

In Depth

September-October 2017



Bowl Show at the Sept 14 meeting!

Where Do Our Fish Come From?

Auction, Bowl Show and Guppy Show

Getting Organized, Keeping Track

Cryptocoryne parva

Calendar of Coming Events

and so much more!



Sidhimunki Loaches. by Ann Whitman

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



The summer months sure do go by quickly with so much to do outside. I hope you had a chance to spend at least a little time with your fish this summer. We had a perfect day for the TFCB summer picnic and had a good turnout with lots of great food. Thanks Collin and Erin for hosting—it was great to see your tanks!

Fall will bring lots of very exciting events, the first being our September meeting where Michael Tuccinardi will be our guest speaker. Mike is currently a senior editor for both Amazonas and Coral magazines. He has spent a good deal of his time over the past few years travelling the world and visiting and exploring many things fish related. All his traveling, along with his experience while working at [Segrest Farms](#) in Florida, gives him a unique perspective to present TFCB with an overview of how fish get to our aquariums, whether wild collected or farm raised. He will show us the process and explain how they arrive healthy and in good shape. This will be a very interesting topic for all of us. Mike will also speak at the OVAS meeting on Sept. 12 and in Montreal at the MAS on Sept 13. And don't forget about the bowl show! I would love to have everyone bring one entry.

Dwight will present 'Buying and Selling Fish on the Internet' for our October meeting. Later in the month, on October 29th, we will be hosting our [annual auction](#) at the Holiday Inn on Williston Rd. in South Burlington. This is our main fundraiser for the year, and it enables us to bring in high quality speakers for our monthly meetings. Please spread the word to everyone you know! There will also be a [Guppy Show](#) during the auction. There are 7 guppy classes, each entry will be a pair of guppies, and many will be auctioned off at the end of the show. We hope to have entries mailed in from active guppy breeders throughout the country. And we will also have an [open bowl show](#) where you can bring in any species of fish to show off. Both shows will have cash prizes!

I know several members are planning to go to [Aquatic Experience](#) this year in Chicago, Nov 3-5. This is quite a show and there is nothing else like it in the country. It has a huge trade/vendor show floor with great displays where you can talk directly to the product manufacturers and even talk with some of the Florida fish farmers. There will be an International Shrimp contest again this year, a planted tank aquascaping contest, kids aquarium contest and a cichlid show. On top of all that, some of the best speakers from around the world will be presenting on a wide range of topics. Talk to Janine or me, or Bryan Goodkowski or Ann Whitman for a more personal perspective if you are interested in attending or want more information.

Go to <http://aquaticexperience.org/> or visit their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AquaticExperienceChicago/>

See you at the September meeting!

David

Editorial

Rhythm of the Seasons

By Ann Whitman



As I assemble the [Calendar of Events](#), I'm struck by the comforting reliability and predictability of the seasons in the fish hobbyists' year. Local clubs take a break in July and August, and many of us turn our thoughts to gardening, boating, fishing or some other leisure pursuit. Clubs hold picnics instead of meetings and auctions. Members share macaroni salad and burgers instead of door prizes. Some of the national specialty groups, such as [NANFA](#), [AKA](#) and [ACA](#) sponsor their annual hoe-downs during the vacation months, but summer is generally reserved for family, not fish.

As the cool end-of-summer weather approaches and the county fair season begins, notices for club meetings and fall auctions start to pop up. Facebook is suddenly full of event invitations. Interested? Going? Share! At the first club meeting, we greet old friends, get caught up, peruse the auction lots and raffle items, and finally settle restlessly into the folding chairs for the September Speaker. The annual fish club season has officially begun.

Fall is full of major events, too. Regional auctions require planning and carpool. Tantalizing pre-registration lists appear on websites. Who will be there and what are they bringing? National destination events, like [Aquatic Experience](#), bring clubs, industry, and researchers together and build friendships across states and cities and countries. They are glue that holds us together and spreads the wealth of our hobby amongst us. These are the fruitful months of autumn when we come together to share fish and lore and rekindle our passion.

The days get shorter and colder, the Holidays take over and club events once again turn to more social pursuits. The Holiday party replaces the December meeting for most. Winter brings a resurgence of activity with a frenzy of auctions, meetings and regional events crammed into the blustery months before spring weather lures us back outside. The cozy comfort of a basement fishroom is a welcome refuge from February wind and snow.

By spring, we are all ready to burst out of our cocoons. In New England, and nearby NJ and NY, the [NEC Convention](#) is the central event that brings old friends together and introduces new friends. Three days of learning, sharing, socializing, buying and selling is the highlight of many hobbyists' year. It's also the kickoff to the next several months of other regional events, auctions, and meetings.

The June club meeting is always bittersweet. It's the last of the seasonal cycle when we hope to auction off all the fish we don't want to carry through summer, when we say "see you later" to hobby friends, and turn our focus to summer vacations. The annual cycle is complete.

Welcome back to the start of a new season!

Ann

Speaker of the Month

Mike Tuccinardi, Senior Editor Amazonas and Coral magazines

With a background spanning retail, wholesale, and aquarium fish import, Mike Tuccinardi began working at a local fish store in his early teens and has been following the fish ever since. After a stint in Florida working for a major importer and tropical fish farm, Mike has traveled through Asia, South America, and Africa visiting aquarium fish exporters, collectors, and fishing communities. He currently serves on the advisory board of Project Piaba and is a member of the IUCN's Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (FFSG). When not traveling, Mike resides in Boulder, CO with his wife and is pursuing a Master's degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Science. He is a Senior Editor of AMAZONAS and CORAL Magazines.

Following the Fish: a journey into the origins of aquarium species

From my earliest days in the hobby, learning how the fish species we keep actually make their way from exotic places around the world and into our home aquariums has held a special fascination. Paging through books and magazines to read the mysterious-sounding names of river systems and export points became a full-fledged obsession, and I've been fortunate enough to make a career of "following the fish" ever since. This journey has taken me from working at a local fish shop, then on to a major importer, and finally to the countries, export facilities, farms, and fishing villages where our aquarium fish originate. In this talk I'll invite you along to see the fascinating route aquarium fish take on three continents to eventually wind up in our living rooms, basements, and fish rooms, and touch on the methods used, the people and cultures involved, and issues of sustainability that arise.



TROPICAL FISH CLUB OF BURLINGTON



PRESENTS

Mike Tuccinardi,
Senior Editor Amazonas, Coral magazines

**“Where Fish Come from: Wild Caught
to our Tanks”**

Thursday Sept 14, 2017 6:30PM

Free admission & door prizes plus an Auction



and Bowl Show

VFW Hall
Pearl St,
Essex Junction



For more information

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Keeping Track, Getting Organized

By Ann Whitman

I'm a big fan of Excel spreadsheets. No, really, keep reading! The simple grid format with columns and rows makes it easy to organize information and see it at a glance, without a lot of writing. If you need to sort or color code, that's pretty easy, too. I enjoy order and tidyness, but am not particularly good at keeping it. I also find that my memory fails me more often than it used to. Spreadsheets are my backup plan.

Helping the Housesitter

About a year ago, I was trying to figure out a way to put all my fish information into a format that a non-hobbyist housesitter could use to keep my fish alive for two months. Since I have at least 30 tanks with a big range of feeding needs, filters to maintain, and fish personalities to coordinate, I needed a way to get all that information down without overwhelming him. It was also important that he could communicate problems with me or a back-up person without necessarily knowing what each fish was called. Writing a 10-page list of instructions didn't seem to be the right answer.

My solution was a very simple spreadsheet. Here's the basic set up:

	A	B	C	E	F	G
1	Tank	Size, Location and Contents as of 4/16/17	Quantity	Filter	Water Changes	Food (EOD=every other day)
17	B	Spec V, window on left			20% every	
18		woodcats, 2F, 1M	3		2 weeks,	• dried daphnia or black worms or frozen
19		cory pygmaeus	2		top up 2x	blood worms EOD at lights out.
20		amano shrimp	1		weekly	• Repashy or Cat Scraper EOD
21		betta, female	1			
22		red rilli shrimp	2			
23						
24	C	Chi, window on right		Poret foam cube	20% every	• shrimp granules or Repashy 3x weekly
25		chili rasboras	12		2 weeks	
26		cherry shrimp	22			
27						
28	D	10 left, counter		Poret foam cube	weekly 20%	
29		plakat betta, male	1			
30		cory habrosus	8			• cuke or zuke once a week on a fork
31		cory knaaki	9			• Repashy or Cat Scraper EOD
32		mystery snails	15			• very small pinch flakes daily
33		amano shrimp	3			
34						
35	E	10 right, counter		Poret foam cube	weekly 20%	
36		betta smaragdina, 1 M, 2 F	4			
37		cory concolor	6			

Step #1. I assigned each tank a letter, from A to Z. I put a piece of masking tape in the upper corner of each tank with its letter. (Tip: All the quarantine tanks were labeled Q1, Q2, Q3, etc, to keep them isolated and on high alert.)

Step #2. On the spreadsheet, I listed every species under each tank and the quantity of each. I'm

glad I added the quantities because, when I got home, I knew what had survived, or not. I didn't have to remember that a pair of rare killifish used to be in tank M. Dang.

Step #3. In another column, I wrote in what foods each tank should get, how much, and how often. I feed lots of Repashy gel and frozen foods, so keeping track of that schedule was much easier. The housesitter and I found that adding a "sticky note" to affected tanks, with a circle to represent the size of the Repashy chunk, was also very helpful.

Step #4. In the maintenance column, I noted what sort of filter each tank had and what maintenance it required, if any. I also gave clues and alerts, such as, "a loud humming means the pump is out of water and tank needs immediate topping up!" I also added a column for water changes because some tanks required more or less than others, depending on inhabitants.

Step #5. I printed the spreadsheet for the housesitter and emailed copies of it to myself and to my back-up expert (thanks, sister Joan!) so that we could all be on the same page, literally, if problems arose. And they did, of course. It was so much easier to hear, "there's a grinding sound coming from the filter in tank A" rather than "one of the tanks by the water heater doesn't sound right." Or, "I noticed white spots on the fish in Q2, should I treat them with something?"

After I got back, I found my spreadsheet to be helpful for so many other reasons. I take notes on the printed sheets about where to move certain fish, how fish interact, whether fish are spawning or failing to thrive. And I update it on the computer every so often. I can see a history of what's happened: at the beginning of the year, I had 12 kyathit danios, but upon returning home in February, I have 10. By April, the school is down to 8. Hmm, what's going on in tank O? I see notes that the filter on tank M has been restarted four times in a month; time to replace it?

Keeping Track of Tubs

I use other spreadsheets in my fish hobby, too. I made one this summer to keep track of all my waterlilies. I had inadvertently lost the labels for some of my waterlilies and really needed to sort them out so that I can sell divisions of them at NEC next spring! Embedding the photos of helped identify some of the mystery lilies when they finally bloomed. Knowing which lilies are tropical also serves as a reminder to bring them inside when the nights turn cool.

	Sheets			Charts		SmartArt Graphics		WordArt			
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
1	Variety	Hardy/ Tropical	Size	Flower color	Leaf	Spread	Source	Notes	2017 location	Photos	
12	Joey Tomock	hardy	medium	vibrant yellow, 4"-5"	green, 8"-10"	4' to 5'	NEC 2017 auction	bloomed 8/20/17	deck, sm tub on left		
13	Sunfire	hardy	medium	red-pink to hot- pink, yellow center 5"-8"	mottled 5"-7"	4' to 6'	NEC 2015 or 2016?	bloomed 8/20/17	deck, sm tub on left		
14	Cynthia Ann	hardy		peach 4"-5"	green 5"-6"	2' to 4'		smallest peach color	deck, lg tub on right		
15	Perry's Baby Red	hardy	mini	deep red 2"-3"	dark green 3"-5"	1' to 3'		2 pots in 2017	deck, lg tub on right		
16	Green Smoke	tropical	med-large	chartruese, blue 4"-8"	mottled 6"-10"	3' to 7'	Texas Waterlilies 2019	day blooming, fragrant	Rubbermaid		

I added another sheet to my summer tub project, too. I have a habit of putting fish out in a tub then immediately forgetting what I did. It's not helpful to discover in July that I put two different species in one tub and that they've been eating each other's fry for a month. Or wondering in late August why I didn't find anything in a tub. Did I forget to stock it or did they fall prey to dragonflies, frogs or the lure of bluer waters beyond the rim of the tub? The sheet was a great way to keep track of what I put out and when, how many I started with, and ultimately whether I was successful. Here's a sample:

	Sheets	Charts	SmartArt Graphics	WordArt	
	A	B	C	D	E
1	2017 location	Fish Stocked	When stocked	Removed	Results
5	front porch, small tub on right	5-6 least killifish	mid June	9/3/17	lots of fry by mid July, found 40 when caught
6	deck, far left tub	2 fantail goldfish	early-mid June		lost one in late June
7	deck, sm tub on left	12 Mexican mollies, all female	mid June	8/20/17	found 7, one matured to male
8	deck, sm tub on left	6 Sunset tetras, 3 pairs	8/20/17	8/25/17	temps getting down to 50° at night
9	deck, lg tub on right	6 green tiger barbs	mid June	early August	found all 6, no spawn
10	deck, lg tub on right	10 tinwini danios	8/20/17	8/25/17	found all 10, put out earlier next year
11	Rubbermaid 100 gal stock tank	6 Kyathit danios	mid July	8/25/17	fry discovered 8/14.

Many of the best fish-keepers and breeders use some system to keep track of their tanks and fish. Spreadsheets have been the easiest for me. I like the simplicity of the grid and being able to see information at a glance, and share it easily with others. I can print them out and use to take notes or email it to myself for access while traveling. I must admit, spreadsheets are better than relying on my memory, and they have made me a better, more responsible hobbyist.

BOWL SHOW REMINDER !!!

The September meeting will feature a bowl show!

1. Fish must be displayed in a bare tank or bowl, i.e. no decorations, no gravel etc. The tank or bowl must have one flat side & hold less than 20 gallons of water. No lights.
2. A limited supply of bowls is available. If you need a bowl, contact David prior to the meeting.
3. Life support systems are not encouraged, but will be accepted if necessary to sustain a particular fish.
4. Water is available, but entrants must supply their own water conditioner, nets, etc.
5. There is a limit of 3 entries per person.
6. Judging will be by both popular vote.
7. The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington is not responsible for any loss or damage.

TROPICAL FISH CLUB OF BURLINGTON



Giant Auction

**Fish, Plants, New and Used
Equipment, Fish Foods, etc**

plus a Guppy Show and Open Bowl Show

Sunday Oct 29, 2017

12 noon



Holiday Inn



1068 Williston RD

S. Burlington



For more information

David & Janine 372-8716 dbanks@together.net
Ann Whitman 434-3294 awhitman@madriver.com
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www.tfc.org

Cryptocoryne parva, Yes It Is!

by David L Banks Jr, TFCB

A few years back I was visiting a friend and he showed me a setup for growing emersed *Cryptocorynes*. It was not high tech at all, but very effective. A shelving unit was covered with plastic and each shelf had lighting, I don't remember for sure, but I think it was just a 4' shop light over each shelf. On each shelf were containers full of Crypts. These were plastic shoe boxes or something similar, with a coat hanger frame above the sides and each was put in a clear plastic bag. There was a fairly thin layer of soil and water added so that it was basically mud. In each of these, the Crypts were growing to the point of being a very thick carpet of plants. The wire frame was used to keep the plastic bag up over the plants to allow them to grow nicely. After seeing this I had to try it one day.

On that same trip, he of course had to give me way more plants than I could have imagined. But when I got home, I planted each in pots and placed them in aquariums fully submerged. They survived and grew, but were not as full as the containers he had pulled these from.

Growing *Cryptocorynes* Emersed

I had also been reading about getting your Crypts to flower, and how that was a great way to help identify them since the foliage of many of them look very similar, but they can have very different flowers. And the flowers are very cool looking, not your typical garden flower.

I decided to finally give his method of growing a try with one of the Crypts. I chose *C. parva*, a very small species (*parva* literally mean small in Latin). It was one of the ones I had planted in a large shallow pot and put in a 20-gallon long tank submerged. This tank is a very low tech tank with low light, no CO2 or any other enhancements and a thick carpet of duckweed at the surface. The *parva* was surviving nicely in these conditions, but the pot was only sparsely covered with plants, it was reproducing but very slowly as I would expect in these conditions.

My emersed setup was a 2.5 gallon tank which I put about an inch of potting soil in and soaked it until there was a good mud mixture with a little standing water above the mud. I planted several nicely developed *parvas* which were less than 2 inches tall. I covered the tank with a glass cover that fit fairly tightly, but I put masking tape around the edges of the cover onto the tank to be sure it was tight. I used an old stainless steel incandescent aquarium light fixture for a 2.5 gallon tank. Instead of the incandescent bulb I put in a 25W compact fluorescent daylight bulb.

Waiting for Blooms

I put this tank up on the shelf and waited. The plants did fill in nicely over time and grew very tall! The stems and



Cryptocorynes parva growing submersed, low light, surface covered with duckweed. Note the short, low growing plants



Finally success! A flower confirms the identity of *Crypt. parva*.



View from the top of the emerged set up, flower in upper left (red arrow). Note how tall the plants have grown in the 2.5-gallon tank compared to the submerged growth, above.

leaves were bent over at the top of the glass, at least 8 inches tall. Wow! They were so tall that the leaves touching the top would burn and turn brown from the heat of the bulb above the glass.

The tape had to go though, after adding water a few times every couple of months, it was just too much to deal with, so after the first 6 or so months, I left the tape off. This still worked well as the glass top did fit tightly on the plastic tank frame. For the most part, all I did was add water from the minimal evaporation. I did rinse down the sides and even cleaned the sides and cover a couple of times as there was some algae growth and decaying leaves. I also put in fertilizer tabs in the mud a few times, as I didn't notice a huge difference in growth, I didn't keep up with that over the years.

Yes, I had this setup for at least 3 years like this. They were growing well and after the initial trial my goals changed to waiting for a flower to appear. And waiting ... Since it was a very low maintenance setup, I just left it up there on the shelf, adding some water when needed.

I would pull out a few plants for club auctions if I had time. This was actually quite a chore. The roots almost completely filled the mud bottom so pulling out a single plant was almost impossible without ripping the roots apart. I tossed several very nice plants that I pulled out with no roots remaining. The easiest method I found was to try to cut out a section of the tank 3 x 3 inches or more which had a good group of plants in it. I would use scissors, a sharp knife and other kitchen utensils. Once I got that out, I would rinse all the dirt out, and then try to gently pull the plants apart the best I could.

So after at least three years, I decided I wanted to try something different. I was not getting any flowers, which was disappointing, but I think the overall project was successful and like I said, low maintenance. Since I had the most success pulling the plants apart once the soil had been removed, I decide to rinse the tank with tank water while doing water changes in one of my larger tanks. I ran water thru and tried to stir it up best I could until most of the soil had been removed. This took a lot more effort than I was

expecting. I had done this getting ready for a club auction, but eventually only ended up taking a small section of the tank in a couple of lots. I left the rest of the plants, put the water level back to the original level and placed the tank back up on the shelf with the light on. I kept putting off completing the task of taking the entire tank down. During that time the light was moved to other tanks, sometimes for as long as a week, so the lighting was not constant on the parva.

After 5 or 6 weeks, I finally had a chance to finish the job. I looked up and started to grab the tank and immediately noticed something new, a flower had appeared! I quickly took a few pictures with my phone and then went to get the camera. After getting a quick round of photos, I put the tank back on the shelf as I was not about to take it apart now that I had a flower. My first thought was now I had a photo, I could confirm that this was really parva as I could compare my photo to others. Since it had grown so much larger in this setup, I had questioned if it really was parva, but the flower comparison confirmed it. The flower looked just like the ones I found on the internet.

The flower itself was quite amazing. I would try to describe it, but I think it is best to look at the pictures. The color and structure really made this a very cool flower. Of course when I searched online for pictures to compare, I also found flowers of many other Crypts, all very unique and very cool looking. So now I think I need to try another species, but I guess I will need to use a larger tank, as the smallest Crypt was really too big when grown emersed for the 2.5 gallon tank.

A couple of days later I got the chance to look at it again with the plan to get some more photos and was extremely surprised to see the flower had wilted away already. I was so glad I had pictures from a few days earlier. It made me think, maybe these had been flowering all along and I had just missed them since I could not see easily into the tank when it was up on the shelf. So my next setup will need to be in a location I can view much easier, I don't want to miss any flowers!

CARES Preservation Program

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the CARES Preservation Program is to create a base stock of conservation priority species through encouraging hobbyists worldwide to devote tank space to one or more species at risk and distribute offspring to fellow qualified hobbyists, while forming an information network where possible between aquarists, scientists, and conservationists.

CARES has four major goals:

- 1) to bring awareness to the critical situation of fish in nature, while educating the public and stressing the importance of our roles as responsible aquarists;
- 2) to recognize, encourage, and offer support to hobbyists who maintain species at risk;
- 3) to share fish as well as data and experiences through notes and manuscripts so that others may learn to maintain those identical and similar species; and
- 4) to preserve species at risk for future generations.

We truly welcome you and are so glad to have you as a part of this global endeavor! Should you have any questions, or if we can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to ask!

[CARES Priority List](#)

Summer with Livebearers

By Pam Crossett

My dear fellow club members, to be honest, I spent the summer trying NOT to breed fish. In spite of my best efforts to break the record breeding of my *Ameca splendens* by taking out the boys several months before, I had an outbreak of fruitfulness from them right at the beginning of summer, just when the club meetings broke for the summer and I couldn't bring them into auction. Note, that was in spite of having transferred the boys out of the tank two months earlier, and they are Goodeids and so don't store sperm like my little guppies and Endlers. So my large population got even larger. Can you guess what to expect at the first fall auction?

They are a lively fish and one of the few eaters of string algae out there. They even eat the great glops of algae that I sometimes get forming on the top of the hornwort in one of my tanks, which was the reason I begged our wonderful Vice president, Brian Candib for some of his stock in the first place. They are also an endangered CARES fish. Brian got his from David Banks who got his from someone who had been keeping their strain alive and well. For years they were thought to be extinct in the wild, although I've heard several rumors that they have been found in some "water park" in Mexico.

In order to keep any more excesses of baby fish, I patiently watched my tanks and when any males started showing their colors, I moved them into a males-only tank (those poor frustrated males—I have many of them and they are either so itchy or melancholy they've started preening for each other and chasing their brothers (or worse, their fathers) around the tank.

So I went the rest of the summer with NO babies until three weeks ago when I spotted a little baby guppy in my tank of five last females. It took me a week to find the little male, he apparently read the tea leaves well, as all the boys disappeared, and so hid at the back of the tank all summer (although I have no idea why he didn't produce at least three sets of babies on each female over the last few months, but so far I only have those two little babies (maybe they ate them)?

I've just let a couple of my male Moscow Red guppies in with a few females to breed a few to bring to auction, and darned if they didn't seem that interested. Time will tell if they've regained their sexual prowess, or if they now only are attracted to their own sex after spending the summer without any girls, so I don't think anyone better count on getting any of them thru me just yet. I will also allow a couple of my Chili Endlers males in with long last mates, though they won't be available for another month.

I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone has been up to for the summer. And please, please set your hearts on acquiring some of my beloved little Amecas at the next club auction!



Vampire Pleco Bob, 1992 – 2017

By David L Banks Jr, TFCB

Bob immigrated to the US in early 1992, first residing in NJ at a fish wholesaler. Along with 3 of his brothers, they moved to Vermont. Two brothers lived in Winooski and Bob went to live in the country in Hinesburg with his other brother. His three brothers predeceased him, one while residing in Hinesburg with him at an early age and the other two in Minnesota after a tragic accident involving a chemical agent in 1999.

His first 6 years saw slow growth, but he was happy and an always present and spectacular fish. Bob moved to Grand Isle in 1998, and was the show piece in his 70-gallon aquarium. During the summer months, he grew quickly in Grand Isle as the aquarium reached warmer temperatures that were similar to his native Brazil. After a few years, he had reached his potential size of 10 inches.

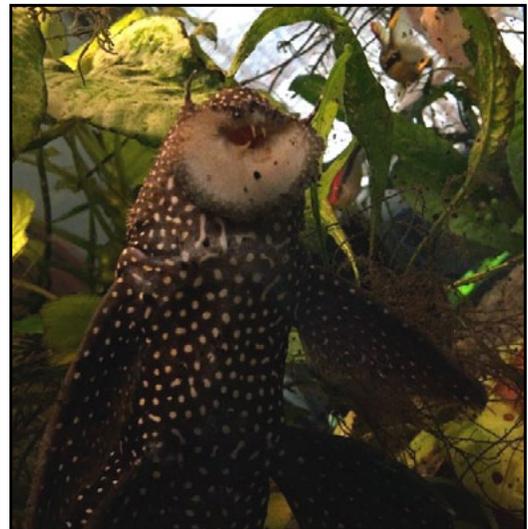
Each visitor was introduced to him, and all truly saw his beauty. The dark brown coloration with cream and white spots covering his body made an exquisite pattern. His mouth was also extraordinary! He was able to take large pellets and chew on them inside his fleshy extended mouth. He had teeth too which very few ever got the chance to see. Every so often we would find him hanging on the side of the glass and we got a glimpse of those teeth. They were definitely not for grazing on algae, after all his common name is the vampire pleco!! He would equally enjoy a piece of shrimp or zucchini, and almost anything else that landed near him.

Bob had the distinction of being the only fish in the house that had a human name. After arriving back home after a week-long vacation, our house sitters said they really liked Bob. Of course the reaction was, who is Bob? He has been Bob ever since.

Bob will be missed by all that come to visit, no more ooh's and ah'h's as they first see this spectacular fish. He had ruled his corner of the tank for so long, I'm sure returning visitors will look for him, only to be saddened to learn of his passing. 25 years was a good run, RIP Bob, or as a friend who was with us in the beginning in NJ said, "Bye-bye Bob!"



Bob in his corner of the tank



A rare shot of Bob on glass showing his teeth



Bob was big! Quarter shown for size comparison.

Breeding lists for Sept—Oct 2017

Some of our members have been busy breeding fish this summer, and were willing to share their results with us. Hopefully, many of these species will find their way to our club meetings, bowl shows, and auctions this fall! If you are looking for any of these species, contact the breeders directly. Most emails are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

Andrew Bessy

Shell dwellers (*Neolamprologus multifasciatus*)

Painted fire red shrimp

Chili Endlers (green, orange and black)

Kribensis (*Pelvicachromis pulcher*)

Ann Whitman

Yellow Convict cichlid, (*Amatitlania nanoluteus*), CARES species

Honduran Red Point cichlid, (*Amatitlania siquia* 'Rio Cabayo')

Pelvicachromis taeniatus 'Lokunje'

Shell dwellers (*Neolamprologus multifasciatus*)

Guppy, blond bunt lower sword

Platies, red tux variatus and sunburst, bred outside in tub

Mollies, black sailfin

Mollies, red sunset sailfin

Least Killifish, (*Heterandria formosa*), bred outside in tub

Bushynose plecos (*Ancistrus* sp.), brown, calico, albino, super red

Kyathit danios (*Danio kyathit*), bred outside in tub

Norman Lampeye (*Poropanchax normani*)

Collin Sourdiff

Cryptoheros chetumalensis

Pam Crossett

Ameca splendens, CARES species

Guppies?

Ira Morse-Gardner

Shell dwellers (*Neolamprologus multifasciatus*)

Red and blue Neocaridina shrimp

Celestial Pearl Danios (*Danio margaritatus*)

Also breeding, but not keeping fry:

Geophagus steindachneri

Archers

Longfin Leopard Danios (*Danio rerio*)

White Clouds

David Banks

Lots of guppies- Pink Tuxedos, Bunt Lower Sword Blonde and Russian Red. Also have a double sword that was from my lower sword population, he was in with LOTS of virgin females. Hoping for fry any time soon.

Lake Victorian haplochromis cichlid (*Prognathochromis perrieri*), CARES species

Cuckoo catfish (*Synodontis petricola*)

Flametail Peacock (*Aulonocara ngara*)

Kindia killifish (*Scriptaphyosemion cauveti*), critically endangered

Chocolate shrimp, babies are a mix of colors including some really nice looking dark blue ones.

Joan Snider

Bushynose plecos (*Ancistrus* sp.), long and short fin, brown, calico, albino, super red

Guppies

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sept 12 OVAS meeting, Pittsford Library, Pittsford, VT
- Sept 14 **TFCB meeting, Mike Tuccinardi speaker, 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT**
- Sept 22 - 24 Cataclysm Catfish Convention, conference & auction, Madison, WI
- Sept 22 - 24 Keystone Clash, conference, show & auction, Lancaster, PA
- Sept 24 East Coast Cichlids, fall auction, Union, NJ
- Oct 1 Jersey Shore Aquarium Society auction, Manasquan, NJ
- Oct 1 Norwalk Aquarium Society auction, Westport, CT
- Oct 7- 8 Reef-A-Palooza, Anaheim, CA
- Oct 8 North Jersey Aquarium Society auction, East Brunswick, NJ
- Oct 12 **TFCB meeting, Dwight Moody speaker, 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT**
- Oct 13 Brooklyn Aquarium Society auction, Brooklyn, NY
- Oct 13 - 15 South Jersey Guppy Group IFGA Guppy Show & auction, East Brunswick, NJ
- Oct 14 CT Area Reef Society Fragtoberfest, East Windsor, CT
- Oct 21 - 22 NECA Cich-tober Fest, Southbury, CT
- Oct 29 **TFCB annual auction, Guppy and Bowl Show, Holiday Inn, So. Burlington, VT**
- Nov 3 - 5 Aquatic Experience, Schaumburg, IL
- Nov 5 Boston Aquarium Society auction, Beverly, MA
- Nov 9 **TFCB meeting, 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT**
- Nov 17 - 19 Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza, Strongsville, OH
- March 3 New England Frag Farmer's Market, Storrs, CT



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Participating in the (Big) Bowl Show Leagues

By Brian Candib

Summer is mostly in the mirror. The focus of my attention is shifting back to my fishroom and all that inhabit it. After a couple months off, it is my intention (but mostly the President's insistence, that I clear all this up) to bring clarity to the NEC Bowl Show League, our participation in it and the two types of Bowl shows occurring during the 2017 season.

I would like to start by mentioning the NEC Bowl Show League. This is a way to revitalize interest in fish shows and increase participation in the Exhibitor competition. The NEC is awarding a variety of points to exhibitors that win, place, or show, and exhibit their fish at sister club events. The TFCB club also receives points based on how many of our members participate. The criteria, rules, and points awarded are given on the [NEC Exhibitor Competition webpage](#). Awards, based on accumulated points, will be presented at the 2018 NEC Convention (you do not need to be present to win).

Two Chances to Win Points, Cash and Glory

To support the NEC Bowl Show League, TFCB will be hosting our own TFCB bowl shows during the September 2017 meeting and at our Oct 29th auction. The club decided in 2016 to have "bowl" shows at club meetings twice a year in the warm months of June and September. This is just a continuation of that decision, as it does prove to be fun and educational. These shows now count toward the NEC Bowl Show League! The September meeting event is open class (so any fish goes) and will be judged by People's Choice popular vote. First prize will be \$20, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be ribbons. The bowl show during our Oct 29th auction has even better cash prizes! In addition to the popular vote, it will also be judged by a qualified judge.

Sanctioned IGEES Guppy Show

In addition to participating in the NEC Bowl Show League, TFCB is hosting a sanctioned Guppy Show that will occur during our auction on Sunday, October 29th this year. It will be judged by official folks from the [IGEES](#) (International Guppy Education and Exhibition Society). Participants can register up to 3 entries per class (there are 7 classes to enter) and no entry fee to do so. We can loan a 2.5 or 5 gallon tank or you can use your own. Just pay attention to the rules which are the usual kind of things one would expect in a Bowl show (okay, they are posted somewhere in this newsletter!). There is some prize money and if you have any questions or need some further assistance, please reach out to me at bcandib@comcast.net.

So, there you have it, The NEC Bowl Show League with our club's club Open class Bowl Shows during the September TFCB meeting and one during the Oct 29th auction, plus TFCB's "Guppy show" at our October 29th Auction. No time like the present to start evaluating the fish for September's meeting Open Class Bowl show and getting it used to a bowl for the event. Not to mention, maybe make a little cash for the effort.

See you all at the September meeting!

TFCB Bowl Show

Open Class

\$30 first place prize

\$20 second place

\$10 third place

Plus

1st, 2nd and 3rd place People's Choice!

(\$25, \$15 and \$5)

Oct 29th 2017

Holiday Inn, South Burlington

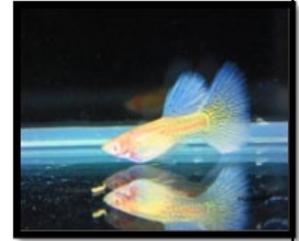
During the TFCB annual auction

Please contact David Banks (dbanks@together.net or 802-372-8716) to borrow either a 2.5 or 5 gallon tank for your entries.

1. Fish must be displayed in a bare tank or bowl, i.e. no decorations, no gravel etc.. The tank or bowl must have one flat side & hold less than 20 gallons of water.
2. A limited supply of bowls is maintained by the club. If a bowl is needed for an upcoming bowl show, it should be reserved ahead of time. Remaining bowls will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the meeting.
3. Life support systems are not encouraged, but will be accepted if necessary to sustain a particular fish.
4. No lights.
5. Water is available, but entrants must supply their own water conditioner, nets, etc.
6. There is a limit of 3 entries per person.
7. Judging will be by both popular vote and a qualified judge, when available.
8. The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington is not responsible for any loss or damage resulting from these bowl shows.



TFCB Guppy Show



Holiday Inn, South Burlington

Sunday Oct 29, 2017

At the TFCB annual auction



Guppy Classes

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Long Tail Ornamental | 4. Wild Guppy |
| 2. Short Tail Ornamental | 5. Designer Wild Guppy |
| 3. Sword Tail Ornamental | 6. Wild Endler |
| | 7. Designer Endler |

Rules

1. Fish must be displayed in a bare tank or bowl, i.e. no decorations, no gravel etc. The tank or bowl must have one flat side & hold no more than 5 gallons of water. No lights.
2. A limited supply of bowls is maintained by the club. Please reserve ahead of time. Remaining bowls will be available on a first come, first serve basis.
3. Pre-registration of mail entries must be received before Oct 23, 2017 and sent to bcandib@comcast.net. See entry form here or on page . There is no entry fee.
4. Mail-in entries must be received either Friday Oct 27th or Saturday Oct 28th. The owner is responsible for proper packaging and shipping to ensure safe arrival. Mailed-in fish will not be returned, they will be auctioned with split returned to owner. Mail to:

Brian Candib, 12 Maplewood Dr, South Burlington 05403-5926
5. Water is available, but entrants must supply their own water conditioner, nets, etc.
6. There is a limit of 3 entries per person per class.
7. Judging will be by a qualified IGEEES judge, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places and best of show.
8. An entry is a pair. If additional fish are entered, the best male & female will be judged.
9. For classes with fewer than 3 entries, they may be combined with another class.
10. \$10 first place prize, 2nd and 3rd place awarded ribbons. Best of show \$25 cash prize.
11. The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington is not responsible for any loss or damage resulting from the guppy show.
12. Please contact David Banks (dbanks@together.net or 802-372-8716) to borrow either a 2.5 or 5 gallon tank for your entries.

