



# The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington Celebrates 25 Years!



June 6-8, 2014

## Speakers



**Eric Bodrock.** I am 52 years old and my aquarium keeping adventure began at age 10 when my Mother brought home five *Corydoras paleatus* which spawned soon afterwards. By age 20 I had opened my first retail store and I have since owned three. I have also worked in the retail, wholesale, installation and hatchery aspects of the industry. Today I continue to operate All Oddball Aquatics, an aquarium specialty business. I have been active in the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. since the mid 70's and at the end of 2007, finally reached the highest title of "Grand Master Breeder" by spawning more than 450 species of fish, including over 90 species of catfish, and accumulating nearly 5,000 points in the club's Breeders Award Program. Along with my fiancé, Regina Spotti, we currently maintain about 260 aquariums at our home hatchery and continue to work with many species of fish, with Corys still being my focus. I have judged dozens of fish shows, had articles published, given many presentations and/or attended events throughout the USA, Canada, Norway, Germany and the UK. My highlight of the hobby has been getting to be good friends with so many great hobbyists all over the world. Looking forward to the next 50 years!!



**Regina Spotti** has been keenly interested in nature since childhood. "Promotional items" (goldfish) from a grocery store quickly led to an interest in the tropical fish hobby which has lasted over forty years, and now she enjoys keeping and breeding various tropical fish from all corners of the world. Whether it's a "lovely" betta, an "awesome" cichlid, a "boring rivulus", "a plain rasbora", or an "ugly catfish", Regina will make room for it in one of her fish rooms. She currently maintains about 70 aquariums, not including the fry tanks, which are filled with a wide array of species from cory cats to characins. An active member in the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, she quickly attained the status of Master Breeder and enjoys writing articles on the many species of fish she has worked with. While her hobby may be described as out of control by some of her peers, Regina finds the fish keeping hobby relaxing and rewarding.



**Rachel O'Leary.** A life-long fish keeper, her interests range from microfish to monsters, with a focus on invertebrates and dwarf species. Rachel has spent the last 10 years studying invertebrate husbandry, aquascaping, and breeding practices. Rachel's fishroom consists of over 100 tanks ranging from 10 to 220 gallons. One of the leading importers of invertebrates in the US, she works with dozens of dwarf shrimp and snail species, as well as dwarf crayfish and crabs, and is regularly bringing in new

and hard to find specimens. As dedicated to education and community as she is to her fish, Rachel has served as a moderator in several of the largest online aquatic communities. She loves to share her knowledge and experiences with like-minded enthusiasts.



**Stephan Tanner.** *From his Swiss Tropicals website:* I have kept aquarium fish since 1982. Born in Switzerland, I set up my first fish tank at age 14, followed by a whole bunch more over the years. My fascination for nature and biology led to a B.S. degree in Ecology and Molecular Biology (1995) and a Ph.D. in Human Molecular Genetics (1998); both from the University of Bern, Switzerland. During my undergraduate years, I also worked years for a local fish and pet shop (Spiezer Zoo, Spiez, Switzerland). In 1992, I became a member of the International Society for Barbs, Tetras, Loaches, and Catfishes (IG BSSW). From 1994-2006, I was

the editor-in-chief for its quarterly publication BSSW Report. I regularly travel to fish related events all over the United States and Europe, or to visit friends that I have made throughout the great world of fish. I am a member of the IG BSSW, American Cichlid Association, American Livebearer Association, North American Native Fishes Association, Minnesota Aquarium Society, and Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts. Since January 2013, I am the translator and scientific adviser for Reef to Rainforest Media LLC, the publisher of the famous CORAL and AMAZONAS magazines in Vermont.