



Volume 11 #11, November 2025

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## THANK YOU ALAN DE ANGELO

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*Alan De Angelo has been bringing ACA Members the latest and greatest in club news for over a decade. I am hoping, as the new Editor, that I can do even half as good a job as he did. Please join me in saying a fond farewell to Alan as Editor of the ACA News. He is still a valued member of the ACA and I hope many of you will reach out to express your appreciation for his service to the club. Below is Alan's farewell to his readers.*

The party is over my friends! I have been writing the ACA News for almost 11 years now and as they say, all good things must come to an end. During this time, I have met and corresponded with many wonderful cichlid hobbyists throughout the world. Thank you for letting me into your personal aquaristic world. Time constraints and wide-ranging interests have led me to the conclusion that, while I have fulfilled my goal of bringing the ACA to you on an almost every month occasion, I must move on to other projects.

Megan McGuire will be taking over the reins of the ACA News and I hope that you will welcome her as warmly as you did me. Welcome, Megan, I wish you great success. Remember, it's about the fish, friends and fun with the emphasis on the great people that you will meet and the friendships you will make.

As Kevin Cronin of REO Speedwagon once said, "I believe it is time for me to fly!" And, so I shall. Take care everyone and may your flowerpots be full of new spawns and mouthfuls be abundant, always.

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## CONVENTION NEWS!

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*By Rusty Wessel*

We have some exciting news to share. Never before has the ACA ever had a major sponsor. Well, Prestige Aquatics has become a Platinum Sponsor for the Lexington Bluegrass Bash convention next June 25-28, 2026. Not only have they earned Gold Star status, but they have also helped ACA to defray many of our expenses involving the setup of the next convention.

Conventions are expensive and their help is especially appreciated. For the first time ever, attendees will be treated to coffee and doughnuts in the vendor room compliments of Prestige Aquatics. The quick breakfast will be available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings for paid registrants at the Prestige Aquatics Booth in the Paddock room at the Clarion Hotel. First come, first served.

As always, ZOO MED will be providing product, registration bags and lanyards. Finspiration Aquatics, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is sponsoring the convention shirt with graphic artist Chuck Davis's painting on the back depicting the three major groups involved. (American Cichlid Association, American Livebearer Association, and the International Betta Congress).

Needless to say, we owe great gratitude to these Sponsors because hosting a convention of this magnitude is not possible without their generous help.

So register today at the [ACA Convention website](#).

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## MEET THE NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

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*By Chuck Rambo, ACA Election Coordinator*

During the month of October, a request for nominations was sent out to the membership of the ACA. During that time, I received a total of five resumés from active ACA members. Since there were a total of five openings for the BOT

and we only received five resués, there was no need for an election and all five nominees will be placed on the ACA BOT starting next year. Here are your new BOT members for the 2026-2027 term:

### **GRACE BENES – CINCINNATI, OHIO**

Grace loves animals. She participates in her local 4H program, volunteers at the Cincinnati Zoo as a ZooTeen, and volunteers at the Newport Aquarium. She is the founder of the ACA's KICK Program (Kids in Cichlid Keeping) and is interested in preserving wild fish habitats and bettering the hobby.

Welcome, Grace.

### **LEW CARBONE – NORWALK, OHIO**

Lew is a long-time ACA and Ohio Cichlid Association member. He has served in many positions for the OCA and is looking forward to bringing his 30-plus years of cichlid club experience to the ACA BOT to try and make it a better organization.

Welcome, Lew!

### **ART PAROLA – APOLLO BEACH, FLORIDA**

Art has been an ACA member for over 10 years and would like to bring the ACA into the 21st century to attract new members while retaining existing members. He would like to increase the organization's impact on cichlid conservation, research, education, and market the ACA in those areas.

Welcome, Art!

### **JUAN MIGUEL ARTIGAS AZAS – MEXICO**

Juan is a lifelong cichlid fan. He has been a member of the ACA since 1981 and has provided the ACA and its members years of technical assistance and expertise with his invaluable website, Cichlid Room Companion. As a Trustee

he hopes to help the ACA remain true to its mission, benefit members, and promote cichlid knowledge and conservation worldwide.

Welcome, Juan!

### **RICH BIRELEY – SHINGLE SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

Rich will be serving his second consecutive term.

He has been a cichlid enthusiast for his entire life and has served in many positions for numerous organizations such as the Sacramento Aquarium Society, Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, and the ACA. Rich hopes to make the ACA better with increased communication with local clubs.

Welcome, Rich!

We would like to congratulate the incoming ACA BOT members and wish them the best.

That being said, I would like to thank our outgoing ACA BOT members that donated their time, efforts, and contributions to the ACA over the past four years:

- Chis Benes
- Chris Biggs
- Josh Cunningham
- Stephan M. Tanner

All the above names have served two consecutive terms and were not able to run again as per the ACA Bylaws.

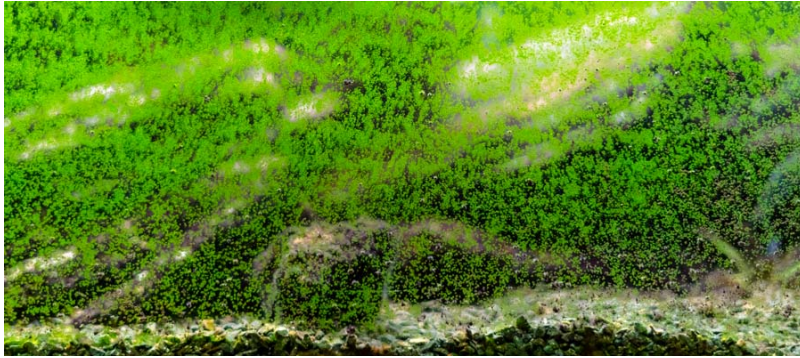
Thinking of running for the ACA?

Before you know it, elections will be here again. In the meantime, please try and support the ACA by writing an article for *BB*, serving on a committee, or attending the Convention. Thank you for being a member!

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# RUSTY'S TRICKS OF THE TRADE

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*By Rusty Wessel*

This is a new column, which will become a regular part of the newsletter in the months to come. Rusty Wessel has graciously agreed to share tidbits of his immense wealth of knowledge with the membership. Starting out with that bane of the aquarium hobbyist: algae. So, with no more ado - take it away, Rusty!

Are you tired of buying those expensive scrub pads or razor blades to remove algae from your glass tanks? Well, for many years I have been using steel wool, 0000 grade, super fine that can be bought at any local hardware store. It's inexpensive and works well. The pads easily remove the algae when wiped across the inside glass of your aquarium. It does not scratch the glass but be careful not to have any aquarium gravel or sand in between the glass and the pads because that can cause abrasion.

The only drawback is you can only use a pad one time because once they are wet, they quickly begin to rust. Under normal conditions one pad will clean 10-15 tanks with ease. Be careful when purchasing the steel wool and make sure it is super fine because the other, less dense, steel

wool will scratch glass. Try it on your next cleaning. You will be surprised and delighted.

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# MEMBER OF THE MONTH: MICHAEL COLEMAN

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This issue we are starting a new segment - Member of the Month. Thank you to Michael Coleman for volunteering to be the first member interviewed! How does one become the "Member of the Month," you ask? You can nominate yourself or others to be the subject of this section of the newsletter. Just email Megan McGuire at [megan1967@gmail.com](mailto:megan1967@gmail.com) and she will send you a list of questions to answer.

**MEGAN MCGUIRE:** What got you into fishkeeping?

**MICHAEL COLEMAN:** My mother kept goldfish, Black Moors, specifically.

**MM:** When did you get your first aquarium for which you were the primary person responsible?

**MC:** I was about 10 years old.

**MM:** What types of fish interested you when you first started? What kinds do you keep now?

**MC:** I kept tetras, first. Bright colors and limited tank space. Now, I keep, principally cichlids. No specific area. I have Central and South American, along with African and Madagascar.

**MM:** What is your favorite part of fishkeeping?

**MC:** Seeing a tank of healthy, adult fish, cruising a decorated tank with their fry.

**MM:** Do you have any stories to share - funny, cautionary or other?

**MC:** Be careful who you expose to your fish room. I've seen many people jump in, with both feet, only to quit, a year later. Or worse. I took Rusty Wessel, to a cichlid club meeting, 50 years ago. We all know how that ended. Yes, I really did, apologize to his wife Suzi.

**MM:** What advice would you give a person thinking of entering the hobby?

**MC:** Keep fish you like, not what's popular. Only keep what you can accommodate, as adults. Plan ahead and don't say you'll figure out where to put the fish when the time arrives. There's no such thing as extra tank space.

**MM:** Have you attended an ACA Convention? What year(s)? What was your favorite part?

**MC:** I have attended 20-25 ACA conventions, mostly since 2001; although, I did attend in 1977. The best part is the people. Same time next year, friends.

**MM:** Have you ever spoken to a group on a fishkeeping topic?

**MC:** Many years ago, I spoke to a high school biology class, on the topic of keeping tropical fish.

**MM:** Do you have a "bucket list" fish? What is it and why do you want to work with it?

**MC:** *Paretroplus nourissati*. I fell in love with this fish the first time I saw a tank of adults, at an ACA Convention. They are threatened in their home waters, so they need captive attention.

**MM:** What other types of fish do you keep in addition to cichlids?

**MC:** A few livebearers have found their way into my tanks - for example, wild swords and goodeids.

**MM:** What is your favorite cichlid?

**MC:** *Satanoperca leucosticta*.

**MM:** Do you keep other kinds of animals, other than fish? What kinds?

**MC:** Our house is operated for the benefit of two very spoiled cats.

**MM:** What do you enjoy about belonging to the ACA?

**MC:** Meeting other people with the same addiction.

**MM:** How did you get involved with the ACA? Describe your current activities. What are your future goals?

**MC:** I was introduced to the ACA through my first cichlid club in Louisville, KY. I helped assemble the early Trading Post pamphlets which were paper back in the 1970s.