

In Depth

April 2017



Club Aquascaping Contest

Fry Savers or Death Traps!

Highlights, Stories & Photos from the NEC Convention

Calendar of Coming Events

Word Search Puzzle

and so much more!



Labeotropheus fuellerborni. 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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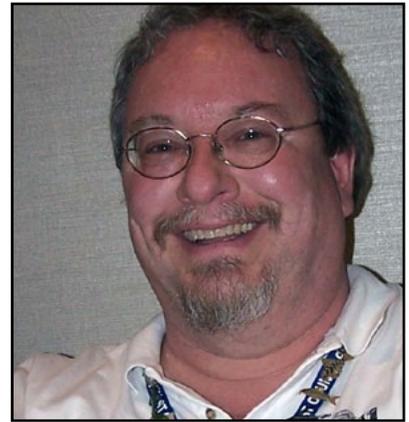
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From the President

by David L Banks, Jr



The club is trying something new this spring, we are having our first open swap meet on April 1 at the Holiday Inn in South Burlington. Last year we hosted a coral frag swap and had great attendance so this year we have expanded. Freshwater fish and plants along with marine items including coral frags will be included this year and we have even opened it up to include reptiles too. Unlike an auction, all items are available to be purchased immediately from the sellers. Sellers will include hobbyists, breeders and retailers so there should be a great variety of items available. Plan to come out and pick up some great items.

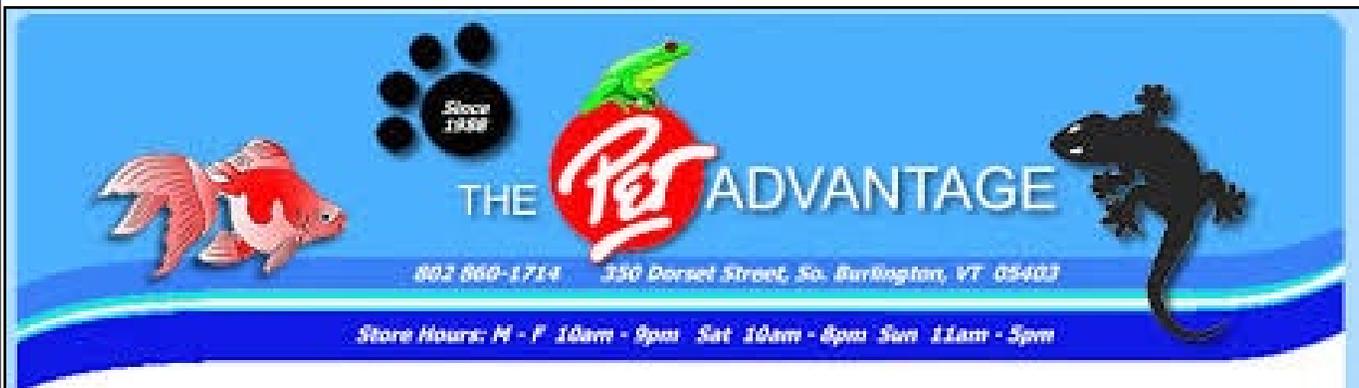
If you want to sell at the swap meet, table are available in advance and there may be space available the day the event too. Contact Brian Candib or me to get added to the event. The only fee is the table fee, there is no additional fee for the all items you sell. Be sure to have all items priced and please bring lots of small bills for change.

Club members that only have a few items to sell can use the club table. There is a limit of 5 items, and a charge of \$1 per item and we ask that you help staff the club table. Be sure your items are clearly marked with price and your name. If you have more than 5 items, consider sharing a table or half table with another member.

This should be an exciting event, and I hope all plan to attend and check it out. If it is successful, we will continue to have these events. We also still plan to have our traditional auction in the fall, but it is always good to try something different.

Our upcoming meetings will also be exciting. In April we will have Ryan McAndrews as our guest speaker coming from Boston, where he works at the New England Aquarium. Ryan did his master thesis on herbivorous marine fish, and he will show the similarities with many freshwater fish. He has done extensive field work in Australia and Fiji. This program should appeal to both the marine hobbyist as well as freshwater! And in May from NY, Kevin Kelly will talk to us about live plants, how light affects how they grow and how they look to us, and maybe throw in some of his aquascaping experience too. Kevin participated in the aquascaping contest at Aquatic Experience last year and does his own aquascaping and tank setups as Brooklyn Hardscapes. Looking forward to both programs!

David



Editorial

Seeing Red; Infrared, That Is

By Ann Whitman



My husband is not a fish guy. Not even close. Although he appreciates how much I enjoy keeping fish and sharing my hobby with others, he really thinks that my time and money could be better spent. Granted, given my 30 tanks and numerous breeding projects, he does have a point. Despite his misgivings and lack of interest, however, he pays more attention to my hobby than he lets on. Sometimes he surprises me.

Last fall, he started borrowing one of my digital aquarium thermometers, the kind with a long wire attached to a probe and readout. He was using it to monitor the temperature inside a travel cooler full of jars of crystalized honey that he was remelting. Apparently, that got him thinking about how I monitor the temperatures in my tanks. That's a sore subject for most aquarists, and given the reliability of most heaters and thermometers, I probably complain about it a lot. But, I digress.



Without warning, one afternoon a few months ago, my husband handed me new tool—an infrared digital thermometer. He claims that he bought it to find cold spots and leaks around the house and to check the wheel bearings on the car. Hah! This handy new tool turned out to be a game changer for checking the temperature of my aquariums. I can point and shoot and know the temperature of a tank or a bucket of water instantly. Caveat: the laser only measures surface temperature and does not penetrate glass or water, but, so far, it seems very accurate. It's usually less than one degree different from other types of thermometers I use. I just aim at the side of a tank or open the lid and aim into the water. It's so convenient and fun that I actually check water temperatures a lot more often. It's also handy for checking the motors on hard-to-reach HOB filters that are acting up.

These IR thermometer tools have been around for awhile and I'm sure all the reptile folks reading this are saying, "well, duh," but I can't be the last one to find out about them. They are readily available at tool stores and the usual online outlets for less than \$20. When you have a bunch of tanks to keep track of, this tool is a good investment. Oh, and they have entertainment value, too! Turns out that cats aren't the only animals that like to chase the little red dot. It drives fish crazy, too.

And that story about buying the tool to check wheel bearings and cold leaks? My husband hasn't asked me to give it back yet.



Ann

Synodontis eupterus
Photo by Livy Strong

Spotlight on my Plants

By Brian Candib

I am that person that can barely maintain my fishroom. I find I do get more time in the dead of winter, during the slow and cold months of the year, to do the necessary modifications and apply some of the learnings from club meetings and past failures to my fishroom. I would call this my sweet spot to focus on my fish—when the new year starts until the middle of April. Other than fish feedings and water changes, this is the time when I take stock of everything, move fish around, clean up the room and do what I can to upgrade and make it thru the other 8 months or so.



One can easily see my few successes are a matter of luck and not any planned effort. One project I could put into the category of success is my *Anubias barteri* plant. I have had this plant in the same 20-gallon deep tank for about 10 years now. Also in the tank, I had some driftwood, German Blue Rams, a few Albino Plecos and some Albino Corydoras (which never belonged in this gravel environment.) I saw a lot of plants going up for sale in the past few monthly TFCB meetings; some very pretty offerings. I did get a couple of them myself, but I still stick to the easier plants such as Java Ferns (narrow leaf, too), *Cryptocorynes*, and *Rotala*.

I always try, wherever possible, to have planted tanks because they always look nicer, but then I point out to my non-aquarium friends when they visit my room, plants allow for enough hiding locations for the fry.

But back to the *Anubias* plant. I have another one in my 30-gallon *Goodied* tank. But that pales in comparison to this one 20-gallon plant. I used a very low fluorescent “blue” light (kind of night spectrum) that I operate on about 12 hours a day. I did have about an inch of substrate under the gravel and it was originally rooted in that. I realize that was not a best practice for the roots and it is recommended the roots are attached to rocks, driftwood or other decorative things. Over the years, there has been many side shoots that most likely did attach to the driftwood and rock in there so I suspect it was kind of a dumb luck kind of outcome.

I am proud of how it looks and am afraid to even touch it or make any changes. At some point I would like to remove a few shoots and replant in other tanks but that is something I will need to think about during the busy season and execute in the 2018 winter doldrums.



Brian's prize *Anubias barteri* in his 20-gallon high aquarium.

Club Meetings and Events

by Ann Whitman

The twenty people who attended had lots of fun at the March meeting workshop! Brian Candib brought half a dozen 10-gallon tanks and a table full of plastic plants, rocks, wood, and other decor items. He divided us into five teams and challenged us to pick a theme and decorate a tank. Some of us also brought decor from home to help our team's challenge. After about 30 minutes of decorating, each team described their theme. Everyone voted for their favorite tank, but no one was allowed to vote for their own. The winning team received a year's free club membership! Thanks for organizing this, Brian!



Brian challenged five teams to decorate 10-gallon tanks using the provided decor (right) or things brought from home.



Justina and Rob couldn't decide on one theme, so their imaginative yin-yang tank was half fresh and half marine. Could their hats hold a clue to their design motives?



Andrew and Ira designed an Iwagumi style tank using rocks, sloped gravel and low plants. Their tank placed second in the contest.



Laura's and Livy's team filled their community tank with lots of plants and places for fish to hide.



Everyone voted for their favorite design, but no one was allowed to vote for their own. The Iwagumi tank got 6 votes and second place.



The Apistogramma habitat design took first place with 7 votes. It was decorated with almond leaves, seed pods, caves, and branch wood that Ann brought from home.



Fry Savers, or Death Traps

By David L Banks Jr, TFCB

There are many things we can do to give ourselves more flexibility within our existing tanks when fish spawn and we suddenly have fry to raise. Whether it is a DIY fix, or a commercially available solution, each type of fry saver has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Here are a few of the ones I have tried over the years with comments on each. While none of them are ideal, some are better than others, and some work better with some fish than other fish. In general, I think the last solution offered is most likely the best, but also the hardest to control or limit! I have killed fry with most of these options; when I forget they are hanging in the tank when doing water changes and leave the fry high and dry, or the water flow is too restricted and the water quality deteriorates. However, many of these are a better option than trying to raise the fry in very small tanks. Having the fry share a large volume of water while restricting them to a smaller space has the advantage of being able to keep food very close to them without the worry of polluting the aquarium.

Net hanging in tank

- Pros—easy access, cheap, everyone has a fish net.



Net Breeder with internal frame is great for larger fry and allows water flow, but small fry laying on the bottom may be sucked through the net by larger fish in the tank. Photo Ann Whitman.

- Cons—can easily fall into the tank and let everything escape, if larger fish in aquarium, they may try to eat them thru the net.
- Comments, improvements—can add water flow with either an airstone or filter output to improve water quality over time. Good for short term. Also have breeder boxes made with netting, offers a more stable option, but still just a net separating the fry for other inhabitants



Tom's Baby Nursery sits inside the tank and has a screened overflow to keep fry inside..

Net hanging in tank inside rigid breeder box (made with plastic rigid screen)

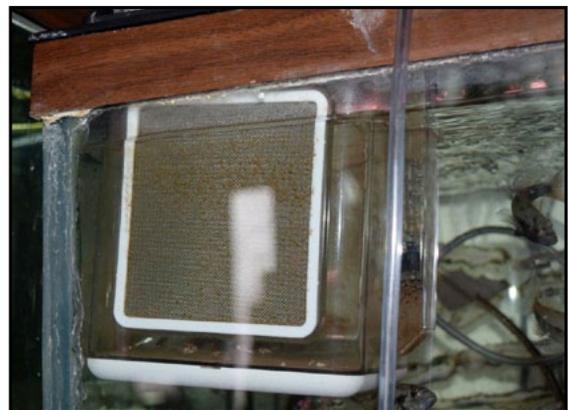
- Pros—more stable. Double layer provides protection for fry inside net
- Cons—will restrict the water movement, and water quality
- Comments, improvements—can add water flow with either an airstone or filter output to improve water quality over time. I have used this setup for quite some time and works very well with many species. A modification to this setup has allowed me raise hundreds of *Synodontis petricola* fry.

In-the-tank breeder box, Ziss and Tom Aquatics Baby Nursery

• Pros—Both have built in airstone to help with water flow. Ziss has rigid sides, with stainless steel screening available in several different configurations. One with solid bottom allows for fry to remain in water during water changes when water level drops below breeder box. Tom's has overflow protected with plastic screening.

• Cons—Ziss, relatively high cost. Configuration with screen on bottom does not offer protection of the fry when doing water changes and the water level drops too low. The mechanism to secure to the side of the tank with suction cups is not very secure. There is a better option that comes with it, but only works on very narrow or rimless tanks. Tom's must be at a specific water level, if it is too high the cover could fall off, this is also a possible issue with the Ziss product. Toms is also fairly small, so only good for short term.

• Comments, improvements—Ziss would be great option if there were a better mechanism to attach to the tank. I like the Ziss with the rigid bottom and works very well for short term. I have seen a setup that works very well using the screen bottom version, so it depends on your needs and setup.



Ziss breeder boxes are expensive and tricky to attach, but they allow good water flow and are available in a range of configurations.

Hang on the outside breeder box, Marina

- Pros—can configure in a variety of ways with included parts. Water remains constant when tank water level is lowered during water changes. Comes with many leveling adjustments. Also comes in three different sizes.
- Cons—easy to knock into this from outside of tank.

- Comments, improvements—Very good for longer term, the large size and easy access to feed from small hole in center of top. The overflow has a plastic gate with 2 different size slots, a fine and more coarse one. However even the fine one is too small for many fry, a piece of coarse filter sponge can be fitted in overflow up against the gate to make it better. The overflow needs to be cleaned regularly even for the coarse gate. If not cleaned, the water level rises and can drip if not 100% level, and also allows fry to easily escape over the sides into the main tank.



Marina breeder boxes have an air tube system that allows for water exchange, but this one is being used with a sponge filter as a separate container without any water flow to larger tank.

Jar method

- Pros—good water flow for pre-free swimming fry as long as sponge is kept clean. A feeding tube can be added once fry start eating. Very small fry can be used with this method since both top and bottom are protected by sponge.
- Cons—sponge must be a clean, tight fit into the jar or a channel can be created which will allow fry to be pulled in and trapped. Very easy to forget to turn air back on after feeding and since there is no water flow, fry deaths can occur within a short time.
- Comments, improvements—best to stop air flow during feedings so food is not pulled into sponge. Just remember to turn air back on! The cleaner the cut the better for the sponges, therefore a commercial version may be well worth the extra money.



Homemade jar method, uneven cuts allow very small fry to become trapped. Interrupted airflow may suffocate the fry.

Pals Pen/ critter carrier in tank

- Pros—can be easily added to existing tank to keep fry separated.
- Cons—only works with larger fry since cover of pals pen has fairly large openings.
- Comments, improvements—add an airstone to increase water flow.

Separate tank

- Pros—one group of fry can be put in their own tank, no predators and as long as the tank is large enough and already cycled, the fry have the best chance to survive.
- Cons—Smaller tanks are harder to keep good water quality. Adding additional tanks can lead to having many more tanks over time.
- Comments, improvements—the best option in most instances, but this can lead to an excessive number of tanks! Fry may need to start with smaller tanks and then be moved to larger ones as they need additional space to grow.

Events and Musings From the NEC 2017

by Ann Whitman photos by Dave Isham, Ann Whitman

The premier tropical fish event in New England drew top-notch speakers and vendors from around the country and members from the 29 clubs that comprise the NEC. Despite the late winter storm and delayed start to Friday's program, a good time was had by all. We enjoyed three different competitive fish and aquascaping shows, several mini auctions plus the big one on Sunday, at least 15 different programs, lots of commaraderie, laughs and spontaneous singing in the Hospitality Suite, and one of the funniest key note addresses I've ever heard (thank you, Ted Coletti).

This year 13 members of TFCB attended. Several of our club's members won awards for writing, photography, fish showing, and fish breeding. We saw old friends and made new ones. Little wonder that those of us who go for the first time, make it an annual pilgrimage. Enjoy the memories or see what you missed in the pages and photos that follow. Cheers!



TFCB members who attended the 2017 NEC conference in Rocky Hill, CT, from March 10-12. Back row, left to right: Collin, Rob, Ira, Andrew, Bryan, and David. Front row, left to right: Erin, Kristi, Ann, Dave, and Janine. Missing: Oliver and Gina.



Ira, Kristi, Andrew and Janine hanging out with Steve Lundblad from the Wet Spot in the hospitality suite.



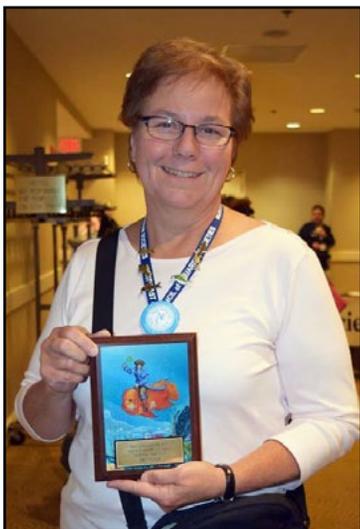
David Isham at the Saturday night banquet with his camera. Thanks for all the great shots!

The Shows at NEC

This year NEC held a cichlid show hosted by the NE Cichlid Association, a guppy show hosted by the Boston Guppy Club and a nano-tank aquascaping competition. The Southern NE Killifish Association also hosted their first-ever killifish exhibition.

In the Guppy Show, David and Janine Banks won 2nd place in Class 1 with a pair of Russian Red guppies and 1st place in Class 2 and Best of Show with a pair of Blonde Bunt Lower Sword guppies. That pair of guppies sold in Sunday's auction for \$42! Nice work!

In the Cichlid Show, Ann Whitman won 2nd place in Class 1 Central American Cichlids, with a male *Cryptoheros chetumalensis*.



Ann Whitman (left) won 2nd place in the Central American cichlid category with a male *C. chetumalensis* (lower). David Banks (right) won 1st place in Class 2 and Best of Show in the guppy show with his Blonde Bunt Lower Swords (top).



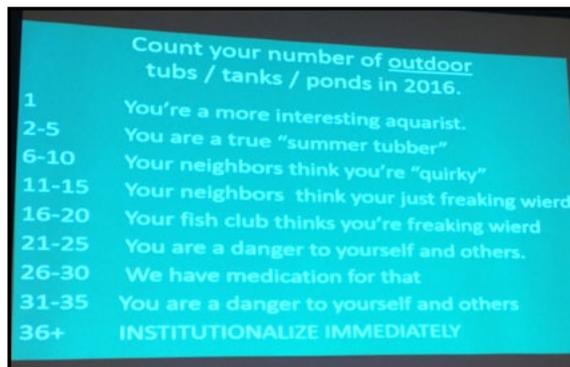
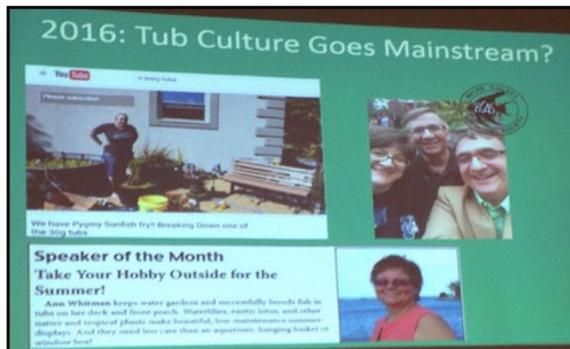
NEC hosted its first-ever nano-tank design competition and received 8 entries. The design above, done in a Fluval Spec V, won the 1st place People's Choice award. This mature-looking aquascape uses CO2 to maintain plant health. All the tanks entered showed creative use of natural wood, stone and live plants.



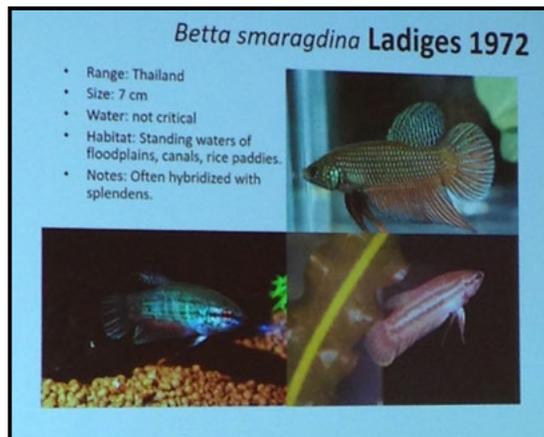
Speakers and Specialty Meetings

With 14 different topics offered in 7 time slots over two days, it was hard to decide which talks to attend. Do I want to learn about something completely new or do I want more depth in a topic I'm familiar with. Which speakers brought fish to auction off after their talk and might I want some of those? Who is likely to be most entertaining or have the best slides? Decisions, decisions!

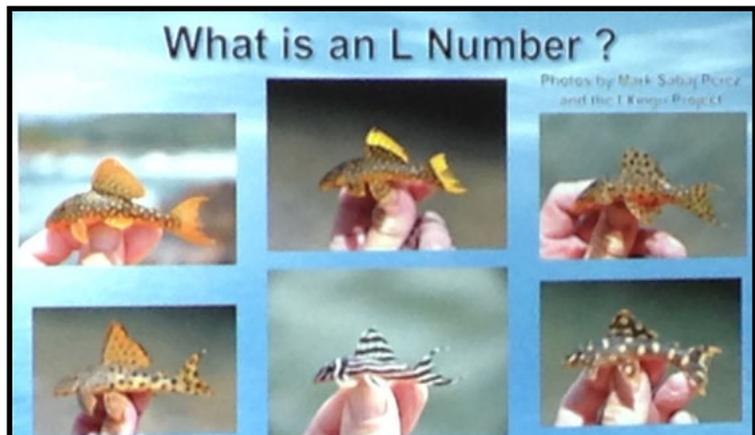
In addition, to speakers, NEC held several specialty meetings, including the Northeast Livebearers Association meeting, Northeast Fish Tub & Water Garden Study Group and auction, a SNEKA meeting and auction, and the inaugural meeting of the American Labyrinth Fish Association and mini auction. Whew! Here are a few highlights from talks and special meetings I attended.



Ted Coletti (above) organized and conducted the highly entertaining NE Fish Tub & Water Garden group and auction event. After the plant auction (50+ lots), Peter Nitzsche explained how to prepare and overwinter tropical waterlilies, a tricky challenge.



Mark Denaro gave a great talk on wild betta species and brought a number of them to auction off at the end. Gerald Griffin, president of the International Betta Congress, also gave two presentations on *Betta splendens* history, care, and genetics.



Ruben Lugo talked about keeping and breeding a wide range of suckermouth fish and how he gradually progressed from easier species to the more challenging ones. It was a facinating look at how he replicated each fish's natural habitat and breeding triggers to achieve success. Good lessons for all who attended!

NEC Awards Breakfast and Keynote Dinner Banquet

Each year, NEC clubs compete for awards in the Breeder Participation Program, newsletter article competition and photo competition. TFCB and its members took prizes in all three events!

And the TFCB winners are—

Article Competition

- Joan Snider, 1st place Best Breeder article for “Raising Royal Farlowella Fry”, *In Depth*, March 2016
- Brian Candib, 3rd place Humor article for “Fish Happen”, *In Depth*, May 2016
- David Banks, 3rd place Continuing Column for “In My Travels”, *In Depth* newsletter

Photo Competition

- Janine Banks, 2nd place photo in Class 5 NEC Activities People Pictures

Breeder Participation Program

- Tropical Fish Club of Burlington for most BPP entries
- Tropical Fish Club of Burlington for most participants

After the Saturday night banquet, the previous recipients of the Betty Mueller Award were recognized and this year’s award was presented to Barbara Romeo. All the conference speakers were also thanked for their participation and presented with custom artwork by Nicole Solei Artigas.



Past and current Betty Mueller Award honorees (left to right): Joe Masi, Richard Pierce, Barbara Romeo, Tony Terciera, Janine & David Banks, Linda & David Giza.



Conference speakers (left to right): Gerald Griffin, Ted Coletti, Mark Denaro, Ruben Lugo, Tony Orso, Greg Steeves, Karen Pattist, Steve Edie and Bill Allen.

The end of the banquet featured the keynote address by Ted Coletti entitled “A New Look at the Aquarium Hobby”. It was a new look, alright! Ted proceeded to roast our hobby’s associations, clubs, events and fellow hobbyists in one of the funniest take-downs I’ve ever heard. We laughed so hard, we cried. This is one talk that no one will forget!

Ted Coletti roasted fish clubs, hobby events and associations alike in his hilarious keynote address. Even our club got a starring role in his unique prediction of new TV specials.



My Experience at the NEC Fish Auction

By Oliver Mackinnon

For weeks I had been looking forward to the auction at the NEC Fish Convention, which was held on the third day of the conference. When my mom and I first arrived at the Sheraton Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT, we immediately went into the large room where the auction was held.

My mother checked in to get our number for placing the bids, and I went over to look at the 500+ fish that were laid out on multiple tables in the front of the room. I wrote down which fish I might be interested in, and how much I would be willing to spend. We got our number, went to the back of the room, and sat down.



Oliver and his mother, Gina, attended all three days of NEC 2017. Photo by Ann Whitman

“The first time I bid, it was hard to hold up the sign. I got more comfortable each time.”

The first time I bid, it was hard for me to hold up the sign because I didn't like the feeling of knowing that I was about to get caught up in an auction. Sadly, I didn't win my first item but I did get more comfortable each time I bid. I bid about five times before I won four bronze cory cats for \$14. I then made two more bids before I won three kuhli loaches for \$12. I thought that I had gotten a good deal for the kuhli loaches and an average deal for the bronze catfish.

When we left the auction, it was 6:00 PM, which meant we had been there for four hours. Before we drove back to our house in New Haven, I decided that it would be a good idea to put my fish underneath my coat so they would stay warm. When we arrived, they went into a 10-gallon quarantine tank. I've had them for 10 days and all the fish seem very healthy.



The Sunday auction at NEC is always packed with bidders and plenty of fish, plants and equipment to buy. Photo by Ann Whitman.

A Taste of Home

by Gina Mackinnon

I had no idea how hard moving from Vermont to New Haven, CT, would be on my children, especially my son, Oliver. Simply put, this hasn't been the best year for him as he's transitioned away from the people and the land he knew and loved. For this reason, I knew that attending this year's NEC Fish Convention would be important to him as it would provide an opportunity to reconnect with people in his beloved Burlington-based Tropical Fish Club. A couple of months ago, Oliver turned 14 and I gave him tickets to the convention, as well as a \$35 fish credit to be used at the auction as a birthday present.

Prior to the NEC conference, I joked with friends in New Haven about going to a Fish Convention for three days. "A FISH Convention?" they asked. "Yep. That's right," I said, and then enlightened them about what one does at a fish convention: peruse the large vendor room, chat with the hip woman who sells the knitted fish hats, listen to the interesting speakers, and make bids at the fish auction. I also told them that we would be reconnecting with people in our Fish Club, and how we were really looking forward to seeing friendly, familiar faces. In a way, this convention felt like a taste of home for us.



Over the next three days, we saw many cool things: inspiring nano tanks filled with amazing landscapes and hardscapes; a big cichlid with a big personality; a royal pleco plushy with a suction cup so it could stick to just about anything (Oliver desperately wanted this, but was on the cusp of being too cool of a teenager to ask for one); and a multi-shaded blueberry fish hat for me.

The best part, however, was seeing several of our Fish Club friends. Prior to moving, I never thought I'd miss the 2 to 3-hour monthly TFCB

meetings complete with door prizes, auctions and \$3 pints of beer, but I did, and I still do. Through Facebook and email, I'm able to get a sense of what's going on with the club, the monthly topics and speakers, and the awesome hands-on projects you guys are working on. However, despite the virtual connection, there's nothing better than actually being with friends and enjoying good times in real life. So here's to all of you still in Burlington... Thanks for welcoming Oliver and me into the club when we lived in Burlington, and thanks for still including us now that we're in New Haven. We have really enjoyed getting to know you. And, thanks to the NEC Convention, we'll never have to say goodbye. It'll always be "See you next year!"



More Thoughts From the Annual NEC Convention

by Janine Banks

The NEC Convention has been a part of my life for over 30 years. I've participated in it from all sides and made many, many friends there. So many of our old friends still come each year! This was a great convention, although it tested our resolve to attend for sure with David's broken leg. We couldn't imagine missing it, so we packed the car to its gills once again and off we went! So much to do and so little time with us hosting the hospitality suite, me having a vendor table for AMAZONAS magazine, so many great speakers to see, auctions to view, a great vendor room to peruse and of course the many friends we could not miss. A weekend chocked full of fun and learning, it was over before I knew it, but you can be assured I'll be back next year!

by Collin Sourdiff

The fish talks were great, and packed with information and photos. I learn so much every time. I attended Ruben Lugo's talk about Plecos and learned how to create a better habitat for breeding. He also gave me the name of a breeder who breeds L-200s so I could get some tips. In the vendor room, I bought pleco caves and bid on items in the conservation silent auction. I could afford some expensive fish because of the silent auction. I got two L-42s for \$160! That's a deal. I also bought about a million small aquarium devices. I voted in the fish shows, too; there were some beautiful fish to choose from. At the auction, I bought everything, and I'm excited about it because I saved hundreds on wholesale or better prices, minus the shipping. Yay, NEC!

by David Banks

Back in 1987 we attended our first NEC convention and have not missed one since. We only knew a few people when we arrived, but by time we left we had made many new friends. And each year we go we meet more new friends and rekindle old friendships, many we only see once or maybe twice a year or even less often. To me this is the best part of attending such an event that has a wide array of attendees all interested in our hobby.



Peach Reid (left), owner of Fish Mart, and Janine Banks. Photo by Richie Grenfell



Collin chats with a tablemate at the Saturday night banquet.



David Banks with Scott McLaughlin of King and Queen Cichlids.

A Jaunt Down NEC Memory Lane

by Brian Candib

I have not attended the NEC convention in a few years. Prior to that I went for about 4–5 years straight. I would drag my wife, Tami, along and, for a few of them, my daughter, Emily, would come. One year they needed an extra camera person and Emily stepped in and spent the weekend videotaping various speakers and their presentations. My wife and I would sit in and listen to the presentations she was taping just to watch her work. She was so happy to be able to help out and I think it presented the TFCB club in a good light. It was back when TFCB had at least a dozen club members attending the event while Janine and David were actively participating in the event so our members were considered something special to all the other attendees.

I remember spending a lot of time sitting in presentations of fishes, plants and fish collecting trips. However, I do recall one of the presentations I saw early on was the one Ted Judy did on his fish room. That was the one that inspired me to build my own fish room. I took a lot of notes and visited his webpage to try to utilize a lot of his tips in my own fish room. Another really motivating presentation was watching Luis Navarro aqua-scape a tank and share a lot of his tips and tricks.

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Then there was a workshop that I really liked—a photography class that Tony Terciera conducted. Tony had won a lot of awards for his photos and was frequently employed to take pictures for various magazines. It was well received by those in attendance especially for a novice like me that knows nothing about a camera. But my wife and daughter, who are better at picture taking than I, even mentioned they learned a few tricks. After that class, Emily took a picture of one of my angelfish and had it framed as a birthday gift for me. I still have it hanging down in the fish room today.

Lee Finley was one of my favorite attendees. He ran a must-visit booth in the vendor room and I purchased many books from that guy. Lee also gave memorable talks about things like his retirement tour and books of special note. His wife would be in attendance, knitting away while he talked. I really think she was able to crank out a sweater a day while Lee was manning his vendor booth and presenting to the masses.

But if I really had to give an award for the most memorable presentation, it would have been the Saturday Evening Dinner presentation done by Mike Shadle. It was titled something like “Visions of a Deranged Mind”. It was a slide show of all the fish that he had inadvertently killed over the years. He proceeded, tongue-in-cheek, to explain how they met their demise. It was a pure comedy act and everyone was in stitches. You could hear folks saying, “I did that” or “that happened to me”. I was so amazed that he had the wherewithal to take pictures just to provide the evidence. It was pure pleasure. That night was also the one time I had dressed to the theme of that year’s event, The Pirates of the NEC. They had a competition for the best dressed and I thought I was a shoe-in except there was this one guy that I swear was a real-life pirate. The guy had long grayish hair in a pony tail and a beard about a foot long to boot. I think he even had a live parrot on his shoulder. Gosh, to this day I do not think it was fair and I have yet cross paths with him since.

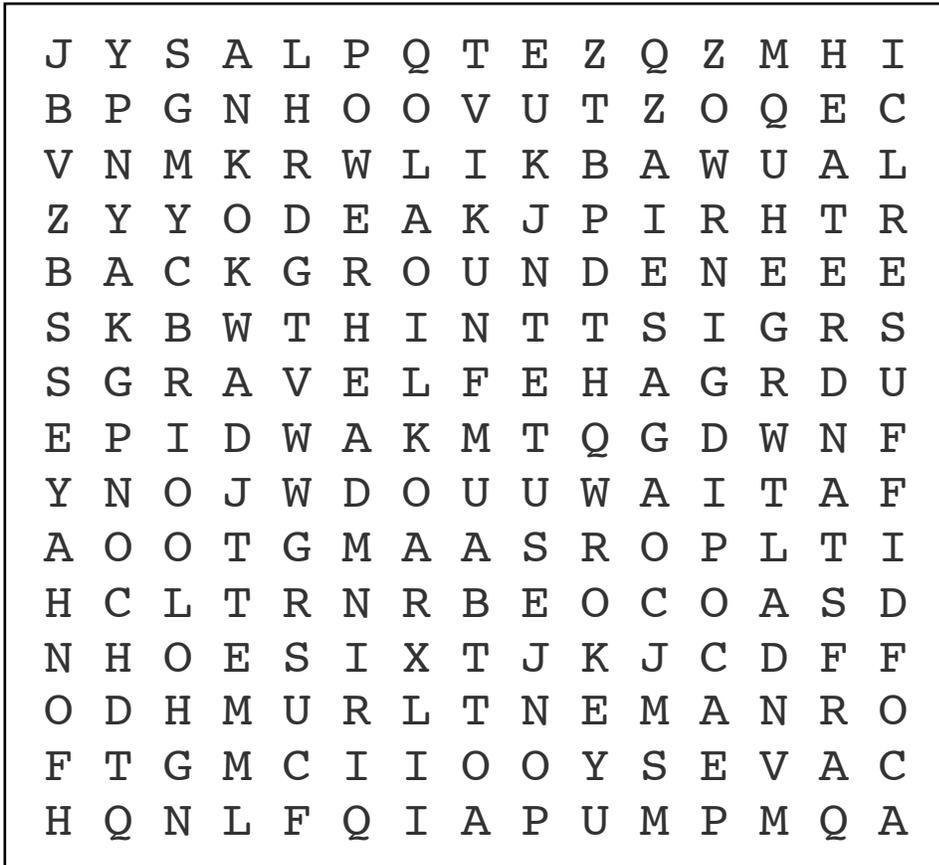
CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- April 1 [TFCB Fish, Frag and Reptile Swap Meet](#), Holiday Inn, Burlington, VT
- April 13 [TFCB meeting](#), speaker Ryan McAndrews from NE Aquarium, 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT
- April 17 [Boston Aquarium Society](#), spring auction, Boston, MA
- April 23 [North Jersey Aquarium Society](#), spring auction, East Brunswick, NJ
- April 23 [New England Cichlid Assoc](#), auction, Windsor Locks, CT
- April 28 - 30 [Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention](#), Denver, CO
- April 29 [Central NY Aquarium Society](#), annual auction, Syracuse, NY
- May 4 - 7 [American Livebearers Association Convention](#), St. Louis, MO
- May 6 [Boston Guppy Group](#), meeting and auction, location TBA
- May 11 [TFCB meeting](#), speaker, Kevin Kelly on plants & aquascaping 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT
- May 12 [Brooklyn Aquarium Society](#), spring auction, Brooklyn, NY
- May 21 [OVAS](#), annual auction, Rutland, VT
- May 26 [American Killifish Association Convention](#), Northbrook, IL
- June 8 [TFCB meeting](#), 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT
- June 8 - 13 [NANFA. Convention](#), Meramec State Park, MO
- June 22 - 25 [International Betta Congress](#), Orlando, FL
- July 13 - 16 [American Cichlid Association Convention](#), Novi, MI
- July 15 - 16 [New England Fancy Guppy Assoc.](#), IFGA show and auction, Lancaster, MA
- August 25 - 27 [Marine Aquarium Conference of North America](#), New Orleans, LA
- Sept 14 [TFCB meeting](#), 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT
- Sept 24 [East Coast Cichlids](#), fall auction, Union, NJ
- Oct 12 [TFCB meeting](#), 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT
- Nov 3 - 5 [Aquatic Experience](#), Chicago, IL
- Nov 9 [TFCB meeting](#), 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT
- Nov 3 - 5 [Aquatic Experience](#), Chicago, IL



Aquarium Hardware

Find and circle the words in the word search puzzle below. All words name pieces of common aquarium equipment. Good luck!



- AIRSTONE
- AQUARIUM
- BACKGROUND
- CAVES
- DIFFUSER
- DRIFTWOOD
- FILTER
- GRAVEL
- HEATER
- HOOD
- LIGHT
- ORNAMENT
- POWERHEAD
- PUMP
- ROCKS
- STAND
- THERMOMETER
- TUBING

“Wow!”



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2017 Burlington Aquarium Fish, Frag and Reptile Swap Meet



Saturday, April 1, 2017

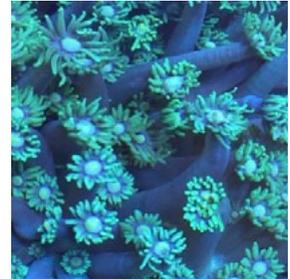
11:00AM – 3PM

Holiday Inn, Williston RD, South Burlington

Free Admission

Door Prizes and Raffle

Fun Family Event. All are Welcome.



Come see what other hobbyist breeders have to offer!

What to Expect:

Local Breeders, Hobbyists and Retailers selling—

- Freshwater fish, shrimp and plants
- Saltwater coral frags
- Reptiles
- New and used equipment and aquariums.



To Sell at the Swap:

Please register with number of tables desired and a brief description of your items **before March 26th**. Table availability is limited. If any space is still available on the day of swap, prices will increase by \$5.

1 table for \$20

2 tables for \$35

½ table for \$10

Note: You are completely responsible for your own items and the well-being of your livestock. TFCB holds no responsibility whatsoever for your items or for the health of your livestock .

Setup will begin at 9AM

You may sell any item related to aquariums and reptiles, except species prohibited by the State of Vermont. Please check with TFCB for prior approval for non-aquarium or non-reptile related items.

Questions and Registration:

David Banks - dbanks@together.net 802-372-8716

Brian Candib – bcandib@comcast.net – 802-864-0746

Sponsored by **The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington, tfc.org**

