

# ***In Depth***

April 2016



[A Visit to the New England Aquarium](#)

[NEC Inaugural Meeting 1956](#)

[DIY Repashy Strings](#)

*and so much more!*



*Julidochromis transcriptus* photo by David Banks

# In Depth

published by The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington

**Established February 1989**

We meet on the second Thursday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 PM at the VFW Hall, 73 Pearl St, Essex Junction, VT.

Our membership consists of adults, children and teens. Many members are very experienced and have been keeping fish for years, and others are just getting started. People of all ages and experience levels are always welcome. Meet and learn from those who share your interests!

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## From the President

by David L Banks, Jr

Do you like cichlids! Our April speaker, Steve Edie, will speak on Lake Tanganyikan Cichlids, and what he calls the "name game". Sure to be a great mix of humor and cichlid info. His bio and speaking topics are on page 5—don't miss this. Meeting is Thursday April 14 at 6:30 at the VFW in Essex Junction. Steve will also be doing different programs at the OVAS meeting on Tuesday, 4/12, in Pittsford, and Wednesday in Montreal. Anyone interested in going with us to either of these meetings, let me know. Steve is sponsored by the [American Cichlid Association](#) and [ZooMed](#).



TFCB hosted a marine event on 3/12 with Justin Credabel, which was well attended for such a nice March day. Everyone was asking if this is going to become an annual event, might be ... We had three frag vendors setup at full tables, plus a few others that shared another table. Over 50 hobbyists attended, including families with kids! Even if you don't have reef tanks, it was an exciting day.

Our printed version of *In Depth* was available at the March event and will also be available at the April meeting, come get yours! Thanks to Ann Whitman, who edited and put it all together, and to all those who helped by writing and sending in photos. Don't forget, we have a writer incentive program, you just need to submit items for the newsletter and you can win CASH! See [here](#) for all the details.

Both May and June are also looking like great meeting, can't wait. And of course this weekend is the NEC convention!

Hope to see you there!

David



## Editorial

### Spring Fever in the Fish Room

By Ann Whitman

March was a busy month in my fish room. The fish must be feeling the spring fever, too! On March 1st, my pair of *Apistogramma cacatuoides* Triple Red released their first spawn from the cave. This pair came from Mike Eche at the UNYKA conference in Albany last fall. I can see their tank from the dining table, and they're fun to watch. A month later, the young are nearly 3/4" long and already starting to show color in their dorsal fins.



In mid March, my last pair of Philippine blue angels spawned again, for the umpteenth time. I usually don't bother with them anymore and the male just eats the eggs. But since I already had the brine shrimp hatchery going, I pulled the slate of newly laid eggs and popped it into a gallon jar with a few drops of methylene blue and an airstone. Voila! I have a jarful of happy two-week-old fry with fat, pink bellies.

The day after the angels spawned, I found a swarm of *Pelvicachromis taeniatus* Lokunje fry hovering under their protective and excellent parents. Their tank is on a bottom shelf and it's full of bogwood and leaves, so I hadn't really been paying attention to them—just throwing in freeze dried black worms, white worms and Repashy, and doing weekly water changes. Surprise! More customers for the brine shrimp hatchery. In addition to the BBS, the fry spend all day grazing the aufwuchs off the water-logged wood, and pods and leaves from [Tannin Aquatics](#). These beautiful fish came from Jeff and Cindy Walker at the ACA Convention in Springfield, MA, last July. My breeding pair is F1, or first generation, from the Walker's wild-caught pair.

Killifish are spawning more regularly, too. I've got eggs from half a dozen species "eyeing up" in their jars and bags of peat, plus a group of recently hatched *Epiplatys fasciolatus fasciolatus* fry in the Marina breeder box. You guessed it—they're on the brine shrimp, too. It's going to be a very full house when those eggs start hatching!

All the extra BBS goes to the nano tanks of rasboras, danios, barbs and tetras. They should be all fat, happy and ready to spawn once the weather is warm enough to set them outside in the tubs this summer. I'll be talking about keeping fish outdoors at our May meeting, and these egg-scatterers are my favorites for summer tub breeding. Looking forward the return of long, warm days and sunshine! How about you? What's happening in your tanks—I'd love to know.

Until then, Happy Spring!

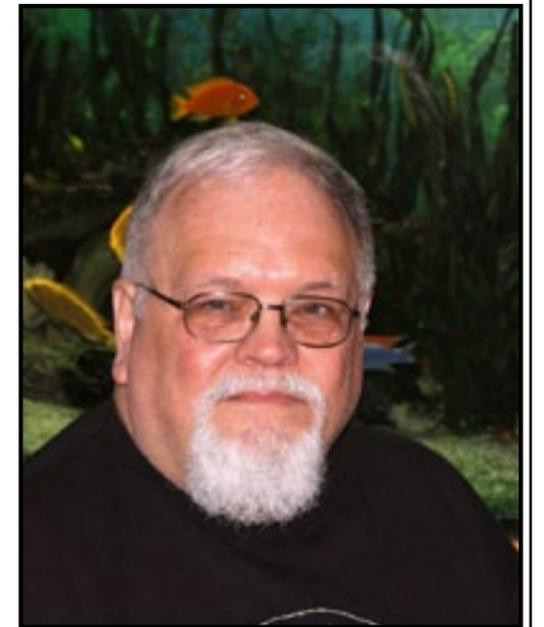
Ann



Mama *Apistogramma cacatuoides* minding her swarm of newly free-swimming fry. Females are the caregivers in this species. photo by Ann Whitman

## Speaker of the Month

**Steve Edie** has been keeping fish since the Eisenhower administration. (Look it up.) He has kept almost every kind of fish available, and some that weren't. He now keeps about 1,100 gallons of freshwater aquariums, with a preference toward Rift Lake Cichlids. He has had good success in maintaining many different species and moderate success at breeding them. He is the past President and current BAP Chair of the Missouri Aquarium Society. He once kept a saltwater tank for about a year, but has promised not to do it again.



Steve will be visiting three clubs in our area after attending the NEC Convention. On Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, he is speaking at [OVAS](#), in Pittsford. His topic will be "Tank-ganyikan Cichlids", about keeping these cichlids successfully in home aquaria.

On Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Steve will present "Not Another Cichlid Talk", which is about mostly non-cichlids, but will include Tanganyikans, at the [Montreal Aquarium Society](#).

Steve will speak at our TFCB meeting on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and present a new talk, tentatively titled "The Name Game or Why do the fish scientists hate us?"—about fish nomenclature with a more practical tongue-in-cheek classification alternative.

Steve brings a great sense of humor to his talks, which focus heavily on his favorite group of fish—Tanganyikan cichlids.



Black-chinned Xenotilapia, *Xenotilapia melanogenys*, forages in large schools over the sandy bottom of Lake Tanganyika. These maternal mouth-brooders grow to about 6". photo by David Banks

## Club Meetings and Events

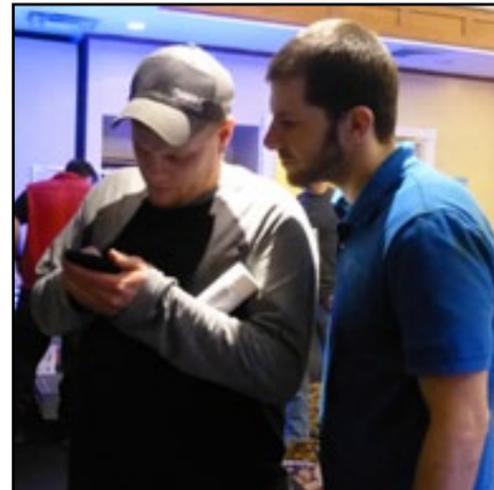
by Ann Whitman

Our March meeting was a special saltwater event held at the Holiday Inn in South Burlington, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, a warm, sunny Saturday. We had about 35 attendees, including a dozen TFCB members. It was exciting to see families with young children attending our event, and watch their fascination with the tanks of colorful corals and seahorses. Several vendors, one from as far away as Massachusetts, set up tables for the coral frag swap. Justin Credabel spoke on corals for about an hour, and spent the rest of the afternoon answering questions, selling his corals and chatting with all who attended.

Brian Scott won the raffle grand prize, a Coralife Lunar Aqualight 24". All enjoyed the auction and many attendees came away with very good deals on lights, corals, marine supplies, gift certificates and even a complete saltwater nano tank kit. TFCB received generous donations from [Pet Advantage](#), [Lebanon Pet & Aquarium Center](#), [Green Mountain Coral](#), [Coral Magazine](#), and [Coralife](#).



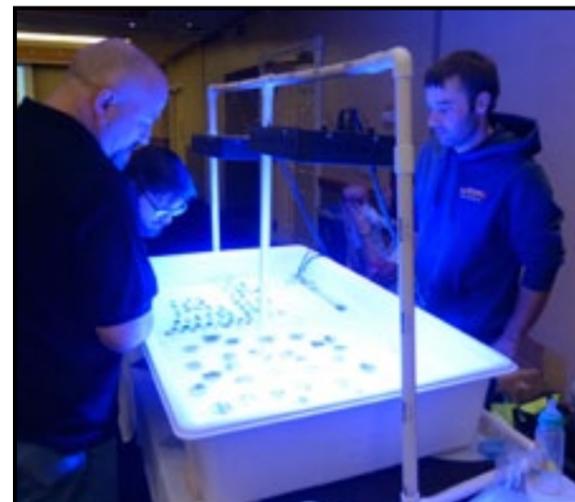
Justin Credabel chats with attendees, John Hudson and Zach Brown.



Zach Brown, from Lebanon Pet Center, and Matt Spaulding from Green Mountain Coral.



Attendees, including Ira Gardner-Morse, examine coral frags from Green Mountain Coral and Matt Spaulding (right).



Gabe Ouellette, from Pet Advantage, looks at the impressive display from Bryan Phillips, who traveled from western MA with his wife and infant son.



David Banks conducted the auction with help from Andrew Grasso and Richard Maxwell.



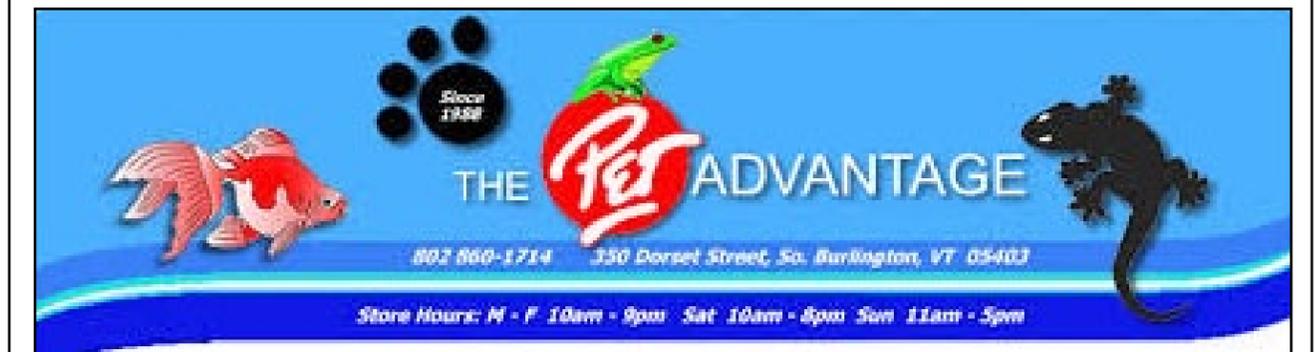
Brian Scott concentrating on the auction proceedings.



Hobbyists learned from each other as they examined and discussed coral species and their care.



Kids enjoyed the colorful corals, seahorses and other creatures on display, too.



## DIY Tips, Tricks and Treats

### Repashy Cubes On A String

by Andrew Bessy

Not too long after returning to keeping fish, I made an important self-discovery: my feeding hand was too heavy. At 40-something years old, and I apparently could not resist the impulse to feed too often and too much, enjoying the increased activity levels in my tanks. Predictably, I paid the price in my water quality despite regular water changes. As I was having modest success breeding simple-to-raise species, and still thoroughly enjoying watching the breeding occur, I knew I had to cut my feeding, but still wanted to provide the food for adults to breed.

Enter [Repashy](#). I like to read, and ran across the concept of Repashy foods while reading on [Ted's Fishroom](#) web site. The idea of readily available food for fish to graze all day without the food decomposing quickly was appealing. Through TFCB, a purchase of some Repashy Community Plus was very easy, and I set about making it almost immediately.

Carefully measure powder, measure and heat water, mix... Make all the discoveries that 1st time Repashy makes – not easy to pour, sticks to everything, complaints from family about the smell. Finally I had an old ice cube tray with Repashy filled in the bottom of most of the compartments. The tray went in my basement spare refrigerator (commonly called The Beer Fridge in my house), and I decided to let it cool overnight before trying it.

The plan was to use a simple planted community tank as the test vehicle. Some pencil fish, tetras, a couple of ancistrus and panda cories, nothing exotic or complicated. The Repashy cubes were coaxed out of the compartments, cut down in size, and (with anticipation), one reduced-size cube was plunked into the tank. Hindsight being 20/20, I should have been able to predict what would happen—the Repashy immediately sunk to the bottom complete ignored by the fish, where it sat untouched for some 48 hours before I scooped out the goopy, disintegrating mess.

While the ancistrus may have had a few nibbles, I will admit to being disappointed, and feeling sheepish that I expected this to be a panacea. Undeterred, and with a full package of Repashy on hand, a better way was needed, and more experiments commenced.

Ted's Fishroom site offers ceramic discs with a hole in them for sale—they are intended to be filled with Repashy and attached through the hole to a suction cup on the inside of the tank, half way up the side of a tank to hold the Repashy in the middle of the water column. Nice video of the fish on the site, massing around the disc, gleefully pecking away at the Repashy. This is what I wanted, but being a typical frugal fish person, I did not want to pay for the discs.

That's when a small inspiration hit—what if the Repashy cube could be suspended on a string? It would then dangle in the water column, waving about and allowing easy fishy access. A dry string cut right through the pre-made Repashy cube, so the next step was to lay a string in the bottom of the ice cube tray, and pour the hot liquid Repashy over the string, imbedding the string in the middle of the cube.

This had some success—I could get the cube out of the tray with the string intact after cooling. In the same tank, I put the cube on the string in the tank, ran the string out of the tank, and lowered the cover to pinch the string between the tank lip and the cover. It worked! The cube swayed gently in the middle

of the tank, waving enticingly in front of the inhabitants. No feeding behavior was immediately observed, but I had hopes that while I was at work for the day feeding would occur.

On my return home, it was clear that significant feeding had occurred, but what remained of the cube (probably half) was off the string and on the bottom of the tank. I also managed to prove that a string will behave as a siphon—the water had wicked up the string, over the tank edge, and a small pool of water on the floor proved that the string had been dripping for several hours.

The problem with the cube dropping off the string was lack of friction between string and cube, especially as the fish tend to nibble where the string goes into the cube. This is easily fixed, and what follows is how to make Repashy cubes that will stay on the string until almost all of the food is eaten.

- Cut strings to an approximate 4- to 5-foot length, as many strings as ice cube tray compartments you want to make. I use a light string.
- Ball up about half the length of the string. The ball should be small enough to fit in the ice cube tray, while loose as possible. Put one balled string at the bottom of each tray compartment with the long end of the string sticking out of the tray. See Figure 1.
- Make the Repashy. While still very hot, pour the Repashy directly on the ball, filling each compartment to the desired depth (I fill about 1/3 full.) Strings of the ball loops may stick out of the cube—this is good! See Figure 2.
- Allow the mix to cool enough so the strings do not pull easily out of the Repashy when the tray is moved. Lay the strings on top of the tray for support, and transfer to refrigerator. Allow to cool completely before removing cubes with string from compartments.

The trays I use have a slip-on cover, which allows me to keep them in my spare fridge for about 2 weeks without drying out. Alternatively, pop out each cube and freeze them, keeping them in a zip lock freezer bag. These can be put directly into a tank and will thaw quickly.

These cubes seem to work in all the tanks I have used them, the fish will figure out over a few days that this is food, and I have observed all day grazing behavior when home on the weekends. Smaller fish will nibble as well, but, in a mixed tank, smaller fish tend to hover below the cube and eat small scraps thrown off when bigger fish peck at the cube. Ancistrus will feed off the cube as well, an interesting sight to see one attached to the cube in the middle of the water column.

I don't use these every day, perhaps two times a week when encouraging adults to breed, and using frozen / live / flake rotation the other days.



**Figure 1** Ball up the strings and place in each compartment.



**Figure 2** Fill compartments about one-third full with hot Repashy.



**Figure 3** Cover the trays, if desired, and transfer to the fridge to cool.

This is the best "unattended" feeding method I have found (short of automatic feeders), and the water quality seems improved. Depending on tank size, stock level, and cube size, a cube will last as long as 48 hours without falling apart. With practice, the size of the cube can be tailored to match the tank and inhabitants; a good target seems to have a cube last a day, and a cube added in 2 days out of 3.

While I still tend to have a heavy hand, these Repashy cubes allow me to feed tanks on a consistent basis, and my *Neolamprologus multifasciatus* colony particularly has thrived from this type of feeding. As a bonus, watching the grazing of different fish has added a behavior dimension to my tanks that is quite enjoyable.



Red Crystal shrimp enjoying a piece of Repashy food. photo by Ann Whitman

### Submit Your Stories, Columns, DIY Projects, Photos and Illustrations

To increase newsletter contributions, the Board created an incentive program. Beginning with the February 2016 newsletter, each submission will earn one raffle ticket.

- A submission is defined as an original, stand-alone photograph or illustration, an article or column.
- A column or article that is submitted with original, supporting photos or illustrations will earn two tickets.

The submissions must be published to earn the tickets. At the June 2016 meeting, six tickets will be drawn. In subsequent years, ten tickets will be drawn at the June meeting.

Each winning ticket is worth \$20 in TFCB bucks that can be redeemed for membership dues or used at auctions and events for which the club charges a fee.

Send submissions to Ann Whitman at [awhitman@madriver.com](mailto:awhitman@madriver.com) by the last day of the month for inclusion in the following month's *In Depth* newsletter.

# Otter Valley Aquarium Society

**10TH ANNUAL**

## Tropical Fish Auction & Bowl Show

**Sunday May 15, 2016**

**Noon - 5:00 PM**

**NEW LOCATION**

The American Legion Post #31

33 Washington Street

Rutland, VT 05701

Free Admission Door Prizes  
Viewing Lots 9:30am - 11:30am

### Raffle

**Aqueon QuietFlow 55/75  
Ten Gallon Tank Setup  
50/50**

*Silent Auction Plant Tables*

### Peoples Choice Bowl Show

**1st Prize \$100 - 2nd \$75 - 3rd \$50**

**Please see bowl show rules on our website**

**New this Year**

**OVAS will Auction 1 year memberships to:**

*American Livebearer Association*

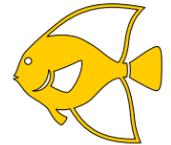
*International Betta Congress*

*The North American Native Fishes Association*

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR AUCTION RULES**

**Bowl show rules and Pre-register before May 13th and get a 60/40 split**

**[www.ovasociety.com](http://www.ovasociety.com)**



# A Visit to the New England Aquarium

By David L Banks Jr, TFCB

In the past, I've made fairly regular visits to Boston, so I have been to the Aquarium many times. I had not been to Boston in a few years though, so high on my to-do list was another visit to the [New England Aquarium](#).

My time was limited and I tried to line up a time that would work for me, as well as coincide with a time that several of the people I know at the aquarium were going to be there working. That narrowed it down to just a few hours, so I had to make the best of my time there. I arrived and called as I was approaching the entrance, and Scott Dowd, Senior Aquarist and [Project Piaba](#) Director, met me inside.

Scott showed me a few exhibits, both from the public side as well as a look behind the scenes. We also met up with one of the volunteers that I know and another aquarium employee I know. Unfortunately, we didn't get to spend too much time with them as they were busy. We talked about how the fish hobby and public aquariums would both benefit from a conservation effort that would not only help conserve the areas where the fish are native to, but would also help the local people in that area; a true win-win for all involved. This is an extension of Project Piaba that Scott and others have been working on.

## Upgrades and Improvements

While we walked around, I got to see the totally refurbished large central tank. The original tank had been installed in the late 60's to early 70's when the Aquarium first opened. This was a major task! The tank is about four stories tall and had very thick glass panels. The new look is fabulous! Many of the windows are larger since they are now made of acrylic; the lighting is all done with LED from above, no more spotlights below water. The LEDs mirror an actual location in the tropics for intensity and duration; they even mimic clouds going over! Very cool indeed.

As we wandered through, Scott threw out tidbits of information about the displays and what had recently



The steel and glass entrance to the New England Aquarium dramatically reflects the sky and water that surrounds it.



First view just inside the Aquarium entrance



The freshwater gallery at the aquarium

changed. There was the leafy dragon fish tank, the Boston harbor display and so much more. We went behind the scenes and checked out one of the new displays being revamped. The electric eel display tank had changed quite a bit. Previously, it was basically an empty tank with a giant fish swimming around, but now the tank is heavily planted and looks very natural. Scott mentioned that these fish are naturally fairly shy and more nocturnal. After adding all the aquascaping, the fish would hide and be hard to see in the tank. Using some very out-of-the-box thinking, he has been able to get the fish to now swim around out in the open and the display works very well!

## Amazon Tank Highlights

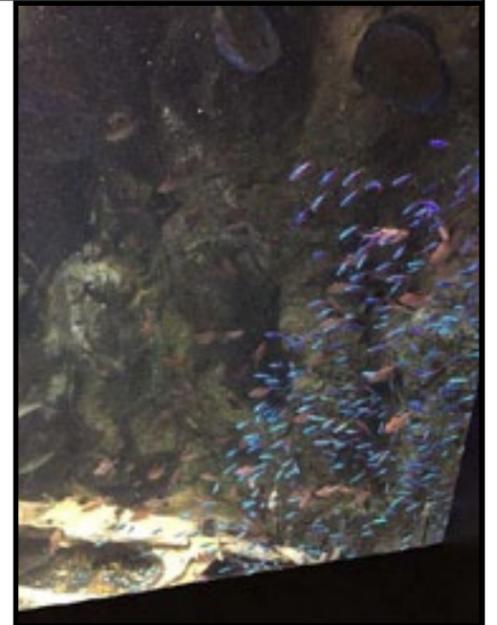
One highlight was checking out some of the tanks Scott maintains, in particular the tank with the Anacondas. On previous visits, you really spent time looking for the large snakes. There were fish in the tank, too, but everyone was really there to see the snakes! This time it seemed very different, as the fish were all right there front and center. Cardinal tetras, discus, corydoras catfish and lots of other very active fish swam through the display. Scott said the discus had actually raised fry for several weeks, the cories were spawning regularly and the farowellas were also spawning. As he said all this, I could see the cories going thru their spawning rituals, and very young farowella fry hung on the glass very near the surface. Upon closer inspection, I noticed larger farowella fry also in the tank. It was a great tank to sit and watch for hours—unfortunately I had only a few minutes!

We went back to Scott's desk and he showed me some ideas he has for a new display. As we walked around the aquarium, he showed me the display that currently occupies the space he was looking to revamp. I liked the ideas he had and offered my thoughts. I can't wait to see how it all comes together! So looking forward to my next trip back to Boston, hopefully it won't be years away, and next time I hope to have more time to spend at the aquarium, and hang out with Scott.

## Nearby Food and Attractions

There is so much to see and do right around the aquarium, too. Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall, Columbus Park, and the Italian North End are all within quick walking distance. When I visited, the parks and markets were full of festive holiday decorations.

At Scott's recommendation, he and I had lunch at a place



Cardinal tetras, discus, corydoras and farlowellas were very active in the Anaconda tank.



Scott Dowd looking out over the freshwater gallery tanks.



The Aquarium owns and operates whale-watching and other research vessels, moored at the pier nearby.

called [Al's State Street Café](#). It's close to the Aquarium and is quick in and out. As we started in that direction, he gave me a quick rundown of the place, he said it is not the Soup Nazi from the Seinfeld episode, but it was close! Know what you want when you get up to the front! The place is very small, and often packed full of people. There were two lines, cold and hot subs. We placed our order, got a number, and then found a place to wait for them to call our number. We made our way to the back where there were maybe ten bar stools along a counter top. We were lucky enough to secure two of those. It was truly amazing to see how many people they served in the time we were there.

Quincy Market, across the street from the Aquarium, also offers a huge selection of take-out and eat-in restaurants, as well as local and national shops and boutiques. There's a multistory parking garage next to the Aquarium, but the best and most cost-effective access is to park outside the city and take the T to the Aquarium stop on the Blue Line.



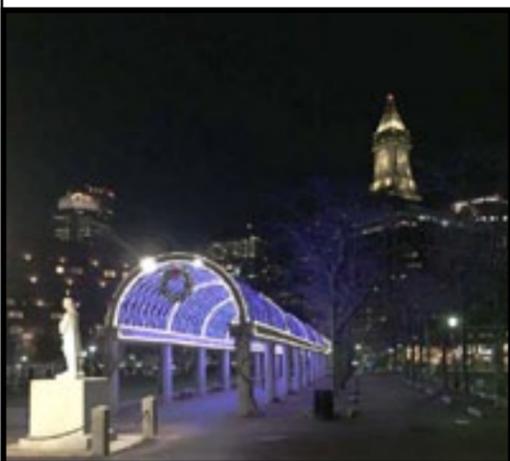
Al's Café, barely room to stand, but quick and cheap and good food.



A statue of Sam Adams, Patriot and namesake of Sam Adams Brewery stands in front of Faneuil Hall.



Quincy Market is very close by, with lots of shopping and food.



Columbus Park is right around the corner from the Aquarium

## Links We Like

### Review of Swiss Tropicals

By Ann Whitman

Water quality is probably the single most important factor in successful fish keeping. It's critical for fish health, spawning and fry rearing. As hobbyists, we spend a lot of time and money on our water—buying different filters, pumps, filter media and additives; cleaning and replacing the media; paying for electricity. When I had a tank or two, I didn't mind the time spent maintaining my filters, changing the filter cartridges and replacing HOBs every few years. The cost of running a motor or two was reasonable. As my aquariums expanded into a 25-tank fish room, however, that time and expense was no longer acceptable. And, since I was breeding fish, I needed an alternative to power filters that suck up the fry.

About the time that I was putting together my fish room, I heard Dr. Stephan Tanner, owner of [Swiss Tropicals](#), speak about filtration and the advantages of Poret® foam filters over other filter types. Stephan is also a teacher, translator and senior editor of Amazonas magazine.

Aquarium filters work in two basic ways. First, they screen or collect debris as mechanical filters. Their second—and most important function—is to provide a means for biological activity to take place. The microorganisms that live on the surface of the filter media are the true workhorses of water quality. The higher the surface area, the more microorganisms the filter can support. Stephan demonstrated that filters made from Poret® foam are far more efficient than hang-on-the-back (HOB), canister and other foam-type filters. His filters require almost no maintenance and are air-driven—a major plus for electricity and time savings. You can read a lot more about Poret® and filtration [here](#).

Swiss Tropicals offers Poret® foam as Mattenfilters (foam sheets that cover one end of the aquarium), as foam blocks, corner filters, and in other configurations. The foam sheets also work very well as tank dividers. Many plants, such as Java moss and riccia, will grow on the surface and create a stunning green wall. All are powered by air-driven Jetlifters™ that run off a simple air pump. I've been using this foam in all my tanks (from 10 to 40 gallons) for several years now, both as Mattens and foam blocks, and highly recommend them.



# “Wow!”



To order, go to:  
[www.CoralMagazine.com](http://www.CoralMagazine.com)  
[www.AmazonasMagazine.com](http://www.AmazonasMagazine.com)



**Don't miss a single issue!**

# Hobby History

## NEC Founded in 1956

By David L Banks Jr

I am the NEC historian, and this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the North East Council of Aquarium Societies. So, in this second installment of Hobby History, we will dedicate it to the early days of the NEC.

In Newington, Connecticut, in 1956, six years before I was born, a large group of aquarium hobbyists from throughout the Northeast gathered for the inaugural meeting of what was to become a long-lasting, dedicated and important group in the Northeast. This gathering in 1956 was very different from what we see today. The men were dressed in suits and ties and the women wore dresses, and from today's standpoint, it would have been a very formal event. The purpose was simple; to help promote the aquarium hobby by supporting and helping the local clubs of the Northeast. This is still what drives the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies today!

Those early days focused on fish shows and, at the time, guppies were a substantial part of the show. A formal national guppy club (American Guppy Association) was formed and launched with NEC club members' commitment and dedication.

The first annual meeting took place in Niantic, CT. I am very familiar with Niantic as it is the town where my father grew up, and in 1956, he was just graduating high school. I spent many weekends, summer vacations and holidays there visiting my grandparents. I had no idea it was the center of the fish world that weekend in 1957.

Clubs come and go. Looking at the list of clubs that made up the charter members, many clubs have since folded, but five are still current NEC member clubs. Many others have joined the NEC over the years, some of which have also folded, and some exist but are no longer members, but many more are still members today. Today's NEC includes 29 clubs throughout the Northeast, which I believe is the most that have belonged at any one time! I know when I first became aware of clubs, and then decided to start a new club in Vermont, the NEC was a large part of what made that all possible.

Many people over the years have helped the NEC maintain and move forward with their goals. Ray Horn was very prominent in much of the early information on the NEC. He was still very active in 1989 when TFCB was formed and was one of over a dozen NEC members that came to support our first auction in 1990! Hopefully, a future column will be all about Ray and his contributions. Although Penny and Al Faul were not involved at the very beginning, they did start to get involved fairly early on and were very instrumental for many years. More to come at a later date about Penny and Al, too.

The following letter gives a nice summary of the early days of the NEC.



NORTHEAST COUNCIL OF AQUARIUM SOCIETIES, Inc.

254 Wells Road, Wethersfield 9 , Conn.

October 9, 1956.

TO: All Aquarium Societies in Northeast USA.

From: Clyde Jasmin, President.

The Council is now well organized, and its Committees in operation. This letter will inform those Societies which were unable to send Delegates to the Fall meeting concerning the progress made by the Council up to now.

We have incorporated, for the protection of the Members. Twelve Societies have become Charter Members. They are: Aquarium Society of Eastern Conn., Ashuelot Fin Club, Elm City Aquarium Society, Exotic Fish Society of Hartford, Hudson Valley Aquarium Society, Naugatuck Valley Aquarium Society, New Britain Aquarium Society, North Jersey Aquarium Society, Norwalk Aquarium Society, Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society, Worcester Aquarium Society, and Tri-State Aquarium Society.

The elected Officers are; Pres. Clyde Jasmin, 254 Wells Road, Wethersfield, Conn. Vice-Pres. Douglas S. Bliss, 6 Kenwood Park, Springfield, Mass. Corr. Sec. Robert Havenstein, Greenwich Point, Old Saybrook, Conn. Recording Sec., Marilyn Cote, 34 Revere St., Springfield, Mass. Treas. Andrew Main, 10 Webster St., Taunton, Mass. The Board of Governors is composed of these five, plus six additional members elected by the Council, namely: Frank Alger, Arthur Brown, David Glass, J. Edmund Harris, Herbert W. Hicks and William Thomas.

The Constitution Committee, headed by Herbert Hicks, PO Box 1057, New London, Conn. is now drafting such changes as seem to be necessary in order to strengthen our Constitution, and to make the work of the Council more effective.

The Organization Committee, under the direction of Joseph J. Stankye, 6 Ashwood Terrace, Derby Conn. ,is prepared to help member clubs, upon request, with suggestions for improving Club Organization. They can also assist interested groups to form new Aquarium Societies.

The Program Committee, with Douglas Bliss as Chairman, has lists of Speakers, Films etc. , available for the use of member Clubs. Some of those can probably help your Club to provide good programs as a means of keeping up member interest.

From the Public Relations Committee, through its Chairman, Herbert Hicks, may be obtained a list of Do's and Dont's in Publicity, which should be helpful to Clubs wishing to publicise their activities for the purpose of gaining new Members.

The Committee on Standards has as its present Chairman, Ray Horn, Spring Glen, Granby, Conn. A considerable amount of work has been done by former Chairman Frank Alger and others, and a great deal of assistance has been received from Anthony Stanley and the FGBS of Great Britain. Much yet remains to be done, however, before we can be assured of a satisfactory point system.

Member Societies may write to any of the above-named Committee Chairmen, or to me, for any of the services available, or to suggest any additional services which might be rendered by the Council. Remember, this is a cooperative enterprise, organized for the purpose of obtaining mutual assistance. If you have any ideas for use in programs, or if you know of any films or Speakers, please send them in, so that they may be made available to all Members.

To all Charter Members -Welcome to membership in the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Inc. May you always be glad you joined.

To those Clubs receiving this letter who are not yet members, let me suggest that you send in your application at once. I believe we can be helpful to each other. An application blank is enclosed herewith. Fill it out in triplicate, and send all copies to me post-haste!

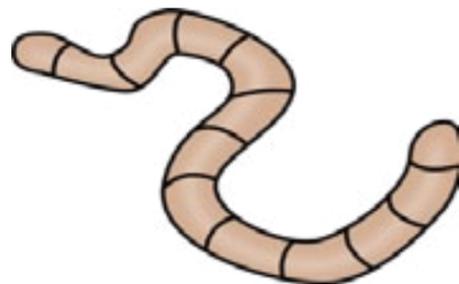
# Fun and Games – Word Search

## Fish Foods

Can you find all the hidden foods?

S S S I N F U S O R I A B D  
 H P M F I S H M E A L R W V  
 R I R S Y A B Q C B I H T W  
 I R O T M Y I I T N I L P R  
 M U W B Q R L M E T X M J N  
 P L K B L R O S E Y K N X T  
 M I C Z A O H W D T O V U G  
 E N A G J R O A O T R B T C  
 A A L Q I R P D K R I A Y D  
 L E B M M H K N W F C C L N  
 Z A P S N K A R E O L I D M  
 L G D I Z L T X I O R R M D  
 W L A R P P D J P L X M D Z  
 L A N L K T D S M B L Q S M

- BRINESHRIMP
- DAPHNIA
- TUBIFEX
- BLACKWORMS
- WHITEWORMS
- INFUSORIA
- BLOODWORMS
- MICROWORMS
- ARTEMIA
- FISHMEAL
- ALGAE
- SPIRULINA
- GARLIC
- KRILL
- PLANKTON
- CYCLOPS
- SHRIMPMEAL



## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- April 8-10 [Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies \(NEC\)](#), 41st Annual Convention, specialty club shows and auctions, Rocky Hill, CT
- April 12 [OVAS meeting](#), Steve Edie speaker, 7:00, Maclure Library, Pittsford, VT
- April 14 [TFCB meeting](#), Steve Edie speaker, 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT
- April 18 [Boston Aquarium Society \(BAS\)](#), Breeder Auction, NE Aquarium, Boston, MA
- April 24 [Jersey Shore Aquarium Society \(JSAS\)](#), Spring Auction, Manasquan, NJ
- April 29 - May 1 [American Livebearers Assoc. Convention \(ALA\)](#), South Bend, IN
- April 30 [Central NY Aquarium Society \(CNYAS\)](#) Annual Auction, Syracuse, NY
- May 10 [OVAS meeting](#), Ann Whitman speaking on outdoor fish and water gardens, 7:00 Maclure Public Library, Pittsford, VT
- May 12 [TFCB meeting](#), Ann Whitman speaking on outdoor fish and water gardens, 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT
- May 13 [Brooklyn Aquarium Society \(BASNY\)](#), Giant Spring Auction, NY Aquarium
- May 14 - 15 [South Jersey Guppy Group](#), IFGA Sanctioned Show & Auction, Griggstown, NJ
- May 15 [OVAS Auction](#), registration at 9:30, auction at noon, new location! American Legion Post #31, Rutland, VT
- May 15 [Greater Hartford Aquarium Society](#), Auction, Windsor Locks, CT
- May 27- 29 [American Killifish Assoc. Convention \(AKA\)](#), Denver, CO
- June 7 [OVAS meeting](#), Carolyn Estes speaker, 7:00, Maclure Library, Pittsford, VT
- June 9 [TFCB meeting](#), Carolyn Estes speaker, 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT
- July 7-10 [American Cichlid Assoc. Convention \(ACA\)](#), Cincinnati, OH
- August 21 [NEC Summer Auction](#), Westport, CT
- Sept 8 [TFCB meeting](#), 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT
- Oct 13 - 16 [All Aquarium Catfish Convention \(CatCon\)](#), Hyatt Dulles, Herndon, VA
- Nov 4 - 6 [Aquatic Experience](#), Schaumburg, IL



*Corydoras sterbai* photo by Ann Whitman

NorthEast Council of Aquarium Societies

# 41st Annual Convention

APRIL 8-10, 2016  
Rocky Hill, CT



## Celebrating 60 YEARS of the NEC!

**AN ALL-SPECIES EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL WEEKEND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

### ALL-DAY SUNDAY AUCTION!

*Hundreds of fish, inverts, plants, & dry goods!*

### WEEKEND-LONG SILENT AUCTIONS!

*Benefiting James White Memorial Conservation Fund*

**ROOM SALE FLOOR:** *Hobbyist-bred livestock!*

### VENDOR & MANUFACTURER HALL!

*livestock, plants, equipment, & hardscape!*

**"NATURES TALK SHOW" LIVE PODCASTING!**

**BOSTON A.S. 100th ANNIV. HISTORY DISPLAY!**

**AQUARIUM PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION!**

**FRI-SAT NIGHT **FLUVAL** HOSPITALITY ROOM!**

**3-COURSE GOURMET BUFFET MEAL OPTIONS!**

### 14+ SPEAKER PROGRAMS!



JOE FERDENZI (NY)      DR. IAN HARRISON (NY)  
LAWRENCE KENT (WA)      DR. PAUL LOISELLE (NJ)  
STEVE LUNDBLAD (OR)      DR. JOHN LYONS (WI)  
STEPHAN TANNER (MN)      *details on our website!*

### 4 SPECIALTY CLUB MEETINGS!

*Open to all registered attendees*

**NORTHEAST LIVEBEARER ASSOC.**

*Guest Speaker: Bill Gill (ME)*



**NEW ENGLAND CICHLID ASSOCIATION**

*Guest Speaker: Lawrence Kent (WA)*



**NORTHEAST FISH TUBBERS & WATER GARDENERS**

*Moderator: Ted Coletti (NJ) + pond plant auction!*

**S. NEW ENGLAND KILLIFISH ASSOC.: Auction!**



**Exquisite guest rooms & amenities!**

**NECA CICHLID SHOW!**



**IGEES GUPPY SHOW!**



**NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:** *Dinosaur State Park, Mark Twain House, Wadsworth Art Museum!*

**REGISTER & SCHEDULE INFORMATION:**  
[www.northeastcouncil.org](http://www.northeastcouncil.org)



**CELEBRATE THE NEC DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY: 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOBBY!**