

MAY 2017 Volume 46, Issue 5

NAGWG Goodeid Study Tour of Mexico Presentation by Kurt Johnston

May 20th at 1:00 Hand-in-Hand Fire Co. Bird-in-Hand, PA

CREATURE IN MY AQUARIUM gary haas

MOSS IN AQUARIA

MICHAEL BUCHMA

CORYDORAS C123 DON KINYON

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AQUARIUM CLUB OF LANCASTER COUNTY, INC.

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ON THE COVER: Fundulopanchax gardneri & Puntius titteya by Gary Haas

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month, our scheduled speaker was unable to make the long trip at the last moment. One of our own, Joel Antkowiak, took the leap for us and gave us a nice presentation on his experiences with CARES species. Thanks again Joel!

We are now getting into some good weather in the area. This time of year can be a very exciting time for hobbyists in the northern areas. Maybe you should start up a pond or a small tub if you don't have the space or time for a large pond. Since I am particularly interested in plants, I decided to go on a few small walks in search of native aquatic plants. I have not found much yet, since things are just starting to warm up. I did find one place, right in the middle of town that was filled with a type of



Michael Buchma

moss from the *Fontinalis* genus. I ended up going home with a small portion of it. If you are going to be doing some collecting, please make sure you have the appropriate permits. Also, never take anything from protected lands such as state parks.



On May 20th at 1:00, we are having our next meeting at our regular meeting location at Bird-in-Hand Fire Company. Just like last month, one of our members will be the speaker. That speaker will be Kurt Johnston. Kurt will be speaking about his recent trip to Mexico to work with the North American Goodeid Working Group (NAGWG). I am always fascinated to hear about collecting trips abroad and I am sure this one will be no different. I hope to see you there!

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EDITOR'S NOTES

ACLC Members,

It is always great to have articles before the issue dur date so that we can do our job as editors. It has continued this month and hopefully the finished product has met with our members' expectations. Please continue sending us articles and photos and please do so before the deadline email request goes out. Also if you have an idea for an article or series of articles, please talk to us and we will help you put it together. Cartoons? Games? Puzzles? Let us know your ideas !

Thanks to everyone for their contributions!

It's Your Club, Your Tank Tales!

Thank you

Tim & Kurt

Send all communications for Tank Tales to editor@aclcpa.org

Deadline for June Tank Tales is May 30th!



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MAY PROGRAM

NAGWG Goodeid Study Tour of



Kurt was part of the first NAGWG (North American Goodeid Working Group) Study Tour of Mexico in February of 2017. The group spent 7 days observing Goodeids in their native habitats and becoming familiar with the threats to the fish and assisting the Mexican scientists in their efforts to conserve them You will see the survey sites Kurt visited as well as the Morelia Aqualab and the Museo de Ciencas Ambientales. You may even see some of the non-fish related fun had during the week.

Time & Place

Saturday, May 20th at 1:00 PM

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Piscatorial Pearls

"Reviewing Aquarium Society Newsletters from Around the World"

This month we begin our journey in the midwest with 2 articles in the March 2017 issue of the <u>Circle City Aquarium Club</u>'s **Fancy Fins**. The first article is titled "<u>Ancistrus cf. cirrhosis</u> <u>'Green Dragon' Plecos</u>" by Kelsea Kruger.

Kelsea give a great description of her semi-successful experience with a great looking variety if a hobby favorite. Next we have an article by Heather Liden titled "<u>Breeding Lemon</u> <u>Tetras</u>" that is a detailed account of Heather's success with this common Characin.

Our next stop brings us one state east for 2 stories in the March—April 2017 edition of the <u>Greater Akron Aquarium</u> <u>Society</u>'s **Tank Topics**. The first story is titled

"Labidochromis sp. 'Hongi' - Super Red Top Breeding in the Aquarium" by Jeffrey Swanson and is very descriptive of the difficulties and lessons learned by Jeffrey while attempting to breed this Malawi cichlid. In the next story, Wayne Toven tells us all about his experience "Getting Along with Jack Dempsey, Not the Boxing Champ"

Now we head north across the border for an article in the March 2017 issue of the <u>Kitchener</u> <u>Waterloo Aquarium Society</u>'s **Fins & Tales**. This article, titled "<u>The Hair Bellies, Part 1</u>" by Al Ridley is a great descriptive article about Trichogaster leeri, the Pearl Gourami and even explains the reason for the articles' title.

We come back to the states for 3 stories in the March/April 2017 edition of the <u>Missouri</u> <u>Aquarium Society</u>'s **Darter**. The first story is titled "<u>Elassoma okefenokee—The Okefenokee</u> <u>Pygmy Sunfish</u>" by Mike Hellweg. Mike gives us a very detailed description of his successes with this beautiful and difficult native fish. The

IMPORTANT

If you see an article that you would like a copy of, just click on the article title. It will generate an email for you to send to the ACLC Exchange Editor, requesting a copy. If you would like to visit the website of the Club that publishes the newsletter, just click on the club name. If you have any questions contact the ACLC Exchange Editor at exchange@aclcpa.org

next story is titled "<u>Hamburg Matten Filter and</u> <u>a New Tank</u>" by Rick Renfro that tells us about Rick's experience using this type of filter in a large tank. The final story in this edition is titled "The Dwarf Egyptian Mouthbrooder" by

> Mike Hellweg that tells us all about Mike's experience with this great East African cichlid.

> Next stop is here on the east coast for 3 articles in the March 2017 issue of the North Jersey Aquarium Society's **Reporter**. The first article is another in the series of Dr. Paul's Fish of the Month . This month highlights 2 fish, "Bororas micros and Bororas naevus" that Paul goes into an amazing amount of detail on these "eyestrain rasboras". Next we have an article titled "Not All Plecos are

<u>Community Bound</u>" by Chuck Davis that describes his experience with the large pleco, Pterygoplichthys gibbiceps. A short, brief description of 2 Datnoides species is the basis for "<u>Tiger by the Tail</u>" by Molly Cule.

We now head to the west coast for a story in the March 2017 edition of the <u>Sacramento</u> <u>Aquarium Society</u>'s **Tropical News**. This story is a brief reminder of "<u>Tips on Bagging Fish</u>" by Jack Kraft, that we all need to read again and again.

Heading back up north we stop for 2 articles in the March & April 2017 issue of the <u>Sarnia</u> <u>Aquarium Society</u>'s **Aqua Antics**. The first article is titled "<u>Brazilian Pennywort</u>" by Peter Melady that give us some good information regarding the use of this floating plant. Next article is titled "<u>Corydoras Julii aka Leopard</u> <u>Catfish</u>" by Jack Vanderaa is a good, brief BAP article on this cute little catfish.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

For our next stop we head to the Southeast for a story in the March 2017 edition of the <u>Tampa Bay</u> <u>Aquarium Society</u>'s **Filter**. This story is titled "<u>Let's Talk Salt Again!!!</u>" by Mike Jacobs that is all about the use of salt in freshwater tanks and the issues that it causes with osmoregulation in fish.

Heading to the Northeast we stop for 8 articles in the Brooklyn Aquarium Society's March ~ April 2017 issue of Aquatica. Part 3 of The Responsible Aquarist by Anthony Kroeger is all about the danger of releasing "Myriophyllum species, European water milfoil" into any US waterway. Anthony also wrote the next article titled "Open Wide & Say Ahhh" that describes a method of keeping Leaf Fish in the Aquarium. "Lemon Tetras" is Part 4 of Anthony Kroeger's series Terrific Tetras and gives us details in caring for this popular little Characin. Next article is titled "Red Cherry Shrimp History" by Ryan Curtis for those who are interested in raising this little invertebrate. This month's entry in The Practical Plant series by Izzy Zwerin is all about "Propagating Cryptocoryne griffithii". The next article is humorously titled "Im Melting, Melting, Oh What a World, What a World..." by Anthony Kroeger and is actually a very accurate, serious article about Crypt melt, what it is and how to prevent it. Anthony also wrote the last 2 articles in this issue, the first being titled "Coral Diseases My Experimental Treatments" that describes some interesting ways to treat some coral maladies. Finally we have "Fly with Me!", an article that describes some details of six species of freshwater hatchetfish.

Next we head to the other side of our state for a story in the April 2017 edition of the <u>Greater</u> <u>Pittsburgh Aquarium Society</u>'s **Finformation.** This story, titled "<u>Spawning Tanichthys</u> <u>thacbaensis</u>" by Eric Bodrock is a very detailed account of Eric's experiences with the Lemon White Cloud.

We head to the midwest for our next stop for an article in the April 2017 issue of the <u>Motor City</u> <u>Aquarium Society</u>'s **Tropiquarium**. This article titled "<u>Breeding L340</u>" by Mike Zajac describes Mike's success with this Hypancistrus species. Staying in the midwest we stop for a story in the <u>Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society</u>'s April 2017 edition of **Fin Flap**. This story is a BAP article by Dick VanHyfte that tells us about his experience "<u>Spawning Aphyosemion ogoense GHP80-24</u>" a gorgeous mop spawning killie.

Our final stop this month is down south for 2 articles in the April 2017 issue of the <u>Atlanta Area</u> <u>Aquarium Association</u>'s **Fish Talk**. The first article is by Eugene June Lee and describes Eugene's success with "<u>Breeding Endler's Live</u> <u>Bearer</u>". The last article this month is a travelogue by David Ramsey that tells us about all the fun he had on his "<u>Trip to the Raleigh</u> <u>Spring Workshop</u>".

See you on the 20th!

Kurt Johnston – Exchange Editor exchange@aclcpa.org

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ABOUT THE ACLCTM

Established in 1972, the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County is dedicated to further the study of all forms of aquatic life, to promote interest, exchange ideas, distribute information concerning the aquarium hobby and to encourage the breeding and display of aquatic life. The ACLC is an affiliated member of the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Federation of American Aquarium Societies, International Guppy Education & Exhibition Society and the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program. The ACLC also actively supports and encourages our members to join the American Cichlid Association, American Livebearer Association, American Killifish Association and any other International, National, Regional or Local Club abd Societies. In 2015 we hosted the American Livebearer Association Convention and in 2016 established the Aquatic Life Education Fund.

The ACLC is scheduled to meet on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Hand-in-Hand Fire co., 313 Enterprise Drive, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505. Meetings begin at 1:00 PM unless otherwise noted. Meetings usually are comprised of a program featuring a guest speaker, raffle and door prizes and a mini fish auction, with a period allowed for mingling and refreshments. The philosophy of the club is such that our activities are interesting to both the novice and advanced hobbyist alike. An effort is made to keep business to a minimum at the general meetings, with the board of directors meeting being held quarterly at a pre-established date and time.

DATE:

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FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATE OR ... SLIME MOLD The Creature in my aquarium

As a strictly fresh-water aquarist, I have always envied the salt-water hobbyists for the wide assortment of invertebrates available, especially the sessile (nonlocomoting) ones. They have gazillions of attractive tube worms, sea anemones, corals, sponges. We have hydra. And in theory, freshwater sponges and bryophytes (but have you ever even seen one?)

So I was totally thrilled when, during morning feeding, I came across a delicate, cream-colored, fan-shaped



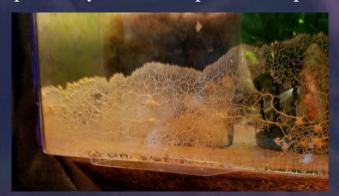
structure on the side glass of an aquarium in my fish room. Thrilled and puzzled, because I didn't recognize the creature. And creature it was, because the next day, it had more than doubled in size. But what kind of creature?

Google is a wonderful tool for finding out

Photos & Text by Gary Haas

about something you know the name of, but less wonderful for discovering the name of something you can only describe. I spent hours perusing pages pertaining to "fan-shaped cream-colored sessile freshwater aquatic invertebrate", or variations thereof. To no avail. Images of bryozoans and freshwater sponges did not resemble the creature in my tank. And no other possible identifications emerged from the search.

So I posted a photo of my creature on a Facebook group interested in aquaria, specifically killifish. Aquarium keepers



are biology geeks, interested in all sorts of biology "stuff", and killi people even more so because they often cultivate live food, leading them to interests in worms and daphnia and brine shrimp and the like. One of these biology geeks

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responded in a comment, saying that she had seen a similar photo while pursuing an interest in Myxomycete. In great excitement I Googled "Myxomycete" – also known as "**Slime Mold**". (Ewww. I had been hoping for something more like "Fairy duster").

More hours on Google. Some images of slime mold did indeed look just like my creature. But in reference after reference, slime mold was described as living in dark places among damp leaves, not in an aquatic habitat. My interest was piqued nonetheless.

Slime mold

Slime mold is, first of all, not strictly speaking an animal. Nor is it a plant, nor even a fungus. It belongs to the biological kingdom Protista, one of the SIX (or sometimes five) kingdoms into which biologists now divide living things.



Protista is sort of a "miscellaneous" category for living things that systematists can't find a logical place for. The phylum Myxomycetes is made up of slime molds, and the term "myxomycete" seems to be interchangeable with the less scientific term "slime mold". A well-known example of a myxomycete is the bright yellow "dog vomit fungus" occasionally seen on wood-chip mulch. Another infests potatoes and caused the Irish potato famine of the mid 19th century. Pleasant company, eh?

Despite the distasteful name, slime molds are pretty interesting. They have a life cycle that includes a microscopic, freeswimming, amoeboid phase; a macroscopic "multi-nucleate amoeboid mass or sheet" phase, also known as a "plasmodium"; and a "fruiting" phase which distributes spores. The



plasmodium phase is the most interesting, and the most observable. It seems that when sufficient free-swimming amoeboids get hungry enough, they somehow get together into a plasmodium, which has many cell nuclei which share protoplasm, with no internal cell walls. The resulting blob-creature (not a technical term) goes looking for food (bacteria and the like) by extending itself in a fan-like form, trailing tube-like structures which allow the protoplasm to flow to the advancing front. A slime mold has been observed to move at speeds over 1 mm/s (2+ inches per minute), incredible for a creature with no muscles or even tissues. The plasmodium phase of a slime mold life-cycle looked *very much* like the creature in my tank.

ACLC SPEAKER SCHEDULE

2017

June 17th – Scott Maurer Common Sense Reefkeeping September 22-24 – Keystone Clash II – M October 21st – TBA November 18th – TBA December 16th – TBA More Details to Come!



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Aha!

But all the information I could find said slime molds live in dark, moist places, like leaf litter. So what was this creature that lives under water in my aquarium? Then, Google found me an article from Fungi magazine, Fall 2013, titled "Aquatic Myxomycetes". The article stated "myxomycetes are typically found in moist terrestrial habitats" but "there are scattered reports of aquatic myxomycetes", and went on to describe an experience with a myxomycete plasmodium <u>in an aquarium</u>. And that plasmodium looked JUST LIKE *my* creature. Mystery solved!

Creature, I KNOW YOUR NAME !

By the third day, the myxomycete plasmodium in my aquarium had shrunk and faded, and a couple days later only a whitish discoloration on the glass remained of the once-lovely fan structure. Here and there throughout the aquarium, though, you could see on the surfaces of filters and ornaments, features resembling the protoplasmic tubes of the slime mold. These remnants were sometimes associated with disgusting, amorphous, stringy masses undulating in the water currents, evocative of the name "slime mold", or at least "slime". Did I mention that this tank was long overdue for cleaning?

What brought this creature to this tank and not to some other tank in my fishroom? One possibly relevant fact is that this tank had no snails competing for the algae and bacteria on which the myxomycete feeds. And did I mention that this tank was long overdue for cleaning?

Epilogue

I kept the tank as it was, uncleaned and populated by hardy Rivulus killifish, for some months thereafter, in vain hopes that the graceful plasmodium might reappear. The killifish did not seem interested in the myxomycete, nor did they appear to suffer from its presence, or the unhygienic condition of the tank. Eventually I lost interest and cleaned the tank, with bleach. So my club associates need not fear Protist bycatch with my auction offerings.

But I wouldn't mind if it came back to my fish room. At least for a few days.

i. Everything I know about slime mold I learned from <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slime_mold</u> first.

ii. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy (biology)

iii. If your friends think you weird because of your niche hobby, consider the Fungi aficionados. The magazine advertises the Fungi Festival, and a book called Mycophilia (not what you might think). Strange crowd indeed. Excellent magazine, though.

iv. "Aquatic Myxomycetes", Mitsunori Tamayama and Harold W. Keller, Fungi magazine 6:3, Fall 2013, pp. 18-24.

v. Sorry, too much science fiction in my youth.

Corydoras C123 "Yellowcat"

TEXT & PHOTOS BY DON KINYON

This is a very distinctive Corydoras catfish native to the Rio Nanay in Peru. What makes it distinctive is the bright yellow coloration of the fins, particularly in the males, almost never seen in Corydoras. Otherwise, they resemble most of the *elegans*-type Corydoras; having a dark brown body with silvery white markings. The pattern is mottled at the head and then forms two more-or-less stripes on the back of the body to the tail. The dorsal fin is yellow with horizontal dark bands as is the tail, the caudal fin having less dark coloration. The rest of the fins are vellow as well. The males get around two inches in length while the females grow larger by half an inch and are much heavier-bodied.

I was lucky enough to find a group of these fish at an aquarium society auction. I'd never seen this species available before and won the bidding (would have gone a lot higher!). Later I was able to talk to the seller and found that the fish were first generation from wild-caught and learned the method he used to trigger the spawn. A month later, I found that a collector had brought a small group of wild-caught fish back from Peru and had them for sale. I bought this group as well and added it to the few that I had. This left me with four males and five females; not perfect for *Corydoras* breeding but good enough.

The group already seemed to be mature enough to set up as breeders, so they went into a 30 gallon long aquarium as a breeding tank. There were two air-driven sponge filters; one at each end, and a medium-sized power head in the right front corner with it's flow directed down the front glass and a small sponge covering its intake. The floor of the tank was covered with a thin layer of river sand and there were a few stones scattered throughout the tank bottom. The only other extra piece in the breeding tank



C123 Eggs

was a single large yarn mop.

The hobbyist that had spawned and raised the first fish of my group told me that through circumstances beyond his control, the fish had to go through an "artificial dry season" for a while with not much food or fresh water. When things were back to normal he started water changes with rain water, which triggered the fish to spawn. When my breeders had shown no interest in spawning for a few weeks even with lots of

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live food and two or three times a week water changes, I decided to try and duplicate the circumstances with which the original breeder had had such success.

I drained about half the water from the tank, covered it with some towels and put a sticky note on the top with the date that I'd done it. I waited. Waited some more. The fish in the tank were not getting any water changes and not much to eat. I waited until I could no longer stand it, which turned out to be 18 days. I'd found my limit: I can only abuse fish for two and one-half weeks. Once the cover was off, the tank was drained further, to about two inches from the bottom and

filled with cooler rain water. The breeders were fed well from that point on with mostly live and frozen foods, supplemented with Repashy jello and freeze-dried tubifex. The females grew rotund and the males grew much more active, chasing

the females around the tank. This lasted two or three days, then: nothing. Two more weeks went by and still nothing. Four weeks, then five, then six went by and I'd about given up.

Through some fish trading I obtained five more fish from Matt Chambers, the hobbyist that had originally spawned the fish. These were younger and not old enough to breed yet, but I figured that it certainly wouldn't hurt to mix up the tank a little since nothing else seemed to be working. I got the five healthy young fish and put them with the group. Eight days later there were eggs on the front glass near the outlet of the powerhead. Not a great amount, around 50, but at least there were some eggs. I'm not sure if adding the young fish had anything to do with the spawn or not, but it's the only thing that changed.

By shutting off the power to the powerhead and carefully sliding a razor blade under the very adhesive eggs, they could be removed without damage. There is always a turkey baster at the ready in case an egg or two fall from the blade. The eggs were dropped into a $5\frac{1}{2}$ gallon tank with water from the breeding tank and some alder cones, sponge filter, and a fine sand layer covering the bottom glass. There are always a few oak leaves in my fry tanks to give the young fish cover and more surface area to scavenge for micro foods. Within a day, most of the eggs were turning white and hairy, and in two days the vast majority had gone bad. "Spotlighting" the fish with a flashlight after the lights had gone out for the evening



C123 Female

showed some movement under the leaves, so the tank was left as-is for a few more days. It turned out that only a very few fry hatched and survived the first spawning.

I was contemplating putting the fish through another "artificial dry season" when it became

necessary for me to have shoulder surgery. leaving the fish to fend for themselves a few days. Even once on my feet, doing water changes and moving fish around was not in the cards, but I did manage to feed them well. With so much time on my hands, wandering the fish room became a regular routine; otherwise, I may not have noticed the eggs in the C123 breeding tank hidden in all four corners near the water line. The placement wasn't unusual for *Corudoras*, but the formation was. Each corner had a ball of eggs placed almost where the two plates of glass came together and almost to the water line. The largest ball was over 3/8" and the smallest about 1/4". There were a few scattered eggs near the balls, but none in the mops or sand to be found. The only other eggs found were a few on the motor section of the powerhead.

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AQUATIC LIFE EDUCATION FUND

In January 2016, the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County Board of Directors announced a new program, the ACLC Aquatic Life Education Fund. This program has been instituted to assist schools in our area with funding for the continued development of curriculums related to the study of aquatic life. The importance of continued education of young people in this field could not be overstated and we felt that there is no better way to show our support than to develop a means for our club to assist financially.

The program works as follows:

- Five percent (5%) of the ACLC's auction proceeds annually between September Ist and August 3Ist will be earmarked for this fund
- The ACLC will also collect any donations offered by members and guests at all meetings and events held during the year and put 100% of those into the fund
- The ACLC will accept nominations from ACLC Members in good standing, for schools to be considered recipients beginning in September of each year and the decision will be made by a vote of the ACLC membership no later than at the March General meeting.
- Nominations should be accompanied by a letter from that school's representative with a description of the program the funds will be used for.
- Schools must be pre-college education facilities from neighboring counties in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey.
- No fees or other costs will be deducted from the funds collected. 100% will go to the school selected by the ACLC. A check will be awarded to that school as soon as possible after August 31st each year.

We look forward to this being and long term annual program to help educate our areas' young people in all aspects of our hobby and to promote the conservation efforts necessary for the continues existence of aquatic life.



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AQUATIC LIFE EDUCATION FUND APRIL REPORT

We are well on our way to meeting our goal for 2017 and we do have a very deserving recipient. The funds that we raise this year will be donated to the <u>Williamsport Area High</u> <u>School</u> Aquarium Science program headed by teacher Larry Flint. The amazing work being done at WAHS can be viewed at <u>http://reefconservationsociety.org/550.html</u>. If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>ALEF@aclcpa.org</u>.

Thank you

Kurt Johnston

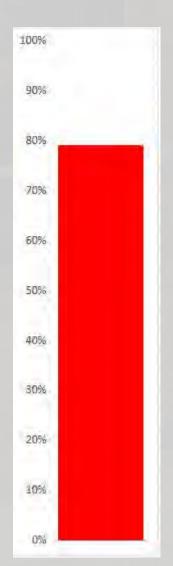
ALEF Chair



2017 Goal = \$600.00 Current = \$475.45







MOSS IN AQUARIA

Moss can be one of the easiest plants to grow in your aquarium. In general, most of the commonly available species of aquatic moss are very easy to care for and require very few demands. Almost every aquarist in the freshwater aquarium hobby has kept java moss at some time, but what about other types of moss? Do you have the right conditions in your current setup to keep other species? In this article, you will find out. First, we must lay some basic ground rules when it comes to keeping this fluffy stuff.

One of the most important factors in keeping moss is temperature. Moss does not like warm water. For common mosses such as Java Moss (*Taxiphyllum* barbieri) or those from the Vesicularia genus, water temperatures up to nearly 80°F are accepted. For optimal growth, temperatures into the upper 60's to mid 70's are best. Some mosses, such as Fontinalis sp., are exposed to very cool water in their natural habitat. This is very true for Fontinalis sp. that inhabit northern regions of North America and Europe. In these regions, water temperature can range from the 30's to the 60's. These are obviously not optimal temperatures for most tropical setups. The aquatic plant enthusiast can still grow these types of mosses in cooler aquariums. Hillstream loach and crystal

(Continued on page 23)

Text and Photos by Michael Buchma

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Aquarium Technology, Inc.

(Continued from page 22)

red shrimp aquariums are great aquarium for planted aquariums if you are setups for cooler water mosses. concerned.

The lighting that is provided to grow the moss is also important, but not as important as you might think. In nature, moss is often found in shaded areas. This is great! This means that you do not need to buy a several hundred dollar lighting system to grow your moss. A single



Erect Moss, Vesicularia reticulata

fluorescent tube or basic LED fixture is usually good enough. There are exceptions to the rule, but in general, basic lighting is just fine. If you do keep your moss in an aquarium with intense lighting, you may want to prepare for intense algae growth if your moss is kept directly under the light. Remember how it grows in nature; in the shade. Moss can still be kept in direct lighting; the aquarist just needs to watch the tank parameters to make sure every<u>thing is in</u> balance. To keep the water parameters in balance for your moss, you will need to make sure the key planted aquarium elements are just right and water changes are done on a regular basis. The parameters that must be kept in balance to avoid algal growth on your moss are nitrates, phosphates, CO₂, potassium, and lighting. Since that is an article in itself, I

will stop right there. I suggest performing a web search on NPK ratios for planted aquariums if you are concerned.

Water hardness and pH are not too important when it comes to growing moss, just avoid the extremes. Water from your city's water supply is usually just fine.

Many people are accustomed to just throwing a clump of java moss in the aquarium and letting it be. This is fine for breeding purposes, but it is not something you want to do for the mosses that exhibit elaborate patterns in their growth. It is also something you do not want to do for mosses in the Fissidens genus. Fissidens mosses are very small and do not grow in thick strands, or fronds in moss terminology. To display your moss in an aquascape, you are going



Fissidens fontanaus

to need a piece of wood and sewing thread. Stone or rock can be used, but most mosses attach much easier to wood surfaces due to the porous nature of wood. Before throwing a large clump of moss on your piece of driftwood, please take this piece of advice: Spread it on in a thin layer. Spreading the moss over the wood as a thin layer is very important so

(Continued on page 29)

C.A.R.E.S. REGISTRATION

May 2017 CARES Report

In April we had two new CARES registrations from Joel Antkowiak, and four from Karen Haas and Alan Rollings.

But the big news is the way Alan and Karen registered three of their fish. As I've mentioned in the past couple of reports, CARES national has instituted some new registration procedures. In short, you register your fish through a website, and the registration goes directly to the national database. Registration through this process requires a photograph of the fish, to assure that all fish in the national database are correctly identified. So Karen and Alan have registered their three new species through this process, as well as two of their old CARES species.

The local clubs (or at least THIS local club) will continue to maintain a local database of CARES species. If you want your fish to be registered in the national database, you have to register it through the national website, and it will be reflected in the local database and in the monthly report. See caresforfish.org for more details on the national organization, and see me or the new CARES coordinator (coming soon) for questions on ACLC's implementation.

Pre-Provident Provident

~Gary Haas ACLC CARES Coordinator

Symbol Key

The Gold Seal , designates that species is registered in ACLC CARES The Green Seal , designates that a spawning report has been published in Tank Tales. The Blue Seal , designates that species has been distributed and registered within the ACLC The Red Seal , designates that species has been distributed and registered in another clubs' CARES program. Longevity Seal , indicates the number of years the member has maintained the species.

JOEL ANTKOWIAK

Tanichthys micagemmae	٩		•		6
Ameca splendens	•	•			6
Tanichthys albonubes	•				5
Pachypanchax sparksorum	•				3
Neotoca (Skiffia) multipunctata	•				3
Coptodon snyderae	•				3
Ataeniobius toweri	•	•	•	•	3
Coptodon bythobates	•				3
Xenotaenia resolonae	•				3
Pachypanchax patriciae	•				3
Rivulus uroflammeus	•				3
Melanotaenia boesemani	•		•		3

C.A.R.E.S. REGISTRATION

Joel Antkowiak Cont'd

Melanotaenia eachamensis	•	
Cryptoheros myrnae	•	
Bedotia geayi	•	
Xip[hophorus malinche	۲	
Zoogoneticus tequila	•	
Melanotaenia parva	•	
Chilatherina sentaniensis	•	
Paretroplus maculatus	•	
Nothobranchius kilomberoensis	•	
Neotoca bilineata	•	
Cryptoheros septemfasciatus	•	
Characodon lateralis	•	
Pelvicachromis silviae	•	
Xenotoca melanosome	•	
Skiffia francesae	•	
Characodon audax	•	
Glossolepis incises	•	
Xenotoca doadrioi	•	

STEVE ARNOTT

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GARY BOYER

Critic Dorrare				
Xystichromis sp. 'Kyoga flameback'	•			
Cryptoheros nanoluteus	•			
Pundamilia nyererei	•		•	
Ataeniobius toweri	•			
Ilyodon whitei	•			
Rich Bressler				
Melanotaenia lacustris	€			
Tanichthys micagemmae	€		•	
Bedotia geayi	€		•	
Zoogenetius tequila	€	•	•	
Ataeniobius toweri	€		•	
Xiphophorus malinche	€		•	
Glossolepsis incisus	•		•	
Melanotaenia boesemani	•			

PAUL BRICKNELL

Ilyodon whitei (lennoni)	•		
Zoogeneticus tequila	•		
Ameca splendens	•		
Ataeniobius toweri	•		

JOHN & NATALIE DICKEL

Tanichthys micagemmae	•		4
Zoogeneticus tequila	•		1
Xenotoca eiseni	•	•	1
Ameca splendens	•		
Ataeniobius toweri	•		

C.A.R.E.S. REGISTRATION

GARY HAAS

Fundulopanchax sjoestedti	•	•		
Fundulopanchax amieti	•		•	
Puntius titteya	•	•		
Tanichthys albonubes	•			
Melanotaenia boesemani	•			
Nematolebia papiliferus (Inoa)	•			
Nothobranchius	•			
kilomberoensis				
Puntius denisonii	•			

KAREN HAAS & ALAN ROLLINGS

Synodontis brichardi	•		
Glossolepis incisus	•		
Chapalichthys encaustus	•	•	
Cryptoheros nanoluteus	•		
Xystochromis sp."Kyoga Flameback"	•	•	
Cryptoheros nanoluteus	•	•	
Characodon lateralis "Los Berros"	•		
Ilyodon whitei	•	•	
Ataeniobius toweri	•		
Pundamilia nyererei	•	•	
Ameca splendens	•	•	
Xystochromis phytophagus	•		
Fundulopanchax sjoestedti	•		
Hypancistrus L333	•		
Amphilophus lyonsi	•		
Ptyochromis sp. Red Rock Sheller	•		
Paralabidochromis sp. Fire	•		
Pundamilia pundamilia Senga Point	•		
TANK TALES™ MAY 2017 26	1		

CLAIR KLINEDINST

Fundulopanchax amieti	•		2
Tanichthys albonubes	•		2
Tanichthys micagemmae	•		2
Fundulopanchax sjoestedti	•		
Chapalichthys encaustus	•		



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(Continued from page 19)

These eggs were all removed much the same way as the first group, although working one -handed made it painfully slow work. I separated the eggs by hand as much as I could, so that there weren't any large groups stuck together. Most of the groups were



C123 Male

three or four eggs by the tim they went into the hatching tank. The hatching/rearing tank was a 7 gallon set up as the first, with a sponge filter, oak leaves, fine sand bottom and an *Alder* cone. Two days later, just as the first of the eggs were hatching, the fish spawned again. This time the eggs were in only two of the corners, but some were in the mop and along the bottom of the front glass. The mop had more eggs in it than I wanted to pick out, so I dumped it into the hatching tank and replaced it in the breeding tank with a fresh one. The rest of the eggs were separated and joined the first group and the mop in the hatching tank.

In one more day all the eggs that were going to hatch from the first group had hatched and three days later the second group had hatched out. There was really no way to tell how many were present at this point. The fry at hatching are very small and need micro foods. The smallest of the *Golden Pearls* brand foods will work, as well as pulverized and soaked flake food. Within a few days, a week at the most, the young fish were able to take micro worms and then decapsulated brine shrimp eggs two weeks later. At this point the young fish were 5/16" to 3/8" long and very active: they no longer hid under leaves and the edges of stones during daylight hours but were out scavenging for food most of the time. Their coloration and body shape was nothing like the adult fish: they looked more like tiny zebra-striped sharks. In order to keep the pressure changes to a minimum on the fish's delicate air bladders, small water changes were done two to three times a day.

At this writing the young C123 "Yellowcats" are two months old and growing fairly quickly. They're around an inch long and constantly searching for food. The air bladders of the youngsters will be developed enough at this point to do larger water changes without worry, and they will soon be placed in a larger tank to grow them out.

This is an unusual *Corydoras* that is a fine addition to a community tank, or a great display in a one-species tank. They may pose more of a challenge to keep and breed than many *Corydoras* catfish, but in this hobbyist's opinion they are well worth it.

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27 | THE AQUARIUM CLUB OF LANCASTER COUNTY, INC.

HORTICULTURAL AWARD PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT-APRIL 2017

PROPAGATOR OF THE YEAR

Wesley Bahrt Scott Sommer Charles Vickery Gary Haas Paul Tangredi Bressler Family

3 species
3 species
3 species
2 species
1 species
1 species

GARDENER OF THE YEAR

Scott Sommer60 pointsGary Haas60 pointsCharles Vickery40 pointsWesley Bahrt25 pointsBressler Family15 pointsPaul Tangredi5 points

SPECIES PROPAGATED—APRIL 2017

GARY HAAS 20 TOTAL POINTS

Cryptocoryne pontederifolia *

20 points

* indicates that plant was donated to club auction (2x points)
+indicates plant was donated & article submitted to Tank Tales
donation points only—plant was registered earlier

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2 Star Gardener

Gary Haas Bressler Family

1 Star Gardener

Gary Boyer Alan Rollings Scott Sommer

Novice Gardener

Charles Vickery Clair Klinedinst Karen Haas



that water, oxygen, and nutrients can flow properly. If you lay it on too thick, your moss may actually stunt or decay in the lower layers. One or two layers is ideal. Next, you will need to tie the moss down carefully. You will need to pay extra attention to the space between threads on the wood. If you have too much space in between the threads, then your moss will float away in the tank. Another option for affixing moss to rock or wood is glue. I have personally never used this method but if you choose to do so, please make sure you use glue that is certified safe for aquarium use. Some aquascaping companies are starting to



Flame Moss, Taxiphyllum sp. Flame

come out with these types of glues, so your search should start there.

Believe it or not, we are not limited to just java moss or Christmas moss (*Vesicularia montagnei*). There are dozens of types of aquatic mosses available thru online dealers or fellow hobbyists. Before buying any moss from an online retailer, do some research. Some dealers will try to sell moss that is not truly aquatic. Some of the biggest offenders of this scheme are overseas sellers. These types of sellers are to be stayed away from, not because they sell non-aquatic moss to unsuspecting buyers, but because it is typically illegal. Phytosanitary certificates are needed to import plants from another country. These certificates are expensive and if the customs agent notices that your package contains live plants from another country without it, you may receive a phone call or letter from the authorities. Your package will also be destroyed and you will not receive a refund.

If you aren't convinced that you NEED some moss in your aquarium, let's talk about the benefits of moss in an aquarium. It's just a plant right? Not only is it just a plant, but it provides a myriad of other benefits. Moss is a great hiding place for newborn fry or shrimp. Adult fish will have a harder time trying to pick the new born fish out of the growth mass of the moss. The moss can even be used as a spawning medium for egg scattering fish. Speaking of fry and baby shrimp, moss is a breeding ground for microorganisms. Your fry and baby shrimp will fare much better with it in their tank, believe me. Moss, like other plants, also absorbs excess nutrients to naturally purify the water.

In closing, I must stress that you be careful. Once you start collecting mosses, it is hard thing to stop.

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Breeder Award Program Monthly Report

BAP NEWS AS OF APRIL 29TH, 2017

In April there was one spawn recorded. Karen Haas and Alan Rollings reported the spawning of Neetroplus nematopus, also known as Hypsophrys nematopus. This Central American cichlid is known for its color change during spawning and shy ways. We look forward to hearing about Karen and Alan's observations of this species' behavior.

I noticed, too late for the April TT report, that Gary Boyer, with his completion last month of class 7 (New World Cichlids), also completed the requirements of Advanced Breeder. Good work Gary, sorry I overlooked it. I'll make it up to you at the May meeting

~Gary Haas, BAP Chair

APRIL SPECIES BRED

HAAS/ROLLINGS

Neetroplus nematopus



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2017 BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Clair Klinedinst	65 points
Haas/Rollings	56 points
David Tangredi	20 points
Gary Boyer	20 points
Bressler Family	15 points

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2017 Species Bred

Clair Klinedinst	5 species
Haas/Rollings	4 Species
David Tangredi	2 species
Gary Boyer	2 species
Bressler Family	1 Species

BAP LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CURRENTLY ACTIVE ACLC MEMBERS

F. WAYNE CALE	ender Breeder	1 Star Breed	DER
Bressler Family	1925 pts	Gene Regener	245 pts
Wayne Calender	1593 pts	Pat Kelly*	165 pts
		Glenn Davies*	140 pts
GRAND MAS	STER BREEDER	Dave Frehafer	90 pts
Paul Bricknell	2003 pts	David Tangredi	87 pts
David Stephon	1120 pts	Scott Shenk	70 pts
Pedro Sanchez	1050 pts	Tony Kline	
		Robin Antkowiak	60 pts 57 pts
EXPERT	Breeder	Kurt Johnston	56 pts
Bob Kulesa*	812 pts		
ADVANCE	d Breeder	Other Partici	PANTS
<u>ADVANCE</u> Joel Antkowiak*	<u>D BREEDER</u> 1278 pts	OTHER PARTICI Sam Jones	
		Sam Jones	66 pts
Joel Antkowiak*	1278 pts	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	66 pts 39 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings*	1278 pts 756 pts	Sam Jones Charles Vickery The Moyers	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings*	1278 pts 756 pts	Sam Jones Charles Vickery	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts 35 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings* Gary Boyer *	1278 pts 756 pts 682 pts	Sam Jones Charles Vickery The Moyers Lonny Langione Julie Lovell	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts 35 pts 26 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings* Gary Boyer *	1278 pts 756 pts	Sam Jones Charles Vickery The Moyers Lonny Langione Julie Lovell Ashley Antkowiak	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts 35 pts 26 pts 21 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings* Gary Boyer *	1278 pts 756 pts 682 pts	Sam Jones Charles Vickery The Moyers Lonny Langione Julie Lovell	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts 35 pts 26 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings* Gary Boyer * <u>2 STAR 1</u>	1278 pts 756 pts 682 pts BREEDER	Sam Jones Charles Vickery The Moyers Lonny Langione Julie Lovell Ashley Antkowiak	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts 35 pts 26 pts 21 pts
Joel Antkowiak* Haas/Rollings* Gary Boyer * <u>2 STAR J</u> Gary Haas*	1278 pts 756 pts 682 pts BREEDER 517 pts	Sam Jones Charles Vickery The Moyers Lonny Langione Julie Lovell Ashley Antkowiak	66 pts 39 pts 37 pts 35 pts 26 pts 21 pts

*Breeder has enough points for next higher class award but needs to complete one or more classes to achieve the award.



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SPECIALIST BREEDER AWARDS

CURRENTLY ACTIVE ACLC MEMBERS

CLASS 1—LIVEBEARERS

Paul Bricknell (A) **Bob Kulesa** David Stephon Bressler Family (X) J/N Dickel **Clair Klinedinst** CLASS 2—CATFISH Wavne Calender **Bressler Family**

Wayne Calender Pedro Sanchez Joel Antkowiak (X) Gary Boyer (A) Haas/Rollings (A) **Bob Kulesa**

CLASS 3—BARBS & MINNOWS **David Stephon** Paul Bricknell **Bressler Family**

CLASS 4—CHARACINS Wayne Calender Danny Corman

David Stephon Bressler Family

CLASS 5—KILLIFISH **Bob Kulesa**

Pedro Sanchez **Bressler Family**

Wayne Calender Paul Bricknell (M) Gary Haas

CLASS 6—ANABANTOIDS **Bressler Family**

CLASS 7—NEW WORLD CICHLIDS

Bob Kulesa David Stephon Paul Bricknell **Gary Boyer**

Pedro Sanchez **Bressler Family** Haas/Rollings

CLASS 8-OLD WORLD CICHLIDS **Bob Kulesa** Joel Antkowiak **Bressler Family** Paul Bricknell **Gary Boyer** Haas/Rollings

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CLASS 9—RAINBOWS & BLUE-EYES **Bressler Family**

CLASS 11—OTHER AQUATIC ANIMALS

Bob Kulesa Bressler Family Paul Bricknell

Joel Antkowiak Haas/Rollings **Bressler Family**

CLASS 12–U.S. NATIVE SPECIES Wayne Calender Paul Bricknell **Bressler Family**

CLASS 14—ALL OTHER FW FISH **Bressler Family**

SPECIAL NOTES

- (A) Designates Advanced Breeder for that Class
- (M) Designates Master Breeder for that Class
- (X) Designates Expert Breeder for that Class

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Breeder Award Program Information

All ACLC Members in good standing are eligible to participate in the breeders Award Program.

The purpose of the ACLC Breeders Award Program is to promote the keeping and breeding of tropical and marine fish and invertebrates, to recognize and motivate achievement in the hobby, to encourage the development of the skills and knowledge necessary to spawn more difficult species ,to support the CARES program by encouraging the spawning of species endangered in the wild, to share knowledge about breeding techniques and to publish accounts of spawning techniques.

Please use the form on this page to submit spawning reports or for a full copy of the BAP rules and an electronic form submission, go to our website at http://aclcpa.org

The Aquarium Club of Lancaster County - Spawning Report						
Member Name:			Member No.#:		Date:	
Scientific Name:						
Common Name:						
If this is a CARES eligible species, have you registered it in the CARES Program Y/N?						
Tank Tales Article V	s Article Written Y/N ? Fish Donated in Auction		uction Y/N?			
Comments:						
Class:		Group:		Points:		
Confirmed by:				Date Confir	med:	

The Aquarium Club of Lancaster County - Spawning Report						
Member Name:			Member No.#:		Date:	
Scientific Name:						
Common Name:						
If this is a CARES eligible species, have you registered it in the CARES Program Y/N?						
Tank Tales Article V	Written Y/N ? Fish Donated in Auction Y/N?					
Comments:				_		
Class:		Group:		Points:		
Confirmed by:				Date Confirr	ned:	

SOUTH JERSEY GUPPY GROUP ALL SPECIES AUCTION SUNDAY ... MAY 21, 2017 **GRIGGSTOWN FIRE HOUSE** 1037 CANAL ROAD, GRIGGSTOWN, NJ 08540 **REGISTRATION 9 to 11 AM...VIEWING 11AM to 12noon NO LOTS ACCEPTED AFTER 11:30 AUCTION STARTS at 12 NOON** \star Featuring: **CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW GUPPIES** FANCY SWORDTAILS, PLATIES, ETC. TOP QUALITY DISCUS CORYDORAS CATFISH × **RARE & UNUSUAL PLECOS** CICHLIDS. BARBS, TETRAS, RAINBOWS www.south-jersey-guppy-group.com Jim Lovill egv1@optimum.net

11 th Annual

Otter Valley Aquarium Society

Tropical Fish Auction & Bowl Show

Sunday May 21, 2017 Noon - 5:00 PM

NEW LOCATION NEW LOCATION NEW LOCATION NEW LOCATION NEW LOCATION



The Godnick Center 1 Deer Street Rutland, VT 05701

Free Admission Door Prizes Viewing Lots 9:30am - 11:30am



Raffle at Auction

50/50

Silent Auction Plant Tables

Peoples Choice Bowl Show 1st Prize \$100 - 2nd \$75 - 3rd \$50 Please see bowl show rules on our website

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR AUCTION RULES

Pre-register before May 19th and get a 60/40 split www.ovasociety.com

A.K.A. Convention 2017 May 26th – 28th

Blue Chine North

Crowne Plaza - Chicago Northbrook 2875 N. Milwaukee Avenue Northbrook, II. 60062

Jan Willem Hoetmer The Netherlands Collecting and Raising Killifish

the Killifish of Brazil

Dalton Nielsen Brazil Collecting and Maintaining

Jack Heller Rainy Season Collecting Trip to the Peruvian Amazon

Ron Harlan Collecting Killifish in Bolivia

> Richard Pierce Killifish of Madagascar

Also:

A Huge Fish Show with killifish from all over the world

Saturday Morning Killifish Sale

AMERICAN KILI

ISSOCIATIC

Saturday Evening Banquet and Awards Program

Giant Sunday Auction with hundreds of pairs of killifish available including many rare and seldom seen species

For more information email: convention@aka.org, watch our web site or follow us on Facebook



www.aka.org

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Ultra-Aqua 2017



60 Class All Species Tropical Fish Show

ALL CASH PRIZES June 10 & 11, 2017 Tallmadge Community Center

80 Community Dr., Tallmadge, OH 44278

For more information or to reserve a table for the Swap Meet:

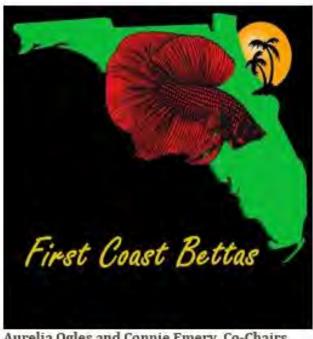
Bud White (330) 848-3856 bwhite@neo.rr.com Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 rjserva@gmail.com Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 wtoven@hotmail.com

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Saturday:

Show Registration	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Swap Meet	noon to 5 p.m.
Show area closes	7 p.m.
Dinner/Party	7 p.m.
Sunday:	
Exhibit Hall Opens	10 a.m.
Auction Registration	10 a.m.
Auction Begins	11 a.m.
Awards Presentation	5 p.m.
Tear-Down	4 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL BETTA CONGRESS BETTACON 2017



Aurelia Ogles and Connie Emery, Co-Chairs aureliao@aol.com; cjnemery@gmail.com

T-shirts only \$20, Collar/polo shirts \$30 Class Sponsorship \$20

June 22 thru 25, 2017 Early Bird Full Convention Package: \$175 (after May 1 \$190)

- Workshops & Meetings
- President's Reception Thursday night
- Friday Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner
- Saturday Breakfast, Lunch & Banquet
- Sunday breakfast
- Hospitality Friday & Saturday
- T-shirt (\$10 extra for collar/ polo shirt)

Meals Only (7 meals) \$125. Breakfasts & Dinners only \$100 Workshops & Meetings only \$50 Banquet Only \$70 Hospitality Room Only \$30 Optional Pre-Convention field trip to Segrest Farms \$45

Orlando Clarion Inn & Suites 5827 Caravan Court, Orlando, Fl. 32819 \$94. per night plus tax Across the street from Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure (recognized as the Number 1 Theme Park in the USA). Orlando Premium Outlets on International Dr. and Sea World are 5-10 minutes away. I-4 shuttle takes you to area sites. Disney World, MGM, EPCOT & Animal Kingdom are 20 minutes away. Busch Gardens & Cape Canaveral are 60 minutes away.

Go ahead and **RESERVE** your rooms NOW. You can cancel up to 24 hours before arrival at no charge. The number to call is 407-351-3800, everyone at the front desk should be able to book for the group.





July 13th - July 16th

Sheraton Hotel • 21111 Haggerty Road • Novi, MI 48375 (248) 349-4000

FIRST CLASS SPEAKERS

Juan Miguel Artigas Azas Pam Chin Jeff Michels Chris Carpenter Ted Judy Larry Johnson Dale Ernst Dominic Cergnul

FUN THINGS TO DO

First Class Tours

Belle Isle Aquarium and Scripts Conservatory

Henry Ford Museum

Babes Auction

ACA Members-Only Raffle

Dry Goods Auction

Sunday Livestock Auction



For more information: ACAConvention2017.com



NEW ORLEANS 2017