Next NEC Event: NEC 4th Quarter BOG Meeting
November 19, 2019 @ 7:30 PM
Conference Call: (712) 451-1055 (916159#)

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
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<td>NEC 4th Quarter BOG Meeting (link)</td>
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*General NEC meetings are held at 7:00 PM and BOG meetings are held at 7:30 PM (unless otherwise noted)*

The NEC does not coordinate dates for club events, but does publish this monthly calendar for your convenience. Prior to selecting a date for your club’s next event, please check the NEC calendar for availability, and then notify me of the new date immediately at BRomeo1234@optonline.net or by phone @ 914-433-2556. The NEC advertises for NEC clubs and National/International Organizations in the NEC calendar.
Well the Aquatic Experience is over, hope those of you who went had a good time. Now it’s time to get busy on our upcoming anniversary workshop. We're still short handed owing to the retirement of several key personnel so please step up and help make this event one to remember. Speaker suggestions would also be welcome. In fact I'd like all delegates to present a speaker or two for the event.

Russ

Convention List

In the hopes of bringing new individuals (and ideas) into the convention preparation, the Convention Chair has broken up a number of convention tasks and responsibilities into “individual jobs” which are very easily “doable” if one has a couple of hours a week /month to volunteer. They are as follows:

1. Preparing convention nametags
2. Preparing registration packets including meal and clothing tickets
3. Help edit the convention booklet with Gary Wong. Work with NEC member organizations to prepare their ads for the booklet.
4. Facilitate the printing and delivery of the convention booklet with the Printer
5. Purchase convention buttons and pens for registration envelopes
6. Facilitate the speaker biographies for the website and registration packet with the
speakers, gather speaker photos for the convention booklet and publicity. Facilitate all speaker airport pick-ups (as necessary), etc.
7. Help Registration Chair, Cheri Tenaglia, at the registration table before and during the convention.
8. Creating videos and flyers for social media advertising.
9. Create and organize Saturday banquet decorations
10. Create bulletin boards – meeting schedule, banquet table seating, etc.
11. Help coordinate videotaping of speaker programs
12. Help creating DVDs of speaker programs for lending library

Every little bit helps! Please contact Leslie if you are interesting or have questions about any of the above “jobs” ASAP at mailto:neconventionchair@gmail.com. Thank you

**NEC Slide and Videos**

All video and slide presentations are available to any NEC club to use as their monthly meeting program. Any other use should be discussed with the NEC slide and video chairman prior to the request. Please make requests as far in advance as possible to allow for scheduling and regular mail delivery.

The NEC will pay for standard postage to the requesting NEC club. Any NEC club requesting expedited delivery will need to pay for that postage. The NEC club requesting the program is responsible for postage back. Failure to return the program will result in a $50 replacement charge. Please return programs within 14 days after the scheduled meeting.

Requests should be made to: David Banks, 315 US RT 2, Grand Isle, VT 05458, Email: dbanks@together.net or 802-372-8716

Last published library listing: January 15, 2018 NEC Newsletter and on the NEC website: http://northeastcouncil.org/basic-page/nec-lending-library

**NEC Articles Competition Winner Entry Reprint**

**2016 Open Class Article – 2nd Place Winner “Joe’s New Fish Room” by Joseph Graffagnino**

Our next reprint won 2nd place in the Open category in 2016 by Joseph Graffagnino. It was published within Brooklyn Aquarium Society ’s March-April 2016 publication *Aquatica.*
Joe's New Fish Room

My wife decided that it was time to move from our empty nest to a smaller home. We wanted to remain in the neighborhood to stay close to family and friends. I sort of agreed to move, with the assumption that it would take her years to find a place we both would like. However, after too short a time she found a nice, one family directly around the corner from us.

She came home all excited and said, “Ok, pack your stuff.”

I gave her a questionable look and replied, “Hold on, before we go anywhere, I need to extract three things from this new home. I want a garage, a pond in the back yard and last I want a fish room.” Surprisingly, she agreed!

I must admit the new place was very nice and comfortable. The garage could easily fit my car and it had a remote door opener. Alongside the garage was a cemented area that was approximately 12 feet in length and 8 feet wide. Around this area was a 2-3 foot dirt area with a brick and stone enclosure for plants and flowers. In the rear of the property was a dogwood tree. A perfect spot for a pond, but that would be the subject for another article.

The fish room? Where would it go and how large could it be? Obviously the basement is the only location, but the wife said that it must be shared as a general room where the grandchildren can play and have a “pull out” couch for sleep over guests. I don’t like to share!

I discovered a crawl space for storage under the front room of the house, called a porch, that was 9 feet wide, 14 feet long and after excavation would be 6 feet 4 inches in height. I started looking into the cost of excavation. Not only would it be labor intensive, but I would need to hire an architect to develop blueprints and then submit the plans to the Department of Buildings for a permit. The permit may not be approved because the excavation could undermine the home’s foundation. I received approximate costs totaling $30,000.

Time for Plan B!

Between this storage area and the rest of the open area of the basement was a small section approximately 4 feet deep that had shelves for storing cans or supplies. The water pipe and electrical cabinet was also in this area. It had a partial wall in the center and sliding doors to the left. The wife wanted to remove the basement’s indoor/outdoor carpet and replace it with a tile floor. Friends gave me the idea to build a separate room for my fish tanks. I could use the same amount of space it would have taken in the storage area.

The Planning Stage

I had a basement area in my home around the corner, but it was an unfinished basement and it was shared with my in-laws. I had 36 aquariums spread out in different rooms. There was no plan and no organization to its layout. Wherever I could fit a tank, that was where it went. I had these rooms of fish tanks for over 35 years. The only upgrade I ever did to the fish room was when Python™ created...
its water changing system. Then I went from using buckets of water over 12-15 hours to complete water changes to less than 4 hours using the Python.™ The new fish room would be very different.

I had a basic idea of what I wanted the new fish room to look like. I created drawings of the room layout, what I wanted and what I needed. I visited friends’ fish rooms, saw internet photos and remembered various aquarium society presentations on fish rooms.

![The original basement space where I created my state-of-the-art fish room.](image1)

After the carpet was removed, I had the pipe for a floor drain installed. This was needed in the event a tank would break or overflow from water changes. When the concrete was poured, I verified that the room's floor would have a very slight tilt towards the drain in the center of the floor. The floor tiles installed were the same as in the rest of the basement, in the event I died and the wife wanted to repurpose the fish room to match the rest of the area.

The electric system for this room is GFCI outlets (NYC law requires them when electric outlets are close to water). I had 2 circuit breakers to divide the room, because in the event of a “tripped” circuit breaker, only half of the room would be out of electric power.

The wall separating the different sections of the basement was next. I used Durocrete™ boards on the base of the wall that would prevent water from spreading beyond the wall. On the family side of the wall went sheetrock and a new door (28” wide), with a lock to prevent entry into my inner sanctum.

![Plywood strips to hang PVC and insulation to prevent sound of water to go into rest of the basement.](image2)

Above that, green boards were installed to prevent moisture problems. I had insulation installed to prevent the sounds of water movement and pumps working so people on the family side of the wall would not be disturbed.

![GreenBoard with plywood behind it on upper part and Durocrete (concrete fibers) at the bottom.](image3)

**Next Was Lighting**

I decided to go with LED ceiling lights, since I didn’t want strip lights over every tank except for those with plants. Not only would this be more economical, but fish don’t need much light, however plants do.

I had two 2’ by 2’ ceiling LED lights and a 1’ by 2’ LED ceiling light on the opposite side of the heat pipe, 30 inches from the outer wall. The 3 panel LED lighting for this room cost $500.00.

![The LED lighting for the room.](image4)

In the area behind the inside wall, where the shelving was located, I had a single plastic sink installed. The use of a plastic sink is extremely important for cleaning aquarium equipment, water changes via buckets or Python system. I decided to have two wet/dry sumps for ease of
water maintenance. The major disadvantage to wet/dry sumps is that all the tanks on the system have to have the same water parameters.

I had an African cichlid rack and wet/dry installed as the first system. This consisted of four 20-gallon long tanks and two 5-gallon tanks, equally divided on two wooden, 2 x 4 racks, a total of 8 feet in length. The 20-gallon tanks are for breeding, while the 5-gallon tanks are for holding baby fish. The sump contained coral to make the water hard, ammonia pellets to prevent pH crashes and heaters (two 150 watt Ebo-jagers™) to maintain the water at 80°F, water hardness at 8 GH, and a pH of 7.6.

The second rack went against the longest wall of 11 feet. This would be for regular water parameter fish, such as South/Central American cichlids, barbs, rainbows, etc. This rack has a mixture of six 15-gallon tanks, one 20-long and one 5-gallon tank. The sump contained a large bag of charcoal, ammonia chips and two 200 watt heaters (Ebo-jagers™). I use MAG 1 pumps for both wet/dry systems.

The water temperature stays at 80°F, water hardness of 3-4 GH, and a pH range of 6.8 - 7.1.

I wanted to raise or attempt to breed. This was a two level rack, but I was also able to place tanks under the rack. On the top row of this rack were four 10-gallon tanks and a 15-gallon tank.

There was a space of approximately 1 foot so I decided to install a rack for three 5-gallon tanks and one 2 ½-gallon tank. I would use these tanks, which were not on a wet/dry system, as fry tanks or for breeding killifish, micro-fish species, tetras or shrimps.

On the opposite wall, in front of the sink area, I put a third rack. This was not on a wet/dry system because I wanted to have each tank’s parameter available for change depending on the species.

The middle section had one 40-gallon breeder and two 10-gallon tanks. Under the rack had one 50-gallon breeder and two 10-gallon tanks. These tanks contain South American cichlids, African cichlids, discus and different types of Corydoras catfish, along with gold barbs and various livebearers. The 15-gallon tank is used as a reservoir for reverse osmosis water required for soft, acidic water fish, such as discus and wild killifish and bettas.
metal stand that has a 65-gallon breeder on top and a 30-gallon tank on the bottom. To the right of that rack, there is a 10-gallon wide Metaframe™ tank that I use for rearing fry, on wooden stools.

To the left of the rack is a de-humidifier which keeps the enclosed room between 30-35 percent humidity.

The de-humidifier keeps the room at 30 to 35 percent humidity.

Above the de-humidifier is a window, where in the summer I have a fan to remove the warm air. Other than the discus tanks, I don’t use heaters in the tanks because the heat pipe for the radiator system keeps the room at a comfortable 80°F. I normally unplug the heaters in the sump because they are not needed except in the coldest of the winter months.

Always needing more tanks, I found places under the racks to install a few extra. Currently the fish room has 34 aquariums functioning.

This will provide an accurate temperature, either Celsius or Fahrenheit, instantly. Another item is the digital pH meter. I found that it was faster for me to use the pH solution and test tube method, due to the slow speed of water calibration on the digital monitor. I previously mentioned the reverse osmosis system.

On the back wall where you enter the room, I have a...
Another device is the ultraviolet sterilizer I have in the regular water wet/dry system. Another must-have tool is a large magnifying glass for obvious reasons, which becomes more important as you age. I have multiple size pipettes and turkey basters for water changes and feeding fry within small to tiny holding tanks. I also use multiple width clear plastic hoses for performing water changes in different size aquariums so the fry won't get sucked up into a large hose and flushed down the drain; smaller diameter hoses take less water from aquariums which may also be a concern. All the hoses are 5 – 6 feet in length because this would cover the length from the aquarium to a waste bucket. I also employ a label maker, flashlight, various fry food cultures such as vinegar eels, micro worms, and brine shrimp hatchery.

Ultraviolet sterilizer.

Duroplast plastic with corrugated middle. Great as an insulated cover and permits very little water evaporation.

I use Duroplast covers for tanks and wet/dry sumps to prevent water evaporation. Duroplast is available in Home Depot or Lowe’s in 2' W x 3' L sheets and can be cut with scissors.

My air system connections labeled.

In addition to the water filtration in the wet/dry system, for the majority of my aquariums I have an air system with corner filters in every tank and also air lines in the bio-balls of the sumps. In the event the water pump stops, the bacteria will continue to flourish because of a working air line in the sump.

The air system is split for different room areas.

The air pump I use is the Hagen “The Pump”™ which can operate up to 90 outlets. Hagen stopped making this pump in 1988. The only air pump maintenance is to clean the small coarse air filter and use silicone grease® every 6 months.

Gang valves to filter additional tanks.

I have found that this type of fish room system is functional, flexible and can handle any fish, plant or invertebrate species with minimal effort. The total cost to build the fish room, including that area of tile floor, was approximately $7,000.00. The time frame from start to completion was approximately 18 months.
My Brand New Fish Room
Up and Running.

*Silicone grease can be purchased at Lowe's; it's sold under the following brand names: Aqua EZ O-Ring Lubricant, 1oz sells for $3.64 a tube. You can find it in the hot tub & pool maintenance section. Other companies that also sell silicone grease are: Oatey Silicone Grease 1/2 oz sells for about $3.40, or Danco Silicone Grease sells for about $4.00.

Joe

Special thanks to the many people who helped me create my State-of-the-Art Fish Room: Bob Strazzulla, Jerry Lombardo, Steve Seigel, Jim Goleszeski, and Larry Jinks. Special appreciation and gratitude goes to Steve Matassa who engineered and built the racks, air and water systems.
Koi Organisation International

We can help!

Learn Online

www.KoiOrganisationInternational.org
Club Events

Next Meeting
October 18, 2019 @ 8 PM

Jeopardy and Special Raffle of Big Value Items!

This month's meeting will feature the return of Fish Jeopardy, with prizes of fish food and aquarium items for knowing your stuff, and a stuffed goody bag for the Grand Prize winner. We're also having a very special raffle of high-value equipment. Our special high-value items include light fixtures by Coralife and Aquasun, LED and fluorescent, 18-30 inches, valued from $60-$290, and a Supreme Air Fractionating Water Pump with a retail value of $114.

Tickets for this special raffle are $2 each and 3 for $5.

LIAS Meetings are held at SUNY Stony Brook's Maritime Science area. Room 120 in Endeavor Hall on the State University at Stony Brook Campus, Stony Brook, NY 11794.
If you would like to advertise your monthly meetings or special events, please forward the information to Barbara Romeo @ mailto:bromeo1234@optonline.net by the tenth of each month. Be sure to include all pertinent information (location, time, contact person or website for additional information) in your announcement.
Next Meeting
October 19, 2019 @ 1 PM

Mark Soberman presents

Keeping and Breeding Corydoras and Related Species

ACLC Meetings are held at Bird-in-Hand Fire Company, 313 Enterprise Drive, Bird in Hand, PA 17505
Next Meeting
Friday – 10/25/2019
7:30 PM

Peter Izzo
Presents

“Keeping Sub-Tropical Fish”

At Laura Sprain
Memorial Cornerstone Park
1 Fair Street,
Carmel, NY 10512

PLEASE PARK IN THE REAR OF THE
BUILDING & WALK AROUND TO THE FRONT
ENTRANCE

All Welcomed!
(1st meeting free for non-members)
Next Meeting
October 26, 2019 @ 11:30 AM

Peter George presents

“The Cichlids of NECA”

NECA Meetings are held at Dekoven House Community Center - 27 Washington St, Middletown, Connecticut 06457
NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

GIANT

TROPICAL FISH AUCTION

DAYS HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
185 ROUTE 18, TURNPIKE EXIT 9...EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 732-828-6900

SUNDAY ... OCTOBER 27, 2019

KEEP UP WITH REGISTERED FISH IN AUCTION ON FACEBOOK
RARE AND TANK BRED FISH
AUCTION STARTS AT 12 NOON
VIEWING 11:30 AM ... REGISTRATION 9:30 AM

njas.net for pre-registration
TROPICAL FISH CLUB OF BURLINGTON

Giant Auction
Fish, Plants, New and Used Equipment, Fish Foods, etc

Sunday Nov 3, 2019 12 noon

Holiday Inn
1068 Williston RD
S. Burlington

For more information
David & Janine 372-8716 dbanks@together.net
Ann Whitman 434-3294 awhitman@madriver.com
Brian Candib 864-0746 BCandib@comcast.net

www.tfcb.org
108 Years of Educating Aquarists

FRIDAY, NOV. 8 @ 7:30 PM
THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY
PRESENTS

Reef Chemistry
Made Easy
with Lou Ekus

AUCTION AFTER THE SPEAKER FEATURES:
Marine Fish, Aqua-cultured Corals,
Freshwater Fish, Plants & Dry Goods

At The New York Aquarium, Education Hall,
Surf Ave. & West 8th St., Bklyn, NY 11229

HELD THE 2ND FRIDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST
Free Parking • Free Refreshments
$5 Donation for Non-members. Good towards membership that night only.

For Information Visit BROOKLYNAQUARIUMSOCIETY.COM
Or Call BAS 24 hr. Calendar of events hotline (718) 837-4455

Car Directions: Belt Parkway to Ocean Parkway South (Exit 75). Take Ocean Parkway approx. 1/2 mile. The NY Aquarium will be on your left.
Subway Directions: Either the Q or F trains to West 8th St., NY Aquarium Station.
BOSTON AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION

November 10, 2019 at 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Sons of Italy Lodge
37 Washington Ave.
Natick, MA

Doors Open at: 11:00 AM for Registration
Bidding Starts at: Noon

Auction Splits: 70/30 70% Seller 30% BAS
All items: $3.00 Minimum Bid

Bidder Cards: $2.00 waived for sellers

Contact:
Steve Melchorri (508) 655-8356 or (softballnut15@hotmail.com)
Russell McAndrews (339) 235-2545 or (marksdonnam@hotmail.com)

Natick MBTA access 4 block walking distance.

Open to the Public – Free Admission!!!!!
South Jersey Guppy Group
Sunday 11/17/2019
12PM

Mike Soda

“IFGA”

Griggstown Fire House
1037 Canal Road
Griggstown, NJ 08540
2019 Club Meetings

Please note that all NEC clubs are listed on the NEC website’s homepage, and have a link to each of the local club’s websites if you need additional information for any of the club meeting

Oct 2019

Oct 16
Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island (TFSRI)
Greg Skomal
“Great White Sharks”
More info: http://tfsri.net/

Oct 17
Norwalk Aquarium Society (NAS)
Eric Bodrock
“Spawning Oddball Fish”
More info: https://norwalkas.org/

Oct 17
Tropical Fish Club of Burlington (TFCB)
Ann Whitman
“Terrariums”
More info: https://www.tfcb.org

Oct 18
Long Island Aquarium Society (LIAS)
“Fish Jeopardy”
More info: http://www.liasonline.org/

Oct 19
North Jersey Aquarium Society (NJAS)
Anton Lamboj
“West African Cichlid Husbandry/African Travelogue”
More info: http://www.njas.net
Oct 19
Aquarium Club of Lancaster County (ACLC)
Mark Soberman
“Keeping and Breeding Corydoras and Related Species”
More info: https://www.aclcpa.org/

Oct 21
Boston Aquarium Society (BAS)
Rich Wilson
“Central Mass Aquatics - The Aquarium Hobby from the Perspective of a Wholesaler”
More info: http://www.bostonaquariumsociety.org

Oct 25
Danbury Area Aquarium Society (DAAS)
Peter Izzo
“Keeping Sub-Tropical Fish”
More info: http://northeastcouncil.org/daas-home-page

Oct 26
New England Cichlid Association (NECA)
Peter George
“The Cichlids of NECA”
More info: https://www.facebook.com/events/739095463187001/

Nov 2019

Nov 6
Greater City Aquarium Society (GCAS)
Greg Steeves
“Creatures of the Comal”
More info: http://www.greatercity.org/
Nov 8
Brooklyn Aquarium Society (BASNY)
Lou Ekus
“Reef Chemistry Made Easy”

Nov 14
Tropical Fish Club of Burlington (TFCB)
Zenin Skomorowski
“Loaches”
More info: [https://www.tfcb.org](https://www.tfcb.org)

Nov 17
South Jersey Guppy Group (SJGG)
Mike Soda
“IFGA”
NEC MEMBER CLUBS:
Aquarium Club of Lancaster County   ACLC
Boston Aquarium Society     BAS
Brooklyn Aquarium Society     BASNY
Bucks County Aquarium Society   BCAS
Capital Cichlid Association   CCA
Central New York Aquarium Society    CNYAS
Cichlid Club of York            CCY
Connecticut Aquatic Plant Enthusiasts  CAPE
Connecticut Betta Club          CBC
Danbury Area Aquarium Society   DAAS
Diamond State Aquarium Society  DSAS
Greater City Aquarium Society   GCAS
Jersey Shore Aquarium Society   JSAS
Koi Organisation International K.O.I.
Long Island Aquarium Society    LIAS
Long Island Killifish Association LIKA
Metropolitan Area Killifish Association MAKA
Nassau County Aquarium Society  NCAS
New England Cichlid Association NECA
New England Fancy Guppy Association NEFGA
New Hampshire Aquarium Society  NHAS
Northeast Livebearers Association NELA
North Jersey Aquarium Society   NJAS
Norwalk Aquarium Society        NAS
Otter Valley Aquarium Society   OVAS
PA Guppy Club                   PAGC
Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society PVAS
Pioneer Valley Water Garden & Koi Club PVWG&K
Shore Line Aquarium Society    SLAS
Skylands Aquarium & Water Garden Group SAWGG
South Jersey Guppy Group        SJGG
Southern New England Killifish Association SNEKA
Tropical Fish Club of Burlington TFCB
Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island TFSRI
Upstate NY Killifish Association UNYKA
Worcester Aquarium Society      WAS

Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Romeo (DAAS)
Bromeo1234@optonline.net

Members At Large 2019-2021
Ted Coletti (NJAS)
Bryan Nelson (BAS)
Karen Pattist (K.O.I.)
Wayne Sinckler (BASNY)
Ann Whitman (TFCB)
Artie Platt (NAS)

Standing Committees:
Corporate Agent .......... Dan McKercher
Competitive Events (NEC Sponsored) .......... Open
Constitution and By-Laws .. Rich Pierce
Judging & Standards ...... Anne Broadmeyer
Legislation ............... Laura “Peach” Reid
Planning (Council Mtg. Prog.) Open
Programs (Slides & Videos) .. Dave Banks
Public Relations (Society Relations) .......... Open
Organization (Assist / New Groups) .......... Open
Raffles (Fund Raising) ...... Open
Shows ..................... Open
Workshop .................. Leslie Dick

Non-Standing Committees:
Advertising .................. Open
Articles Competition ...... David Hardenbrook
Auction ...................... Open
Betty Mueller ............... Janine Banks
Breeder Participation Program.Richard Pierce
JJW Memorial Conservation .. Ann Whitman
Donations .................... Barbara Romeo
Exhibitor Competition ...... Open
Historian .................... Dave Banks
Newsletter .................. Barbara Romeo
Nominating .................. Russ McAndrews
Photo Contest ............... Richard Pierce
Speakers .................... Open
Sunshine ..................... Donna McAndrews
Webmaster .................. Justin Tucke

NEC Board of Governors 2019-2021
President: Russ McAndrews (BAS)
marksdonnam@hotmail.com
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