

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The May OVAS meeting was a time to hammer out the final details for the May 20th auction. There is a lot that goes into organizing a successful fundraising event and I want to take this opportunity to give a big shout out to **Lee & Brian Scott** for being the movers and shakers behind the annual OVAS Auction. You guys are Great!

The biggest challenge was the last minute change of venue but Lee & Brian were all over that problem like fry on newly hatched brine shrimp. We made the transition to the Trak In at Lake Bomoseen as if it were planned that way from the beginning. New signs and posters went up locally and out on the Internet and we had a great crowd in attendance. The bidding was fast and furious, the food was good, and there were plenty of rare fish, tanks, equipment, books, and great bargains to be had. The bowl show (people's choice awards) was a fun addition this year and we saw some awesome fish take first, second, and third place. And to top it off more than half of those attending went home with a door prize bag of great goodies donated by some of the leading vendors in the business through Lee & Brian's solicitation efforts.

A first glance at the total income shows that we are very close to our fundraising goal for the event and we will have a final count at the June meeting. Thanks to all who traveled to our neck of the woods from all over New England and New York to attend and to support our club.

This month we welcome **Ted Judy** as our speaker (see page two) so please join us on the 12th in Pittsford at 7:00 pm. After the June meeting we head into our summer break until September. The July and August meetings will be planning sessions for the OVAS board as we prepare for programs and events for the next 12 months.

**Bob Hooker**  
bjhookervt@gmail.com

## Kids Korner...

A few months ago a science teacher at a private middle school in New York City contacted me. He was planning an environmental club with a focus on a fish tank. But he had never kept fish and was looking for advice. We had a connection through a common friend so we started a conversation by e-mail.

We reviewed his choices for equipment, fish, plants, etc. and I was pleased that he was buying a 40-gallon tank. So many people assume that a 10-gallon tank is the easiest to maintain and it just isn't true. I advocated for him to buy local so he could see the fish, plants, equipment etc. and build a relationship with the "fish people"

in the store. Alas, it seems that life is different in the big city than here in small-town Vermont, and it just isn't feasible to do that with a school group.

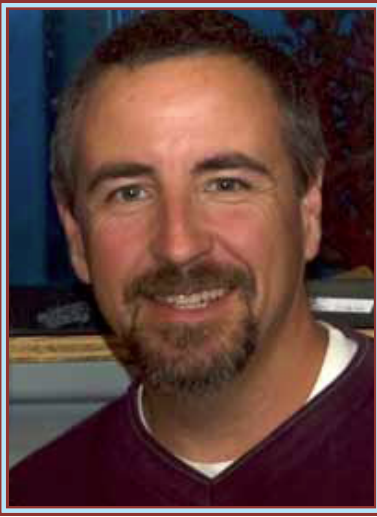
The student club has met several times, the tank is up and running, and they seem to have suffered minimal start-up losses. The club idea was so popular that they received over 100 applications for membership! The teacher has divided it into three sections during the year and they have set the tank up in the hall so that everyone has a chance to stay connected to the project.

Their original plan did include one common

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## ABOUT THIS MONTHS SPEAKER (TED R. JUDY)



**T**ed Judy is an addicted aquarist with over 25 years of fish keeping and breeding experience. He is a generalist who enjoys all types of fish from anabantids to tetras, but always finds plenty of room in his fish room for fish from West Africa (especially the dwarf cichlids).

Ted's club affiliations are the American Cichlid Association, the Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists and the Milwaukee

Aquarium Society. Ted is a former high school science teacher who is now a full-time stay-at-home father with a fish room. He is a prolific speaker, proficient writer and wants to be a better photographer. See more of Ted's hobby by visiting his video blog at [www.tedsfishroom.com](http://www.tedsfishroom.com). Repashy Superfoods and [OddBallFish.com](http://OddBallFish.com) are proud sponsors of Ted's activities in support of the aquarium hobby.

### THIS MONTHS EVENT:

#### Raising Fry From Egg to Adolescence

Getting the fish to spawn is only the tip of the iceberg for a fish breeder. This talk presents problems associated with raising fry and provides strategies to overcome them. The information is applicable to any type of freshwater fish, and covers feeding, housing, maintenance and other challenging fry-raising situations. This talk is about 1-hour long.

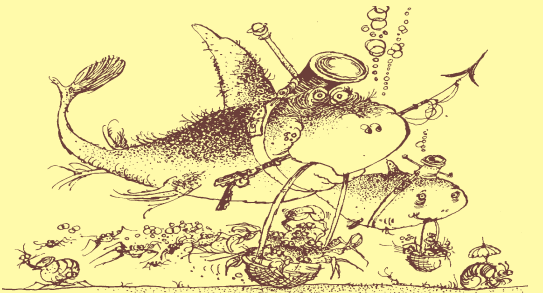
MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

# 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• Jun 12 Ted Judy TRaising Fry From Egg to Adolescence Monthly Auction

**No meetings in  
July & August**

- Sept 11 TBA Monthly Auction
- Oct 9 TBA Monthly Auction
- Nov 13 TBA Monthly Auction
- Dec 11 Holiday Party



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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. NewHampshire Aquarium-Society.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](http://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@north-eastcouncil.org](mailto:daas@north-eastcouncil.org).



## PET SHOPS OFFERING OVAS MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

• **Aquatic Wildlife**, 179D Deming St., Manchester, CT, 06040 Phi: 860.648.1166 [aquaticwildlifecompany.com](http://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](http://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 Phi: 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 present OVAS membership card.



error for new fish keepers. They had planned to introduce the entire collection of fish at one time. I explained about the problem of overloading the biological system in a new tank with that approach (more details about this if you Google "nitrogen cycle in a fish tank") so they rescheduled the delivery of the fish.

Every month the teacher will send questions from the students by e-mail and I'll share those here for other kids (and adults) who may have the same questions. My fellow OVAS members help with the answers.

**Q:** How many breeds of fish are there?

**A:** Wow, that's a tough one. The short answer is... lots! In scientific terms fish are divided into "family," "genus," and "species." I have to admit that I had to Google this one myself. It looks like scientists have identified about 24,600 species to date. Since each species has sub-groups, this multiplies out to be well over a million kinds of fish! And, there are still fish being discovered today. Scientists are searching the deepest parts of the world's oceans, as far down as five miles or more, looking for new fish. Check out this link to a video of some very strange fish found in very deep water

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BU7dD-4sbKM&feature=related>

**Q:** Why do some fish eat other fish?

**A:** Unfortunately this is the way of the natural world. Everyone needs to eat and most fish will eat pretty much anything that they can fit into their mouths if it moves and they can catch it. There are a few fish that prefer plants but by and large it is a fish-eat-fish world out there.

**Q:** Do snails lay eggs every nine months?

**A:** Snails can be very prolific in the home tank. Once a snail becomes an adult most types will lay eggs every few weeks. Some varieties lay their eggs in clumps of clear jelly on the leaves of plants in the tank and you can actually see the tiny snails developing. Others will actually crawl out of the water and lay their eggs in a mass of pink jelly above the waterline. The surface of the jelly dries out and when the baby snails are ready they break out and head for the water. This seems weird at first but rest assured, they know exactly what they are doing.

Thanks for the great questions kids! Let's talk again next month.

**Bob Hooker** (bjhookervt@gmail.com)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

