



*Photo by Shealyn Sarns.
Justin Sarns and Ken Zeedyk
Collecting with June guest
speaker Lawrence Kent*



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017

ISSUE 77

GVAC ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC JULY 8, 2017

Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Tim & Kelly Boelema's Cottage
15564 Howard St.
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Park in the parking lot of the green roofed building across the street from the cottage. (17750 N. Fruitport Rd.)

- GVAC will be providing hot dogs, bratwursts and pop. BYOB.
- Please bring a dish to pass, either a side dish, salad, dessert or treats.
- Activities: GVAC's traditional bring a bag/get a bag fish swap & door prizes.

*Please contact Tim Boelema for more information.
Paid GVAC Members and families only.*

*In case of rain, picnic will happen inside of the building
(see above for address).*

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Cyndi Westra, ccyndiw@yahoo.com

Raffle Chair:

Eric Maxson, ericmaxon@hotmail.com

2017 CLUB BUDGET

Income

Auctions	\$5,370
Raffles	\$900
Swap Meet	\$840
Memberships	\$1,100
Monthly Auctions	\$1,200
Total Income	\$9,410

Expenses

Home School Building	\$3,600
Picnic Venue Rental	\$120
Summer Picnic	\$700
Christmas Party	\$900
Rare Fish	\$400
Speaker Fees	\$2,200
Insurance	\$436
State of Michigan	\$20
Website	\$120
Awards	\$600
P.O. Box	\$130
Newsletter	\$130
Misc.	\$54
Total Expenses	\$9,410

GVAC FELLOWS

The following is a list of Fellows of the Grand Valley Aquarium Club. These are members who have contributed to making GVAC a successful club. They have held many positions within the club and donated countless hours during those tasks that would not be completed without their hard work and dedication. New Fellows are nominated by current fellows and voted on by the general membership.

Tim Boelema
Finn Nielsen
Ken Zeedyk
Roger Miller

Ben VanDinther
Jeff Vander Berg
Patrick Miller
Mike Monje

Don't forget to thank them when you see them at meetings or other events.

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Reprint Policy:

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Shealyn Sarns, GVAC Editor
P.O. Box 325
Grandville, MI 49418-0325



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately, I must begin my president's corner with some sad news. As many of you know, Steve Hosteter passed away in late May. Steve was an active member in the club and was always working behind the scenes. His sense of humor and good nature always brought out the best in people. I will never forget all the times he and I talked fish, and all the fun we had harassing the "peanut gallery." Whether it was running the main table at the big auctions, or working on some project behind the scenes, Steve always put his best into everything, and his family came before anything else. He will be dearly missed by all.

I recently had the pleasure of joining Lawrence Kent in a collecting trip around our area. I was once again reminded how beautiful of a place we live in, and the wonderful life that occurs in it. If you have never had the chance to see some of our native fish, it's something I highly

encourage you to do. I will never forget the first time I saw a rainbow darter, and I still have a hard time believing that they are from Michigan! With summer in full swing, we all want to be outside, and collecting is a way to keep the hobby going while being outdoors in this wonderful place. If you are interested in giving it a try, feel free to ask me or another club member.

Our summer picnic is coming up on July 8th, 2017 at Tim Boelema's cottage on Spring Lake. If you haven't been to a picnic before I encourage you to come check it out. One of my favorite parts about this club is the camaraderie both in and out of the fish world. The picnic is a great chance to get to know your fellow club members, as well as talk fish. We will have our usual bring a fish, get a fish swap and there will be raffle prizes. I hope you are able to come!

Swimming Forward,

Justin Sarns

In Memory of Steve Hosteter



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

JULY:

5: **GVAC Board Meeting**
Tim Boelema's Cottage, 12 PM

GVAC Annual Summer Picnic
see pg. 1 for details

13-16: American Cichlid Association Convention
Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel
www.acaconvention2017.com

AUGUST:

12: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM - Homeschool Building
Speaker: Josh Cunningham,
How I became a Fishaholic

SEPTEMBER:

9: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM - Homeschool Building
John Krepper - Tanganyika Cichlids

17: **GVAC Board Meeting**
Water Colors, 2 PM

Michigan Cichlid Association Presents *Cruisin' for Cichlids*



ACA 2017

July 13th - July 16th
Sheraton Hotel
21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-4000
Novi, MI

First Class Tours
Belle Isle Aquarium and
Scripts Conservatory
Henry Ford Museum

Babes Auction
ACA Members-Only Raffle
Dry Goods Auction
Sunday Livestock Auction



Facebook:
ACA Convention

First Class Speakers:

Juan Miguel Artigas Azas
Pam Chin
Jeff Michels
Chris Carpenter

Ted Judy
Larry Johnson
Dale Ernst
Dominic Cerngul

For more information: ACAConvention2017.com



Photo by Shealyn Sarns
Ken Zeedyk collecting with June guest speaker Lawrence Kent

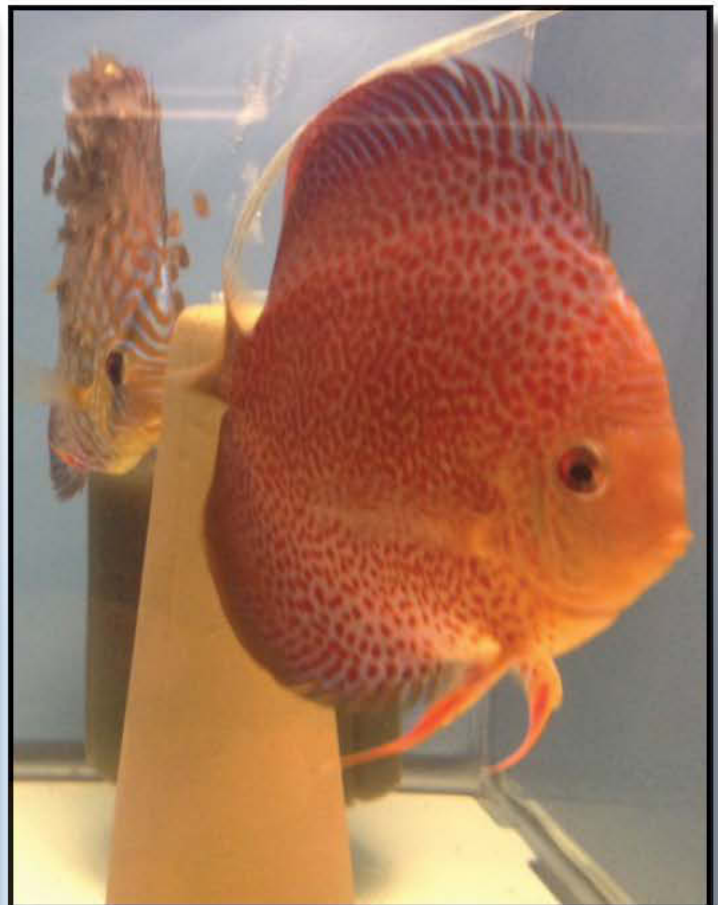


Photo by Joe Spaniolo
Super eruption x red turquoise with fry

JUNE COLLECTING TRIP WITH LAWRENCE KENT



HOW GVAC LEADS TO FRIENDSHIPS

By John Yost

Photo by Shealyn Sarns, the group collecting with Lawrence Kent

I got into the fish hobby not knowing much at all about aquariums or fish. My initial plan was to create one show tank, but the further I got involved with GVAC and learning about the breeder awareness program the faster this hobby exploded into an entire room full of tanks and fish.

Along the way I question GVAC members regarding tank and room set up options, health, and fish breeding. I have found that members have been willing to give advice and even stop by to lend a hand. I had a GVAC member stop over to help set up an air system that I had noticed in his fish room while trading fish one day. A few other members and I had worked together on building stands and setting up an automatic light system. The trading of knowledge and skills from member to member has made my experience in the hobby easier and more enjoyable.

Through these experiences and building of friendships have lead to many adventures in and outside of the hobby. I have attended other club auctions, checked out local and not so local fish stores with members. There have been random trips to Preuss to help friends pick up fish and other fish related accessories. Even random cookouts with GVAC friends and their families just to hang out. The camaraderie from this hobby and being a member of GVAC has brought me meaningful friendships.

The passing of knowledge along and making friends is what this club is all about to me.

VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

Submitted by Steve Berndt:

Juvenile Hueseri Likoma and other males

<https://youtu.be/tdedPTLvYhI>

Want to submit a photo? See the website for details and email your video to Shealyn to be included on the club's YouTube channel!

2017 BAP JANUARY - JUNE

John Yost – 19

Asolene spixi
Astatotilapia calliptera Blue
Aulonocara stuartgranti
Haplochromis sp. "Hippo Point Salmon"
Lamprologus ocellatus sp. Black
Neocaridina heteropoda
Neolamprologus olivaceus Trembwe
Paralabidochromis sauvagei
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Planorbis Rubrum
Poecilia wingei
Pseudotropheus saulosi
Pundamilia nyererei
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Skiffia multipunctata
Xiphophorus hellerii
Xiphophorus kallmani (Location: Catemald, Mexico)
Yssichromis sp. "blue tipped"

Justin Sarns – 8

Astatotilapia sp. *Calliptera* Blue
Astatotilapia burtoni
Aulonocara baenschii
Aulonocara sp. *Usisya* Type Tanzania
Copadichromis borleyi
Haplochromis sp. K.K. Beach
Placidochromis phenochilus 'Gissel'
Pseudotropheus gallanes

Chris Carpenter – 3

Pseudotropheus interruptus
Pseudotropheus livingstonii "Ikoma island"
Yssichromis sp. "blue tipped"

Rachel Roth – 3

Pseudotropheus interruptus
Pundamilia nyererei
Sciaenochromis fryeri

Joe Spaniolo – 3

Asolene spixi

Barbus fasciolatus
Neolamprologus brichardi

Kevin Hightower – 2

Limia vittata
Procambarus sp. Marmokrebs

Coty Major – 2

Peicilia wingei
Asolene spixi

Mike Monje – 2

Puntius titteya
Xiphophorus kallmanni

RJ Morris – 2

Pocelia reticulata
Xiphophorus helleri

Joe Gardner – 1

Goodea gracilis

Paul Johnson – 1

Neocardinia davidi var. *cherry*

Eric Maxson – 1

Australoheros sp. *Red Ceibal*

Patrick Miller – 1

Corydoras schwartzii black

Darrell Ullish – 1

Chromidotilapia kingsleyae

Ken Zeedyk – 1

Sewellia sp. SEW03

2017 BAP BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Participants: 15

Total Points Earned: 77

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT GVAC:

ADG/Aqua Design Amano USA
Amazonas Magazine
Aquarium Services
Aquatic Gardeners Association -
Karen Randall
Blue Fish Aquarium
Boyd Enterprises
CichlidBreeding.com
Cichlid Press
Dave's Rare Fish
Doctors Foster & Smith

Florida Aquatic Nurseries
Hagen
HBH Pet Products
Hikari USA
Kordon - Novalek
Marineland
OddballFish.com
Ocean Star International
OmegaSea
Penn Plax
Pet Supplies Plus

Preuss Pets
Python Products
Repashy Superfoods
San Francisco Bay Brand
Seachem Laboratories, Inc.
SpectraPure
Ted's Fishroom
Tetra
TFH - Tropical Fish Hobbyist
Watercolors Aquarium Gallery
Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.



LAKE SHELLS BY THE LAKE SHORE

By Chris Carpenter (Photos by the Author)

My fascination with Lake Tanganyika, and its cichlids started early on in my journey into the aquarium hobby. Many of the cichlids have one of a kind behaviors, and appearances. The lake itself holds many wonders. One of its distinct features is the unusual water chemistry, for a freshwater lake it has an extremely high pH, and high mineral content, leading to a unique phenomenon “the shell beds of Lake Tanganyika”. Snail shells wash into the shallows, where they’ve collected for thousands of years, creating piles of shells, miles long, and anywhere from 10-30 ft. deep. In any other lake, these shells would slowly dissolve, but in Lake Tanganyika they become harder, and encrusted with calcium.

A distinct feature of cichlids is their ability to adapt, many cichlids in Lake Tanganyika have adapted to call these shells “home” using them for shelter, and spawning sites. These fish are affectionately referred to as “shell dwellers” or “shellies” for short. Most often the shell of choice is that of *Neothauma Tanganyicense*, because it is the largest mollusk in the lake. To use a snail shell as shelter, obviously, the fish must be small, and most “shellies” are very small. In fact, ‘*Lamprologus*’ *multifasciatus*, and ‘*L.*’ *similis* are tied for the title of smallest cichlid in the world, with females averaging just over 1”. Don’t however mistake their diminutive size for a lack of strength or courage. In the National Geographic movie titled “Lake Tanganyika, Jewel of the Rift” a ‘*L.*’ *multifasciatus* can be seen biting the tail of a crocodile. I’ve had my hand attacked numerous times by various “shell dwellers”.

Many of the “shell dwellers” have found their own way to take advantage of these vast shell beds. ‘*Lamprologus*’ *brevis* for instance has found a way to reside in areas that have fewer shells, by male, and female sharing the same shell. *Telmatochromis temporalis* has developed two distinct morphs, varying in size by the availability of rocks, or shells. *Telmatochromis temporalis* males average 4”, females 3” while *T. temporalis* “shell” males reach approximately 3”, and females stay about 2”. ‘*Lamprologus*’ *callipterus* is quite possibly the most fascinating of all the “shellies”. In this species only the females are small enough to use the shells. Males can reach over 6” in length while females stay close to 2”. Males need to be large to protect their territory, but they also use their size to steal shells from other males, often with females still inside the shell. ‘*L.*’ *callipterus* holds the title



for “male larger sexual dimorphism not only among fish but across the entire animal kingdom”, Males typically weigh thirteen times more than females.

If you’re a stickler for a natural looking aquarium, trying to use décor that the fish would see in their natural habitat, then you’ll want to know where to find *Neothauma* shells, good luck! I found a dozen specimens a few years ago, but they’re so small my fish ignore them. The reason they are so hard to acquire, could be a couple reasons. One possible reason is that freshwater snails can carry “schistosomiasis” also known as “snail fever”, a parasitic worm that can infect humans. The other probable reason is that the filter feeding *Neothauma* snail is at risk due to sedimentation. Deforestation along the shorelines has caused substantial amounts of sand, and silt to accumulate. Thankfully, there are many other shell options to choose from, including, Escargot, and Turbo snail shells.

If you’ve ever thought of keeping any of the many species of “shell dwellers”, I greatly encourage you to take the leap. If your lucky enough to find *Neothauma tanganyicense* shells for them to reside in, just know I’m jealous. If you went to Lake Tanganyika to collect the shells yourself, know that I’m extremely envious, and wondering “why in the world you didn’t invite me!”



Sunset Brevis Pair

Eric Maxson – 36

Rotala sp. "mini Butterfly" (V)
Limnobium laevigatum (V)
Lemma minor (V)
Echinodorus barthii var 'Red Melon' (V)
Abubias barteri nana 'petite' (V)
Abubias barteri nana (V)
Pogostemon sp. 'Kimberley' (V)
Nymphoides sp. 'Taiwan' (V)
Limnophila sp 'Mini Vietnam' (V)
Vallisneria spiralis (V)
Ceratophyllum demersum (V)
Microsurum pteropus 'Windelov' (V)
Limnophila belem (V)
Sagittaria subulata (V)
Cryptocoryne wendtii sp. 'Bronze' (V)
Salvinia minunas (V)
Limnophila sp. 'Green' (V)
Cryptocoryne wendtii sp. 'Red' (V)
Hygrophila sp. 'Tiger' (V)
Ammania gracilis (V)
Myriophyllum pimhamum (V)
Ludwigia ovalis (V)
Marsilea quadrifolia (V)
Ludwigia reopens (V)
Parviflorus v. Tropical (V)
Echinodorus amazonicus (V)
Rotala rotundifolia (V)
Hemianthus micranthemoides (V)
Eleocharis Montevidensis (V)
Myriophyllum spicatum (V)
Vallisneria gigantea (V)
Alternanta reinechii carlinalis (V)
Ruellia Brittoniana chi-chi (F)
Dracena Sanderianc (V)
Crypt Pontederiisolia (V)
Ludwigia dark red (V)

Peter Goetner – 4

Bulbitis heteroclita (V)
Hydrocolyte tripartita sp. 'Japan' (V)
Piptospatha ridleyi (V)
Valisneria spiralis (V)

William Shobway – 3

Riccia fluitans (V)
Valisneria americana (V)
Naja guadalupensis (V)

Steve Hosteter – 1

Micranthemum umbrosum (V)

Justin Sarns – 1

Phyllanthus fluitans (V)

HOBBYISTS REVIEW OF SEACHEM TIDAL FILTER

By Mike Monje

Seachem partnered with Sicce and together they came up with the Tidal Hang-on-back filter. It's pretty rare for me to find a product that exceeds what I expect of it. This filter was introduced last year at the Chicago Aquatic Experience Show. If it were up to me the Tidal HOB filter would be the aquarium product of the year!

First we'll take a look at how this filter addresses the typical HOB filter problems or drawbacks. The motor is moved into the aquarium, eliminating the O-Ring leak that always plagued me with HOB's. In addition this allows the over-hang off the back of the aquarium to be reduced without sacrificing filter media space, reduces/eliminates motor noise, and allows the filter to be totally self-priming. (you don't need to add any water to the filter to start it).

The next problem they addressed was media, this filter comes with a large media basket that accepts any and all media, no more buying specific/expensive replacement cartridges made specifically for your filter. They added the feature that the basket snap fits onto lid when removed from the filter, (so you don't drip water all over as you carry it to the sink for cleaning).

The last big problem I had with most, (not all), HOB's is overflow onto the floor when the media was too clogged, (yes I admit sometimes maintenance gets away from me). The Tidal filters have an overflow by-pass into the tank, in addition this channel has a float that pops up for an additional indicator that the media is clogged.

So as far as existing problems addressed and fixed with typical HOB's:

- Profile off the back of tank (greatly reduced).
- Self-Priming, partial filling of filter box completely eliminated.
- Leaking motor / O-ring
- Noise
- Expensive media/cartridge replacement
- Clogged media overflow return into the tank, with indicator.

Now let's look at what they added to address other problems that we face in this hobby. As long as they fixing all the typical HOB problems they addressed a few more trouble spots. They added a surface skimmer and a telescoping uplift tube, the telescoping uplift tube allows you to adjust from midlevel to the bottom of the tank for pulling in water to the filter. There is adjustability between the surface skimmer and the uplift tube. For me the surface skimming added to this filter is a huge plus. The Tidal filter comes with a heater clip firmly attached to the filter. First of all no more suction cups letting loose from the glass, second this places the heater next to the filter to disperse the heated water more effectively around the tank. I mentioned it earlier but the tray accepting the media to eliminate dripping while headed to the sink is a big plus.

If you're in the market for new filter, I highly recommend the Tidal Filter by Seachem. I've been running this filter for a month now, and I realize that's not very long. However, it's performing very well, and I run Sicce pumps in my tanks and they've proven themselves over time. Because of the Sicce name (Sicce manufactures the pump), I have complete confidence in the durability of the Tidal filter.

MINIMIZING ELECTRICAL COST IN THE FISH ROOM: A PRIMER

By Justin Sarns

CALUCULATING COSTS

The aquarium hobby is a wonderful thing, but it comes with a few costs, including electricity. When you start with one tank, it doesn't always add up to much, but when you have multiple the costs add up fast. Unfortunately, there is no way to completely get rid of the cost but there are a few things that you can do to minimize the cost.

First off, some tank setups simply use more electricity than others. Saltwater is a prime example of this, between the powerheads, filters, pumps, heaters and lighting the cost can get quite high. My 55 gallon reef costs around \$15 a month in electricity. Planted tanks can also be more on the expensive side mostly due to lighting. Fish-only tanks can cost less as they do not need the intense lighting.

If you are curious about the costs of your tank there are a couple ways you can check your usage. The simplest is to buy a watt meter. You simply plug it into your wall and plug the tanks powerstrip into the meter. The meter will give you a readout of how many kilowatt hours (KWH) are used in a given amount of time. You can then use the following formula to determine your cost.

$$\text{Cost} = \text{usage from meter} / \text{time from meter} \times 24 \text{ hours} \times 30 \text{ days} = \text{usage} \\ \text{Usage} \times \text{Electrical cost} = \text{monthly cost}$$

An example would be:

$$7 \text{ KWH} / 20 \text{ hours} = .35 \text{ KWH} / \text{H} \times 24 \text{ hours} \times 30 \text{ days} = 252 \text{ KWH per month} \\ 252 \text{ KWH} \times \$.14 \text{ per KWH} = \$35.38 \text{ per month}$$

If you don't have a watt meter, you just have to do a little more math to figure out the cost. Most filters, pumps, etc. have a sticker with wattage info on it. You can take that and figure out how many KWH are used in a day. Multiply the wattage x the number of hours a day the device runs and divide that number by 1000 to give you KWH. Then you can follow the formula below.

$$\text{KWH} \times 30 \text{ days} \times \text{cost per KWH} = \text{overall cost.}$$

For example, a 60 watt pump that runs 24 hours a day would look like this:

$$60 \text{ watts} \times 24 \text{ hours} = 1440 \text{ watts per hour} / 1000 \text{ watts} = 1.44 \text{ KWH per} \\ \text{day} \times 30 \text{ days} = 43.2 \text{ KWH per month} \times \$.15 \text{ (my electrical cost)} = \$6.48 \\ \text{per month}$$

REDUCING COSTS

Now that you can figure out how much everything costs, here are a few ways that I have found to cut costs down in the fishroom.

- Filtration tends to be one of the least expensive parts of a fish room in terms of electricity. However, a large number of power filters can quickly add up. Instead, opt for sponge filters driven by airpumps, or ideally a large central pump. I have one pump that costs around \$5 a month to operate that runs all my sponge filters for the whole room.

- Heating individual aquariums sucks up energy. I heat my room with a duct from my furnace in the winter and a dehumidifier in the summer. Central heating the room is much more economical than individual heaters, although the latter can still be useful for

adjusting individual tanks to help with breeding.

- Lids on tanks will help minimize evaporation and keep temperatures more stable, thereby saving money one heating and dehumidifying.

- Use LED lights whenever possible. There are many different types out there that work for all types of things. I will cover this more in depth in my next article, but if you have questions in the meantime please let me know.

- Some tanks such as planted tanks and saltwater reefs need lights to be on for a set amount of time per day. However, fish-only tanks do not need to have the lights on all of the time. In my room the planted tank lights provide enough light for all of the tanks and I only turn on the rest of the lights when I am in there working or need to see fish better. I am not advocating for tanks to be dark, but they also don't need to be super bright when we are not viewing them.

- Use timers for lights; this will help avoid accidentally leaving them on for long times and can help to reduce costs.

Hopefully this article has helped improve your understanding of the cost of a fishroom. If you have any questions on specific things, or if I can help to clarify, please let me know. Happy Fishkeeping!



Photo by Shealyn Sarns
Justin Sarns' fish room during shop hop



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB
 P.O. Box 325
 Grandville, MI 49418
 Address correction required

GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month at 7 PM (See inside for detailed schedule).

MEETING LOCATION:

Home School Building Gym
 5625 Burlingame Ave SW
 Wyoming, MI 49509

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Store Discounts at Blue Fish Aquarium*

10% off livestock
Club Nights - Tuesdays & Wednesdays
 20% off livestock
 10% off bulk food and frozen food
 (does not include 5 lb boxes or live food)

Store Discounts at Watercolors Aquarium Gallery*

20% off livestock

**Must show GVAC membership card to receive discounts.*

GVAC APPAREL!

- T-shirts
- Jackets
- Hats
- Coolers
- ...and more!

Order forms available at club meetings, see Andrew and Heather Kalafut to order.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- The beginning of 2017 HAP and BAP
- BAP and HAP recap
- Spring Auction
- Roger's Sale
- and more!*

