

WET PET GAZETTE



May / June 2006

VOLUME 55 / ISSUE 1



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**Breeding Neolamp. Leleupi
in a Community Tank**

**NAS Fishy Wordseek &
Fishy Crossword**

**THE JOURNAL OF THE
NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 55 YEARS**

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Affiliations

N.A.S. is a member of The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Inc. (NEC)

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Norwalk Aquarium Society is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization, dedicated to the advancement and promotion of the aquarium hobby.

REPRINT POLICY

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GENERAL MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of each month (except July & December) at Earthplace, The Nature Discovery Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT. Each meeting includes a short business meeting, program or event, door prizes, raffle, auction, and refreshments. All regular meetings are open to the public to attend.



A VIEW FROM UP FRONT

By John Chapkovich

It is another Wet Pet, but...something is different?...oh yea...this is the first time I am writing as President!!!...Guess that means I have to be more politically correct in what I write.....Right!!! (snicker...snicker...). Since becoming President I have tried to delegate some of what I had gotten myself into over the past couple of years, and succeeded in getting my better half...Cathy to take over the Wet Pet as editor. There are a couple of new things that Cathy is doing in this next issue so check it out.

In order to do that I needed some help from the board to find someone to take the Membership Chair for Cathy. I am pleased to say that John Kroll has stepped up as a new board member and Membership chairman.....thanks John...I was running out of hands to help Cathy, edit the Wet Pet and keep the Website going!!!

A couple of events have come and gone since the last Wet Pet. The NEC had their workshop and Auction which was a success as always. The other event, which is a first for the newly form NELA organization North East Livebearers Assoc. was for them to host the 2006 ALA American Livebearers Assoc convention. Which for the first time ever was hosted on the east coast in New Jersey. There were hobbyists from all over the country as well as a large group from across the pond, jolly old England. The auction was huge with additions from the East Coast Guppy Association we did not get out of there till after 7pm.

It was a big gamble for a new club to take on such a large undertaking, but they came through with help from North Jersey to make it the largest and best convention ever. Congratulations to NELA and NJAS for a great job!!!

We had a great April Meeting with Sallie Boggs talking on Loaches and Synodontis catfish. Hopefully we will have her back in the future. May's speaker will be Mark Soberman on Cory cats. Keep up the good work Sal we need a steady stream of good speakers to keep the membership happy.

Now for the politically correct stuff. The fate of the October show is still not certain. We still need volunteers for setting up. The board is split on whether to proceed or cancel. I am willing to try one more time. One poor showing is expected, but two years in a row would be a disaster.....so please sign up as a volunteer. It would be a shame to have to cancel it, since we are one of only a couple of clubs still putting on a show.

I would like to thank Eastern Aquatics for a very generous donation of 8 - 4oz portions of Black worms that were donated and will be auctioned off during our May meeting. They had a booth set up at the ALA convention. I mentioned the Norwalk club and when I got home there was a message to call and they made the offer.

Also I would like to let the membership know that there will be a trip to Atlantis Wholesalers at the end of June early July. Thanks to DAAS for setting up the trip.

John



Editorially Speaking By Cathy Chapkovich

Editorial Speaking, this is my first issue of putting the gazette together. First off, I would like to say that John Chapkovich did okay with the gazette. Unfortunately, not only was he the editor of the gazette, but he is also NAS's Web Master, and President. Not only was he trying to do all of this, but he is also trying to keep up with approximately 40 fish tanks, 2 large retrievers, 3 cats and of course me.

I would like to thank John Kroll for taking over the majority of the membership stuff and Barry Lynch for helping him. I will still be in the background helping both John and Barry out where necessary.

A little bit more on the serious side now. Our annual auction and show is right around the corner. The board of directors have decided to give the show one more try. If we don't have the people to help set up and tear down this year, this will be our last show. I for one would really hate to see this happen. I found the first year that my husband and I joined, that helping out with the show was one of the best times we have with the club. Not only do you get to see what happens behind the scenes (which is a lot of work), but you also get to know some of the other members better and have a lot of fun. You don't need to be able to lift 50lbs or more, you just need to be able to help and support each other.

A lot of people think that because they may have an injury of some kind that they can not help. This is not true. There are always little things that you can do. Even if it is just handing Don a tool while he is putting up the air-line – that is helping. We start putting the show together on Wednesday night. A couple of times, because we had the people to help, it only took the 1 night to set it up. Sometimes it will take us till Friday evening to finish, but that's okay. We usually figure for that.

Friday evening is when people start bringing in the fish they want to show. This becomes interesting as you watch people setting up their prize fish. You know, the one that is defiantly going to take first prize.

Saturday morning we still have people setting up their show fish, and in the afternoon the judging begins. The judge's always need to have someone to help with the paper work, so members are encouraged to help out here also. The best part of Saturday is really the judges dinner. This usually takes place around 6pm after the judges have finished. The dinner is open to anyone who wishes to attend, with the only requirement of bringing a dish to the dinner. This can be anything from a home made favorite, to a box of cookies from the store. And again, this is a small area for which a little help in setting up and cleaning up goes a long way.

Sunday, brings our long weekend to an end. The winners are announced for the show (which is cash prizes), and our annual auction takes off.

So for anyone who would like to have a fun, tiring and satisfying weekend, this is it. We hope to see everyone there to help with the set up, tear down and the fun that happens in between.

***P.S. We are always open to suggestions on anything we do this weekend.

Thanks for listening,
Cathy Chapkovich



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUPPORT YOUR SISTER SOCIETIES

MAY

18- Mark Soberman- Coryadoras Catfish

21- Aqua-Land Aquatic Society, Inc — Presents Its
Spring Tropical Fish Auction
for more information go to: www.aqualandtropical.org

JUNE

24 & 25- International Fancy Guppy Association
2006 Mid-Year Show
sponsored by:
New England Fancy Guppy Association
for more information go to: www.ifga.org

JULY

No meeting



NAS HAPPENINGS

PROGRAMS:

SAL HAS GOTTEN TWO VERY GOOD SPEAKERS FOR APRIL AND MAY. ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Our new BAP chairman, Barry Lynch has finished revamping the entire program and has quickly brought it up to speed. He is now working on organizing our Wet Pet and fish article archive. Go Barry!!!!

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE OCTOBER SHOW SETUP. PLEASE SEE THE SIGNUP SHEETS AT THE MEETINGS.



An Unexpected Hybrid: X helleri/X xiphidium by Barry Lynch, NAS

Discussion - Definition: Most hobbyists think they know what the term “hybrid” means. I was pretty certain that hybrids are the offspring of parents of two different species. The research done in preparation for this article indicates the definition is a little broader. “Hybrid” is generally defined to be the “offspring produced by the breeding of genetically dissimilar parents of different species, varieties or races”. So, it’s not limited to crossing different species.

The definition also raises an interesting question. What about succeeding generations? Are the offspring of hybrids themselves hybrids? The parents of the second and succeeding generations are not really different species, varieties or races. Additionally, through selective breeding, the genetic dissimilarities between the parents should significantly diminish if not disappear.

There does not appear to be a simple answer to the question. One group of hobbyists seems to take the position that all following generations are hybrids because their lineage is not pure. A larger group removes the label “hybrid” from subsequent generations if, through selective breeding, the fish begin to resemble one of the initial species. For example, it is well known that many of the color variations of *Xiphophorus helleri*, *maculatus* and *variatus* prevalent in the hobby today are due to cross breeding the three species. Nevertheless, in fish shows throughout the country which prohibit the entry of hybrids, entries of these beautiful color variations are routinely accepted without question as true representatives of their respective species.

Discussion - Pro’s & Con’s: To many hobbyists, the term “hybrid” carries with it negative connotations. The primary reason, given the plight of many species in the wild, is the understandable desire to preserve species purity in captivity. A secondary reason is that the product of hybridization is often unattractive, if not grotesque. I can attest to this through personal experience. A few years ago, I thought to increase the size of my brightly colored Endler’s by crossing a male with a female guppy from my much larger red delta tail strain. I achieved the desired size; but, was left with males who possessed the Endler markings but none of the brilliant Endler coloration. A fellow hobbyist called them “trash”. I agreed.

On the other hand, there is no question the beautifully colored helleri swordtails and maculatus and variatus platys achieved through hybridization have served to increase interest and participation in the hobby. The same can be said for lyretail mollies developed through cross breeding latipinna and sphenops mollies. The controversial but popular parrot fish is another example of a hybrid highly embraced by many hobbyists.

It is a fact of life that hybrids are here to stay. We may as well make the best of it. Accordingly, although I strongly favor maintaining species purity, I do believe that carefully developed quality hybrids have a place in and can be a positive addition to the hobby.

Background: In March of last year, to free up an aquarium, I sold what I thought was my remaining population of *Xiphophorus xiphidium*, the “purple spike-tail platy”. I later discovered two fry hiding in the tank. Thinking they might develop into a breeding pair, I moved them to a tank containing twenty similarly sized *Xiphophorus helleri* fry (“saddleback albino swordtail”)



variety). I knew there was a risk of hybridization but had read the risk was small if the tank contained males and females of both species. In any event, I vowed to remove the platys long before sexual maturity was reached.

In May, I noticed the development of a gonodopium on one platy - the sure sign of a male. Although the sword-tails were still not showing any signs of sexuality, I decided to remove the two platys. Thereafter, I no longer concerned myself with the possibility of hybridization. About a month later, while preparing to do a water change in the swordtail tank, I observed some new-born fry. This was a surprise to me because the male sword-tails had just started to emerge. The bigger surprise was that the fry were not albinos. At first, I was at a loss as to how this could have occurred. I quickly realized that the tiny male platy I had removed the month before had impregnated one of the much larger female swordtails. Intrigued by the possibilities, I caught and moved twenty-one fry to their own tank.

Hybridization Potential: Although it is unlikely I am the first to have cross bred the helleri and xiphidium species, I am not aware of previous such hybridizations. This only served to increase the number of questions that came to mind. When the fry grew into adults, would they have the rounder platy-shaped body or the more elongated swordtail body? Would their size be rather small like the xiphidium platy or much larger like the sword-tail? Would the males possess respectable swords or tiny spike-tails? What colors would emerge? Perhaps some clues could be found through the lineage of the parents.

The Parents: As stated earlier, the mother was *Xiphophorus helleri* - the common swordtail of saddleback albino variety. The father was *Xiphophorus xiphidium* - the relatively rare (in the hobby) purple spike-tail platy. As it turns out, I am more familiar with the lineages of the two particular fish than would usually be the case.

(a) Saddleback Albino Swordtail: I acquired my initial stock of saddlebacks from a local pet store about four years ago. In addition to the red eyes that come with albinos, the saddleback has a soft golden white body highlighted by an orange dorsal fin and some orange in the surrounding area. The male is further accentuated by a long iridescent green swordtail. The swords of some of my males reached lengths over six inches - prompting some friends to suggest that montezuma swordtails may have been introduced into the line at some point in the past.

A year later, I decided to introduce a high dorsal fin to the saddlebacks. This was accomplished by crossing a "red tuxedo hi-fin" swordtail male with a saddleback female. This hybridization (the crossing of different color varieties) ultimately produced three viable lines, namely tri-color (gold, red and black) tuxedos, orange albinos and saddleback albinos. (In all three lines, none of the females but about 25% of the males possess high dorsal fins.) In the instant case, the saddleback mother comes from the latter line.

(b) Purple Spike-Tail Platy: I know considerably less about the lineage of the purple spike-tail male but can surmise a lot. The initial stock was acquired two years ago at a fish auction. The vendor was the renowned breeder, Larry Jinks. In light of his reputation, I am confident the line is pure xiphidium. The species is relatively small (males to 1 ½ inches and females to 2+ inches). In spite of its colorful name, I don't find the fish all that colorful. If you



stretch your imagination, you may see a slight purplish hue in the males. The females may possess a little yellow here and there. The spike-tail (unique among platys) possessed by the male is noticeable but quite small (several rays extending into a nub or small spike).

Raising The Fry: The fry were initially placed in a ten gallon tank. Within a month, they had outgrown that tank and were moved to a twenty gallon high tank. About two months later, they were moved into their present home, a thirty-seven gallon high tank. In all three tanks, the temperature and PH level were respectively maintained at 78 degrees and 7.0. The fry were fed freshly hatched brine shrimp and flake food. As they grew, their diet was gradually switched to alternate feedings (three times a day) of frozen blood worms, flake food and frozen brine shrimp. For variety, they were occasionally fed frozen daphnia, rotifers and cyclops. They also ravenously devoured algae wafers placed in the tank for their cory companions.

Young Adults: The fish proved to be free of defects and healthy. There has been only one casualty - the loser in a savage battle for male dominance. At ten months of age, while there may be a little more growing to do, they are mature adults.

(a) Body Shapes: The cross breeding produced two body shapes. Twelve possess the characteristically slender swordtail shape. But for their color, they would be easily mistaken for common swordtails. They are, however, relatively small (2+ inches) and the male swords are only about 1 ½ inches long. The body shape of the other fish is something in between platy and swordtail. All are at least three times the size of their xiphidium father - they're 3+ inches long and quite broad. An astute observer would note that their round body shape is slightly flattened (the swordtail influence). Three males possess the normal nub of a spike-tail. A fourth male possesses a spike-tail which is easily 1 ½ inches long and very wide.

(b) Coloration: Two basic color groups emerged. One group possesses a light brown to light orange body, a visible lateral line and a distinctive 1/3 inch wide black vertical band immediately preceding the tail fin. To my eye, this color group is rather bland. I was somewhat surprised that some hobbyists who have viewed the fish were quite enthused about its very different look. All but one of the swordtail shaped fish fall within this color group. The second color group possesses a background body color which ranges from tan to brilliant orange. Black speckling is distributed thoroughly and evenly throughout the body. The speckling glitters and almost seems to glow. The fins are orange/yellow with some highlighted by black rays. All the platy-like fish and one swordtail type fall within this color group.

Breeding Potential: My initial interest in these fish was simple curiosity regarding their ultimate appearance. I've enjoyed watching them mature and develop their distinctive appearance. They've been maintained as a group in the 37 gallon display tank. Only recently have I started to consider their breeding potential. I have commenced the culling process. My form of culling involves the sale of fish I do not wish to breed. To date, four breeding trios have been sold at auction. This leaves a population of three males and five females.

Selective Breeding Program - Objectives: Given their unique heritage, unusual body shape and coloration, there are a number of various strains I could try to reproduce and establish. I have decided on the following two.



(a) Albino Platys: Since each hybrid possesses an albino gene (passed on from the mother), a certain percentage (approximately 25%) of their offspring should be albinos. I have, in fact, observed several albino fry among the few fry which have escaped the predation of the adults in the display tank. As I already maintain two swordtail albino strains, the development of a platy albino strain makes more sense. I must also admit that I have not seen albino platys in a long time.

Quite frankly, I foresee no difficulties in developing an albino platy line. Clearly albinos will be produced. Some will undoubtedly be of platy-like shape. However, the first albino generation would probably still display some of their swordtail heritage and be jumbos. By selectively breeding the subsequent generations, recognizably platy albinos could probably be achieved. I suspect, however, that I will use a short cut to attain the desired end. This would involve the introduction of maculatus platys into the mix. By crossing non-albino maculatus platys with the albino hybrids, normal size and shape albino platys should ultimately be produced. The first generation would, of course, not be albinos; but, the albinos would reappear in the second and subsequent generations.

(b) Orange Speckled Swordtails: Among the remaining hybrids, there is one male who is swordtail in body shape and beautifully colored. His basic body color is bright orange. Prominent black speckling occurs consistently throughout the body. The dorsal fin is a yellowish orange. The swordtail is solid yellow on the top and solid black on the bottom. His appearance is striking. There are several females (albeit of platy-like shape) of similar coloration. My objective is to develop true swordtails possessing this spectacular coloration.

There are numerous obstacles to overcome. The male is small (2 inches) with a small swordtail (1 ½ inches). The female body is too rounded. I feel these matters can be dealt with through selective breeding. The far bigger problem is retention and enhancement of the coloration. Of the few fry observed in the display tank, some were albinos, some were of the tan body color with the black vertical band and a few were orange. None possessed the desired black speckling.

I fear the black speckling may only be reproducible through hybridization and may not be passed on to future generations. Time will tell.

Patience: As you have undoubtedly realized, achieving either or both of the objectives will take some time - by my estimation, at least two years. In the meantime, attendees of the NAS and sister society auctions can expect to see some interesting albinos and hopefully some brilliantly colored mini swordtails.



**THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
BAP REPORT
By: Barry Lynch, NAS**

A Review of the Year 2005:

Program Changes: Numerous changes to the BAP program were implemented in 2005. These included significant simplification of the BAP entry form, relaxation (but not elimination) of article writing requirements, addition of bonus points for the first submission of a particular species in the program, and the institution of an annual Breeder of the Year competition. Copies of the revised BAS Rules detailing these changes and other changes of a less substantial nature can be obtained from me.

New Participants: Two first time participants entered the program in 2005. Jennifer Broderick submitted three New World cichlid entries - *Cichlasoma amazonarum*, *Cichlasoma sajica* and *Parachromis motaguense* - and earned ten additional bonus points for being the first to submit *Parachromis motaguense*. Charlie Sundberg submitted two fifteen point entries - *Julidochromis dickfeldi* and *Julidochromis ornatus*.

Traditional Awards: A number of members earned BAP awards in 2005. Award winners were:

<u>Grandmaster Breeder:</u>	Emil Bella and Rich Grenfell
<u>Master Breeder:</u>	Rich Grenfell
<u>Senior Breeder:</u>	Barry Lynch
<u>Breeder:</u>	Carl Addicks, John Chapkovich, Barry Lynch Dick Moore, Steve Ng and Slawomir Konrad

Breeder of the Year Award: The first annual Breeder of the Year competition proved to be highly spirited and very competitive. I led for most of the year but was followed closely by John Chapkovich, Steve Ng and Anton Vukich. With a late rally at the November meeting, John earned the prize. John's impressive total of thirteen entries sets the standard and establishes a target for 2006. The final standings for 2005 are set out at the end of this report.

First Quarter - 2006:

The BAP program is flourishing in the first three months of 2006. Seven different participants have already submitted entries in this year's Breeder of the Year Competition - equaling the total number of participants for all of last year. With eight entries, I am clearly on a pace to exceed my last year's total of ten. Dick Moore, Steve Ng and Anton Vukich have each received ten bonus points for their respective entries of *Haplochromis* sp "Red Tail Blue Neon", *Aulonocara lwanda* and *Skiffia multipunctata*. The current standings for the 2006 competition are attached.

Also attached are the current point standings for all current NAS members. Sal's Scarlet Badis entry served to increase his record total to 2060 - a total which may never be surpassed (except by him). Anton's entries have brought him to 795 - just 5 points short of the 800 points reached



only four other times in BAP history. My flurry of activity in the first quarter moved me past the Broadmeyers and our two newest Grandmaster Breeders - Emil Bella and Rich Grenfell. (If I'm ever to earn the Grandmaster Breeder award, I will have to breed two 20-point species.)

John Chapkovich, Dick Moore and Steve Ng are engaged in a lively competition in the middle of the pack. All three have already earned the required number of points and need only to submit an article to earn the next level breeder award. Others approaching breeder awards include our two newest participants, Jennifer Broderick and Charlie Sundberg, each of whom needs only one more 10-point entry to earn the first level Breeder award.

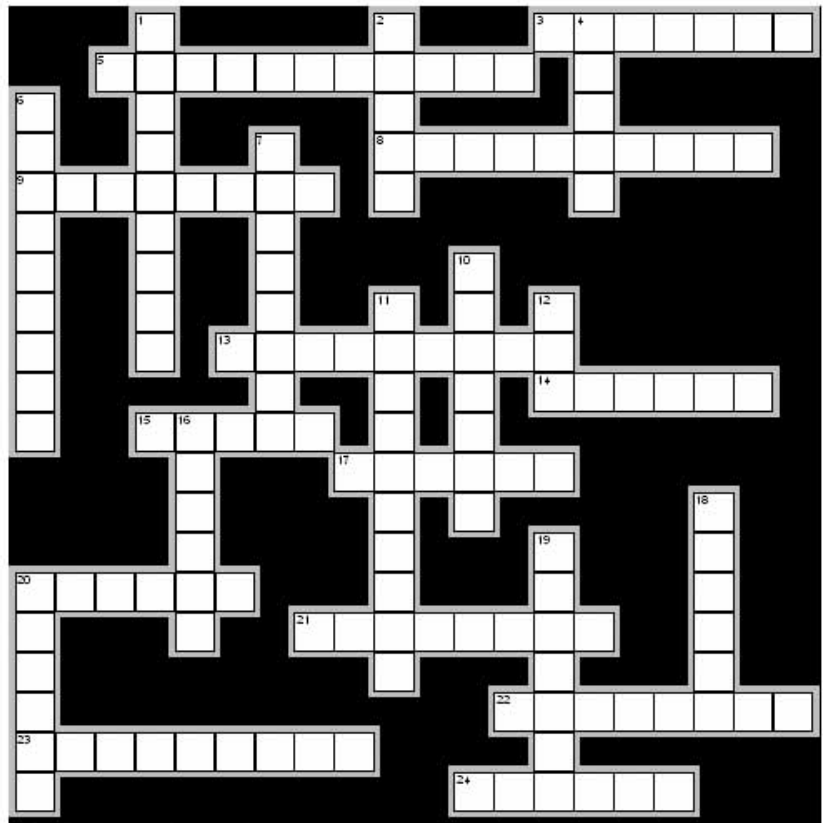
Fishy Crossword #1

Across

- 3. king tetra
- 5. mouth betta
- 8. circus fish
- 9. gold spot
- 13. not coccoo
- 14. red moori
- 15. bear cory
- 17. trumps fish
- 20. olympic platter
- 21. feather fin cat
- 22. coffee plant
- 23. under gravel
- 24. cave spawning cichlid

Down

- 1. halo fish
- 2. sucker
- 4. unsinkable brown
- 6. king arthurs monkey
- 7. cures plant
- 10. red tailed livebearer
- 11. small green weapon
- 12. german azure
- 16. green sword
- 18. least fish
- 19. pearl
- 20. jack





**NAS BAP PROGRAM
POINT STANDINGS - CURRENT NAS MEMBERS
Date: 3/17/06**

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Species Points</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Sal Silvestri	1545	515	2060
Bob McKeand	795	600	1395
Don Barbour	1020	170	1190
Anton Vukich	545	250	795
Ed Katuska	470	40	510
Barry Lynch	312.5	50	362.5
Emil Bella	220	85	305
Rich Grenfell	260	45	305
Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	275	25	300
John Chapkovich	205	10	215
Dick Moore	135	70	205
Steve Ng	135	20	155
Joe Siskay	115	40	155
Diane & Jack Adinolfi	120	20	140
Joe Masi	85	10	95
Jeff Polster	75		75
Ed Schildnecht	70		70
Doug De Ment	70		70
Carl Addicks	60		60
Jennifer Broderick	30	10	40
Charlie Sundberg	40		40
Ira Friedman	10	10	20
Denise Hofer	15		15



**NAS BAP PROGRAM
BREEDER OF THE YEAR 2005 - FINAL STANDINGS**

Date: 12/31/05

John Chapkovich	13 entries	
.....	Ataeniobius toweri	Blue-Tailed Goodeid
.....	Haplochromis sp "All Red"	All Red Hap
.....	Heterandria formosa	Least Killifish
.....	Melanotaenia boesemani	Boesemani Rainbowfish
.....	Melanotaenia praecox	Praecox Rainbowfish
.....	Melanotaenia splendida inornata	Checkered Rainbowfish
.....	Neolamprologus multifasciatus	Many Banded Shell Dweller
.....	Pelvicachromis pulcher	Kribensis
.....	Poecilia latipinna	Sailfin Molly
.....	Poecilia reticulata	Panda Guppy
.....	Poecilia reticulata - Endler's	Endler's Livebearer
.....	Xenotoca eiseni	Red-Tailed Goodeid
.....	Xiphophorus maculatus	Red Wag Platy
Barry Lynch	10 entries	
.....	Ameba Splendens	Butterfly Goodeid
.....	Corydoras melini	Melini Cory
.....	Julidochromis ornatus	Yellow or Ornate Julie
.....	Melanotaenia praecox	Praecox Rainbowfish
.....	Pelvicachromis pulcher	Kribensis
.....	Poecilia latipinna	Sailfin Molly
.....	Tanichthys albonubes	White Cloud
.....	Xenotoca eiseni	Red-Tailed Goodeid
.....	Xiphophorus variatus	Sunset Variatus Platy
.....	Zoogoneticus tequila	Tequila Goodeid
Steve Ng	6 entries	
.....	Ancistrus temminckii	Temminck's Bristlenose (catfish)
.....	Neolamprologus leleupi	Leleupi
.....	Poecilia reticulata	Lavender Guppy
.....	Poecilia reticulata - Endler's	Endler's Livebearer
.....	Xiphophorus helleri	Saddleback Albino Swordtail
.....	Xiphophorus maculatus	Red Wag Platy
Anton Vukich	6 entries	
.....	Aphyosemion bivittatum	Red Aphyosemion (killifish)
.....	Neolamprologus splendens	Neolamprologus helianthus
.....	Poecilia reticulata	Panda Guppy
.....	Poecilia reticulata - Endler's	Endler's Livebearer
.....	Puntius titteya	Cherry Barb
.....	Telmatherina ladigesi	Celebes Rainbowfish
Jennifer Broderick	3 entries	
.....	Cichlasoma amazonarum	Amazon Cichlid
.....	Cichlasoma sajica	T-Bar Cichlid
.....	Parachromis motaguense	Red Tiger Motaguense
Rich Grenfell	3 entries	
.....	Ancistrus sp	Albino Ancistrus (catfish)
.....	Geophagus sp "Bahia Red"	Bahia Red Geophagus
.....	Xiphophorus variatus	Wild Variatus
Charlie Sundberg	2 entries	
.....	Julidochromis dickfeldi	Dickfeld's or Brown Julie
.....	Julidochromis regani	Striped Julie



NAS BAP PROGRAM
BREEDER OF THE YEAR - 2006
Date: 3/17/06

Barry Lynch	8 entries	
Ameca splendens		Butterfly Goodeid
Apistogramma borelli		Borelli Apisto
Characodon lateralis		Rainbow Goodeid
Cichlasoma octofasciatum		Jack Dempsey
Heterandria formosa		Mosquito Fish or Least Killifish
Ilyodon furcidens		Goldbreast Ilyodon
Limia nigrofasciata		Humpbacked Limia
Melanotaenia splendida inornata		Checkered Rainbowfish
Steve Ng	4 entries	
Ameca splendens		Butterfly Goodeid
Aulonocara lwanda		Lwanda Peacock
Corydoras paleatus		Long Fin Peppered Cory
Protomelas taeniatus		Spindle Hap - Red Empress
Dick Moore	2 entries	
Haplochromis sp "Red Tail Blue Neon"		Red Tail Blue Neon Hap
Pelvicachromis taeniatus		Striped Kribensis - Moliwe"
Anton Vukich	2 entries	
Corydoras caudimaculatus		Tail-Spot Cory
Skiffia multipunctata		Speckled Sawfin Goodeid
John Chapkovich	1 entry	
Tropheus moorii		Moorii ("molliro")
Sal Silvestri	1 entry	
Badis dario		Scarlet Badis
Charlie Sundberg	1 entry	
Pseudotropheus zebra		Yellow Zebra



Breeding *Neolamprologus Leleupi* in a community tank

By Steve Ng

About 6 years ago I was just seriously getting back into the hobby. I had a 46 gallon bow front tank. My goal was to have one of those beautiful planted aquariums that you see at some of the finer LFS. In my first incarnation in the fish hobby I was in love with cichlids. African cichlids to be exact, but being young and foolish, I did not do proper research on them, so I only purchased the pretty ones at 1 to 2 inches and placed them in the 10 gallon.

What I ended up doing was buying 4 *Melanchromis Auratus*, 4 Jack Dempseys, and 4 *Neolamprologus Leleupi*. Needless to say the *Auratus* made quick work out of the *leleupis* and Jack Dempseys in a hurry. Fast forward some 15 years later. I just finished my basement in my new home, and the wife was allowing me to have a corner of the basement for my fish.

My long and harrowed journey into the sadistic, agonizing and funny world of fish keeping is well documented in another story. In any case I had just purchased this huge 125 gallon tank (at the time anyway). And I was dying to try my hand with African cichlids again. This time however I was armed with knowledge, and fellow aquarist with whom I could lean on.

I purchased three bags of 50 lb white play sand from Toys R Us to be used as a substrate. I also had about 100 lbs of holey rock to help maintain the PH at the high levels. Plugged into three fluval 403 filters. Used about 20 gallons of water from my 46 gallon bow tank, which was set up for cardinal neons, and some apistos which I obtained from Sal Silvestri. Also took out one of the filter sponges from the existing filter on the 46 and placed that into one of the Fluvals to jump start the cycle period on the tank. 3 weeks passed and it was time to go get my fish. So I went out to Long Island to my friend Les to get them. I had informed Les that I most definitely wanted to have some *Leleupi* in this tank, but was not sure what else to put in there with them, and told him of my first time with them. Yes he laugh and laughed at me when I told him about putting them with *Aratus* and Jack Dempseys. Les told me that I should probably get only one other egg layer in with them, even with a tank so big. The problem with getting too many egg layers is that there would be lots of fighting for territories. He suggested that I get some mouth brooders as they really only claim territory in the tank when spawning and they mostly build a nest in the sand when they do that anyway. Since they hold the eggs in their mouths they don't really have a defined territory to defend. Long story short I purchased about 8 *leleupi's* along with some *Cyprichromis Leptosoma*, *Aulonocara German red peacocks*, *Julidochromis Marlieri*, and some *Pseudotropheus Saulosi*. All of these were about an inch to 1.5 inches in length. At this point I really wasn't ready to breed them anyway and I was quite content with all of the activity in the new tank. I was like a kid with a new toy always watching the new tank.

About the same time, I joined the Norwalk Aquarium Society, and was expose to a bunch of people that loved the hobby like me. The big difference was that they knew what the hell they were doing, or at least appeared to. About a year after that got more involved and started to see what people were bringing into the monthly meetings.



Well by now I was hooked, and what started with just 125 gallon tank in the corner of the basement soon turned into a rack with about 10 tanks in the corner. To date I have a tank in every bedroom, and have about 400 to 500 gallons worth of tanks throughout the house. But something was missing. I had yet to have a spawn of any type. Everytime I would try to take out some target fish, they would either end up killing each other, or both of them would die. I was dumbfounded. I had killed all of the *Julidochromis Marlieri*, lost all of my male *German Red Peacocks*. At this point I dared not touch any of the *Leleupi*'s. Good thing too. Lets fast forward again, it's about 6 months later, and by now I have rearranged the tank some. I took out all of the holey rocks, except for my huge show piece. I replaced them with a bunch of barnacle clusters on either ends of the tank. I also added about 8 clown loaches, 6 red Iranian rainbows, some yellow calvus, and some more *Julidochromis Marlieri*. Somewhere along the way I got into a habit of doing weekly water changes on all of my tanks of about 20 to 30 percent. I also stopped messing around with the water. My well water comes out of the tap at a ph of 7.6 Thru my new network of friends, I realized that is was more beneficial to maintain clean water at 7.6 than to mess around with the water, and trying to bring up the ph to 7.8 or 7.9 Plus it was cheaper to not have to buy all of those chemicals to put into the tank.

My fish were thriving now. They had great color, and no really big battles for territories. I think having the two huge barnacle clusters on both ends of the tank, and basically leaving the middle of the tank open helped to differ the fighting to minor battles that really did not last long. The *Leleupi* had paired off in the tank. One day I noticed one of the *Leleupi*'s with her head sticking out of the barnacle cluster, while the male was hovering outside above her. I thought this to be interesting since I saw them both chase away any fish in the area. It took another two days before I could peek around her to see that she had some wiggles in there. Since this was my first spawn with *leleupi*'s I did not want to disturb them so I left them alone. About a week later I saw free swimming fry in and around the barnacle clusters. I was so excited. But now came the hard part, I dearly wanted to save them for BAP points. But everytime I placed my hand in there to try to take out the barnacle cluster, the male would bite me hand. Plus I would have to move some many different pieces of barnacle clusters around just to get to that one. So what I ended up doing was taking an old airline tubing, and siphoning out the babies, but was only able to get about 15 of them. These fry were good at alluding me. There must have been about 50 fry left in the tank. I find it best to siphon out the fry about 4 to 5 days after hatching, while they are still wrigglers but not quite free swimming yet. It's saved a huge amount of skin on my hand from the male *Leleupi*. I ended up having 4 different pairs in the tank. Three of them in the barnacle clusters while the forth pair took home in one of the caves within my holey rock show piece. To date all of the fish in this 125 community tank have breed for me. I'm even able to breed the *leleupi* in the barnacle shells with all of those funny and pesky clown loaches out and about. I have also been able to breed all of the other fish within this tank, all except for the Clown Loaches that is.....but maybe that is a story that I can write about some other day. For me anyway I find that a community tanks can work. Now if I can only do it when they are in tank by themselves.

**123 WORD SEEK #1**

Try to find all the words listed below in the puzzle. They can be spelled forward, backwards, and diagonal. As you find each word circle it.

H K P D N A M M A R G O T S I P A Q N G
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S H T Z H D C O U R T S H I P C Q W F I
K C A L Y W B L T C D G L D T I C L D L
T L C C H S I F I L L I K C F C H Y G H
D P D D C A R N I V O R E B L H T T C C
N O C G A L T O H Z G E H T I L Y R F T
I E R B U L I V E B E A R E R I V D H A
Y C W R D I E M E W E R C S B D C Y R H
S I D E A T B D A B X A W I C O E I O A
V L H E L G C H R T T L Y R B R H T A Y
S I A D I P O S E F I N T E D S N G B T
A A T I T D W L I D N O D T Y A H W L R
I S A N R E B S H T C V N P I L E Y K O
G E D G Z O H C D T T D G O I B A Y A P
I T M R L T H H T H I I K T T C G G Z C
W H D U C K W E E D O R O A P U L L F L
D C H L G W Y H P H N B C R B R A B T U
U S U E H P O R T T L Y E E G H L Y D Q
L H Z M D R T P H D T H P C W Z T G B C

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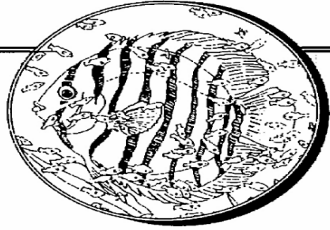
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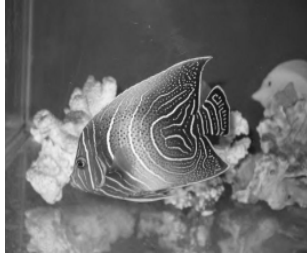
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