

IN DEPTH

Tropical Fish Club of Burlington
March 2013



PHOTO: D. BANKS

**"JAPANESE GOLDFISH,
WITH YOUR GOSSAMER TAIL,
YOU ARE THE LOVELIEST CREATURE
I HAVE EVER SEEN."**

**"JAPANESE KITTEN,
PUT YOUR TONGUE BACK IN WHERE IT BELONGS
AND GO AWAY.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE THINKING."**

—PAUL GALICO, HONORABLE CAT

Officers

President: David L. Banks Jr.
 Vice president: Brian Candib
 Treasurer: Janine Banks
 Secretary: Fran Kinghorn

dbanks@together.net
 bcandib@comcast.net
 dbanks@together.net
 fran.kinghorn@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Richard Maxwell
 Pam Crossett
 Ira Gardner–Morse
 Dwight Moody

apisto62@yahoo.com
 pamc.vt@gmail.com
 thepotoo@gmail.com
 dwightdmoo@yahoo.com

Committees

In Depth Editor: David Isham
 March Issue: Pam Crossett
 Membership: Fran Kinghorn
 Web page: Dan Gwozdz
 Bowl Show: Richard Maxwell
 NEC Delegate: David Banks
 Exchanges: Fran Kinghorn
 Breeder Awards Program: Dwight Moody
 Publicity: OPEN
 Librarian: OPEN

davisha@gisu.org
 pamc.vt@gmail.com
 fran.kinghorn@gmail.com

apisto62@yahoo.com
 dbanks@together.net
 fran.kinghorn@gmail.com
 dwightdmoo@yahoo.com



WWW.TFCB.ORG

Calendar of Events

March 14	6:30PM, TFCB meeting, VFW Essex Junction
April 5–7	NEC Convention, Crown Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT
April 9	7PM, OVAS meeting, Pittsford Library, Pittsford, VT
April 10	8PM, MAS meeting, 80th Anniversary, Montreal
April 11	6:30PM, TFCB meeting, Julien Poupard, Farlowella acus, VFW Essex Junction
May 7	7PM, OVAS meeting, Charles Clappsaddle, Pittsford Library, Pittsford, VT
May 8	8PM, MAS meeting, Charles Clappsaddle, Montreal
May 9	6:30PM, TFCB meeting, Charles Clappsaddle, VFW Essex Junction
May 19	12 NOON, OVAS Auction, Holiday Inn, Rutland
June 11	7PM, OVAS meeting, Joe Ferdenzi, Pittsford Library, Pittsford, VT
June 12	8PM, MAS meeting, Joe Ferdenzi, Montreal
June 13	6:30PM, TFCB meeting, Joe Ferdenzi, VFW Essex Junction
Nov 3	12 NOON, TFCB Annual Auction, VFW Burlington

Table of Contents

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	PAGE 2
FEBRUARY TFCB MEETING	PAGE 2
THE MAKING OF A FISH ROOM	PAGE 3
DAVE'S TOP TEN LIST FOR "FAVORITE <i>SYNODONTIS</i> CATFISH"	PAGE 4
FACE TIME	PAGE 7
HIDE AND SEEK	PAGE 8
NEC CONVENTION TROPICAL FISH SHOW	PAGE 10

President's Column

BY DAVID L. BANKS JR., TFCB

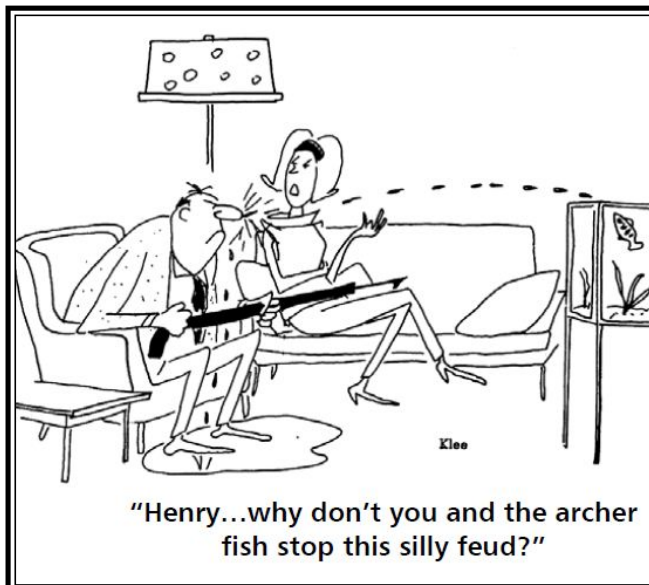
I hope everyone enjoyed the past year. I think it was a very successful year. We had many great speakers and meetings, including some of the top speakers on aquarium fish in the country, and more of that is planned for the coming year too!

Our November auction was a successful all day event, and we had a great turnout for our special bowl show held that same day with 15 entries in 2 classes. The bowl show was one of three held in the northern New England states in a combined event. It was great to see such a turnout for both the bowl show and the auction!

Our holiday party and summer picnic offered a different kind of gathering. There was no formal program, but instead more time to mingle and get to know our fellow members. Special thanks to Brian and Fran for hosting the holiday parties the past few years!

A very long time ago Janine and I discovered an event that changed our lives. The NEC convention was more than anything we could image. There were speakers whose names we commonly saw in magazines and even as authors of some of the leading books in the hobby. The information that flowed in so many directions during the weekend almost overwhelmed us that first year! Typical of the past few years, we had a great showing of TFCB members at the NEC convention this past year.

Some months a few of us travelled to other club meetings in both Montreal, Quebec (Aquarium Society, MAS) and Pittsford, Vermont (Otter Valley Aquarium Society, OVAS). MAS, OVAS and TFCB typically meet on three consecutive days each month, which allows us to bring in a speaker and have them speak at all three clubs. Most speakers have a variety of programs, so you can even see talks of different subjects by the same speaker at the different meetings. If you have not taken advantage of this and would like to come along to one of the other meetings, please let me know.



Members also travelled to other club events throughout the year. The OVAS auction in Pittsford (near Rutland) is our closest NEC sister club and their auction has been in May the past few years. We also travelled to New Hampshire to the NHAS auction in the fall and there are plans to attend the Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society auction in Massachusetts too. Attending other club events shows our support for the hobby and the other club, allows us to see what fish are available in a different region and gives us the opportunity to sell what has been available in our club in another area. Even if you don't need or plan to buy anything, these can be fun trips.

So as you can see, we had a good year and the next year will be just as exciting as we continue to explore our hobby. Please, never hesitate to contact me or any board member with any new ideas or questions about what the club is doing. Thank you all for being a part of TFCB!

NO HUMAN BEING, HOWEVER GREAT, OR POWERFUL, WAS EVER SO FREE AS A FISH.

—JOHN RUSKIN

February TFCB Meeting

BY BRIAN CANDIB, TFCB

Our Valentine's Day meeting included a presentation by one of our long time club members, Dwight Moody, which dealt with "Keeping Native Species."

Dwight did a lot to dispel the myths and rumors around Native fish and touched on topics as to why you would want to keep them, issues that could arise, the legalities of obtaining and keeping these fish along with fish that are expressly forbidden to be imported into the state. It culminated with the showing of some very splendid looking fish found in not only the USA, but also right here in Vermont.

Judging by the amount of questions and discussion this topic evoked, I would say it was a well-received presentation by the members.

A lot of questions around obtaining Scientific permits, Fishing licenses and examples of when one or both are needed in some states (again including Vermont) were discussed. The fact that keeping Game fish in captivity is illegal (at least out of season) and even ways to go about getting native fish were questions asked and discussed.

I was amazed at the amount of Native fish: Mollies, dozens of species of minnows: Mud minnows, Topminnows and Shiners, along with others like Springfish, Cichlids, Tetras, Sunfish and Pygmy Sunfish.

Dwight did have many pictures of these Native fish and some especially nice colorful Darters (the Green Semas come to mind!). There were pictures of Sticklebacks and Sculpens and Madtoms (don't hold me to the spelling here).

One item that Dwight is working on is a Spring time Native Fish collection in Vermont. It is something he hopes will introduce members and their families in the art of fish collecting, naming them and many of the requirements and legalities that were presented in this meeting. In short a great way to plant the seeds of fishkeeping among the younger ones out there.

**YOU MAY THINK I'M A LOSER, BUT TO MY GOLDFISH
I AM "THE GOD OF FLAKES."**

—SOURCE UNKNOWN

The Making of a Fish Room

BY BRIAN CANDIB, TFCB

There is a saying out there, be careful what you wish for. It is something that comes to mind when I reflect on the then and now of my fish room.

There was a time when I had pretty much taken over the dining room and all the counters in the kitchen with fish tanks. I had a 50 gallon and then a half dozen twenty's and half dozen or so 10s. I also had a couple two gallon ones for my shrimp and some Killies.

For me, life was good. I would come home from work and feed them and sit in the dining room eating and watching my fish. I could tend to bad lights or slow running pumps and broken heaters. It was quality time spent with my fish and learning their

habits. It was a time to keep a watchful eye on things.

But for my wife, the invasion of the fish tanks was not her idea of a blockbuster movie. She did not like the water spills, and while very infrequent, I managed to have them. She saw the counter space shrinking and relegated her library of cookbooks to a corner of the three season room. But this is not to say, she did

not benefit from them being upstairs. She was able to feed them when I was away on business trips. She was able to see the shy fish come out and make sure all was well when I was not around. But alas, not enough of a reason to keep them in the prime real estate sections of the kitchen and dining room.

It started as a friendly suggestion at first. I think about 3 years ago. She said something like "Why don't you build a fish room downstairs?" Over time it progressed to "You need to move these tanks so I can wipe the fish food off the counter." And towards the end it was "No more tanks" and "You are a fish hoarder. I am going to call the folks at TLC (Hoarders TV show) on you."

It wasn't that I did not want to move the tanks. The idea of a fish room where I could relax and hang out with the fish was quite tempting. My biggest problem was no running water or sink down there. My next biggest problem was I needed to clean the place up or designate one of the rooms down there as my fish room. Then there is the time factor. I seemed to be squandering it away doing things like work, walking the dog, hunting, going to camp. You name it, I had an excuse.

But then I bit the bullet so to speak. Because I could not "grow" my present space, I decided to set up a couple of

tanks down stairs. Even without the water. Even without the cleaned out room and even without letting my wife know, I set up the tanks. It was summer so I had all summer to get my room and water in order. I would siphon the tanks (a 50 gallon and a 20 Gallon) into a 30 Gallon bucket. I would then use a pump to pump the water out of the bucket into the garden hose and up out the bulk head onto the lawn. I then would use the garden



View of Brian's new fish room!

PHOTO: B. CANDIB

hose to fill back up the tanks. No warm water but it was summer so things were fine. My problem is I only did the change about once a month. The summer months waned and it got a lot more difficult. So I started choosing the warm days to pump the water out and used my python hooked up to the bathroom sink upstairs. It barely reached with a 50 foot extension hose. At least the water was warm enough to not shock the little buggers.

But early last spring, I had some free time. I finally built myself a little Kitchen alcove and with my brother's help (he

is a heating guy with many electrical and plumbing skills), we got running water and a drain installed. From there it was easy. I built a few racks, a couple for the 10 gallons and one for the twenty gallons and painted them. I cleaned out the room and started setting things up. I kind of got lazy and rather than pick up the carpet I left it behind. It has forced me to be very careful with the water changes but so far so good.

Moving day was especially happy for my wife, seeing that new found space in our kitchen/dining room reappear with the transporting of every tank. I have to say, I was also happy. I am finally getting what I had been thinking about and wanting for some time now. Life was going to be good or so I thought. I even had set up a few more tanks. I mean why not, I had the room.

But then the fall season came (did I say I hunt and go to camp a lot?) I was pretty much away every weekend. Then came the winter months and I was busy with work and end of the year holiday stuff. When the tanks were upstairs, it never seemed to be an issue. Throw some food in the tanks give a cursory look at everything and maybe change the water every two or three weeks. But the dynamics changed. I had to actually go downstairs and work down there. Sometimes I would forget to feed the fish for 4 or 5 days. I would check the pumps and find where one or two were clogged and barely trickling. Sometimes a light (on a timer of course) would be flickering and I would wonder how long it had been doing that.

In all honesty I started to feel overwhelmed. I would force myself down there for a monthly if not 6 week water change. I barely would see my fish. I recall some had died and it was weeks before I realized they were gone. I had empty tanks and would not populate them because I knew I could not care for them. I still was not feeding my fish as often as I should and felt guilty.

The good news is that the busy season is now behind me and I can spend more of my time down there. I am feeding the fish every other day and doing my water changes every couple of weeks. I am working hard at visiting my fish. It is definitely not as often as when the kitchen was my fishroom but I started forcing myself into a rhythm of coming home, walking the dog and then going down to feed the fish. I make it a point to now do weekly tank inspections. I have moved a stereo and TV down there to help me adjust.

I know my spring and summer months will be less of a burden and I will tend to the fish more. But I know the time will

come when I will go into a neglect cycle again. So always in the back of my mind, be careful for what you wish for.

**TELLING A TEENAGER THE FACTS OF LIFE IS LIKE
GIVING A FISH A BATH.**

—ARNOLD H. GLASOW

Dave's Top Ten list for "Favorite *Synodontis* Catfish"

BY DAVID L BANKS JR. TFCB

1. *multipunctatus*
2. *petricola*
3. *angelicus*
4. *brichardi*
5. *decorus*
6. *eupterus*
7. *shoutendeni*
8. *victoriae*
9. *nigroventris*
10. *granulosus*

When I was writing my top ten catfish article of March 2012, I started off with three *synodontis* so I thought I should do a top ten dedicated to just *synodontis*! My top ten favorite fish list also started off with my favorite fish overall, *Synodontis multipunctatus*. In case you missed it:



Young *Synodontis multipunctatus*

PHOTO: D. BANKS

"*Synodontis* catfish have always been popular in our tanks. They are long lived, which is good since they also tend to be more expensive than many other fish. At one time we had 13 different species of synos. While they all are similar in many ways, the *multipunctatus* stands way above the rest in my mind. They are schooling catfish, and are active almost all the time

swimming about the tank. Many other synos are a shy fish, only coming out at feeding time, or a quick dart from one rock to another. The color pattern of the multis is quite striking, dark dots against a creamy colored background with jet black outlined in white on their fins. Not a showy red, blue or yellow, but definitely an eye catcher. The fact that they can be spawned is also a very good reason to like this fish, but how they spawn really puts them over the edge. They

are called the cuckoo catfish because they will spawn and intervene with mouth brooding cichlids so that the cichlids will pickup the catfish eggs and incubate them along with the cichlid eggs in the females cichlid's mouth. This doesn't work out so good for the cichlids since the catfish eggs hatch in only a few days and the cichlid eggs can take 7–10 days to hatch, the baby catfish's first foods are the cichlid eggs! And they grow really fast eating cichlid eggs."

Not sure I can add much to that original article so I will leave it at that.

I had also written about *S. petricola* and *S. angelicus* in my favorite catfish article. Here is the content from there:

"Another great little syno is the *petricola*. They have a similar body coloration to *multipunctatus*, although *petricola* do stay smaller. They are also schooling fish, but are not nearly as active, except at feeding time. Both of these *synodontis* come from Lake Tanganyika and prefer hard alkaline water, but seem to do well under almost any water conditions. Both *petricola* and *multipunctatus* are now regularly spawned in home aquariums. The *petricola* spawn in caves and scatter their eggs. The eggs and fry are smaller than *multipunctatus* and they grow much slower, taking typically 6–8 months to reach a size of 1–1.5 inches.

Another very sought after catfish is the *S. angelicus*. These are riverine catfish also from Africa and can get up to about 8 inches. They can be fairly aggressive at feeding time, and would do best with other slightly aggressive fish. The black background with white or yellow spots makes this fish very attractive and a show piece in any aquarium. They are very hardy and long lived, so this needs to be considered when you see the selling price! If you look at it as a per year price, it comes out no more than some much shorted lived fish. As I said *angelicus* are very hardy fish. We had a tank leak out completely while we were at work one day; it was a 110

gallon tank and full of cichlids and many *synodontis* catfish. All the cichlids were stiff and almost dry when we found the empty tank. We found a couple of dead catfish,

and then noticed one of the catfish moved. Two *synodontis* had survived, and we quickly moved them into a 5 gallon bucket with water from another tank. The *angelicus* started moving around almost immediately, however the other one was barely alive. That *angelicus* lived for another 4 or 5 years until an outbreak of ick did him in. Ick is very hard to treat with *synodontis* since they are scaleless and you can't

use many of the over the counter ick medications."

So now I will start with number 4 on the list, *S. brichardi*. They are found in rivers in Central Africa and their very long and sleek body and sharply forked tail suggests that they may make their home in faster flowing water. *S. brichardi* tend to be one of the species that is more on the shy side and will dart from one hiding area to another

but they are not as shy when food is in the tank. The pattern of black and white alternating vertical stripes from head to tail really make this fish stand out. We have kept several of these with the largest getting to about 8 inches.

S. decorus is almost like an *angelicus* in reverse in that the body is white with black markings. *Decorus* do get large, ours have gotten to about 10 inches, and they definitely know how to throw their size and weight around. The most outstanding feature of the *decorus* is the trailer on the dorsal fin as it can go out well beyond the end of the tail fins and is quite spectacular to see. Unfortunately, many of these trailers are ruined when kept with other boisterous fish including other *decorus*! These are not a demanding fish as far as feeding goes and ours have always eaten aggressively. They are also out swimming around the tank most of the time and are fantastic to watch swim around a large tank.

While the *decorus* typically has one nice long extension on the dorsal fin, *S. eupterus* is known as the featherfin syno as most of its rays in the dorsal have extensions. Again quite impressive. They are fairly active and the dorsal really shows nicely as they swim around the tank. The markings are more subdued as



Synodontis petricola

PHOTO: D. BANKS



Synodontis eupterus

PHOTO: D. BANKS

compared to the previous species, the base color is more of a cream or light brown with darker brownish gray spotting. The fins are also patterned in a similar color scheme, again not real flashy, but still a nice looking fish.

S. shoutendeni has similar colors to the *eupterus*, but instead of spots it has more of a jaguar type pattern with more of a yellow shade than *eupterus*. They also stay smaller, typically to about 3.5 inches, although I have seen a few that were larger. *Shoutendeni* are slower moving than many of its cousins but are also out swimming around the tank more frequently. The females (well I assume they were females) would get very fat like they had swallowed a golf ball. I always assumed they had filled with eggs but I only ever had one at a time so never had any spawning activity. They have been spawned in captivity but it is not a common occurrence.

We were lucky enough to find a group of *S. victoriae* at a pet store in Montreal back in the early 1990's. When we brought them home we realized their sharp dorsal and pectoral spines had been clipped, most likely to prevent them from puncturing the

transport bag and also to keep them from injuring each other. They never showed any signs of fungus or other issues with their fins and they did seem to recover nicely over time. These were very active and could be aggressive with each other, so clipping the sharp fins was probably required to get them to arrive alive. I say lucky because I have never again seen them for sale and talking with many catfish hobbyist only a few others had ever been seen in the hobby. Ours were a silvery body with black or dark grey inconsistent spotting. I believe others had reported a more brown overall color with speckles in place of the silver and black. These come from Lake Victoria, and have had to deal with the same disastrous issues as many cichlids found in Lake Victoria. The early 1990's saw a lot of imports of cichlids from Lake Victoria and we were glad someone thought enough about these catfish to include them in a shipment! I had always wanted to spawn these after having success with both *multipunctatus* and *petricola*, but only had several unsuccessful attempts. I tried using the flower pot

method that I use to spawn the *petricola* and they had no interest in going in the flower pot. I also tried putting in a mesh screen on the bottom of the tank but never figured out a trigger to get them to actually lay eggs. I know for sure that I had both males and females as their breeding tubes were visible most of the time. The females never really obviously filled with eggs either even with aggressive feeding and water changes. Of course these we obviously wild fish and I was just not reproducing what they needed to spawn. Unfortunately I ended up losing these fish after many years from a disease outbreak that quickly wiped out the entire tank of cichlids and catfish.

The species I probably should have started this list with is *S. nigroventris* since it is by far the most common, making it also the least expensive. Many times sold under the com-

mon name 'upside down catfish,' these are very interesting little fish. Of course, I can't ever remember owning these and I'm not sure why. I have known many other hobbyists who have kept them. They stay smaller than many other synos and actually make great community tank inhabitants for larger community tanks with medium sized active fish. They almost always swim upside down, many times at the surface searching for food. Even when swimming mid water they are upside down! The whole genus of *synodontis* are often referred to as 'upside down catfish,' and many do swim upside down at times, but *nigroventris* is most

likely the reason for the calling the entire genus 'upside down catfish.'



Synodontis victoriae

PHOTO: D. BANKS



Young *Synodontis granulosus*

PHOTO: D. BANKS

The last species I want to cover is also another one I have never kept, and for an entirely different reason. *S. granulosus* are probably the most expensive freshwater fish I have ever seen regularly for sale. The least expensive ones I have seen were

\$250 and I'm not even going to tell you the most expensive price I have seen, but on average they seem to be around \$400. I once saw 4 of them in a store in Texas and could not believe it, but the owner did say they sell them. While it is an expensive fish, their color is outstand-



ing! They are a gray to almost purple body color with white outline on the fins similar to *petricola*, but even more striking against the dark body color. They are not common in Lake Tanganyika where they are from and often found very deep, so the price is not strictly due to the appearance. But if it was ugly fish, no matter how rare, I doubt you could get anyone to spend that kind of money for it! *S. angelicus* was once considered the king of the *synodontis*, but I think *ganulosus* definitely deserves that title!

Overall, *synodontis* are very long lived and make a great addition to your tanks, many times being the highlight of the tank. While not showing flashy colors, the patterns can be quite interesting and striking. All seem very tolerant of all types of water parameters and conditions and are not fussy eaters. No wonder I had three *synodontis* in my favorite catfish list. I bet they would be your favorites too if you give them try!

There was no such thing as desktops or laptops. A computer was something that stirred fear and trepidation. It was a device that I would see or read about in science fiction movies and books. My early school years were a time when even a basic calculator (if you could afford one) was banned from class. As I reflect on this I get a sense as to how people must have felt when the camera was first rolled out—the devil's way to capture the soul. Like the phonograph, the telephone, automobile and countless other inventions, each breakthrough to solve a problem, to advance mankind but always with an element of the unknown as to the problems it can create.

I am not trying to say that the computer age is something I wish never happened. It is exactly the opposite. Computers have solved countless problems and continue to solve more with each passing day. And like other aquarists, I enjoy more information about this passion with little more than a few keystrokes. I have access to my own bank of "experts" and fellow fish-keepers. In most cases, the advice has served me well. I am sure that others have been equally satisfied as there are sure a lot of us out there in the blogs, online auction houses (like Aquabid) and other haunts on the World Wide Web.

But then again, there is my own little bit of trepidation and fear settling in. A cynicism that I believe is always in the

Page

**"I WOULDN'T MIND TURNING INTO
A VERMILION GOLDFISH."**

—HENRI MATISSE (1869–1954)

Face Time

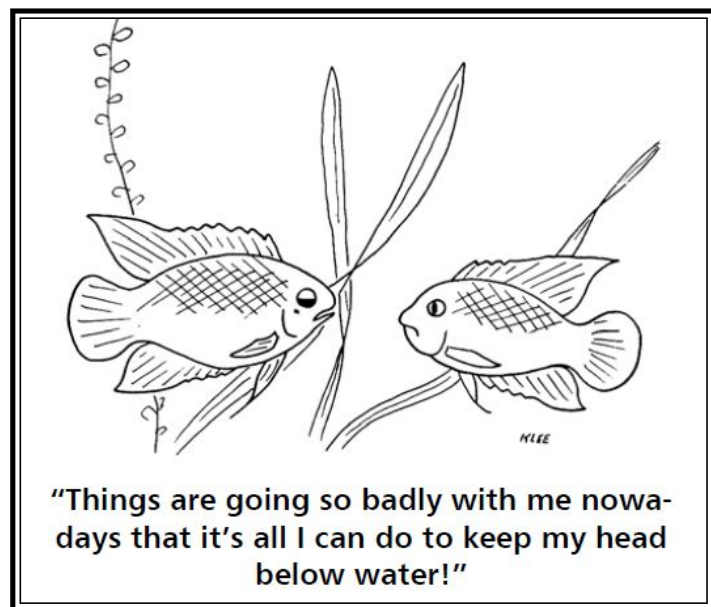
BY BRIAN CANDIB, TFCB

Growing up, computers were only something I had a mild perception of.

back of our minds. Sometimes we read things that contradict another statement. Sometimes we can tell the person writing it has a misguided but well intentioned desire to help out. Sometimes it is a subtle thing like mixing Cichlids, or feeding hatchets or how best to nurse a tank back to health. And then we can look at other matches and see the misperception being propagated as a fact.

This is where I think that a little 'face time' comes in handy. I like to pay a regular visit to my local fish store and get the straight scoop on things. A face to face discussion seems to place a sense of camaraderie to any meeting. Folks are always different in person than over email, phone or a blog. Whether or not I need the help, I always buy something to show my support and appreciation that they are there. I want to try and insure they are able to be there for a future question. To me, the local fish store is like having my own PFD (Personal Fish Department) on retainer to receive guidance and assistance for those little bumps that come along.

Another 'face time' thing I do is attend my monthly Tropical Fish club meetings. I like to think of them as my WTF (Wisdom of the Tropical Fish) people. I can go in and say to my WTF people; did you see this blog where the guys says he feeds his Discus flakes? Or any weird thing we can strike up a conversation about. Also, since most of the fish I have are fish they had or have, we can share common experiences. We can hammer out good rules of thumb that are pertinent to our shared water and environment. As in my PFD, a face-to-face encounter is a fun filled way to help the club be around and validate our learning through the eyes of others.



So call me a little old fashioned, but I like my Internet experience supplemented with a healthy dose of 'face time' to make me a better fish-keeper or person.

FISH DIE BELLY UPWARD, AND RISE TO THE SURFACE. ITS THEIR WAY OF FALLING.

—ANDRE GIDE

Hide and Seek

BY BRIAN CANDIB, TFCB

It's amazing what you seem to find when cleaning your tank out. I am going to go out on a limb and state we have all been there. You buy a fish or two or three, put them in your tank and basically lose track. They are either forgotten or never to be seen again.



The loaches (hopefully)

PHOTO: B. CANDIB

In the picture is one of three loaches I had purchased at the NEC event in 2010. There was a time I would spot them and then for some time, I stopped paying attention to the regular maintenance and trimming of the plants.

I had not really forgotten the loaches were in there, I just wasn't actively trying for a sighting. The sighting was a few weeks back. I had written the article regarding my newly formed fish room and was feeling a little guilty for not showing the love anymore. So I decided to spend a day really looking things over and tending to the maintenance that had been so lax this past year.

Ironically, in this tank was also an 8 inch Pleco. It had grown about two inches since I purchased it sometime back in 2009. This was another one of those fish lost to my memories. I really had no idea of it was still alive or in what tank it resided.

The sightings were a fortunate circumstance because I had my smart phone with me. I was able to snap this picture of the Loach. I should have tried harder for the



Pleco shot. It always seemed to burrow further back under a log and behind a rock.

I am not an expert at reading a fish's thoughts but I am thinking that Blue Ram was just as equally surprised to see the Loach out sneaking around in the open. I am sure I need to take a closer look at some other tanks for the hidden treasures of past purchases.

"GIVE A MAN A FISH, AND YOU'LL FEED HIM FOR A DAY. TEACH A MAN TO FISH, AND HE'LL BUY A FUNNY HAT. TALK TO A HUNGRY MAN ABOUT FISH, AND YOU'RE A CONSULTANT."

—SCOTT ADAMS

NEC Convention Tropical Fish Show

CASH PRIZES!

1st Place in Class \$25

2nd Place in Class \$15

3rd Place in Class \$10

Best of Show \$125

Reserve of Show \$75

SEVEN CLASSES

Cichlids

Catfish

Killifish

Bettas & Other Anabantids

Guppies & Other Livebearers

Goldfish & Koi

Open (All Other Fish)

Three different winners in each class. Only one entry per person or family per class.

Open to all convention attendees but space is limited! Pre-registration is **STRONGLY** recommended! Walk-in entries allowed only if there is space available. Complete Rules and Entry Form available on NEC website.

www.convention.northeastcouncil.org/

Please continue to patronize our local fish store, they have supported the TFCB for years.



THE **Reef** ADVANTAGE

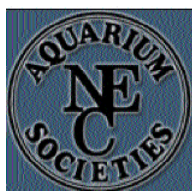
350 Dorset St
So Burlington VT

860-1714



Subscribe to a great new magazine (published right here in Vermont)
Check out past articles and other materials at their website:

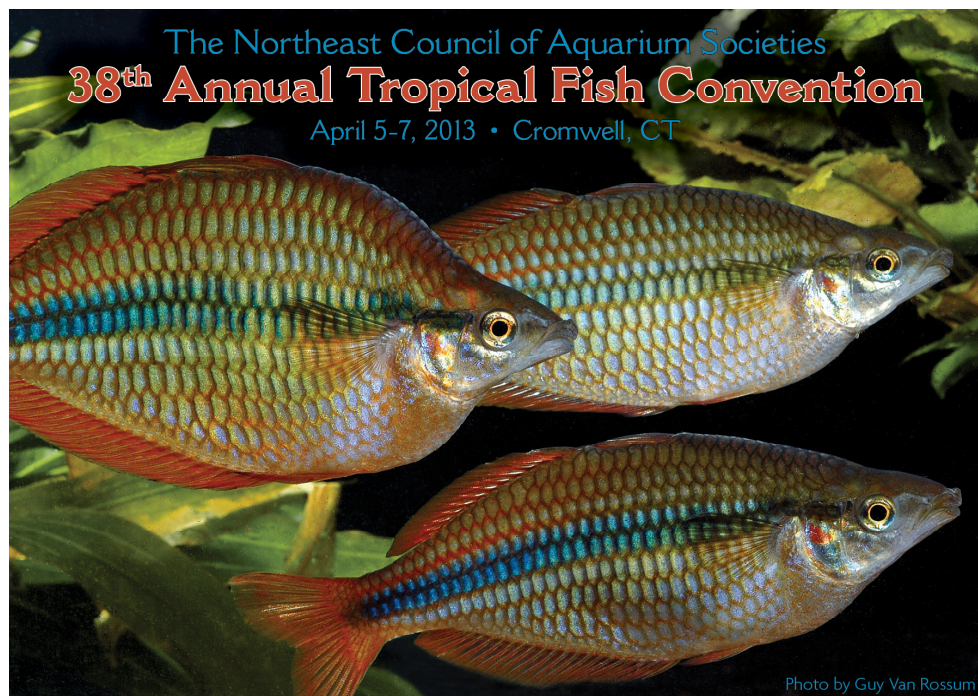
www.reef2rainforest.com/



38th Annual Convention

April 5th - 7th

2013



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS, GET NEW FISH AND LEARN FROM OTHERS WHO SHARE YOUR INTEREST!

Workshops, Speakers, Vendor Room, Hospitality Room, Fish Show, Photography contest, Bowl Show, Friday night dry goods auction and ALL DAY auction on Sunday!

THE CROWNE PLAZA
Cromwell, Connecticut

Exit 21 off I-91 South of Hartford
Turn left off exit.



AN EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WEEKEND
OPEN TO ALL!

SPEAKERS

Andre Carletto

Charles Clapsaddle

Mark Denaro

Lee Finley

Todd Gardner

Rachel O'Leary

Greg Steeves

WORKSHOPS

Richard Pierce

Amanda Wenger

Leslie Dick (203) 748-7800

ConventionChair@northeastcouncil.org

Joe Masi (845) 896-4793

President@northeastcouncil.org

Nancy Villars (732) 787-0654

NECconvention@aol.com Vender Room Chair

George Goulart (401) 331-5376

george@aqualifecentral.com Fish Show Chair

VISIT CONVENTION WEB PAGE FOR ALL DETAILS

including Auction Information and Rules, On-line Registration, Hotel Reservations, Event Schedule, Registration Forms and Information for Auction, Bowl and Photography Shows AND Speaker Schedule.

<http://convention.northeastcouncil.org/>



**OTTER VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY
SUNDAY MAY 19, 2013
SPRING
TROPICAL FISH &
PLANT AUCTION &
PEOPLE CHOICE
BOWL SHOW**

1st prize \$100 - 2nd \$75 - 3rd \$50

**AT THE RUTLAND/KILLINGTON HOLIDAY INN
FEATURING
Freshwater Fish, Aquatic Plants,
Dry Goods &
Rare & Hard To Find Livestock**

**VIEWING LOTS 9:30AM - 11:30AM • AUCTION STARTS 12 NOON
FREE ADMISSION • REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

The Rutland/Killington Holiday Inn is located on US Route 7 near the junction of Rte 4.
IMPORTANT DRIVING INFORMATION: The GPS systems will not recognize their physical address.

We highly recommend you use 1 Holiday Drive, Rutland, VT 05701.

MAKE IT A WEEKEND GET AWAY. ENJOY BEAUTIFUL VERMONT THEN ATTEND THE AUCTION ON SUNDAY.

Special room rates for the Auction weekend \$92 per night including breakfast.

For reservations call 800 462-4810 or info@hivermont.com

AUCTION RULES

- 1] Each vendor must fill out auction entry form, vendor does not need to be a member of OVAS.
- 2] Limit of 4 lots per species per vendor.
- 3] Limit of 40 entries per vendor. 60/40 split if received by May 10, 2013. after the split will be 50/50.
- 4] Additional entries per vendor will be accepted as a donation to OVAS.
- 5] No minimum bids can be set unless authorized before the auction.
- 6] All entries must be registered by 11am.
- 7] Entries should be marked as to what it contains and the assigned entry number.
- 8] Entries for breeder program should have breeder credit forms submitted with Lot Registration.
- 9] Each bidder must fill out auction bidder form and get a number.
- 10] The auction is open to the public, anyone can enter lots for auction, non-members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the auction.
- 11] All used equipment should be clean and in good working order.
- 12] All fish must be double bagged, fish not bagged properly will be rebagged at a charge of \$2 per bag.

BOWL SHOW RULES

- 1] SHOW IS OPEN CLASS PEOPLES CHOICE ONLY.
- 2] Limit 2 fish per entrant.
- 3] Entrants may set up from 9am - 11am. All bowls will get a number.
- 4] Entrants must supply their own bowls, with at least one flat side.
(a.) There will be 12 bowls available for those who need one.
- 5] Bare tanks only no décor. (air only)
- 6] Bowls will be labeled with the scientific or common name.
- 7] Voting from 11am until 2pm. Winners will be announced at 2:30pm.
- 8] Entries may also be put into the auction, if you choose to do so.
- 9] No Hybrids' or Mutant fish
- 10] No Native fish.

**For more information contact Lee Scott at
(802) 537-2713 or Leenbrianscott@yahoo.com
or www.ovasociety.com**