquarium. All tanks feature a central water change system and independent filtration.



This is what you see upon entering the building: two 20' long tanks end-to-end. Each tank is 1800 gallons and came from the Bellagio Casino in Las Vegas



This 4400 gallon tank is six feet high and includes 7 Arowanas and 5 Knife fish



The indoor pond that houses the largest fish, a 7' Arapaima



This huge tank is loaded with Rays and came from a car dealer



The OFR motto, printed on a PVC pipe that is part of the water change system

I really enjoyed seeing those three terrific LFS's and the OFR. Of course I'm not expecting CNYAS members to make the six hour drive to the southern Cleveland suburbs just to see these stores and the OFR, but if you ever do find yourself in the Cleveland area and have time, these are great places to visit. Wouldn't it be great if you did find yourself in the area when you sign up for the 2025 OCA Extravaganza? Let's get a contingent of CNYAS members to Cleveland for next year's Extravaganza!

CLUB MEMBERS FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

David Pomeranz:





Central New York Aquarium Society Inc.
Writer's Award Program
Chairman: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

Based on submissions to date through the Dec 2024 Reflector and points published in Jan 2025 Reflector

Name	Status	January	Scaly Eraser	Total
Crain	Pen & Quill Award	112	551	2,039
Kotcher	Pen & Quill Award	0	20	851
Teelin-Futterman	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	711
Pitzeruse	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	652
Smith, K	Pen & Quill Award	0	0	600
Fabiny	Pen & Quill Award	0	5	521
Hillman	Wordsmith Award	0	80	235
Rademacher	Wordsmith Award	0	0	215
Baird	Author's Award	0	10	130
Doyle	Author's Award	0	0	115
Futterman	Author's Award	5	5	110
Beeman	Author's Award	0	20	105
Rafferty	Writer's Award	0	15	95
Collins	Writer's Award	0	0	75
Cody	Writer's Award	0	0	70
Smith, I	Participant	0	0	40
Van Camp	Participant	0	0	30
Pomerantz	Participant	20	30	45
Harris	Participant	0	0	20
Flintrop	Participant	0	0	20
Wisneski	Participant	0	0	20
Tuori	Participant	20	35	35
Wallcott	Participant	0	10	10
Newell	Participant	0	0	10
Pope	Participant	0	0	10
Ziemba	Participant	0	10	10
Olney	Participant	0	5	5

Submissions appearing in the December 2024 Reflector:

Crain, "Convention report OCA 2024," article and 12 photos, 80 points

Crain, "Fish Friends From Afar #30," article, 20 points

Crain, "The Easy Way to Fill Aquariums," mentioned in KWAS *Fins and Tales*, 6 points

Crain, "Flying With the Flyer Cichlid," mentioned in KWAS *Fins and Tales*, 6 points

Pomeranz, "Club Members Fish and/or Aquarium" 4 photos, 20 points

Tuori, "Club Members Fish and/or Aquarium" 4 photos, 20 points

Futterman, "Club Members Fish and/or Aquarium" 1 photo, 5 points



BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM

Chairman - Michael Flintrop
 Email: michaelflintrop@yahoo.com

Name	Points	Species	Name	Points	Species
Grand Master			Participants		
*Van Camp	965	77	Mike Flintrop	40	3
1-2-3-4-6-7-8-9-11-13-15-16			Spahn	30	3
Master Breeder			Domanowski, S	25	4
*Pitzeruse, W.	610	50	Chris Pollard	20	2
1-2-3-4-7-8-9-11-12-13-14-15-16			Maxwell	20	2
Beeman	615	46	Kotcher	10	1
4-7-8-11-12-16			Futterman, L	10	1
Fabiny	525	46	Futterman, M	5	1
1-7-8-11-12-14-15-16			Numbers under the name are completed Specialty Classifications groups.		
Expert Breeder			*Indicated Species Classification Award		
Hunter Collins	235	13	^Indicates first spawning		
8, 11			New Additions:		
Clifford Crain Jr.	220	19			
7,8					
Advanced Breeder					
William Newell	175	14			
8					
Doug Hillman	125	14			
11					
Breeder Award					
Wisneski	65	7			
11					
Denise Baird	85	6			
Chris Allen	60	4			
11					



BOWL SHOW

Chairman - Arnaud Germain

YTD Scores:

Doug Hillman:	156	Points
Bill Newell:	109	Points
Denise Baird:	47	Points

The 2024-2025 Categories will be as follows:

September:	Livebearers
October:	Killies
November:	New World Cichlids
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.

We had 5 entries for the December Bowl Show!

- A: *Pythia nigrofasciata* (Black Ruby Barb) First place – Bill Newell – 21 points
- B: *Trigonostigma espei* (Lambchop Rasbora) – Second place – Bill Newell – 15 points

OPEN:

- A: *Sewellia lineolata* (Reticulated Hillstream Loach) – First place – Doug Hillman – 21 points
- B: *Ameca splendens* (Butterfly Goodeid) – Second place – Bill Newell – 16 points
- C: *Ancistrus* sp (Longfin Green Dragon Bristlenose Pleco) – Third place – Doug Hillman – 10 points

A



B



A



B



C





**AQUATIC HORTICULTURE
AWARD PROGRAM**
Chairman– Bill Newell
Email: bnewell44@gmail.com



Name	Points	Species	Name	Points	Species
Grand Master					
Spahn*	4,015	288	Beginning	95	9
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14			Newell	85	13
Pitzeruse, W*	1,230	87	6		
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14			Wisneski	65	7
Fabiny*	940	68	Taylor	50	6
2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14					
Master					
Van Camp*	465	36	Participants	25	4
1,7,8,9,11,14			Smith	20	1
Lee*	575	42	Taylor	50	6
3,4,7,8,10,12,13,14					
Expert					
Senior					
Snead*	460	26	Bill Newell:	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	5 pts
2,4,7,10,14				<i>Sagittaria subulate</i>	5pts
Kotcher*	165	11			
10,14					
Aquatic					
Futterman*	180	16			
Beeman	190	19			
3,4,6,7					



Mike Flintrop:

My Multi colony

I started with 4 and now have too many to count. Tankmates include Buffalo Head cichlids, Dickfeldi, Bristlenose Plecos and common Molly



FISH FRIENDS FROM AFAR #31 EXCHANGE REPORT

By: Clifford H. Crain, Jr.

We welcome the **Greater Akron Aquarium Society's *Tank Topics*** to the CNYAS exchange review family. GAAS, founded in 1952, has earned its reputation as one of the premier aquarium societies in the U.S. Each year it sponsors the largest species show in the country, Ultra-Aqua. I remember when I was a member of the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. in the early 1980s, GAAS would invite our club to their shops and members' fish rooms. It was always an impressive sight! The January issue of *Tank Topics* included a recap of the 2024 activity, including complete results of the bowl show, list of the many BAP/HAP submissions for the year and winners in all 55 classes of the 2024 Ultra-Aqua. It's an active aquarium society!

“*Xiphophorus alvarezi* (Species Review)” by Rich Serva
***Tanks Topics*, Greater Akron Aquarium Society, January 2025**

When most aquarists think of swordtails, they think of the ever-popular *Xiphophorus helleri*. Rich explains that there is much more to *Xiphophorus* than just *helleri*. “The Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMV) in the state of Veracruz is an important divide and barrier separating many groups of Mexican fish.” There are three species of swordtails north of the TMV and five to the south. *X. alvarezi* is rather uncommon in the hobby now. Rich says these swordtails do best in tanks of 30 gallon breeder size and larger, and “as with many swordtails, adults will chase fry at first, but the cannibalism lessens as the adults get used to juveniles in the tank.” He includes three photos of *X. alvarezi*.

“The Joys of Daphnia” by Horst Gerber
***Modern Aquarium*, Greater City Aquarium Society, December 2024**

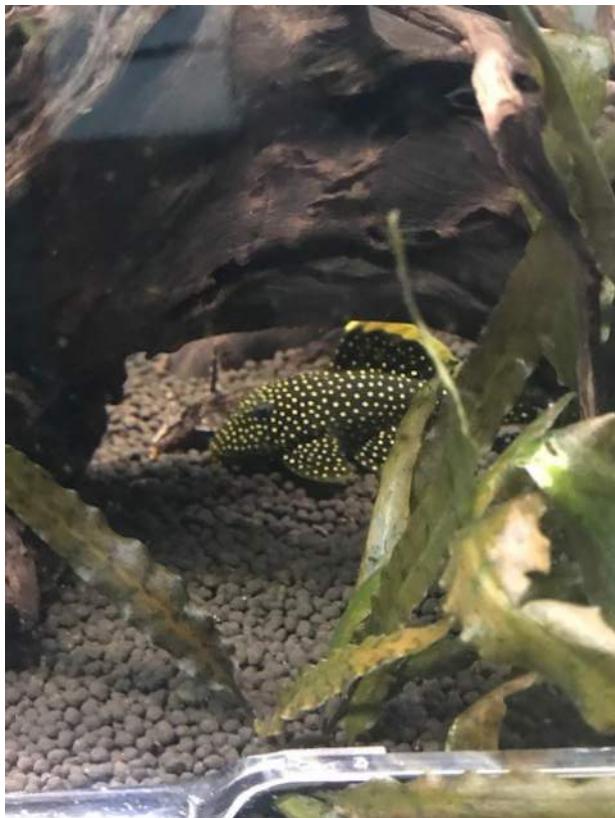
We all know that live food is best for our fish, but it is very unusual to find live daphnia for sale at a pet shop. Horst collected his daphnia from a park and “that culture has been going summer and winter in my back yard for more than ten years.” He doesn’t give the reader many details of how he maintains this culture; I’m hoping he’ll fill us in in a future article. He warns against collecting mosquito larvae, which often coexist with the daphnia. The problem isn’t the mosquitos per se, since they are also a superb live food. The trick is to separate the mosquitos from the daphnia so they can be fed to the fish before they reach their biting adult stage. Live daphnia do occasionally show up in club auctions. “After seeing the results of keeping a supply of daphnia you’ll see why many of our members swear by them.”

Reprints and reviews:

“The Easy Way to Fill Aquariums: Handy Hose and Faucet Devices” by Clifford Crain
April 2024 *Reflector*, reprinted in *Modern Aquarium*, Greater City Aquarium Society, December 2024

CLUB MEMBERS FISH AND/OR AQUARIUM

Marc Tuori



CNYAS Christmas Party



One of the favorite dishes served at the CNYAS Christmas Party
Provided by: Stefani Pritchard

Texas Caviar

Ingredients

- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 can black eye peas
- 1 can white or yellow kernel corn
- 1 jalapeño pepper, minced
- 1 green pepper, diced small
- 1 medium red onion, diced small
- 1/2 c sugar
- 1/2 c apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 c canola oil

Directions

Combine sugar, vinegar, and oil in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Remove from heat.

Combine remaining ingredients in a medium sized bowl.

Pour warmed dressing over bean mixture and stir to combine.

Serve with tortilla chips or as a salad side.

Low Tide Corals Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/1027502091/0416af01a2>





UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 8, Board Meeting
Jan. 15, General Meeting
Feb. 12, Board Meeting
March 16, TFCEC Spring Auction
April 6, Erie AS Spring Auction
April 26, CNYAS Annual Auction

CNYAS CLUB MEETINGS

Each monthly meeting consists of :

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



2024-2025 Schedule

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

CNYAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Witnesses for the BAP and AHAP Programs

Sue Kotcher	BAP
Clay (315) 622-9668	
Ron Fabiny	BAP AHAP
Clay (315) 440-5806	
Len Futterman	BAP AHAP
East Syracuse (315) 560-0955	
Herschel Beeman	BAP
Chittenango (315) 663-8694	
Bill Newell	AHAP
Liverpool (315) 440-9513	
Mike Flintrop	BAP
Manlius (315) 415-1471	

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!](#)

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

Please support those who support the CNYAS

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Pond & Rock Shop



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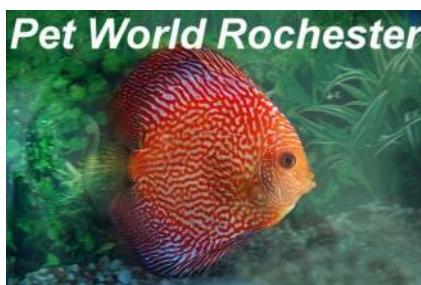
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V-neck Shirt (Ladies)	— \$20
Pullover Hoodie	— \$30
Zip-up Hoodie	— \$50
Cap	— \$20
Coffee Mugs	— \$5

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>

ATTENTION LOCAL MERCHANTS

Advertise in the Reflector!

Rates for 1 Year (10 Issues)

Business Card- \$30

1/4 Page- \$80

1/2 Page- \$100

For information:

Call Len @ 315-560-0955 Or
email futtermania@gmail.com

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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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>

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