

# ***In Depth***

June 2016

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[Keeping Native Minnows](#)

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[Historic First TFCB Meeting](#)

*and so much more!*



Moon Jellies at Barcelona Aquarium. photo 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 June TFCB meeting will be Thursday, June 9th, starting at 6:30 PM at the VFW in Essex Junction. Caroline Estes from Austin, TX, will be our guest speaker on about what kinds of fish you can keep in what size tanks. It should be a great topic for the beginner as well as long time hobbyists. Caroline owned a fish store in Austin for many years, so I'm sure she has some great insight to share in this topic. She is also very involved in the American Cichlid Association, as well as Babes in the Cichlid Hobby, which helps to raise money and awareness for education and conservation in the cichlid hobby. See page 5 for more on Carolyn.



## May Events

Thanks to Ann Whitman for her talk about water gardening and keeping fish in outdoor tubs at our May meeting. Growing water lilies and other exotic plants and breeding fish outside is one of her favorite summer activities. She shared how to choose the right containers, plants and fish for a successful water garden.

On Sunday May 15th, a number of us travelled down to Rutland to help support the OVAS club for their annual auction. They had a new venue this year, which worked out nicely. The lunch was well worth the price! Attendees enjoyed a great variety of fish and plants for sale, and many good bargains too.

## Elections and Board Meeting

We had our annual elections coming up in May. All officers and board members, Dwight Moody and Ira Gardner-Morse, were re-elected uncontested. We held a board of directors meeting on May 17th, see the minutes for all the details.

## Summer Picnic

We have scheduled a date for our summer picnic, Saturday, July 9th, starting at noon at our house in Grand Isle. Club will provide grill items and soda. Please plan to bring a salad, dessert or appetizer to share with everyone.

## Hans-Georg Evers Speaking in October

We have a special October meeting scheduled on Tuesday, Oct 11th. We are pleased to be able to host Hans-Georg Evers that evening. Hans is from Germany and a world-renowned catfish hobbyist. He is also the editor for *Amazonas Magazine*, co-author of the Baensch catfish atlases with Ingo Siedel, co-author of the *Identification Guide to Corydoradinae Catfishes* with Ian Fuller, and has written over 700 articles in hobbyist magazines. He travels regularly to South America and Asia in search of aquarium species of fish. Please plan to attend this once in a lifetime event in Burlington. Much more about this meeting will be shared in the near future.

## Fall Auction and Bowl Shows

And it is not too early to start to plan for our all day Fish Auction on Oct 30th. There will be a bowl show with cash prizes too! See the Board meeting minutes for details, plus information about bowl shows at club meetings, too.

David



# Editorial

## Shop Hopping in Barcelona

*By Ann Whitman*

As an intrepid traveller, I jump on any chance to visit somewhere new or revisit a favorite location. Finding local fish stores near my destination or along the way makes trips even more memorable and exciting.

Recently, I had an opportunity to visit my son in Barcelona, Spain. While there, I spent a couple of hours at the public Barcelona Aquarium and sought out tropical fish stores. (I'll share details in future articles.)

I found many similarities between Spanish fish stores and those in the US, but I also noticed some startling differences. The most noticeable was the use of expert-level aquascaping in display tanks, and nearly every store had multiple, mature displays. The use of CO<sub>2</sub> and LED lighting was universal. I saw many jaw-dropping, competition-worthy aquariums. It's one thing to see beautiful aquariums in a magazine or online, but quite another to see them in person. Yes, I'm inspired to finally add CO<sub>2</sub> to a tank and do a proper aquascape.

The best shops also devoted ample space and resources for customers to assemble their own aquascapes. They offered comfortable couches where hobbyists (or bored spouses) could peruse the available stacks of magazines and shelves of books for inspiration and information. They also sold a huge variety of stone and wood, and provided work benches where customers could play with the materials and get layout advice from store experts.

Each store maintained many more plant choices than I've seen in most US stores, too. Many more species of aquatic plants are available in Europe than in the US, due to invasive species restrictions, so I enjoyed seeing some "forbidden plants" in person. Every shop offered a full range of aquascaping tools, CO<sub>2</sub> set ups, and special plant substrates and fertilizers, too.

The lack of unusual, and even many common, fish surprised me and made feel grateful for the wide variety of species we take for granted here. I didn't see any suckermouth catfish, except for common algae eaters, plecos and bushynose Ancistrus, and only a few species of Corydoras catfish. None of the shops carried more than a dozen bettas, but they were treated far better than their US counterparts. All were in 1 or 2-liter containers, with substrate, plants and even filtration.

As always, visiting fish stores wherever I travel is an eye-opening, and often inspiring, endeavor. It's also a great way to meet fellow hobbyists and make new friends in sometimes faraway places.

Ann

One section of a large aquascaped aquarium at [Iwagumi](#) in Barcelona, Spain. photo by Ann Whitman



## Speaker of the Month

**Caroline Estes** has been in the aquarium hobby for 35 years and a member of the American Cichlid Association since 1987. This year will be her 29<sup>th</sup> ACA convention without missing a single one! She co-founded Babes in the Cichlid Hobby (BITCH), which has raised well over \$100,000 for cichlid conservation and research thru basically terrorizing fish guys into paying more than retail for cool fish at the Babes live auction and silent auctions of donated fish stuff. The live auctions are a sight to behold.



She owned Amazonia Aquariums in Austin, Texas, for 19 years; a cichlid specialty store with 500 tanks that stressed conservation, and refused to sell dyed and deformed fish. She likes to get her feet wet and she has collected fish all over Texas and Mexico. Caroline also spent two weeks on Lake Tanganyika with Ad Konigs and fellow BITCHes. Now she's happily retired from retail, and spends her time going to see live music and dancing, working with German Short-Haired Pointer rescue groups and collecting folk art, all the while thrilled to death to be out of the retail grind and back to enjoying her Central American cichlids as a hobby, and not as livelihood.

Caroline will draw on her many years of retail and hobby experience to bring us a presentation on matching fish and fish communities to the right size aquarium.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| June 9-12   | <a href="#">North American Native Fishes Assoc.</a> convention, Portsmouth, NH           |
| June 9      | <a href="#">TFCB meeting</a> , Carolyn Estes speaker, 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT           |
| July 7-10   | <a href="#">American Cichlid Assoc. Convention</a> (ACA), Cincinnati, OH                 |
| July 9      | TFCB summer picnic, noon, at David and Janine's house, Grand Isle                        |
| July 9      | <a href="#">Pioneer Valley Water Garden &amp; Koi Club</a> pond tour, Western MA         |
| August 21   | <a href="#">NEC Summer Auction</a> , Westport, CT  |
| Sept 8      | <a href="#">TFCB meeting</a> , 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT                                  |
| Oct 9       | <a href="#">North Jersey Aquarium Society</a> fall auction                               |
| Oct 11      | <a href="#">TFCB meeting</a> , Hans-Georg Evers speaker, Holiday Inn, So. Burlington, VT |
| Oct 13 - 16 | <a href="#">All Aquarium Catfish Convention</a> (CatCon), Hyatt Dulles, Herndon, VA      |
| Oct 30      | <a href="#">TFCB annual auction</a> , Holiday Inn, So. Burlington, VT                    |
| Nov 4 - 6   | <a href="#">Aquatic Experience</a> , Schaumburg, IL                                      |
| Nov 6       | <a href="#">Boston Aquarium Society</a> 100th Anniversary show and auction               |
| Nov 17      | <a href="#">TFCB meeting</a> , 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT                                  |

# Club Meetings and Events

by Ann Whitman

Ann Whitman was the speaker at the TFCB May meeting in Essex Junction and at the OVAS meeting in Pittsford. The following week, several TFCB members travelled to Rutland on May 15<sup>th</sup> for the OVAS annual auction. Doug Patac served as the auctioneer and Tom Sands prepared the bid sheets for the runners. Attendees enjoyed bidding on many uncommon fish and plants, swapping stories and fish room happenings, and eating a delicious lunch. Generous fish and merchandise donations from vendors sold for good prices, with LED lights being among the most highly desired items.



Bob Hooker opens the auction proceedings and quilt raffle.



Hannah and Lee sell raffle tickets and register auction entries.



Janine sells non-aquarium plants and represents auction sponsor Reef to Rainforest.



Auctioneer Doug and runners Bill Cole and Bryan Goodkowsky

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# The Native Fish Column

## Part 2: The Minnows

*By Dwight D. Moody, TFCB*

A wide variety of minnow species can be kept in the home aquarium. Most are in the genus *Notropis*, which includes minnows and dace, most of which are around two inches, and the somewhat larger shiners. Many of the most colorful species come from the Southeastern US and are regularly found in the aquariums of European fish enthusiasts. There are literally dozens of species ranging from plain silver to all colors of the rainbow.

While there are also some attractive species here in the Northeast states, local minnow regulations may make it difficult to obtain some of these species, unless you have a scientific collection permit. Some minnows may be available at local bait shops, but these tend to be farm-raised “plain jane” species, such as fathead minnows and golden shiners, which are not as colorful as other minnows and shiners. If you want to try some native minnows that are easy to keep, you may want to start with a few of these commercial minnows. They are used to flake and pellet foods, you can legally bring them home by car (VT regulations), and you will not need special permits to have them (just keep the receipt so you have proof that they were legally purchased). Also, keep in mind, that purchased fish can NEVER be released into lakes, ponds, streams, etc., because doing so would be a violation of fish and wildlife regulations, and pose a risk to other native species.

Dealers and licensed collectors that sell on [AquaBid](#) offer many minnow and shiner species. Look for listings under “US Native Fish”. Many of the Southeast species are quite colorful and attractive in a home aquarium. Bluehead Shiners, Bluenose Shiners, Taillight Shiners, Flagfin Shiners, Rainbow Shiners, Orangefin Shiners, Greenfin Shiners, Fieryblack Shiners, Redlip Shiners and Warpaint Shiners are just a few of the minnow species that have been listed on AquaBid. I suggest purchasing a guide book on freshwater fishes of North America or reading up on the species on [NANFA](#) prior to buying your fish to obtain information about their habitat and likely water preferences.

That being said, most minnows and shiners are very comfortable in an unheated tank since they can tolerate a wide range of temperatures in their natural environments, ranging from the 40’s or 50’s to the mid 80’s. For these fish, a temperature of 65° or 70°, which is what most people keep their house at, is ideal. Most of the minnows are not fussy about water conditions either, although minnows found in small streams and swamps tend to like softer water. A good rule of thumb is that water conditions suitable for tropical fish are usually OK for natives, too. Another advantage that the minnows and shiners have is that they are not likely to die if you lose power and the house cools down some, especially if you have a battery powered minnow pail aerator (available at department stores for \$10 or less) to ensure adequate aeration.

Oddly enough, many wild caught minnows take to prepared foods like they were brought up on them, although live foods such as brine shrimp, daphnia, white worms, etc., are always acceptable and appreciated. I think it’s because they have a wide variety of food items in their natural habitats and are always checking things out to see if they are food. For those fish that may not recognize your offerings as food, I suggest that you add a few tropical fish in with them for a few days to show the minnows that the flake is good to eat. Once they try it, they will often quickly recognize flakes and pellets as food and their owner as the source of it, leading to them coming to the glass and begging to be fed.

Minnows are egg-layers and most are broadcast spawners, but some have complicated behaviors. Some

species will create nests out of rocks or pebbles and these are so good at protecting their eggs and fry that other minnows will also use them to spawn in. The Bluehead Shiner has a complicated spawning system that uses a larger, predatory sunfish. While the male Mud Sunfish is guarding his nest and brood, the year-old Bluehead Shiners go in front of him to distract him (from a safe distance), while the older, two-year old Bluehead Shiners come in from the rear and spawn in the Mud Sunfish's nest, so the young shiners are raised by a much larger predator fish. After they baby sunfish and shiners disperse, they probably can end up as food for the parent sunfish who loses the parental instincts after the fry disperse.

So if you are interested in some really great fish with interesting behaviors, some of which may have not ever been bred in captivity, and you want fish that are easy to care for, maybe some of the great variety of minnows, dace and shiners available in the US should be in at least one of your tanks! Give them a try and you may find that you have been overlooking some great fish!!!!



Detail of a display aquarium featuring a large school of cardinal tetras and moonlight gouramis. photo by Ann Whitman

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

To increase newsletter contributions, the Board created an incentive program. 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.



# Hobby History

## TFCB History

*By David L Banks Jr*

I have written about the history of TFCB several times, but most recently in our 25th Anniversary issue from Feb 2014. Also included in that issue, was an article that has been reprinted several times in *In Depth*, "Keeping Fish is FUNdamental" by James Laurie. The article also appeared in our first issue of *In Depth* and really was part of the inspiration for forming TFCB. Please take a minute to go back and [read that article](#); it appears on page 21.

Back in 2004, for the clubs' 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I wrote about our first meeting on February 1989. Here is that article reprinted now for you to help you experience the beginning!

### In the Beginning ...

by David L Banks Jr, TFCB

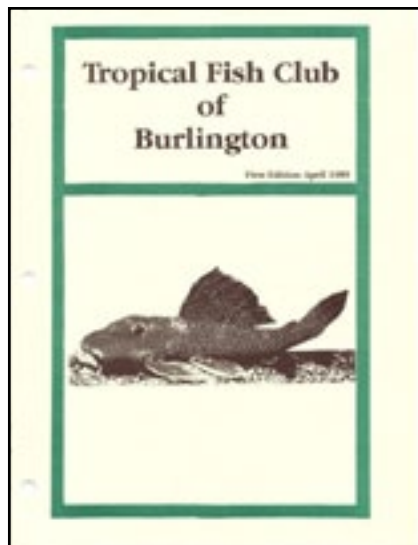
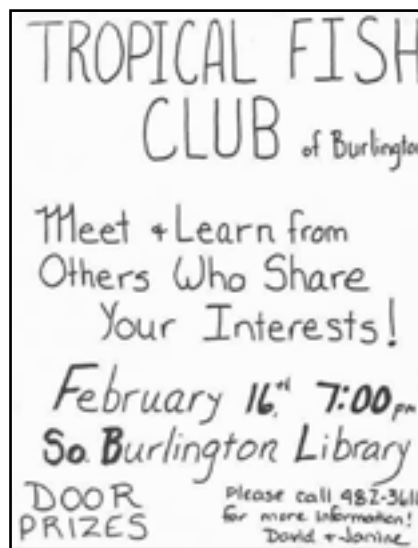
There was a time, a time before time as we know it now. There were no monthly meetings, no newsletters, no members and not even a Tropical Fish Club of Burlington. There was a very special night in February of 1989 that changed all that, it was the first meeting of a group that would become known as TFCB!

That was 15 years ago. Now we all know what to expect from TFCB. But let's look back in time. Let's look at that special night and see if we can rekindle the same kind of enthusiasm that was sparked that night!

Janine and I sat in front of a large room of 50 or more people we mostly didn't know. We were not sure how we ended up there, and we certainly had no idea where we were going. We were not sure what we were expecting, but this seemed a little overwhelming. We had never spoken in front of so many and we weren't even sure how to get started. We had put up a few posters in the local stores inviting everyone to this organizational meeting. As we sat there and the clock got around to 7PM, we thought we should get started.

And so began a journey. We talked about what we knew of other clubs did for activities. Have monthly meetings, guest speakers, door prizes, raffles, auctions, print a newsletter, etc. Once that minute was up, what were we going to talk about. Dave Kirsch had a great idea and just asked everyone to talk a little about what they had for tanks. I think Janine and I started. We spoke about our fishroom that we were working on, the kinds of fish we were keeping (which was probably all African cichlids at that time, maybe a few catfish) and how we had gotten involved in the hobby. We then went to the next person in the front of the room and all around until everyone had given us their own story.

Everyone added something to the conversation. It was a great way to get started, sharing ideas and information. And that has continued to



this day, people sharing their ideas and information through TFCB. On the posters that had been put up in the pet stores, it read “MEET AND LEARN FROM OTHERS WHO SHARE YOUR INTEREST”. What a great and simple way to convey what is important to our group.

Of the 50 or more people attending that first night, many joined the club. In fact there are several that are still members. Max was there that first night, he would be our editor and publisher of the newsletter for many years. Eric was also there and has been a steady core contributor to the club since. It was a very enthusiastic group; we formed a board of directors and officers that would guide our club, decided on our next meeting and what we would do at it, but most importantly, we were all there to learn more about our hobby and talk to others who had those same interests.

## Nursery News

### What's Happening in TFCB Tanks

*By Ann Whitman*

TFCB members are raising next generations of fish! Take credit for your successes and let others know what you've got. Send [me](#) your current list of fry and juveniles and I'll post them here. It's a great way to get to know your fellow hobbyists' interests and find sources of information and locally bred fish.

#### New spawns for May

David Banks

- *Labidochromis* lemon yellow
- *Aphyosemion australe* bswg 97/24 Cape Esteries
- Bunt lower sword blonde guppy
- *Cynotilapia afra* (orange back??)
- Snowball white shrimp



Bunt lower sword blonde guppy. photo by David Banks

Ann Whitman

- Featherfin Pearlfish (*Simpsonichthys constanciae*)
- Pygmy Corydoras (*Corydoras pygmaeus*)
- Shrimp—Red Rilli, Painted Fire Red Cherry

Collin Sourdiffe

- *Andinoacara pulcher* Blue Acara
- Assassin Snails
- *Aulonocara jacobfreibergi* Eureka Red Peacock
- *Aulonocara* sp. Dragon Blood Peacocks
- *Labidochromis caeruleus* Yellow Labs

## Breeding *Neoheterandria elegans* – The Tiger Teddy

By Dwight D. Moody, TFCB

The Tiger Teddy (*Neoheterandria elegans*) is a small live bearing fish from the Rio Truando in Columbia. They are occasionally offered on AquaBid ([www.aquabid.com](http://www.aquabid.com)), with a common listing offering 7 fry for \$30, plus an extra \$15 to \$50 for shipping. Imagine a guppy-shaped fish with the Monster Energy® drink slashes on the side and you have Tiger Teddies (someone must have thought they look like tiger stripes, maybe some guy named Teddy).

Females tend to be about an inch long with the males considerably more slender and about a half inch to three quarters of an inch long. Tiger Teddies like very warm water and prefer temperatures in the low 80's. Because of their liking for high temperatures and their small size, it's best to keep them in either a tank by themselves or with tank mates that share their temperature and water preferences, and similarly sized to prevent predation. My tank has a temperature of 78-80° F and the substrate has some aragonite to keep the calcium levels up. Tiger teddies are more tolerant of softer water than most live bearing fish, but I have noticed that when the calcium levels drop, it can lead to a catastrophic crash of the tank environment, so a bit of crushed coral and regular water changes are cheap insurance to keep these fish happy and healthy.

Imagine a  
guppy-shaped  
fish with the  
Monster Energy®  
drink slashes on  
the side

I keep my Tiger Teddies in a 10-gallon aquarium with an extensive amount of Hornwort covering the surface. Tiger teddies love flake food, microworms, newly hatched brine shrimp, finely shaved bloodworms and similar foods. As they have small mouths, food items need to be small. These foods will help your Tiger Teddies breed successfully.

Tiger Teddies are a lot like our native Least Livebearer (*Heterandria formosa*) in that they only drop a few fry a day when they are giving birth, typically two to four a day, unlike most live bearers which drop the entire brood at once. Due to their small size and delicate nature, Tiger Teddies are not really suitable for breeding traps. I have found the most effective solution to successfully breeding them is lots of quality food and dense surface cover of Hornwort. I check the surface several times a day and scoop out the tiny fry with a sauce cup (like you would get with your pizza and bread sticks) and put them in a net breeder enclosure in the same tank as the parents. Using a scoop captures the tiny fry without the likely lethal damage that a standard net would do to them, due to their small size. Sometimes I go after one fry and find two or more in the cup, so I think some are hiding in the Hornwort leaves for protection. I accumulate fry for a week then start using a new enclosure so that each container has relatively similar sized fry. I feed the fry finely powdered flake food, microworms and newly hatched brine shrimp and they seem to thrive on these foods.

If you have hard water and you have trouble with live bearers due to high tank temperatures, Tiger Teddies may be just the fish you have been looking for. Give them what they need and you will soon have a nice batch of fish with really cool markings that are easy to care for and somewhat rare.

For photos and more information, [click here](#).



# The Catfish-cianado #7

## The Anchor Catfish, *Hara jerdoni*

By Anthony Kroeger

Anchor catfish, also known as Moth catfish and Asian Stone catfish, are becoming more commonly available, but are still relatively rare. Why this is so, I am not really sure as there are certainly many interesting catfish that come from India. The anchor catfish is one of them.

Anchor catfish are small, peaceful fish that grow to only an inch long. They are excellent for calm community or nano tanks. Their shape is similar to South American banjo cats with the bumps. Anchor catfish hold their pectoral fins outstretched, which makes them look like anchors when viewed from above. The body is caramel brown with dark chocolate overlays. The fins are dark chocolate striped, banded, blotched and edged. The effect is very pleasing indeed.

I keep mine in moderately hard, neutral pH water, temperature on the cool side at 72° to 74°F. These catfish come from cool, sluggish streams and pools filled with plants. They do best on a sandy substrate with leaf litter, and appreciate a 25% water change weekly.

They are moderately easy to keep, but demand live or frozen foods. They will eat some microorganisms off leaf litter, Java moss and driftwood, too, but this just supplements their diet. This catfish is nocturnal, and it will not come out to feed if the lights are on. Be sure to feed it at night after you shut off the lights to make sure it gets enough to eat.

The best way to view and enjoy your anchor catfish is to put a new LED moonlight over your tank or use clear red cellophane under your light. The red or blue light does not bother this fish, but allows you to see it clearly during its nighttime forays.

Anchor catfish move slowly during the day. They glide about the aquarium by extending their large pectoral fins and “surf” the currents. It’s a very unusual method of locomotion for a fish. It’s more like a wobbly glide path of a flying squirrel than a fish swimming. Their spiky fins are likely to get caught in nets, so they should be scooped up in a solid container, if possible.

Anchor catfish have small mouths and eat vigorously when presented with frozen bloodworms and other favored foods. Do not keep it with gluttonous nocturnal-feeding fish such as pictus cats, though, because they’ll be outcompeted. They like planted tanks and driftwood or caves in which to hide.

They have been spawned in the aquarium, but are quite secretive and challenging. Try some in your aquarium—you’ll be glad you did! Until next time, happy catfish dreams. –Tony

For a video of *Hara jerdoni* and more information, [click here](#).

# **TFCB Board of Directors Meeting, 5/17/2016, 6:00-8:30 PM**

Held at Brian Candib's house. Present: David, Janine, Ira, Dwight, Max, Ann

## **Agenda and Action Items**

### **1. Auction – Oct 30, Holiday Inn**

- a. Donations—Brian will send out letters, donations being delivered to D&J
- b. Advertising—This will include advertising for Hans Evers' speaking engagement at the Holiday Inn. David will start an email thread with Collin and Ira to discuss advertising venues. Suggestions included Craig's List and forums, press release to Seven Days and local papers, WDEV, bag stuffers for Pet Advantage, printing a 24" x 30" banner for Pet Advantage bulletin board.
- c. Doug Patac auctioneer—confirmed

### **2. October speaker – Hans Evers, Tuesday 10/11, Holiday Inn**

- a. Night of OVAS meeting—David discussed with Bob Hooker. OVAS members will try to come up for the presentation in lieu of their own meeting.
- b. Will also speak in Montreal 10/12
- c. go to CatCon on Thursday 10/13
- d. Advertising—see tie in with auction above
- e. Holiday Inn—David confirmed that we will have two rooms, price \$150

### **3. Bus trip. Quoted rental prices so far:**

- a. Hertz, mini van \$55/day, 12 pass van ~\$110/day, but they only book 2 months in advance, check 6/1
- b. Majestic, 12 pass van available, \$129/day
- c. Avis, web site lists \$236 day for 12 pass van
- d. Ethan Allen bus, price?
- e. Date—David will call bus companies as we get closer to a trip date and know how many people are interested in going. After much discussion, we decided to do an overnight trip to the Boston Aquarium and area stores in the winter when schedules are less busy. We will do a day trip to the Albany area, hopefully the weekend of October 1st. Ann will find out when the UNYKA meeting is taking place. David mentioned that he is planning a day trip to Montreal with Carolyn Estes when she speaks there on June 8th, and he invited others to come, too.
- f. Where? —Boston and area in the winter, Albany area in October.

### **4. Summer Picnic--Dave and Janine's**

- a. Date—David and Janine's house on July 9th, starting at noon. Club will provide grill food, attendees will bring salads, desserts, favorite beverages. Bring bathing suits!

### **5. Swap type event (but this time with freshwater as well)**

- a. March time frame?—no decision
- b. Fees? Break even or profit, or cost?—feeling was that we don't need to make a profit, but covering our costs would be good. Idea is to promote the hobby, and tie in with other clubs, groups,

people with crossover interests. Many fish hobbyists also keep orchids, dart frogs, terrariums, etc.

- i. Entrance fee—if any fee is charged, it would be minimal, maybe a couple of dollars.
- ii. Vendor fee—commercial vendors would be charged a table fee, but not regular hobbyists who just bring a few bags.
- c. Include the plant and herp people? –lots of discussion about what this could entail. It would be limited to plants and “glass box” inhabitants, clearly no mammals, birds. We’ll have to be very clear about the rules in the advertising.

## **6. In Depth newsletter**

- a. Update on article submission, incentive drawing—through May issue, we have a total of 66 points for article and photo submissions, divided among 9 members.
- b. Should *In Depth* remain a monthly or can we consider going to every other month publication. It currently takes about 30-40 hours of my time to put out each issue. Issues would be: Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-June.—after acknowledging the time commitment to produce a quality newsletter, the group decided to keep the publication monthly, but asked Ann to reduce the number of articles and pages per issue from 20 pages to 10, to save her time.
- c. If we consider charging for advertising, can we print every issue of our newsletter and distribute at the participating shops? This is the best way to use our newsletter to attract new members, which was one of the main reasons we voted to change the newsletter format.—Janine reported that it cost us \$2 per copy to print the March newsletter. Printing more frequently is cost prohibitive. Two alternatives were suggested: put some copies of past newsletters at Pet Advantage for distribution, and produce a 1-page newsletter teaser to use as a bag stuffer. Ira suggested adding a QR code that will link to TFCB website, and offered to make the code for us. Ann will work on the 1-page teaser over the summer.
- d. Advertising and sponsorship—we noted that some club newsletters “print” sponsors’ logos and link to them. These are listed on our website, but not in *In Depth*. Ann will look into adding them in future editions.

**7. Treasurer’s report.** How about a detailed monthly treasurer’s report, typed and printed for members to see, available at each meeting. For many people, it’s easier to understand how we earn and spend our money if it’s available to look at and read. I’m thinking just one copy, on the front table.—Janine promised to write more neatly, read the expenses and income more slowly, and let everyone know that they are welcome to read the financial log book at the meetings.

## **8. Bowl Shows and committee vacancies**

- a. We used to have bowl shows at meetings, but haven’t for a couple of years. Let’s discuss getting it organized again.—We decided to have bowl shows at club meetings twice a year in the warm months of June and September, beginning Sept 2016. These will be judged by People’s Choice popular vote. First prize will be \$20, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be ribbons. We will also have a bowl show at our October auction. All entries will be Open Class. It will be judged professionally and also by People’s Choice. The professionally judged entries will be awarded 1st prize of \$50, 2nd prize of \$25 and 3rd prize of \$10. The People’s Choice 1st place award will be \$25. No other awards will be given.
- b. We also have vacancy in BAP, publicity and librarian, according to our website. Do these positions need filling? Do we need other committees or activities added? Let’s spread out some responsibilities.— TFCB uses the NEC system instead of our own point system for scoring fish



breeding. Dwight was previously handling the more complicated point system. David submits our club's BAP records to NEC each month. He will send Dwight the list, also, for record keeping. David maintains the club library, but no one every asks to borrow the books. Publicity will be filled by Collin and Ira after further discussion.

**9. CARES program.** At the OVAS meeting, Tom Sands talked about how his club in CT participated in this program, members earned points for species kept, bred, shared with others, etc. It's a national program. Can we do this? Who will coordinate?—group discussed ways of making more people aware of CARES. Ann will write up a brief article about the program for the newsletter. She will send members' breeding lists to Dwight to check for CARES species. These fish will be noted in the newsletter. Additional note: Ann will also do an article on IUCN and note fish status in breeding lists.



Cuttlefish mating at Barcelona Aquarium. photo by Ann Whitman

