www.northeastcouncil.org

Next NEC Meeting

Third Quarter, NEC BOG Meeting: August 10th @ NOON
(Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT)

2013 NEC CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>NJAS Collecting Trip #3 (flyer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>PVWG &amp; K 20th Annual Self Guided Pond Tour (flyer)</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PVWG &amp; K “O’Brien Nurserymen” Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>GCAS Silent Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3 Q NEC BOG Meeting (CP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>NEC Summer Auction (flyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>TFSRI Fall Show &amp; Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3 Q NEC General Meeting (CP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>NAS Annual Show &amp; Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>BASNY Giant Fall Auction (flyer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>NJAS 60th Anniversary Event (flyer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>NHAS Annual Auction (flyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>BAS Auction (flyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TFCB Annual Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ACLC Annual Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>4 Q NEC BOG Meeting (CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4 Q NEC General Meeting (CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January ‘14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>DAAS Annual Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>February ‘14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>PVAS Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>March ‘14</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-30</td>
<td>NEC Annual Convention</td>
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* (CP) – Crowne Plaza Hotel   (CC) – Conference Call

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.
President’s Message

Hello Everyone,

Now that the warm weather is here, if you're like me, it's getting hard to keep up with the tank maintenance. Finally got the pond to clear up so I can see the fish, thanks to a UV sterilizer... Most clubs will be on hiatus for the next couple of months. Please do not forget to check the NEC calendar, there are several clubs holding events and the NEC summer auction is in August.

A Reminder: Since the board voted to change the NEC fiscal year to align with the calendar year, club dues will not be due until January 1, 2014. Each club receives and additional 6 months on their membership this year.

I would like to remind everyone to please check the NEC calendar for club events.

Upcoming NEC / Sister club events for 2013:

June 22: NJAS Collecting Trip
July 13-14: PVWG & K Pond Tour
August 7: GCAS Silent Auction
August 11: NEC Summer Auction

Please make the time to get out and support the NEC and these sister clubs…

NEC meeting dates for 2013:

General:

3Q - Sep 15 (CP)
4Q - Dec 8 (CC)

BOG:

3Q - Aug 10 (CP)
4Q - Nov 17 (CC)

*(CP) – Crowne Plaza Hotel *(CC) – Conference Call

Note: the above dates may change if conflicts are encountered; meeting confirmation and information will be published in the newsletter President’s message.
The next **NEC General Meeting** will be held at the Crowne Plaza on Sunday September 15, 2013 at 12 noon. Please check in the entrance atrium or front desk for meeting room information. There will be an opportunity to order lunch in if you so chose.

The next **NEC Board Meeting** will be held at the Crowne Plaza on Saturday August 10, 2013 at 5 PM. Please check in the entrance atrium or front desk for meeting room information. There will be an opportunity to order dinner in if you so chose.

**Items to Remember:**

1. Send your club contact updates to Barbara Romeo at bromeo1234@optonline.net
2. Newsletter events to Barbara Romeo at bromeo1234@optonline.net
3. Website news & events to Kurt Johnston at kaj41354@comcast.net
4. Speaker list updates to Linda Giza at lindagiza@comcast.net
5. If your club is looking to schedule a conference room at the Crowne Plaza, please contact Leslie Dick at ldick@comcast.net

Please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions; it's best to contact me by email at president@northeastcouncil.org, you can also call me at 1-845-896-4793.

Joe Masi
NEC President
06/10/2013

**NEC Convention Update**

By Leslie Dick

The 2014 NEC Convention will be held from **March 28-30, 2014** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell CT. Mark your calendars and plan on attending!
On Saturday, May 25, 2013 Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) partially re-opened the New York Aquarium to the public after seven months of closure following the devastation from Hurricane Sandy.


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**NEC Slide and Video Programs**

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 club requesting the program is responsible for actual shipping charges in both directions. 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  
dbanks@together.net or 802-372-8716

To view the list of available programs online visit:  
A Lucky Catch: A Tiny New Fish, Haptoclinus Dropi, from the Southern Caribbean

June 5, 2013 — A new species of tiny blenniiform fish has been discovered in the biodiversity rich waters of the southern Caribbean. *Haptoclinus dropi* is only around 2cm in length with a beautiful color pattern that includes iridescence on the fins. The proposed common name of the species is four-fin blenny, due to the division of the dorsal fin into four sections, which is a distinguishing feature of the genus and unique among blenniiform fishes. The study was published in the open access journal *Zookeys*.

This beautiful new species was discovered as a lucky bycatch during targeted specimen catching at 157-167 m depth off Curacao as a part of the Smithsonian Institution's Deep Reef Observation Project (DROP). The new species, *Haptoclinus dropi*, gets its name from the project's abbreviation and is one of numerous new ray-finned fish species emerging from this project.

*This image above shows the beautiful color pattern of the new species Haptoclinus dropi. The iridescence on the fins shows up, luminescing against the black background.* (Credit: D. Ross Robertson and Carole C. Baldwin, CC-BY 3.0)

Full Article: [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130605130116.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130605130116.htm)
WANTED

FEMALE MANGARAHARA CICHLID

FOR VITAL CONSERVATION BREEDING
PROGRAMME TO SAVE A SPECIES

EXTINCT IN THE WILD, THERE ARE ONLY 3
KNOWN INDIVIDUALS REMAINING... ALL MALE

If you know or own any female
Mangarahara cichlids please email us at
fishappeal@zsl.org

ZSL
LONDON ZOO

Full Article: http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2013/05/13/fish-last-3-males/
Page 6 of 19
Summer Fish Tubs & Water Gardens: 
Breeding Tropical Fish 

Part III in our Continuing Series on Small Scale Ponds 

By Ted Coletti, NJAS 

In our third installment on summer tubbin’, we’ll ponder our favorite occupant of the water garden: the fish! After all, June is the time we stock our tubs (here in Zone 6) in hopes of striking gold and glory by September’s inaugural club meetings. But you still have time this summer to introduce a pair or two of mature fish and score some easy BAP points and personal satisfaction by Autumn. You just need to plan your system, then select a species.

Setup

In part I of this series we learned the basics of tubbing, the importance of vegetative filtration, and how to acclimate your fish. We also discussed avoiding skittish fish as these are potential “jumpers.” For breeding, they are other considerations.

Like with aquarium breeding, we must provide spawning sites. Your pond plants will do the job: Floating Water Hyacinth as a mop, Java Moss held down by a stone for the bottom, and
optionally, emersed pond plants whose roots provide additional sites for cover and driving females.

Some fish need softer, more acidic water to breed. If you set your tub up early, the constant rain we experienced through June should suffice. We collect rain water from our gutters for our gardens, and this is a cheap source of slightly acid, mineral-free water. I generally do not put more than half rain water in my tubs as a precaution against pH swings due to lowered carbonate hardness (KH).

With Livebearers, the opposite is usually the case. In their tubs I add a chunk of limestone, coral, or Holy Rock to keep the water calcium-hard after a downpour. Shrimps appreciate this too.

Now that we have our breeding tubs set up and filled, let’s talk fish...

**The Colony Tub Approach**

The easiest approach to breeding in a summer tub is to select (or experiment) with species that will co-exist with a BAPable spawn in the same tub. Called flock or colony breeding, it has been my experience that many fish that devour their fry in the home aquarium, or whose fry cannot survive in the same tank as their parents, do the contrary in a pond-like setting. Perhaps it is the copious amounts of infusoria and live foods provided by Mother Nature? Perhaps it is the thick mass of plant roots that permeate a summer tub? NJAS’ 2011 Breeder of the Year, Richard Wade, swears it is the Barry White music he plays in his backyard.

LIVEBEARERS come to mind right away as good colony breeding candidates. Problem is most of us already have BAP points with the common varieties. And *Xiphophorus* species tend to stay near the bottom of a tub or may jump out if they are swordtails. But Xiphos, being Central American, take the cold quite well, particularly the Northern Mountain varieties like *X. variatus*, *X. birchmani*, and *X. malinche*. These species can stay out through October here in Zone 6.

Goodeid livebearers are particularly well-suited to summer setups. Coming from the Mexican Highlands, they are used to colder nights, and seasonal fluctuations. Indeed, they breed better and live longer under these conditions. You can keep them out through October in Zone 6 with no problem. I kept *Skiffia multipunctata* out in a shaded 20 gallon tank right through...
November several years back. Nearly all Goodeids are Red Listed as “Critically Endangered”, so it behooves us to breed and distribute them. The most forgiving species are the nippy Red-Tailed Goodeids (*Xenotoca eiseni*), as well as the Butterfly Goodeid (*Ameca splendens*).

Mollies, including Blacks and Sailfins, seem to get more vigor in an outdoor setting. Old Fish Timers tell of raising them in kiddie pools under a tree with native water plants, feeding them grass shrimp, and bringing to Show in Fall (see Rick Bolger’s article in our “Best of the NJAS Reporter” available at our sales table). Most *Poecilias* should be netted out in September in Zone 6.

AIR-BREATHING BUBBLE-NESTERS (Labrynth Fish) are another good choice for colony breeding. They tolerate full sun tubs with their lower oxygen and high heat. Males can be quite territorial when building their nests, so I try for only 1 per tub. An exception is the lovely but tiny Sparkling/Pygmy Gourami (*Trichopsis pumila*). Their fry grow to adult size in just a few months.

The Common Paradise Fish (*Macropodus opercularis*) is particularly well-suited to tub life, and can be kept outside through Autumn. The more tropical 3-Spot/Blue/Opaline/Gold Gourami (*Trichopodus trichopterus*) is another choice. A large pair will spawn every couple of weeks in summer. Some breeders remove the parents if the tub is small. The related Dwarf Gourami (*Trichogaster lalius*) is possible IF you can find healthy males and females. The fry resemble tadpoles.

EGG-LAYERS like cichlids are also possible to breed in a colony setting if your tub is large enough to handle their greater oxygen needs. Hardy dwarf species like Jewel Cichlids (*Hemichromis sp.*) or the cold-tolerant *Archocentrus* species do best in stock tanks or shaded patio ponds, provided you include lots of caves for the females.

But other types of egg-layers are also colony breed-friendly. Harlequin Rasboras (*Trigonostigma heteromorpha*), a reportedly difficult species, is reportedly easier to breed outside by our own Vinny Babino. Include submerged plants like Crypts, Anubias, or Swordplants as spawning sites. Freshwater Shrimps thrive in tub ponds due to all the algaes. Diet provided by Nature!

EGG-SCATTERERS cause us the most fuss in our fishrooms; all the live food, tank prep, whiny complaints from the Nitzsche Brothers, etc. But working with them is a right of passage for the true fish breeder. This is where summer tubbin’ helps.
Insects, larvae, worms, daphnia, microorganisms, and varieties of algaeas become available without any effort on your part. Combined with your own feedings, these natural supplements (along with the high water temperatures) condition parents and grow fry quickly.

Egglayers that have colony bred for me and our fellow members include:

- Rosy Barbs (*Puntius conchonius*): larger pairs will eat more of their fry. Cold tolerant.
- Gold or Metallic Barbs (*Puntius semifasciolatus*): fry look like mini versions of their parents
- White Cloud Mountain Minnows (*Tanichthys albonubes*): very cold tolerant
- Odessa Barbs (*Puntius padamya*): fry are black and hard to see. Cold tolerant
- Neon Tetras (*Paracheirodon innesi*): Dean Majorino used a cold water trigger. Alesia Benedict had rain. Keep shaded if possible.
- Platinum / Mikro Barbs (*Horadandia atukoralii*): a new species that is very hardy.

**The Two-Tub Method**

Most egg scatterers will devour their spawn or newly-hatched fry if given the chance. For these situations you need multiple tubs. But even with colony-friendly fish, a multi-tub approach provides insurance that you will have enough fry for BAP points, and fruits for your labor (it’s a long winter of disappointment, folks). Two ways I do the Tubbin’ Two-Step:

**METHOD 1:** Separate the breeders by sex into two tubs. The female tub should have the thicker of the plantings. Condition for a week with live or frozen foods, then on a warm day, introduce the MALES into the FEMALE TUB. I like to do this on a Friday evening after sundown. Sunrise often triggers spawning. Remove all fish at dusk to the MALE TUB.

**METHOD 2:** Combine the breeders into one tub. Every few days, simply move the plants from one tub to the other. At its simplest, this involves just moving the floating Water Hyacinth. Additionally, you can put Java Moss in a small planting basket or slotted tray, and switch them as well. Do this all summer or as much as you can.
Easy, cold-tolerant egg scatterers for a first-time Two-Tub System include Flame Tetras (*Hyphessobrycon flammeus*), and all the various Danios. But truly, multiple tubs allow you to try any type of non-skittish, small species.

**Got Fry?**

However you do your summer tub, you’ll probably want to check if your breeding efforts are successful before it’s too late in the season for a Plan B. Aside from tearing up your tub with a net, member Richard Wade discovered that using a strong LED flashlight at night to check your tubs makes spotting fry easier. I use a few sea shells or light-colored pebbles at the bottom of my tubs to help me spot fry, since the black sides do a good job of hiding them. Some breeders remove the parents at this time to ensure a viable spawn if they are using just one tub.

Once I find fry, I supplement my flake feedings with a pinch of Hikari First Bites until they are large enough. There is plenty of infusoria in your tub so this is probably not necessary (again, insurance). You’ll be amazed how fast tub fry grow with little effort on your part!

I hope this installment gives you some ideas for your own summer breeding program. And please: let me know what fish have been successful for you over the years in tub breeding? Let’s share the knowledge and make for a good season!

**PHOTOS FROM FIRST TO LAST PAGE OF ARTICLE:** Pygmy/Sparkling Gourami (*Trichopsis pumila*) by Zikamoi via WikiCommons; Red-Tailed Goodeid (*Xenotoca eiseni*) via The Goodeid Working Group; Flame Tetra (*Hyphessobrycon flammeus*) via Wikimedia Commons; Author’s son checking his Dad’s two-tub method back in ’04 (Ted Coletti).

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**2013 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 meetings.

**June**

**June 15**
Aquarium Club of Lancaster County (ACLC)
Felicia McCaulley
“Seahorses for the Aquarium”
More info: [http://www.aclcpa.org](http://www.aclcpa.org)
June 17
Boston Aquarium Society (BAS)
Tony Terciera
“Killifish”
More info: http://www.bostonaquariumsociety.org/

June 20
North Jersey Aquarium Society (NJAS)
Joe Ferdenzi
“The History of the Hobby in America”
More info: http://www.njas.net

June 20
Norwalk Aquarium Society (NAS)
Pete Izzo, Artie Platt, Tom Sands, & Sal Silvestri
“Home Aquarium Tour of Four Club Members”
More info: http://www.norwalkas.org/

June 21
Long Island Aquarium Society (LIAS)
Charles Flagg
“The Breach at Old Inlet”
More info: http://www.liasonline.org/
All meetings begin @ 8 pm and the speaker presentation begins @ 8:30pm. Endeavour Hall, Room 120, part of the Marine and Atmospheric Sciences bldg, of SUNY Stony Brook. Entrance doors to this bldg are locked between 8:30 and 8:45 pm.

June 28
Danbury Area Aquarium Society (DAAS)
Amin Rubirosa
“Wild Bettas”
More info: mailto:daas@northeastcouncil.org
July

**July 3**
Greater City Aquarium Society (GCAS)
Joseph Ferdenzi
“Do-It-Yourself Aquarium Gadgets”

**July 8**
Jersey Shore Aquarium Society (JSAS)
Lenny Mackowiak
“Killies”

**July 11**
North Jersey Aquarium Society (NJAS)
Rachel O’Leary
“Freshwater Invertebrates: A Primer for the Devoted Hobbyist”
More info: [http://www.njas.net](http://www.njas.net)

**July 15**
Boston Aquarium Society (BAS)
“Buck-A-Bag & Summer Pizza Party”

August

**August 11**
Pioneer Valley Water Garden & Koi Club (PVWG & K)
Jacqueline Clark
“Perennials for Spring, Summer and Fall”

**August 18**
Northeast Livebearer Association (NELA)
Rit Forcier
“Goodeid Livebearers”
NJAS Collecting Trip # 3

NJAS has made several native fish sampling / collecting trips this year led by Ray Wetzel. All members of NEC clubs are welcome to join us for a fun day in the water!

Saturday, June 22 - Pine Barrens Batsto Lake & Mullica River

Some species we’ve seen on past trips:

- American eel
- Chain Pickerel
- Creek Chubsucker
- Largemouth Bass
- Pumpkinseed Sunfish
- Banded Sunfish
- Blackbanded Sunfish
- Bluespotted Sunfish
- Pirate Perch
- Mud Sunfish
- Golden Shiner
- Banded Killifish
- White Perch
- Yellow Perch
- Tesselated Darter
- Swamp Darter
- Tadpole Madtom
- Bullhead Catfish

For more information, please e-mail mailto:field-trips@njas.net

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ray Wetzel at mailto:Sevenspringss@wmconnect.com or Bob Hicks at mailto:rchicks@optonline.net

OCTOBER 10th THROUGH OCTOBER 13th, 2013

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Register here: http://www.njas.net/register60.html
The PVWG&K Club invites you to join them at your own pace on their 20th Annual "Self-Guided" Pond Tour. Tours will be from Saturday, July 13th through Sunday, July 14th from 8:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. rain or shine.

Note that some homes may have special visiting times. You will have to show a Member badge or Ticket to be allowed on any property along the Pond Tour.

Addresses are provided for use with your GPS. You may want to plan your own route using Google maps beforehand. Last year they visited 16 member and vendor ponds on the 2012 Tour and 13 Businesses also gave discounts to club members.

Join PVWG&KC Today!
For a limited time only....
You can buy your 2013 PVWG&K Club membership for $10.00.

- Get to see beautiful ponds
- Hear expert speakers
- Socialize
- Pot luck dinners
- Make new friends
- Get Pond questions answered
- Get a FREE Pond Tour Ticket for the whole family to enjoy!

If interested in joining...send check to PVWG&KC to:
Wendy Lafond
89 Washington Street
Chicopee, MA  01020

Please provide your name, address, phone and email address with check.

More Tour information:
Sandy Litwin: Phone: 413-534-4278 (E-Mail: slitwin4278@charter.net) or
Sydney Brodeur: Phone: 413-562-6031 (E-Mail: sydb46@hotmail.com)
Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies
Serving the Northeastern Portion of the United States

SUMMER AUCTION – 2013!

SUNDAY, August 11, 2013

OF FISH (All Species), AQUARIUM EQUIPMENT AND RELATED DRY GOODS,

Location: THE CROWNE PLAZA
100 Berlin Road
Cromwell, CT
(860) 635-2000

Registration: Register at the auction, 50/50 split, 10 or more lots 60/40 split, 1 red dot per vendor, add’l red dot/10 *lots, please label your bags (see auction rules)

* Acceptable lots will be determined by the auction committee

Vendors Tables

Food & Refreshments will be available

AUCTION HOURS:

REGISTRATION........................................8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

VIEWING OF GOODS..............................9:30 AM TO 10:45 AM

AUCTION..................................................11:00 AM TO 5 PM

RAFFLE.................................................................50 / 50

NEC INVITES YOU TO ATTEND!!!
DIRECTIONS TO THE CROWNE PLAZA:

WESTBOUND & EASTBOUND

I91: Exit 21 off I-91 South of Hartford. Turn left off exit.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

Joe Masi...............................(845) 896-4793 president@northeastcouncil.org

Dave Giza.............................(413) 301-3465 davegiza@comcast.net

Leslie Dick............................(203) 748-7800 ldick@comcast.net

Web:  www.convention.northeastcouncil.org  Email:  president@northeastcouncil.org

If you would like to advertise your monthly meetings or special events, please forward the information to Barbara Romeo 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.
NEC MEMBER CLUBS:
Aquarium Club of Lancaster County  ACLC
Boston Aquarium Society  BAS
Boston Guppy Club  BGC
Brooklyn Aquarium Society  BASNY
Connecticut Aquatic Plant Enthusiasts  CAPE
Central New York Aquarium Society  CNYAS
Connecticut Betta Club  CBC
Danbury Area Aquarium Society  DAAS
Greater City Aquarium Society  GCAS
Greater Hartford Aquarium Society  GHAS
Jersey Shore Aquarium Society  JSAS
Long Island Aquarium Society  LIAS
Metropolitan Area Killifish Assoc.  MAKA
Nassau County Aquarium Society  NCAS
New England Cichlid Association  NECA
New Hampshire Aquarium Society  NHAS
Northeast Livebearers Association  NELA
North Jersey Aquarium Society  NJAS
Norwalk Aquarium Society  NAS
Otter Valley Aquarium Society  OVAS
Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society  PVAS
Pioneer Valley Water Garden & Koi  PVWG&K
Southern New England Killifish Assoc.  SNEKA
Tropical Fish Club of Burlington  TFCB
Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island  TFSRI
Upstate NY Killifish Association  UNYKA
Worcester Aquarium Society  WAS

NEC Board of Governors 2012-2014
President: Joe Masi (DAAS)
president@northeastcouncil.org

Vice President: Kurt Johnston (ACLC)
Kaj4135@comcast.net

Treasurer: Joe Dinho (DAAS)
ioedinho@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary: Fran Masi (DAAS)
Franc21alliance@optonline.net

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

Past President: Christine Policastro (NJAS)
cpolicastro1@verizon.net

Members At Large 2012-2014
Leslie Dick (DAAS)
Linda Giza (PVAS)
Dave Giza (PVAS)
Ben Belancik (NECA)
Nancy Villars (JSAS)
Bill Gill (BAS)

Standing Committees:
Corporate Agent  Dave Hardenbrook
Judging & Standards  Anne Broadmeyer
Legislation  Dave Giza
Planning (Council Mtg. Prog.)  Linda Giza
Programs (Slides & Videos)  Dave Banks
Raffles (Fund Raising)  Open
Workshop  Leslie Dick

Non-Standing Committees:
Advertising  Open
Articles Competition  Open
Auction  Joe Masi/Dave Giza
Betty Mueller  Joe Masi
Breeder Participation Program  Rich Pierce
JW Memorial Conservation  Dave Giza
Donations  Nancy Villars
Exhibitor Competition  Bill Gill
Historian  Dave Banks
Newsletter  Barbara Romeo
Nominating  Open
Photo Contest  Rich Pierce
Speakers  Linda Giza
Sunshine  Fran Masi
Webmaster  Kurt Johnston

Please bring an item or two from your clubs for our “mini” auction at our general meetings. The proceeds are used to offset the cost of the meeting, and your items can be auctioned either as a 100% donation or a 50/50 split with your club.
NEC Member Clubs
(click on individual logos to go to the respective website or contact info)