

# SomeThingsFishy

February 2017



## Club Announcements

## Upcoming Events

OCA Winter Auction Feb 11

TFCEC Spring auction Feb 26th

NEO-Fish Spring Auction March 19th

Youngstown Auction March 26th

Erie Spring Auction April 2nd

CNYAS Auction April 29th

Greater Pittsburg Spring Auction April 30th

American Livebearer Assoc May 4-7th

American Killie Fish Assoc May 26th -28th

Akron Show June 10-11th

ACA Detroit July 13-16th

Catfish-Cataclysm Sept 22-24

### NEXT MEETING

**Monthly General Meeting**  
Tuesday February 21, 2017

Chicken Coop, VFW Post 8113, 299  
Leydecker Road in West Seneca.  
@ 7:00

Bowl Show Categories:  
Livebearers/Pairs/AOV  
Mini-Auction, Raffle, Fishy-fishy, Officer  
Elections



## BUILDING A FISHROOM - "ARE YOU NUTS?!"

**Chris Hardy**

*When you tell your family and friends you want to build a fish room - "Are you nuts?!" is probably the most common response you will get.*

However, with the right motivation and reasoning you can typically get others (mainly your significant other) to go along with this crazy dream you have.

My reasons for building a fish room were:

1. More tank space for me
2. Condense the tanks all into 1 area
3. Reduce electric bill by having the waste heat from the basement be used for the room
4. Ease of maintenance
5. Offer to build more storage shelves for my wife outside the room - this was my bribe to get my wife on board

Planning the room is probably the longest, most difficult part of the whole process. You cannot do enough research or talk to enough people about what has(n't) worked in their rooms. I spoke to everyone I could and the responses I got were all different. This is because every room is built in a different house, different environment, with different tanks, etc etc. The number 1 thing that came up in every situation was moisture control, followed by insulation. Since this is something that can ruin your house you need to have plan A, plan B, all the way through plan Z. You will not know how much moisture you will have until all the tanks are running and you need to know ahead of time how you will deal with it if its too high. In my case i have a dedicated electrical outlet for a dehumidifier if needed. But with tight lids in my case I haven't had any issues.

Draw up your fish room, my favorite tool was excel - I would make every cell 1x1 or 2x2, then say each block was 1 or 2 inches. This allows me to move things around, adjust, and determine the best placement. Don't forget things like spacing between tanks or racks



Once you have layout done... its time to budget, and understand you WILL exceed your original budget. Here is the final breakdown of my room build:

Tools: \$150

Insulation/ Drywall/ Lumber: \$900

Tank Shelves: \$250

PVC: \$400

Electrical: \$300

Tanks / Airpump / Livestock: \$850 (bought another fish room)

Lids: \$300

Sure things can be done for cheaper, but you do not want to have to do any of this more than one time, so build it how you will want it when its all done - even if that means you don't have all the tanks originally planned. I am still short 1 rack until time and money becomes available to invest into it.

Go shopping!



And this is why it is nice to have friends in the hobby.

My insulation system on the exterior walls is a 1.5" thick pink board that is held in place by furring strips. Over this there is another 1" foam green board. The interior walls have a 2" foam board attached to them. I used washers to hold the foam in place rather than relying on just screws.

Then it was time for the exterior walls, this is where things really get interesting... unless you have a brand new house, things will not be perfectly square, so this is when being OCD is not good. You need to accept the phrase "its good enough". The important thing is once it is up, will it ever be a problem. If not then move on to the next phase of the project, don't obsess trying to get a wall 100% perfect - we spent 2 hours trying to straighten and square one of the walls just to find out the floor wasn't perfectly level and the wall was fine.

Once the structure was up, it was time to finish the insulation and drywall. If you build a room anything similar to this, be sure to consider access - If my furnace needs



**"And this is why it is nice to have friends in the hobby."**

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Frank Moreau
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**MEETINGS**

The Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Inc., meets the third Tuesday of the month at The Chicken Coop, VFW Post 8113, 299 Leydecker Road, West Seneca NY. Meetings start at 7:00PM. All are invited.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County is to bring hobbyists of tropical fish and aquatic plants together, those who are interested in breeding, raising, showing, or just plain looking at fish and aquatic plants. Also to aid members through lectures, films and slide presentations on different aspects of the tropical fish hobby.

**EXCHANGE POLICY**

The Tropical Fish Club of Erie County will send a copy of this newsletter to any club who sends us a copy of their publication.

**REPRINT POLICY**

Any article may be reprinted by another aquarium society, providing the source and author are given credit, and a copy of your publication is sent to us.



*"...first water.. I was jumping for joy..."*

replaced I do not want to end up removing a wall, so the door is wide enough to allow for complete access, I made sure I can get large tanks in/out of the room easily, and made sure I can access all aspects of the hot water tank.

Plumbing and electrical is when things start to get exciting! You start to see the light at the end of the tunnel - but again be sure to take your time. At this point I installed 2 individual breakers for the room, installed new lights for the room on its own individual switch and installed all of the new outlets on the ceiling. I then ran the 2" air supply around the room, and installed a tank drain system which flows out to my sump pump on the other side of the basement.

Once you get the first water in your new fish room, things get real all of a sudden. My wife though I was nuts, but I was jumping for joy

when I got these 2 stands in place with the breeder tanks all in.

The room is always changing when it comes to what is in each tank, but because of the amount of time I spent prior to building the layout and tanks have yet to need to be moved or changed in anyway

At this point water changes take around a hour on 22 tanks, and the electric bill is the same as it was prior to doubling the number of tanks I had. Efficiency is key! I plan to add the last rack over the summer and all of the 30g Breeders are beginning to be swapped over to fish/shrimp tanks. If you have any questions about the room or if you are in the process of designing your own room and want some input - feel free to shoot me an email at tritonaquatic@gmail.com



## Chairman's Message

- Randy Seufert

[tfcprez2@gmail.com](mailto:tfcprez2@gmail.com)

Thanks to all who helped present the program at Our January Meeting. Hopefully everyone learned what all it takes to run an auction. With one as large as ours we need many people to help, and when everyone pitches in, everyone can enjoy it more. So, on February 26th, I hope all members will lend a hand in some aspect in the operations that need to be done. Donations are beginning to arrive from manufactures. We will list all who donated to TFCEC. Make sure you read the rules for the auction, there are some changes this year. I always tell those bringing items, to try and limit how many you bring, the more there is of something, the prices are lower. If you bring 5 of something and 6 others bring 5 of the same there are now you have 35 of the same, and prices drop. On dry goods make sure they are clean, or they will be turned away, and we will only accept 5 of a like dry good item.

As we mentioned at the meeting we want to have a mentor, for all the committees and projects that the club has. If you would like to learn about any of the programs or activities that the club runs, talk to the Chairperson and ask to help. It is a great way to learn more of the workings of the club. This way if something unforeseen should happen to the person in charge, someone else has an idea of what is going on.

*cont. p4*



# It'll just be a minute

– Dawn M. Domagala

## TFCEC Board of Directors meeting 1/11/2017

Called to order 7:10 by newly elected president Randy Seufert. Attending: Tom Rizzo, Donna & Peter Reukauf, Chris Hardy, Mark Baumgard, Terri Seufert, Bill Wroblewski, Larry Gibbs, Ed Raihiem and Dawn Domagala

### New Business

- Randy broke down 2017 budget for club
- Decided the bowl show categories for the year, added more categories per month.
- Updated rules of Auction, increasing re-bagging penalty to \$2.00 a bag. New rules will be enforced at a check in table by Chris Hardy & Ed Rahaim.
- Kitchen donations of food are needed for February's auction. Chili, soup, tacos, cookies, cup cakes, doughnuts etc.
- Club would like to purchase two new computers
- Looking for new auction program, old program is Access 2000
- Club needs new adapter for projector will begin putting club library books on raffle table and at swap meet to liquidate inventory.
- New "request for reimbursement" form was handed out and anyone looking to be reimbursed by the club treasurer will need to fill out and attach receipts.
- January program
  - Randy will go over the clubs several committees. Looking to get more members involved and start mentoring new volunteers for each committee.
  - Auction-what each job entails. A three stage program going over each position and its duties during the auction. Volunteers are always needed in each area.
  - President Randy Seufert has formed a new committee for up-date the clubs bi-laws. Volunteers are needed to assist, Randy, Chris Hardy and Dawn Domagala. Any changes to the clubs bi-laws should be submitted in writing to club secretary Dawn Domagala.
- TFCEC is now on twitter @tfcec
- Summer picnic has been booked for July

30th at Sprague Brook Park (same shelter as last year)

## TFCEC general meeting 1/17/2017

Meeting called to order 7:35pm by President Randy Seufert.

- Treasurer's report was read and accepted.
- Membership: 2 renewals
- February Auction: read new amendments to rules. New rules will be enforced this auction. 3rd Swap meet is August 26th, 10am Randy Seufert is chair.
- Fall Auction is Saturday, November 11, 2017
- BAP: 7
- HAP: 2
- Ways & Means: Randy Seufert sent out 92 letters and 6 emails to manufactures asking for donations to the club.
- Bowl Show: 8 Entries. Larry Gibb is looking to mentor a few new judges for the bowl show, if interested, please see Larry.
- Josh needs articles for the newsletter! You receive points for writing articles and possibly an award at the banquet.
- Library: Bill W brought in four books and sold them all. He will continue to bring them in until the library is liquidated.
- Awards Banquet: April 19th, the club will celebrate it's 30th year!
- New Business: Mentor program, if interested in learning a new task, such as judging the bowl show, learning breeder program, horticulture program or auctioneer, please see the respective person.
- 8:10 pizza break
- Tonights Program: How an auction works.
- The membership was broken up into 3 groups. 1st station was chit writing & auctioneer. Donna, Randy & Peter broke down how each position works with each other. As always volunteers are needed for each position, even if it is for half an hour. 2nd station: running, registration and check out. Teri and Ed explained what is involved with each posi-

tion to get a better understanding on how this flow through the process. 3rd station: Kitchen. Mark & Tom explained set up, sales and serving during the auction. Please think of donating your time to help with sales, even if it is for a half and hour.

- Fishy/Fishy drawing
- Raffle by Bill W.
- Auction

Adjournment 9:15

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### Chairman's Message (cont.)

If you are making plans for your fish events, make sure you mark down Saturday August 26th, that will be our Swap Meet. This is where you rent a table and sell your own items, you set the prices and can agree on a price with a buyer. The event setup starts at 8am with the doors open from 10-2pm.

We also have set the date of November 11th for our Fall Auction, this is a Saturday. With the Bills games and schedule not coming out for some time, we are making the move to Saturday to avoid traffic problems.

The club library is being sold. If there are any books that the club owns that you might be interested in please contact Bill Wroblewski. There are many books that the club spent good money for, and we would like to see that they go to good homes.

Make sure you check out the calendar of events, there are many other club activities that are well worth attending. Many members from other clubs support our auctions and activities, so it is nice to reciprocate.

See you at the meeting

Randy

# Why Duckweed Deserves Respect by Frank Moreau

Duckweed is one of those floating plants that is largely demonized in aquaria due to its monstrous growth and ability to spread like wildfire. It is an oxygen-sucker that is almost impossible to remove from your tank entirely. It is largely compared to infectious diseases by many in aquaria, but is this a fair assessment?

No! Lemna Minor or "Common Duckweed" can be a very useful tool in an aquarium. This little plant absorbs metals, excess nutrients and can quickly remove phosphates and ammonia. Yes, it is wise to have air stones in your aquarium to increase oxygenation, but the Duckweed itself can act as a natural filter without the need for larger hydro bills and filter media replacements.

I have found that Duckweed is most beneficial in aquariums with sponge filters as other types of filters will turn your Duckweed aquarium into a greenish snow globe. Duckweed is not terribly hard

to remove, contrary to popular belief, I can easily remove 90% to 95% of Duckweed from my aquariums with simple skimming with a basic aquarium net. The only real concern with Duckweed is making sure you have good flow in the tank for oxygenation and that it does not block all of your light sources to plants beneath the aquarium surface if applicable.

Duckweed can be an annoying plant due to its aggressive growth, ability to cling to other plants and its conquering of the aquarium surface. However, the benefits of this plant include a balanced aquarium with little excess nutrients and is a specialty plant for those with low-tech planted aquariums.

-Frank Moreau  
frankmoreauonthetube@gmail.com

## Horticultural Award Program

January 2017 HAP

Bill & Liz Duzen - *Bucephalandra motleyana* - 15 pts



### 2017 TFCEC Officers

#### Board of Directors

|                |                 |              |                         |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| President      | Randy Seufert   | 716-649-9165 | tfcpres2@gmail.com      |
| Vice President | Bill Wroblewski | 716-398-3122 | wildbill41361@aol.com   |
| Treasurer      | Donna Reukauf   | 716-207-1250 | princess.donna@live.com |
| Secretary      | Dawn Domagala   | 716-860-6186 | dawnmd@gmail.com        |

|                      |               |              |                     |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>BOD 2018 Term</b> | Peter Reukauf | 716-649-3974 | petespoint@juno.com |
| <b>BOD 2018 Term</b> | Larry Gibbs   | 716-826-6755 |                     |
| <b>BOD 2018 Term</b> | Tom Rizzo     | 716-713-4279 | triz316@verizon.net |
| <b>BOD 2018 Term</b> | Tom Heisler   | 716-408-6540 | tfcectom@gmail.com  |

|                      |               |              |                         |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>BOD 2017 Term</b> | Teri Seufert  | 716-649-9165 | tkoala529@aol.com       |
| <b>BOD 2017 Term</b> | Mark Baumgart | 716-200-9869 | gardner@aol.com         |
| <b>BOD 2017 Term</b> | Chris Hardy   | 724-415-7852 | cphardy85@gmail.com     |
| <b>BOD 2017 Term</b> | Eddie Raihim  | 415-871-1313 | eddierahaim@hotmail.com |

### Committee for 2017

BAP: Tom Rizzo and Bill Wroblewski

HAP: Chuck Mule

WAP:

Auction: Randy Seufert

Swap Meet: Randy Seufert

Bowl Show: Larry Gibbs

Ways and Means; Randy Seufert  
and Bill Wroblewski

Publication: Josh Vito

Membership: Chris Hardy

Library: Bill Wroblewski

Awards Banquet: Larry Gibbs

Picnic: Teri Seufert

Holiday Party: Larry Gibbs and Mark Baumgart

Programs: Randy Seufert and Chris Hardy

Fishy/Fishy: Ed Osika

Raffle: Bill Wroblewski

# TFCEC Bowl Show Categories - 2017

| Month     | Categories                    |                           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| January   | Arts & Crafts                 | Photos                    | Any Other Variety |
| February  | Livebearers                   | Pairs                     | Any Other Variety |
| March     | Goldfish                      | Koi                       | Any Other Variety |
| April     | No Bowl Show - Awards Banquet |                           |                   |
| May       | Catfish                       | Suckermouth Catfish       | Any Other Variety |
| June      | Novelty Tank *                | TBD                       | Any Other Variety |
| July      | Characins                     | Aquatic Animal            | Any Other Variety |
| August    | No Bowl Show - Picnic         |                           |                   |
| September | New Wold Cichlid under 4"     | New Wold Cichlid over 4"  | Any Other Variety |
| October   | Old World Cichlid under 4"    | Old World Cichlid over 4" | Any Other Variety |
| November  | Anabantid                     | Loaches                   | Any Other Variety |
| December  | Red Fish                      | Green Fish                | Any Other Variety |

\* Novelty Tank to have a theme, include at least one fish or aquatic animal, max size 5 gallons



## Classifieds

### Bags for Sale

3x10x2mil \$5.00/100  
 5x15x2mil \$6.50/100  
 6x16x2mil \$6.75/100  
 6x24x2mil \$9.75/100  
 8x15x2mil \$8.50/100  
 10x20x2mil \$11.25/100  
 De-capsulated Brine Shrimp Eggs \$16.00 per pound  
 \*Pricing subject to change  
 See Bill Duzen at the meeting

**YOUR AD HERE:** any club member in good standing can submit text ads with optional attached photo to the following email [TFCECeditor@gmail.com](mailto:TFCECeditor@gmail.com)



Photos: Josh Vito

# January 2017 Bowl Show

### Fish of the Month - Arts & Crafts

1. Cross stich - Randy & Teri Seufert
2. Painting - Donna Ruekuf
3. Painting - Dawn Domagala

### Any Other Variety

1. Electric blue acara - Bill Wroblewski
2. CR Shrimp - Tyler Mackie
3. Angel Fish - Bob Fessler

### Fish of the Month - Photos

1. Photo - Bill Wroblewski
2. Photo - Donna Reukauf
3. Photo - Peter Reukauf

### People Choice

Electric blue acara - Bill Wroblewski

Have something you want to share? Write an article or snap a photo of your prized aquatic. I'll publish it in the monthly newsletter.

Email your article with separately attached images to

**TFCECeditor@gmail.com**



TFCEC  
c/o Randy Seufert  
5725 Herman Hill Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075

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## Tropical Fish Club of Erie County

### Regular Meeting Day for February Tuesday, February 21, 2017

The meeting will be held at the usual location, The Chicken Coop, VFW Post 8113, 299 Leydecker Road, West Seneca NY. Meetings start at 7PM.

Reminder to all members - All Membership dues were due in June! If you still need to pay your 2016 dues, they can be paid at the next meeting or you can send them via postal mail, c/o Randy & Teri Seufert to **5725 Herman Hill Road, Hamburg, NY 14075**.

Dues are as follows:  
Individual - \$12  
Family - \$18  
Junior - \$6

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# Thank you to our 2017 club sponsors!

