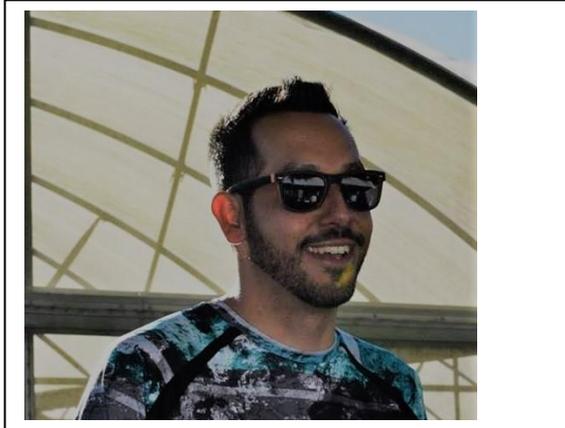


Speaker Bios

Andres Alvarado, “Dre”



I have been an avid hobbyist for the past 10 years. I kept fish as a kid and in college but about 10 years ago I dove deep into the hobby. I joined my local club, Tampa Bay Aquarium Society (TBAS) and within a couple of years I was running for President and organizing major events for the club. I am the past Vice-president of the Florida Fancy Guppy Club and am currently the President of TBAS.

My involvement with the clubs lead me to a job with the Florida Tropical Fish Farmers Association’s Coop Store. I managed the store for about 2 years from 2011-2013. While working there I developed connections with many tropical fish farms in the area. I then went to work for Nautilus Marine Wholesale as a sales rep. My love and knowledge of fish exploded there as I was introduced to species from all over the world. At the end of 2015 I left to try to pursue web development and website design. After 1.5 years I came back into the industry working at WaterScapes Aquatic Plant Nursery where I am currently the Sales Manager. I am in charge of all imported items, sourcing new local plants and some dry goods such as driftwood, and working on special projects.

Hans-Georg Evers



Hans-Georg Evers lives in Hamburg, Germany and since his very early days has been an aquarist at heart. Hans’s love of nature’s aquatic realm serves as the engine for all his activities around this most beautiful hobby in the world. Starting first with a community tank, his interest and expertise soon grew to a specialization in African cichlids of Lake Tanganyika and later of West Africa. In the early 1980s his interests changed to the catfishes and today the Corydoradinae (corydoras catfish) and Loricariidae (the “plecos”) are his favorite fish, followed by tetras and . . .all other freshwater fishes!

Hans so far has bred and raised more than 300 different species of freshwater fishes in his tanks, including 106 species of Corydoras and more than 40 different species of plecos. His recent set up consists of about 50 tanks ranging from 2 to 200 gallons in size.

Hans stays busy travelling, lecturing, and collecting specimens, is fluent in English and Portuguese and speaks some Spanish. He has visited many tropical countries in search of new and interesting fishes and invertebrates for the hobby. Countless journeys have been undertaken to the Amazon (mainly to Brazil) where he has collected fish from all of the larger effluents of the Amazon River and other parts of that large country. He has also spent time in Peru, Venezuela, Indonesia, India, and a number of other countries. During the last five years he has concentrated on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, where he has collected fish and shrimps all over the island.

Hans has published 10 books about his experiences and findings including the “Mergus Atlas vol. 6”; the two volumes of “Mergus Catfish Atlas” together with his good friend Ingo Seidel; and the “Identification Guide to Corydoradinae Catfishes” with Ian Fuller. He has also written more than 650 articles in hobbyist magazines worldwide. In 2005 he became Editor-in-Chief of the German aquarium magazine AMAZONAS, and was Editor-in-Chief of the English version of AMAZONAS until mid 2018.



Steve Lundblad
ACA Speaker

Steve Lundblad has been in the aquarium industry for over three decades. He is known as an Aulonocara expert and has maintained more than thirty species for over twenty years. He is one of the few that can easily tell the young female species apart. He has given many presentations to aquarium clubs across the nation and internationally and has received numerous awards for his breeding and conservation efforts.

Early on Steve decided to blend his hobbyist passion with an entrepreneurial dream and hasn't looked back since. He opened The Cichlid Exchange Inc., a freshwater wholesale business 30 years ago. It is known for having quality fish and new and unusual species. He also owns the only specialty freshwater fish store in the country, The Wet Spot in Portland, OR. It is an expansive retail store that has been specializing in offering healthy, rare and obscure fish species for over 15 years.

Steve has travelled to Malaysia, Singapore, Peru, Brazil, Mexico, and the tropics of the Amazon River and has logged over eighty-five dives in Lakes Malawi and Tanganyika alone. He feels these trips increase his knowledge of fish by enabling him to observe them in their natural habitats.

Steve is active with the American Cichlid Association and has attended every convention since 1986. He has been on the Board of Trustees and is currently the Show Judging Chairman. He is also on the Board of Trustees of The Greater Portland Aquarium Society. He promotes the hobby through quality

and healthy fish found by traveling the globe meeting and developing relationships with good suppliers.

Les Wilson



Les Wilson is one of the founding partners of Cobalt Aquatics and oversees Marketing, Product Development, and Sourcing for the company.

Prior to founding Cobalt, Les spent 17 years with United Pet Group aquatic the parent company of Marineland, Tetra, Instant Ocean, Jungle, Perfecto, and private label brands. He served in many positions from an aquatic biologist, to various positions in the marketing department including Director of Marketing for the Equipment and Consumables group. In May of 2011 he left UPG to start Cobalt International with the goal to get back to his roots as a fish geek and give back to the hobby the lessons he had learned.

During his career Les personally spearheaded many of the projects for Cobalt, and UPG Aquatics brands that we know today, including his favorites Cobalt Aquatics Pro-biotic Flakes, NEO-Therm heaters, USB air pumps, Cobalt C-Ray LED's, Marineland LED lighting, Bio-Spira Nitrifying bacteria, and Corner flow tanks.

Les also served for six years as the Aquatic Chair on the World Pet Association Board of Directors, where he led the group that founded the Aquatic Experience Show. Les is currently serving on the Marine Aquarium Society of North America (MASNA) Board of Directors and speaks around the country for both Marine and Freshwater clubs and organizations.