

OTTER VALLEY

AQUARIUM SOCIETY
WATERLINE
VOL. 6 • December 2012 • NO. 12

Our thanks to **Gary Lange** of Saint Louis, Missouri for traveling to the East coast to speak at our November meeting, and then going on to our sister clubs in Burlington and Montreal. We were treated to an excellent slide and video lecture that not only showed a fabulous collection of photos of a wide range of Rainbow Fishes, but also covered several of Gary's collecting trips to New Guinea.

As I have said before in this column, my favorite part of these "collecting from the wild" presentations is learning about the life styles and local traditions of other cultures that our speakers encounter in their quest to collect. At our November meeting we were witness to a combination of tropical jungle climates, a language barrier, and significant land travel challenges over primitive roads and bridges, together with a serious scarcity of fuel, and the threat of various jungle diseases.

The collecting group consisted of several "fish nuts" and an American missionary who has been working and living in New Guinea for many years. They hired local guides not only for finding their way in remote areas and translating, but also for the process of negotiating with the chief of each small village near the best fishing ponds and streams. These villages rely heavily on local food fishes and permission must be obtained from the elders to enter these waters. Gary reported that in many cases the negotiation process would take two hours or more to yield a one-hour fishing experience in a tiny stream or pond.

Since the actual fishing involves trekking through the jungles and wading into the streams or ponds (sometimes up to chest level) with hand nets, the group of foreign-

ers were quite a spectacle to the locals. Gary presented some great photos of curious children being enlisted to help chase the fishes into the nets with great enthusiasm. He also told of the health risks of jungle mosquitoes, water leaches, and land leaches. In fact he shared a short video of a land leach crawling toward him at a rapid pace, as well as photos of the numerous scars on his legs and feet. In spite of these hardships and challenges the group returned with a number of prize fishes, including some entirely new to the scientific world, and Gary swears that he can hardly wait to go back again.

Gary also treated us to some very professional photos and video of these beautiful fishes taken in his home fish room. His dedication to the study, collecting, breeding, and photographing of Rainbow fishes is evident both by his willingness to travel half way around the globe (a trip of 24 hours + one way) to find them in their natural environments but also by the fact that he maintains 90 tanks for the care and breeding of over 60 species!

Please join us in the New Year for more great presentations like this. And remember, your membership fee and your participation in our annual live auction event makes it possible to bring these speakers to our area from all over the country.

Our December meeting will be a sit down turkey dinner, all attending should bring a dish. It's hosted by **John Todaro** at his home in South Londonderry, VT.

See page 2 for more details.

Bob Hooker

President bjhookervt@gmail.com

THIRD ROW FROM THE BACK

This month we had **Gary Lange** as a guest speaker. Gary is an internationally known expert on Rainbow Fish. His presentation was of a collecting trip to New Guinea. As it so often seems to happen on most of these trips the speaker was unable to find just what they went looking for. Murphy's Law.

Gary brought an assortment of eggs to the meeting for the auction. As with Killie people, the exchange of eggs is the preferred method of transporting Rainbows. Gary gave a brief description along with photos of each species he brought.

He also supplied an excellent little care sheet and

sample of fry food with each vial of eggs. I liked the program because it cast a whole new light on Rainbows for me, so much so that I bought three vials of eggs. I would have liked a little more information or helpful tricks to raising of fry and eggs.

So far as of this writing I have had limited success with this endeavor. His care sheet was good, but as a novice to this aspect of fish keeping I just feel there could have been something else. I don't know what, but I am more determined now to get it right than I am just to experience it.

So till next time.

Brian Scott



OVAS HOLIDAY PARTY



This year the Holiday party for members and family members will be held at my home, John Todaro

The Holiday dinner will start at 3pm. Attending members should bring a favorite side dish or dessert.

The main dishes will be roast turkey with stuffing and all the trimmings. Fresh baked biscuits, mashed potatoes and other side dishes will be served along with the members' donated dishes.

For dessert, pies and other treats will be served along with any desserts that the members bring.

Please note that members who wish to attend should let me know by December 5th, that is one week in advance, so that he can plan on the number of people that will attend. Email me at:

JTODDYBAS@AOL.COM or call **802 824-3743**.

You will get the proper directions to his home at that time.

This is the time of year when we can sit back and enjoy each other company over a holiday feast.

So, bring a dish and an appetite and sit back and enjoy yourself with other fish loving people!

Hope to see you then.

Merry Christmas to all!

John



MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2012-2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 11 Bring a Dish Holiday Party
@ John Todaro's house

Happy New Year • 1213

- Jan 8 DVD TBA Monthly Auction
- Feb 12 Discussion Meeting or Field trip to Doug Conklin's
- Mar 12 Speaker TBA - Monthly Auction
- Apr 9 Field trip Joan Snider's Fishroom
Directions snider6959@gmail.com
- May 14 Annual Auction
- Jun DTBD* Summer Picnic @Echo Lake
- Jul DTBD* Shop Hop
- Aug DTBD* Local Collecting Trip

*Date To Be Determined



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LOCAL NEC SOCIETIES' EVENTS

PIONEER VALLEY AS Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St., Springfield, MA at 7:00pm. Free parking in lot. Public welcome. More info contact: **Dave & Linda Giza (413) 283-8680** or email: mike@berkshiredesign.com, or for directions go to pvas.net

NEW ENGLAND CICHLIDS Meets 1st Saturday of the month and start at 6:00 pm at the Lutz Children's Museum 247 S. Main St, Manchester, CT., 06040. For more info: necichlids.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE AS Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in room 110 at Somersworth High School, 11 Memorial Drive located just off of route 9 in Somersworth, NH. For info. NewHampshireAquariumSociety.com. Directions go to MapQuest.

TROPICAL FISH CLUB OF BURLINGTON Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at the VFW Hall, 73 pearl St., Essex Junction, VT. Free parking in the back. Contact **David Banks** for info 802-372-8716 or dbanks@together.net or www.tfc.org

BROOKLYN AS Meets 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30pm at NY Aquarium, Bklyn, NY. More info: BrooklynAquariumSociety.org

NORWALK AS Meets 3rd Thursday of the month at Earthplace, The Nature Discovery Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT. Open to public. More info: Norwalkas.org

GREATER HARTFORD AS Meets 4th Tuesday at the LUTZ Children's Museum located in Manchester, Connecticut. For Info & directions visit www.ghasct.org.

DANBURY AREA AS Meets 4th Friday of the month at Carmel Ambulance Corps Vink Dr., Carmel, NY. For more info: **Rich Litsky (845) 228-0372** or **Joe Masi (845) 896-4793** or daas@northeastcouncil.org.



PET SHOPS OFFERING OVAS MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

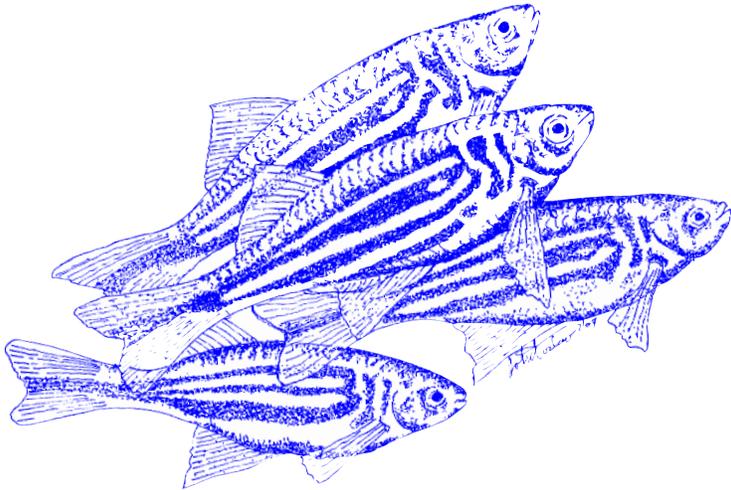
- **Aquatic Wildlife**, 179D Deming St., Manchester, CT, 06040, Ph: 860.648.1166 aquaticwildlifecompany.com -- 25% off dry goods, 30% discount off livestock.
- **Benson's Pet Center**, 12 Fine Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065 - 10% Discount.
- **Claremont Pet & Aquarium Center**, 201 Washington St., Claremont, NH. Ph: 603.543.1889 10% discount on dry goods only.
- **Eddie's Aquarium Centre**, 1254 Rte 9, Latham, NY. Ph: 518.783.3474 eddiesaqua.com - 10% discount.
- **Lebanon Pet & Aquarium Center**, 196 S. Main St., West Lebanon, NH. Ph: 603.298.8789 10% discount on dry goods only.

- **Something Fishy Aquarium Sales Inc.**, 219 Mohawk Ave., Scotia, NY 12302 Ph: 518.346.FISH -- 10% discount.
- **The Pet Advantage**, 350 Dorset St., S. Burlington, VT, 05403, Ph: 802 860-1714. 15% discount with your OVAS membership card. Hours: M-F 10am-9pm Sat 10am-8pm Sun 11am-5pm.
- **Whitehall Pet & Supply Inc.**, 9869 State Rte 4, Whitehall, NY 12887, Ph: 518.499.1990 10% discount with your OVAS membership card.



BEAUTY IN MOTION

The Giant Danio *Danio aequipinnatus*



Giant danios are an old favorite among aquarists, because of their peaceful nature and flashy colors. The species is a very active, colorful and easy to breed fish. As stated above, it's best kept in schools, the larger the better. They make a stunning sight as they speed through the water in amazing unison. They generally are not susceptible to diseases as long as you provide their basics needs: Clean water with regular water changes, plus good filtration and aeration. A thicket of bushy plants placed at one end or along the back of the aquarium

offers them a place to hide and to spawn in. Their tank ideally should range from 30 to 55 gallons and up.

To spawn, use a 20 gallon long tank densely planted with bushy plants such as *Limnophila aquatica*, which is a native plant to this species, or *Cabomba* species, *Egeria densa*, or *Myriophyllum aquaticum*. Covering the bottom of the tank with marbles, pebbles, or placing a plastic screen an inch or so above a bare bottom is also a good idea, because even though the giant danio lays adhesive eggs among plants they may also spawn in open areas and the eggs will fall to the bottom and could be eaten by the parents.

They're very active spawners and hundreds of eggs are often laid. Remove the parents when spawning is over. The fry hatch in one to two days and for the next three to four days, they'll absorb their yolk-sac.

When they become free swimming, feed with brine shrimp nauplii. They're easy to raise and when they're large enough, they can be added to your giant danio school and you can sit back and enjoy them!

ABOUT THE OTTER VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Otter Valley Aquarium Society is dedicated to educating those seeking knowledge in the breeding, raising and conservation of exotic tropical fish and aquatic plants in the home aquarium. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Maclure Library in Pittsford, VT, at 7:00pm. Featuring knowledgeable speakers, a Q & A session, plus a small tropical fish and plant auction. Meet friendly aquarists and learn more about how to care for your fish. Free refreshments.

Meetings open to the public. For information call, **Bob Hooker @ 802 483-6739**

MEMBERSHIP • Otter Valley Aquarium Society • MEMBERSHIP

YES, I would like to become a member. Here's my check for a one year membership. Please mail my membership card to the address bellow.

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Membership: Individual \$20 _____ Family \$25 _____ Student \$10 _____

Make check to; **Otter Valley Aquarium Society**
Mail to: **OVAS, Tom Conway, 90 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701**

