

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!

Officers

President: David Banks
Vice president: Brian Candib
Treasurer: Janine Banks
Secretary: Ann Whitman

dbanks@together.net
dbanks@together.net
awhitman@madriver.com

Board of Directors

Ira Gardner-Morse (2018)thepotoo@gmail.comRob Hintze (2019)rob.vermont@gmail.comPam Crossett (2017)pamc.vt@gmail.comDwight Moody (2018)DwightDMoody@yahoo.com

Committees

In Depth Editor: Ann Whitman Membership: Andrew Grasso Breeder Awards Program: open

Bowl Show: Brian Candib Newsletter Exchanges: Andrew Bessy

brewingman@comcast.net

Publicity: open
Librarian: David Banks
Web page: Dan Gwozdz
NEC Delegate: David Banks

Tropical Fish Club of Burlington 315 US Route 2 Grand Isle, VT 05458 802-372-8716

www.tfcb.org

Contents

November—December 2017

From the President, by David Banks	3
Editorial, Fall Auctions by Ann Whitman	4
<u>Speaker of the Month:</u> Ken Boorman, Australian Rainbowfish and Blue-Eyes	5
Club Meetings & Events	6
Attending Cataclysm 2017 by Robert Hintze	9
Fish Keeping Ethics by Brian Candib	11
A Surprisingly Useful Piece of Equipment by Jessica Dion	12
Guppy Show Results by Brian Candib	14
Open Class Bowl Show Results by Brian Candib	16
Calendar of Events	18

Material within may be reprinted only if credited to the author and to *In Depth*. Two copies of the publication in which our material appears must be sent to the above address. Opinions expressed in *In Depth* are each author's, and not necessarily those of The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington.

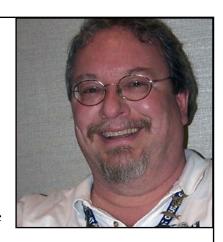


A pair of Blue Green Multi guppies shown in the TFCB Guppy Show, Oct 29, 2017. Photo by Ann Whitman

From the President

by David L Banks, Jr

I am writing this column at the last minute since we have been attending the Aquatic Experience in Chicago since the day after our auction. The auction went very well. Janine has not completed the accounting, but overall it looks like we did well. There were so many plants in the auction, more plants than fish I think! Bidding on our donations was active, if you bought an item that was donated, please consider posting a thank you either our Facebook page or the page of the company that donated. A full list of donors can be found on the web site.



These donations go a long way to helping us fund our speakers and other expenses. And of course a big thank you to all that brought in fish and plants for the auction and to everyone who was there to buy!

Aquatic Experience is quite a show. We arrived early to help with the setup, and Bryan Goodkowski also volunteered to help. Bryan and I processed over 5000 gallons of RO water, mixing 3000 – 4000 gallons of saltwater with it, and it seemed we were always behind. We had many late nights mixing and delivering water to the various vendors and display tanks. But once the setup was done, it was time for the show! The show floor is full of so many different vendors, from all the major aquarium related manufacturers, to local clubs (and some not so local), national clubs, coral fraggers, plant vendors, shrimp vendors, Florida fish farmers, amazing fish from around the world display tanks, Sea Lions show, a kids' tank decorating contest, ACA-sponsored cichlid show, the second international shrimp contest and the Aquatic Gardeners small and large tank aquascaping competitions and even an ice cream cone station. There was so much going on, it does literally take a full day to walk the show floor.

In addition to all that, AE had an outstanding lineup of speakers. On Friday, the speakers were geared toward helping aquarium retail stores and, this year, they offered a full-day fish health workshop. Saturday's and Sunday's speakers were a mix of marine and freshwater speakers, including some of our favorite familiar speakers, as well as some who rarely speak in this country. All are top speakers in their fields and their talks informed us about new fish and plants, in-depth breeding information, and taxonomy changes. Some took us on virtual trips to remote areas where many of our fish are found, and many other topics!

And the best part of AE, it will be held right here in the Northeast in 2018. The Meadowland's conference center in NJ will host the event on Oct 19-21, 2018. I'm so excited to have this event within an easy drive for all of our members and I will share additional info as it becomes available throughout the year. But for now be sure to mark it on your calendar!

David



Editorial Fall Auctions

By Ann Whitman

Whew! I had a couple of busy, back-to-back auction Sundays. The bidding at our club's auction on October 29 started at noon, but most of the volunteers arrived to set up at 9:00 AM. And we had plenty to do! The silent auction for the plants took up four crowded tables, the guppy show had 38 entries, each in their own little tank, and the open class bowl



show had 11 entries. Janine and Lee did yeoman's duty getting all the paperwork arranged and ready to hand out to the pre-registered sellers, keeping track of sold lots during the auction and getting through the stacks of silent auction forms. Speaking of which, we need to rethink how we sell plants in future auctions to prevent this from being a paperwork burden. Definitely an item for a Board meeting agenda.

More than 50 people attended our auction, and several hobbyists brought their kids, too. It was great to see the next generation of fish keepers getting involved and winning prizes in the guppy and bowl shows. You can find the results of the shows starting on page 14.

The following Sunday, November 5th, I drove down to Beverly, MA to attend the Boston Aquarium Society auction. It's a 3½ hour drive each way, but it's always interesting to see what fish other clubs have to offer and I wanted to bring some of my excess fish to a new market. As a bonus, my sister drove down from Maine and we spent the day discussing and bidding on fish and catching up with old and new "fish friends". We enjoyed supporting a sister club and were glad we made the trip.

The BAS auction got underway at about 12:15 with 40 or so people in attendance. Although they had far fewer lots than the TFCB auction, they had a very different mix of fish, several species that I'd never seen at auction before. Exactly what I'd hoped for! I ended up winning a dozen large Philippine blue angels, nearly breeding size, for a very reasonable price, as well as a pair of rare *Aphyosemion labarrei* 'Madimba' killifish, and some new blue-eyed albino breeders for my Ancistrus colony.

The fall auctions have pretty much wrapped up here in the Northeast, but they start up again in

February with the PVAS auction in Chicopee, MA. Check the Calendar of Events up and make plans to attend as many as you can. It's worth the drive!

Ann



David Banks, auctioneer, with Andrew, Brian and Livy assisting. photo by Dave Isham

Speaker of the Month

Ken Boorman, Australian Rainbowfish and Blue-Eyes

Ken is originally from Australia, but now lives in Chatham, Ontario, with his wife Lisa and their daughter, Kathleen. Ken has kept fish for over 50 years. A good part of this time he has dedicated exclusively to collect, keep and breed Australia and New Guinea native fishes in his numerous home aquariums. These fish belonging to several families. He has been a member of the Australian New Guinea Fishes Association for many years and is currently the North American co-ordinator for that group (and soon to be President of the North American Chapter when it starts in January). He is also President of the Chatham-Kent Aquarium Society and is active in CAOAC where he is presently Vice President. Ken has made presentations at many Canadian, and an increasing number of United States, clubs.

For those who attend NEC, Ken will be familiar to many people as the person who operates <u>Lisa's Lair</u> <u>Bookstore</u>. He is well-read on most aquarium and terrarium subjects.



Club Meetings and Events

Auction photos by Dave Isham Aquatic Experience photos by David Banks

We had a great turnout for our October 29th auction and lots of help from club members and visitors. Special thanks to Bill Gill for driving down from Sebago, Maine to set up and judge the guppy show, and Brian Candib for setting up and Brian Scott for judging the open class bowl show. Ann Whitman set up and organized the silent plant auction. Also a big thanks to Janine Banks and Lee Scott for keeping the paperwork and financial transactions organized and running smoothly. Ira Morse-Gardner and David Banks were excellent auctioneers. Big thanks to all!



Ira kept the audience entertained and on their toes with his auctioneering style and descriptions.



Janine and Lee kept the paperwork organized.



We had an excellent turnout with attendees coming from all over the state, as well as eastern NY.





Ira did a great job as auctioneer and kept the runners busy. Brian Goodkowski (right) pitched in as a runner.

Just days after the TFCB auction, several members of the club headed west to Schaumburg, IL to help set up <u>Aquatic Experience</u>, the largest tropical fish event under one roof in the U.S. Janine and David Banks and Brian Goodowski volunteered many hours of their time to help make this event a big success.



Aquatic Experience featured an International Shrimp competition, which enthralled attendees.



In the Small Tank Aquascaping Contest, the winner was John Pini. To see all 30 entries, <u>click here.</u>



The Glofish tank near the entrance to AE draws in kids of all ages and gets them excited about joining the hobby.



The large tank aquascaping contest had many stellar entries. <u>Click here</u> to see them.



Hans-Georg Evers, Heiko Blair and Janine Banks hang out at the Reef2Rainforest table at Aquatic Experience.

Attending Cataclysm 2017

By Robert Hintze

I had the privilege to attend the 2nd bi-annual Cataclysm hosted by the Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists. It was held at the Crowne Plaza in Madison, Wisconsin, which I am told was an upgrade from the inaugural Cataclysm. This three-day event was well attended, informative and lots of fun.

Friday Night was the kick off with a talk from Julian Dignall on Collecting Catfish in South America, which was an interesting look on living and working in the bush while collecting rare and unknown species. The highlight of the talk was his revelation of eating a bowl of pleco stew, a campside creation consisting of 30 or so adult gold nugget plecos and some herb and spices, eaten by Julian and crew on the side of the river. (Julian joked that this was a \$3000 bowl of stew...) Another side note: Gold Nugget plecos in the wild feed constantly on biofilm on the rocks, so this is one of the reasons why they are hard to keep alive in the hobby.

The final presentation of the night was Eric Bodrock's Ultimate Fish Room Tour, which I have seen online since and is well worth watching. It was interesting and informative seeing fish room setups from around the world. Hans-Georg Evers, editor of *Amazonas*, has a couch in his. Ian Fuller, famed British Corydoras expert and explorer, has a fish room that occupies a shed in the back of his abode.

Of course, what fish event would be complete without the hospitality room, which was raging way later than I stayed up to experience.

Eric Bodrock (left) selling fish from his Oddball Aquatics table. Photo by Rob Hintze

Saturday morning kicked off with buffet breakfast.

The vendor room was fully operational with the main fixtures of a catfish convention present. Nice selection of goods both alive and dry. The lectures were informative and very well presented; Charles Mueller spoke on Loricariid Whiptail breeding, wrapping up the morning was Jeremy Basch's talk on woodcats. A raffle, in which I won a <u>Pleco Feeder</u> (thanks Doug), and lunch break were followed by

Eric Bodrock's <u>talk on breeding cories</u> and Julian Dignall's talk on breeding L-number plecos.

The biggest take away for me was the variety of conditions needed to successfully raise cory eggs, and the use of oak leaves with a squeeze of a dirty sponge filter to create bio-film. There is a symbiotic relationship with the bacteria and oak leaves that allegedly creates a biofilm superior and faster than a bare tank.

Saturday also featured the rare catfish auction, which was insane! Prices were retail and above, but many items had exact sourcing information with



A pair of these *Panagolus* L397 sold for more than \$400 at the rare fish auction. Photo from PlanetCatfish.com.

a picture of the exact spot where the specimen was collected. The highlight was a pair of L46 Zebra plecos being sold along with the shirt off Ted Judy's back for around \$300. There was also a species of Otto cat that was emerald green and a first offer in the US! The highest bid in this auction went to a pair of Panagolus L397 that sold for over \$400. It was a neat feature of this event with additional mini auctions happening between the speakers all day long. I was lucky enough to score a bag of King Tiger 'Porto De Moz' L333 Plecos from the rare auction, it has picture of collection point, pretty cool! I also bought some Corydoras eversi that came up from Jerry Jost's cory lab in St Louis, small but very pretty and growing. This orange cory was named to honor Hans-Georg Evers, the collector and original captive breeder of the species.

The evening ended with a buffet dinner and presentation by Ted Judy on <u>Collection in Columbia</u>, which unfortunately was plagued with technical difficulties. He made the best of it and it was still an informative talk, although I am glad I was able to see the same talk last May at the TFCB club meeting here in Essex Jct.

In retrospect, this event felt like a family reunion of people I did not know at first, but everyone was welcoming and just wanted to talk fish. I am looking forward to attending a catfish convention every year now, thanks to the hard work of the Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists.



Corydoras eversi, a spectacular orange-colored catfish collected and bred by the species' namesake, Hans-Georg Evers. Photo by Hans-Georg Evers.



Vendor room and silent auction at Cataclysm 2017. Photo by Rob Hintze.



Fish Keeping Ethics

By Brian Candib

I am still thinking about the local news report a few weeks back about the young woman being charged with cruelty to animals. For those not familiar, she had amassed a variety of rabbits, lizards, ferrets, guinea pigs, etc. in a trailer that she had abandoned. There was no electricity to the home and the windows were closed. When finally discovered, all but 8 of the approximately 90 animals inside were dead due to the unseasonably warm



weather. Many folks were disgusted with the whole situation and are pushing hard for a severe sentence against the woman.

When does a hobby become too much and we are overwhelmed? When does our neglect or overcrowding become cruelty to animals? Do we always consider the well-being of our livestock? How do others who are not familiar with fish keeping view us and our hobby?

It is not my intent to say that keeping fish tanks and breeding, trading and reselling of the livestock is an evil money-making venture. In my case, as for most of us, it is not. I do ask, however, what message should we try to convey about our hobby when we talk about it with non-hobbyists? Keeping fish has many benefits to us as hobbyists and to the fish themselves. Studies show that watching fish tanks is relaxing and has health benefits for people. It also provides social interaction with other hobbyists and the satisfaction of nurturing the fish and plants. Many fish live healthier, safer and longer lives in a tank than they would in the wild. In fact, many species would not be alive today if they were not kept and bred in the hobby.

I believe we should never forget that these are living creatures which command our respect and care. None of us should ever feel overwhelmed to the point of our livestock suffering. Considering the well-being of the fish is of the utmost importance, as is conveying that message to everyone inside and outside the hobby.

If we cannot spend the time, money or energy required, we should reduce our inventory and thus, our workload to a more manageable level. Cruelty to fish is something I do not believe any of us will be charged with as an offense in court, but that does not make it any less of an offense to the animals, and in the world of public opinion.





Ropefish in a display at the New England Aquarium. Photo by Ann Whitman

Reprinted from *In Depth*, March 1999

A Suprisingly Useful Piece of Equipment!

Since I've had no success breeding my fish lately (kmkm), I thought I'd write an article about equipment.

My husband Mike and I just bought a house this June, and gleefully set up our fish tanks in our nice, dry basement. There was a sink located conveniently nearby, and a drain in the floor in case of emergencies. Because the furnace lives down there, and it's completely underground, the basement stays fairly warm. What more could a fishkeeper want?

Shortly after moving in, we made a few prudent purchases that we thought any self-respecting homeowner shouldn't be without.. fire extinguishers, an extension ladder, a wet-dry vac, a (reel) lawn mower, saws, garden tools, etc. Most of these tools have already come in handy, but some for reasons we never anticipated.

We had been keeping our tanks in various finished rooms in other apartments and houses, and have always been very careful not to spill when changing water. Hmm, can you see where this is going? For those of you who haven't had your morning coffee, I'll continue with the story.

Mike and I were busy packing one Friday night for an overnight hike up Mt. Mansfield. It had been a long week, and we knew that several fish tanks should be changed before we left for the weekend. Trying to save time, we were emptying our ~100 gallon tank while we were packing. The siphon

isn't very strong from the tank to the sink, so we checked on it every once in a while, and all went well. About 9pm, we started filling the tank, garden hose style (we do this all the time). After adjusting the temperature, we went upstairs to peruse our long underwear and start packing our gear.

We had been checking on the tank about every 20 minutes while it was emptying. After about 1/2 an hour, both of us looked up from our packs with the same expression of dread on our faces. We slowly walked down the stairs... went faster, and broke into a run as we began to hear loud splashing noises. When we got to the basement, there was at least an inch of standing (make that running!) water to greet us. In my zeal to finish with the tank and get the temperature right, I apparently didn't realize that the tank was filling much (MUCH) faster than it had been siphoned out.

We ran over and turned off the tap, and watched with wide eyes as the water slowly engulfed our boxes of papers, equipment, and who-knows-what (remember, we just moved in June). I was doing a mental calculation of how many towels we had in the house, when we both realized... wet-dry vac! We bought it as a shop-vac, for vacuuming up saw dust, cleaning the inside of the car, etc. We hadn't even considered its "wet" uses! Our life was not in fact over yet!

We wheeled it around, feeling like the smartest people in the world, and I started squeegee-ing the water up, as Mike ran around and picked boxes up off of the floor. This is when we realized that the drain had been put on the wrong side of the basement. :-) We ended up vacuuming up about 40 gallons of water in about 1/2 an hour. The suction was so strong that the floor was actually DRY in some places where an inch of water had formerly been standing, before we even finished vacuuming. We were done cleaning up in about an hour, and had a sparklingly clean basement floor, and a new found respect for the wet-dry vac.

Since then, we have had two more accidents involving water in the basement (an overflowing filter from the living room that trickled through the floor and into the basement (where our pet rabbit incidentally lives.. he was extremely annoyed), and a dripping faucet experience), and each time, the wet-dry vac has turned a nightmare into a small, humorous annoyance.

So, if you're scratching your head for what to put on your Christmas list this year, I strongly recommend that you ask for a wet-dry vacuum cleaner. They're fun to use, and they're much less expensive than your furniture, books, carpet, bathroom towels, and whatever else you might otherwise have to replace, as a careful but unlucky fish keeper.

- Jessica Dion

2017 TFCB Guppy Show Results

by Brian Candib

During this year's TFCB auction, the club sponsored a Guppy Show. This show is sanctioned by the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies (NEC) and 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 is also receiving points based on how many of our members participate.

The club was very happy with the participation in the event. We had 38 entries and 8 of those were from members outside of our club. We had 7 different categories, although two of the events had no entries (#4 and #5, Wild and Designer Wild Guppy). "Best of Show" and "Reserve" (Honorable Mention) were also awarded.

Another positive part of this event was that TFCB was able to auction many of these entries, which provided some new, high-quality guppy strains to our members at reasonable prices. We hope to see many of these strains at future auctions!

Here are the awards, the category and winners for the 2017 Guppy Bowl Show Event:

Best of Show Pink Tuxedo Dave Banks TFCB Reserve 1 Platinum Endler Pam Crossett TFCB

Class 1 - Long Tail Ornamental Guppy

1st Place Albino Red Dave Banks TFCB

2nd Place Galaxy Delta Summit Hintze TFCB
3rd Place Red Mosaic Summit Hintze TFCB

Class 2 - Short Tail Ornamental Guppy

1st Place Pink Tuxedo Dave Banks TFCB

2nd Place King Koi Roundtail Dave Banks TFCB

3rd Place RH Yellow Carlos Preyero CDAS

Class 3 - Sword Tail Ornamental Guppy

1st Place Double Sword Blond Dave Banks TFCB
 2nd Place Lower Sword Blond Cheri Tenaglia SJGG
 3rd Place Lower Sword Blond Dave Banks TFCB

Class 4 - Wild Guppy (No Entrants)

Class 5 - Designer Wild Guppy (No Entrants)

Class 6 - Wild Endler

1st Place N Class Blackbar Keith Kalinoski

2nd Place Wild Endler Summit Hintze TFCB
3rd Place Wild Endler Summit Hintze TFCB

Class 7 - Designer Endler

1st Place Platinum Endler Pam Crossett TFCB

2nd Place Tiger Endler Rob Hintze TFCB

3rd Place Platinum Endler Pam Crossett TFCB

Finally, it is worth mentioning that each Exhibitor will receive points for each NEC-sanctioned Bowl Show event they participate in. This event was judged by William (Bill) Gill. NEC tallies each entrant's points, based on all the sanctioned events they participated in during the 2017 season (September 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018). Recognition and monetary awards will be presented during the March 16-18, 2018 NEC annual convention in Rocky Hill, CT.

Exhibitor Points for Point Shows:

Each exhibitor will receive the following:

5 points for the first entry in a sister society show

2 points for each additional entry in a sister society show

2 points for the first entry in his/her own society show

1 point for each additional entry in his/her own society show

50 points for Best of Show at any society show

40 points for Reserve of Show at any society show

25 points for First Place at any society show

20 points for Second Place at any society show

15 points for Third Place at any society show

100-point bonus to anyone who shows at every NEC member society point show

TFCB Auction Open Class Bowl Show

by Brian Candib

At this year's Fall auction, we conducted an NEC-sanctioned "Open Class Bowl Show" event. At a Board meeting a year ago, the club decided to conduct two bowl shows in 2017 during the warmer months of September and June. These are "open" Bowl events in which any fish species could be entered. Winners are chosen by popular vote or People's Choice. Winners are awarded a first, second and third place monetary award (\$25, \$15, \$5).

We decided to conduct another NEC-sanctioned event at the auction this year in the Open Bowl category, which was not only a People's Choice, but also a Judged event. Brian Scott from OVAS is a certified judge and provided his expertise in judging this event. The Monetary award for this was \$30, \$20, 10 respectively. The People's Choice monetary awards were given as listed above. So, entrants basically had two ways to win.

Here are the results for the People's Choice and Judged results for this event.

TFCB Bowl Show—People's Choice

Entry #	Owner Name	Fish Species	Popular Votes	Award
1	Ann Whitman	Sailfin Molly	3	Tied 2 nd
2	Dave Banks	Geophagus steinbachneri	1	
3	Dave Banks	Pseudotropheous kenyi	2	
4	Brian Candib	Fundulopanchax gardneri N	Nigeranus 1	
5	Rob Hintze	Betta splendens	7	1st place
6	Rob Hintze	Sumo Loach	3	Tied 2 nd
7	Rob Hintze	Melantonia praecox	2	
8	Ann Whitman	Yellow Platkat Betta	1	
9	Tom Malinowski	German Blue Ram	0	
10	Tom Malinowski	AngelFish	1	
11	Tom Malinowski	Blood Parrot Cichlid	1	

TFCB Bowl Show—As Judged

Entry #	Owner Name	Fish Species	Award
3	Dave Banks	Pseudotropheous kenyi	1st Place
6	Rob Hintze	Sumo Loach	2 nd Place
7	Rob Hintze	Melantonia praecox	3 rd Place

Because this was a NEC-sanctioned event (as was the September Bowl show), points were awarded in the following manner: *on next page*

Exhibitor Points for NEC Bowl Shows:

First entry in own club's show 2 points

Each additional entry 1 point

First Entry in sister club's show 5 points

Each additional entry 2 points

1st place 25 points

2nd place 20 points

3rd place 15 points



The Tropical Fish Club of Burlington gratefully thanks the following sponsors and donors to our annual auction and bowl show:



Cichlid News magazine

Cichlid Press

Lebanon Pet & Aquarium Center

ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

Pet Solutions

Fluval/Hagen

Sera USA

Ecological Laboratories, Inc

Florida Aquatic Nurseries

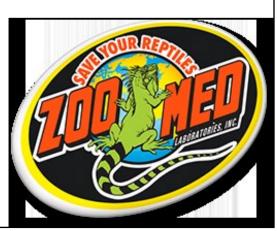












CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Nov 9 TFCB Club meeting, 6:30 PM, VFW Essex Jct, VT

Nov 17 - 19 Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza, Strongsville, OH

Dec 14 TFCB Holiday party, location TBA

Feb 18 PVAS auction, Chicopee, MA

March 3 New England Frag Farmer's Market, Storrs, CT

March 10 TFSRI auction, Cumberland, RI
March 11 JSAS auction, Manasquan, NJ
March 16 - 18 NEC Convention, Rocky Hill, CT
April 22 NJAS auction, East Brunswick, NJ

June 7 - 10 NANFA Conference, Young Harris, GA

July 4 - 8

American Cichlid Assoc. Convention, Houston, TX

July 14 - 15

SJGG IFGA Guppy Show & Auction, Griggstown, NJ

Oct 4 - 7, 2018

All-Aquarium Catfish Convention, Herndon, VA



