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WET PET GAZETTE

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Breeding Dario Dario- By: Sal Silvestri

Another Look at the CBC Show

NAS Member Spotlight

**THE JOURNAL OF THE
NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 58 YEARS**

NAS WHO'S WHO

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		Alt. NEC Delegate:	Maryanne Naylor
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Manufacturer Relations:	OPEN	Refreshments:	Peter Izzo
Auction / Show:	OPEN	Webmaster:	Kamil Krzynowek
Special Event:	Dan McKercher	Wet Pet Gazette Editor:	Jamie Gullans
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Affiliations

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

Cover Photographs

Acquired By Jamie Gullans



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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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: **Barry Lynch**

I am now entering my sixth year on the NAS Board. During that time, I have developed a deep appreciation of the incredible time and effort put in by the Board members to ensure the continuing vitality and success of the Norwalk Aquarium Society. In this regard, right at the top of the list are **Cathy** and **John Chapkovich**.

A Tribute to the Chapkovich's: Through my time on the Board (and before), the Chapkovich's served on the Board in many capacities - most notably John as President and Cathy as Membership Secretary. At different times, both have served as Wet Pet Gazette Editor and Webmaster of the NAS Web Site. For several years, Cathy has been responsible for the general meeting notices and John for E-Mail notices on various NAS business. Both have been integrally involved in all aspects of the annual Show & Auction. Two years ago, Cathy served as Show Committee Chairperson in exemplary fashion. Three years ago, John worked long and hard to almost single-handedly reverse a prior Board decision to cancel that year's Show - to the ever-lasting benefit of NAS. Both have been valued contributors to the NAS BAP program. Cathy has been the featured program speaker at two NAS general meetings. I could go on and on. A tremendous vote of thanks is owed to **Cathy** and **John Chapkovich**.

The New NAS Board: In addition to the **Chapkovich's**, **Ken Purcaro** and **Rich Weglinski** chose not to run for re-election - creating four vacancies. I am pleased to say that four members immediately stepped up to fill the void. Two are first-timers, namely **Jamie Gullans** and **Pete Izzo**, and two are returnees from prior years, namely **Don Barbour** and **John Krol**. Together they bring renewed enthusiasm, the potential for new and exciting ideas and, particularly in the person of **Don Barbour**, considerable experience and sage wisdom. The full make-up of the new Board is detailed on the inside cover of this WPG. I personally believe this will be a great Board and a great time for NAS.

Volunteers: Of course, all NAS work is conducted by volunteers. For various reasons, a number of NAS positions of responsibility have recently opened up - resulting in a call for new volunteers. I am happy to say that many volunteers have already stepped up. **Julie Heyel** is now responsible for the general meeting mailings. **John Krol** has taken over membership. **Jamie Gullans** is our new Wet Pet Gazette editor. **Kamil Krzynowek** is our new Webmaster. **Ron Castellano** has volunteered to be a Good Will Ambassador. **Dick Moore** will serve as Procurer - bringing one pound blocks of frozen bloodworms and krill to the general meetings for sale to members at unbeatable prices.

Notwithstanding the above, there are still several important positions which need to be filled:

Refreshments: Some responsible member to bring food and soda to the general meetings - NAS to reimburse for all related expenses.

Manufacturer Relations: In the early summer, someone to solicit donations from manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, etc. for the annual October auction.



Chairperson - Show/Auction Committee: Someone to oversee the preparation for and conduct of the annual Show & Auction.

A Forecast of NAS - 2009: There is every reason to expect a banner year in 2009. The renewed vitality of a full Board and the enthusiasm of the above volunteers augers well for 2009. **Sal Silvestri** is putting together an excellent slate of program speakers as evidenced by the first four - Guy Van Rossum, Harry Faustman, Rosario LaCorte and Lee Finley. The upward record-setting trend in BAP participation shows no sign of abating. I have every confidence that **Jamie Gullans** (with your help - please get her some articles) will continue the excellent tradition of the Wet Pet Gazette. A strong NAS financial position offers the opportunity for one or more special events comparable to the New England Aquarium day trip of two years ago. Etc. Etc.

I look forward to seeing you all in January and thereafter.



Editorially speaking

By: Jamie Gullans

Hi Everyone!

I would like to start out by saying thank you for trusting me with the Wet Pet Gazette. I am excited for the challenge and I will do the best I can to make sure that all the information you need is included in each issue, and is accurate. I think that it is only fair to say that Cathy Chapkovich has done a wonderful job as editor, and certainly left me with some big shoes to fill. I am just about finished putting my first issue together and I must say that I have a lot of respect for her and the hard work that she has put in for so long. Thank you Cathy!

Though I am not quite the photographer that Cathy is, I would like to put as many pictures of events, meetings, etc... into each issue as possible. I want to thank Doug Kneissl for sending me the Pictures from the Connecticut Betta Club's 2nd Annual Show for this issue, and Sal Silvestri for his article on Dario Dario, BIG help. Please feel free to forward me any pictures or articles you find interesting, or from any of our sister clubs, it will be greatly appreciated.

Now for the plea... I know that you all keep fish, and I know that you are all interesting Individuals with a lot to say. With that said; I will need articles from you!!! Please don't write only when a BAP award is on the line, there are plenty of tips, facts and stories that we all could share with one another. So keep it in mind that I will be asking for you **all** to step up and write. Any unsolicited articles will ALWAYS be welcome. The Wet Pet Gazette *is* after all "The Journal of the NAS" and the NAS is made up of **ALL** of us, so please give me your two cents.

Once again, I would just like to say thank you. I am looking forward to putting the Wet Pet together. I am also very excited about the upcoming NAS auction f/b/o Earthplace, as well as the NEC Convention. I really look forward to both of them every year, I hope to have lots of pictures of both events to share in the next issue. If you have any suggestions for me or if you would like to send me an article Please feel free to e-mail me. I think it's going to be a great year! Best of luck with everyone's BAPs! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jamie Gullans

J_gullans@yahoo.com





NAS Member Spotlight
By: Oscar Fishington

This month the Member Spotlight shines on Jon Nevins. Jon lives in Cos Cob with his wife and six year old son. He transports and sets up stages for rock bands.

Oscar Fishington: How did you get started in the hobby?

Jon Nevins: I bought my son a fish tank and it went from there. I've been keeping fish for about 2 years.

OF: How many tanks do you have?

JN: Well, I think I have...ahhh..

OF: When you say "I think" there must be a lot.

JN: Yeah. I have two large tanks, a 150 gallons and a not so large...a 30 gallon guppy tank. Then I have various 2 ½, 5 and 10 gallon tanks.

OF: What kind of fish do you keep?

JN: I have discus, guppies, and assorted other stuff. Some killies, and some community fish.

OF: Do you consider yourself an active breeder?

JN: I'm trying. I think I'm too new at it to be active, but I do have a set-up.

OF: Well that is a start. What is your favorite fish you are keeping right now?

JN: The one that breeds for me (laughs)...right now I like the blue rams.

OF: Any fish you just didn't have success with?

JN: Discus are funny....

OF: But you're keeping discus now with success, right?

JN: Yeah, but I've had a lot of failures. I'm lucky I have the wholesaler's number.

OF: What does your wife think of your hobby?

JN: She hates it. I tend to do things "over the top" so she kinda stays out of the way.



Members Spotlight continued...

OF: Any other pets at home?

JN: Cats and a lizard.

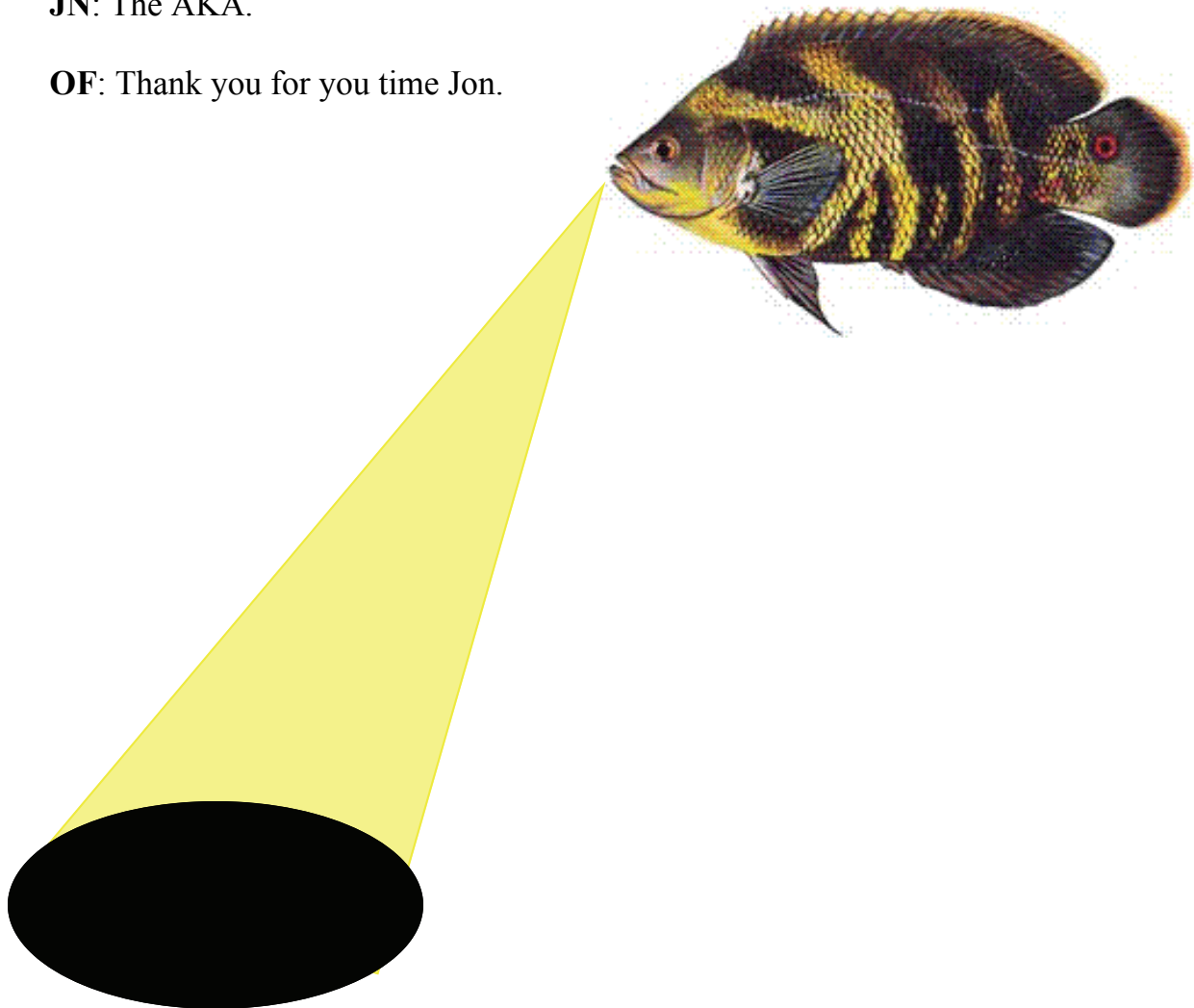
OF: How long have you been in NAS?

JN: About six or eight months.

OF: Do you belong to any other clubs besides NAS?

JN: The AKA.

OF: Thank you for you time Jon.





**THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
BAP REPORT**

THE YEAR 2008 IN REVIEW

By: Barry Lynch

Overview: The year 2008 was another record-setting BAP year. Fifteen participants submitted 90 entries. This broke the previous records just set in 2007 of 14 participants and 75 entries. Highlights of the year follow.

New Participants: There were four first-time participants in the BAP program, namely **Ron Castellano**, **Jamie Gullans**, **Jon Nevins** and **Amin Rubirosa**. This brought to 105 the number of members who have participated in the program through the years. Following this column is a listing of those 105 current and past members and the points earned by each.

Awards: Five BAP awards were presented in 2008. They were:

Breeder of the Year - 2007	Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor
Senior Breeder	Cathy Chapkovich
Breeder	Steve Capelle
Breeder	Doug Kneissl
Breeder	Ryszard Krzynowek

Breeder of the Year Competition: The year 2008 marked the fourth official year of the Breeder of the Year competition. Each of the first three years produced a different winner. The first three winners were **John Chapkovich** - 2005, **Barry Lynch** - 2006 and **Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor** - 2007. The year 2008 produced a new first - the first Co-Breeders of the Year - as **Bob McKeand** and **Barry Lynch** tied for first place with 19 entries apiece. Following this column are both a listing of the Breeder of the Year Award winners and the Final Breeder of the Year Standings for 2008.

Milestones at the Top: **Bob McKeand's** 2008 entries moved him over the 1700 and 1800 point thresholds and within 200 points of all-time points leader **Sal Silvestri** - the most serious challenge to **Sal's** point lead in years. **Barry Lynch's** 2008 entries moved him past such BAP notables as the **Stankevitch's**, **Mark Keitel**, **Anton Vukich** and **Don Maloney** into fourth place in the all-time standings. **John Chapkovich's** 2008 entries moved him over the 400 point threshold and has positioned him to become only the 15th participant to reach 500 points. If **Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor** maintain the same pace kept over the past two years, they likewise have a chance of reaching the 500 point threshold in 2009.

The Fish: A principal objective of the BAP program is to ensure that a wide variety of fish species is made available to the NAS membership. Of the 90 2008 BAP entries, 76 represented different species. Twenty-three of these were species never previously submitted in the program. This brought the number of species submitted in the program over the years to 435 - a very impressive number.

Some of the 23 first-time entries were newly discovered species. Examples include *Apistogramma* sp “piexoto” - the Spotted Apisto, *Brachydanio roseus* - the Purple Passion Danio, *Celisticthys margaritatus* - the Celestial Pearl Danio (originally called the Galaxy Rasbora), *Heros* sp “Rotkeil” - the Red Shoulder Severum and *Tanichthys micagemmae* - the Vietnamese White Cloud. Others represented species rarely found in the hobby. These included *Metriaclima* sp “Nankoma Blue”, *Prognathochromis perrieri*, *Macropodus spechti*, *Priapichthys festae* and the 3 *Poeciliopsis* species brought in by **Bob McKeand**.

A Look Ahead to 2009: At the beginning of 2008, while I expected a good BAP year, I expressed doubt that we could equal the marks set in 2007. How wrong I was! We broke all records in a great BAP year! I must admit that once again I expect a good BAP year in 2009 but have doubts that the records set in 2008 can be approached. Again I ask you to prove me wrong.

What I hope to see in 2009 is a deluge of BAP awards. We’re off to a good start. **Jon Nevins’s** entries at the November meeting pushed him over the point threshold for the Breeder Award - which he’ll be presented at the January meeting. Many other members are poised to earn their first or next level award. My personal focus will be to breed my second 20-point species and accordingly earn the Grandmaster award. Similarly, both **John Chapkovich** and the **Dan McKercher/Maryanne Naylor** team need only one 20-point species each to earn their Master Breeder awards. Four members have satisfied all the requirements for their next level award except for the WPG publication of an article. A number of members are close to award point thresholds and on a pace to pass the thresholds. **Doug Kneissl** is only 10 points away from the Senior Breeder award. **Ron Castellano, Jamie Gullans, Pete Izzo** and **Rich Weglinski** all have very realistic chances of earning the first level Breeder award. Others may surprise. **Good luck to all.**

**Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor 13 entries**

Aphyosemion bivittatum
Apistogramma agassizii
Apistogramma cacatuoides
Apistogramma hongloi
Brachydanio rerio
Cichlasoma octofasciatum
Fundulopanchax gardneri
Heros sp "Rotkeil"
Herotilapia multispinosa
Melanotaenia boesemani
Neolamprologus splendens
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Xiphophorus maculatus

Doug Kneissl

Aphyosemion scheeli
Apistogramma viejita
Betta splendens
Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum
Fundulopanchax gardneri
Nematolebias whitei
Poecilia wingei
Pterophyllum scalare
Xiphophorus variatus

John Chapkovich

Apistogramma borelli
Hemichromis cristatus
Lamprologus signatus
Metriaclima sp "Nankoma Blue"
Rivulus holmiae
Scleromystax barbatus

Jon Nevins

Aphyosemion australe
Betta splendens
Characodon audax
Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum
Macropodus spechti
Microgeophagus ramirezi

Jamie Gullans

Carlhubbsia stuarti
Celestichthys margaritatus
Nannacara taenia
Poecilia reticulata

Red Aphyosemion
Agassiz's Dwarf Cichlid
Orange Flash Cacatuoides
Red-Lined Dwarf Cichlid
Zebra Danio
Jack Dempsey
Steel-Blue Killie
Red Shoulder Severum
Rainbow Cichlid
Boesemani Rainbowfish
Neolamprologus helianthus
Kribensis
Pineapple Platy

9 entries

Orange-Fringed Killie
Viejita Form II
Siamese Fighting Fish
Convict Cichlid
Steel-Blue Killie

Endler's Livebearer
Marble Angelfish
Red Tail Black Hi-Fin Platy

6 entries

Umbrella Dwarf Cichlid
Dwarf Jewel Cichlid

Golden-Tailed Rivulus
Bearded Cory

6 entries

Golden Lyretail Killy
Siamese Fighting Fish
Bold Goodeid
Convict Cichlid
Black Paradise Fish
German Blue Ram

4 entries

Banded Widow
Celestial Pearl Danio
Banded Dwarf Cichlid
Fiery Panda Guppy



NAS BAP PROGRAM
POINT STANDINGS: ALL Participants - Current & Past
12/31/08

Note: Current members are in bold print.

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Bonus</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>
1) Sal Silvestri	1545	515	2060
2) Bob McKeand	1040	820	1860
3) Don Barbour	1085	170	1255
4) Barry Lynch	690	140	830
5) Don Maloney	700	120	820
6) Anton Vukich	545	240	785
7) Mark Keitel	610	105	715
8) Stankevitch Family	525	160	685
9) Kevin Cyr	535	120	655
10) Don & Joan Johnson	480	160	640
11) Tom Tilles	410	170	580
12) Robert Pelikan	475	90	565
13) Ed Katuska	470	40	510
14) John Faucett	415	90	505
15) John Chapkovich	400	40	440
16) Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor	345	30	375
17) Bill Selke	200	160	360
17) Tony Skojec	350	10	360
19) Emil Bella	220	85	305
19) Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	280	25	305
19) Rich Grenfell	260	45	305
22) Basil Holubis	255	40	295
23) Dick Moore	175	100	275
24) David Quinn	225	40	265
25) Joe Bellantoni	120	130	250
26) Steve Ng	185	20	205
27) Ken Balog	140	20	160
27) Lee Finley	90	70	160
27) Richard Marino	160	0	160
30) Griffin Kessler	115	40	155
30) Joe Siskay	115	40	155
32) Bruce Smith	110	40	150
33) Diane & Jack Adinolfi	120	20	140
34) Ray Clark	120	10	130
35) Cathy Chapkovich	95	20	115
35) Mel & Alberta Emond	85	30	115
35) Paul LePage	105	10	115



38) Charlie Sundberg	110	0	110
39) Slawomir Konrad	95	10	105
40) Dan Tuttle	100	0	100
41) Joe Masi	85	10	95
41) Chip Stahl	85	10	95
43) Doug Kneissl	90	0	90
44) John Herrmann	65	20	85
44) Raymond Smith	65	20	85
46) Kevin O'Brien	80	0	80
47) Ray Cole	55	20	75
47) Douglas Munson	55	20	75
47) Jeff Polster	75	0	75
50) Carl Addicks	70	0	70
50) Roger & Sue Ameden	50	20	70
50) Doug DeMent	70	0	70
50) Ed Schildnecht	70	0	70
54) Ryszard Krzynowek	65	0	65
54) Jon Nevins	55	10	65
56) Gene Harris	60	0	60
56) Dan & Sue Katz	40	20	60
58) Fran Natale	55	0	55
59) Ken & Rosann Athans	30	20	50
59) Steve Capelle	40	10	50
61) Gary Bernier	35	10	45
61) Mark Hansen	35	10	45
63) Chuck Aldrich	40	0	40
63) Jennifer Broderick	30	10	40
63) Shawn Edwards	30	10	40
63) Jamie Gullans	40	0	40
63) Robert Holt	20	20	40
63) Doug Martin	30	10	40
69) Mary & Russel Fairchild	15	20	35
69) Scott Stevenson	35	0	35
71) Ron Castellano	30	0	30
71) Stephen Gustafson	30	0	30
71) Pete Izzo	20	10	30



71) Mike Klepacki	30	0	30
75) Sharron Blasius	20	5	25
75) Cherie Ellis	25	0	25
75) Tom Hrusa	15	10	25
75) Rich Weglinski	25	0	25
79) Wayne Adelkopf	20	0	20
79) Bob Alberino	20	0	20
79) Neil Druks	20	0	20
79) Ira Friedman	10	10	20
79) Bob & Missy Grun	20	0	20
79) Dorothy Millard	10	10	20
79) Amin Rubirosa	20	0	20
86) Diane Folger	15	0	15
86) Denise Hofer	15	0	15
88) Lynn Carter	10	0	10
88) Jacob Goodwin	10	0	10
88) Peggy Heckler	10	0	10
88) F Sutherland Masblem	10	0	10
88) Philip Osbey	10	0	10
88) Ed Peters	10	0	10
88) Sue & Scott Reed	10	0	10
88) Kathleen Rogers	10	0	10
88) Fred Senerchia	10	0	10
88) Eric & Corey Siegel	10	0	10
88) Will Swanson	10	0	10
99) Carole Beers	5	0	5
99) Gina Bell	5	0	5
99) Allan Grabowski	5	0	5
99) Linda Kittell	5	0	5
99) Charles & Rose Levy	5	0	5
99) Neil Mendellsson	5	0	5
99) Patrick Skidd	5	0	5



**NAS BAP PROGRAM
FINAL BREEDER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS - 2008**

Bob McKeand**19 entries**

<i>Aphyosemion striatum</i>	Red-Striped Killie
<i>Aphyosemion gabunense marginatum</i>	
<i>Carlhubbsia stuarti</i>	Banded Widow
<i>Celestichthys margaritatus</i>	Celestial Pearl Danio
<i>Characodon audax</i>	Bold Goodeid
<i>Cynotilapia afra</i>	Dog Tooth Cichlid
<i>Etroplus maculatus</i>	Orange Chromide
<i>Fundulopanchax walkeri</i>	Walker's Killie
<i>Limia caymanensis</i>	
<i>Limia garneri</i>	Garnier's Limia
<i>Limia tridens</i>	Tiburón Limia
<i>Poeciliopsis baenschi</i>	Baensch's Topminnow
<i>Poeciliopsis prolifica</i>	Prolific Topminnow
<i>Poeciliopsis turneri</i>	Turner's Poeciliid
<i>Priapichthys festae</i>	Festa Livebearer
<i>Rivulus cryptocallus</i>	Iridescent Rivulus
<i>Tanichthys micagemmae</i>	Vietnamese White Cloud
<i>Variabilichromis moorii</i>	Moore's Lamprologus
<i>Xenopallus umbratilis</i>	Shade Livebearer

Barry Lynch**19 entries**

<i>Apistogramma</i> sp "Piexoto"	Spotted Apisto
<i>Brachydanio roseus</i>	Purple Passion Danio
<i>Brachyrhaphis hartwegi</i>	Hartweg's Bishop
<i>Characodon audax</i>	Bold Goodeid
<i>Colisa lalia</i>	Dwarf Gourami
<i>Goodea gracilis</i>	Slender Goodeid
<i>Heros severus</i>	Green Severum
<i>Macropodus opercularis</i>	Albino Paradise Fish
<i>Melanotaenia boesemani</i>	Boesemani Rainbowfish
<i>Melanotaenia trifasciata</i>	Banded Rainbowfish - yellow variant
<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>	Gold Dust Molly
<i>Poecilia petenensis</i>	Peten Sailfin Swordtail Molly
<i>Poeciliopsis baenschi</i>	Baensch's Topminnow
<i>Poeciliopsis monacha</i>	Monacha Topminnow
<i>Poeciliopsis prolifica</i>	Prolific Topminnow
<i>Puntius titteya</i>	Cherry Barb
<i>Trichogaster leeri</i>	Pearl Gourami
<i>Xenopallus umbratilis</i>	Shade Livebearer
<i>Zoogoneticus tequila</i>	Tequila goodeid


Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor 13 entries

Aphyosemion bivittatum	Red Aphyosemion
Apistogramma agassizii	Agassiz's Dwarf Cichlid
Apistogramma cacatuoides	Orange Flash Cacatuoides
Apistogramma hongloi	Red-Lined Dwarf Cichlid
Brachydanio rerio	Zebra Danio
Cichlasoma octofasciatum	Jack Dempsey
Fundulopanchax gardneri	Steel-Blue Killie
Heros sp "Rotkeil"	Red Shoulder Severum
Herotilapia multispinosa	Rainbow Cichlid
Melanotaenia boesemani	Boesemani Rainbowfish
Neolamprologus splendens	Neolamprologus helianthus
Pelvicachromis pulcher	Kribensis
Xiphophorus maculatus	Pineapple Platy

Doug Kneissl

Aphyosemion scheeli
 Apistogramma viejita
 Betta splendens
 Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum
 Fundulopanchax gardneri
 Nematolebias whitei
 Poecilia wingei
 Pterophyllum scalare
 Xiphophorus variatus

John Chapkovich

Apistogramma borelli
 Hemichromis cristatus
 Lamprologus signatus
 Metriaclima sp "Nankoma Blue"
 Rivulus holmiae
 Scleromystax barbatus

Jon Nevins

Aphyosemion australe
 Betta splendens
 Characodon audax
 Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum
 Macropodus spechti
 Microgeophagus ramirezi

Jamie Gullans

Carlhubbsia stuarti
 Celestichthys margaritatus
 Nannacara taenia
 Poecilia reticulata

9 entries

Orange-Fringed Killie
 Viejita Form II
 Siamese Fighting Fish
 Convict Cichlid
 Steel-Blue Killie

 Endler's Livebearer
 Marble Angelfish
 Red Tail Black Hi-Fin Platy

6 entries

Umbrella Dwarf Cichlid
 Dwarf Jewel Cichlid

 Golden-Tailed Rivulus
 Bearded Cory

6 entries

Golden Lyretail Killy
 Siamese Fighting Fish
 Bold Goodeid
 Convict Cichlid
 Black Paradise Fish
 German Blue Ram

4 entries

Banded Widow
 Celestial Pearl Danio
 Banded Dwarf Cichlid
 Fiery Panda Guppy

**Ron Castellano**

Aulonocara eureka
Labidochromis caeruleus
Pseudotropheus zebra

Amin Rubirosa

Pelvicachromis pulcher
Poecilia petenensis
Xiphophorus helleri

Ryszard Krzynowek

Etoplus maculatus
Labidochromis caeruleus

Charlie Sundberg

Ancistrus sp
Neolamprologus splendens

Carl Addicks

Corydoras paleatus

Steve Capelle

Iodotropheus sprengerae

Dick Moore

Prognathochromis perrieri

Rich Weglinski

Geophagus brasiliensis

3 entrie

Albino Peacock
Yellow Lab
Red Zebra

3 entries

Kribensis
Peten Sailfin Swordtail Molly
Green Swordtail

2 entries

Green Chromide
Yellow Lab

2 entries

Brown Bristlenose
Neolamprologus helianthus

1 entry

Hi-Fin Peppered Cory

1 entry

Rusty Cichlid

1 entry**1 entry**

Pearl Cichlid



NAS BAP PROGRAM BREEDERS OF THE YEAR

AWARD WINNERS:

2009			
2008	Barry Lynch/Bob McKeand	Co-Breeders of the Year	19 each
2007	Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor	(Team)	17
2006	Barry Lynch		20
2005	John Chapkovich		13

*UNOFFICIAL WINNERS:

2004	Barry Lynch	15		1988	Sal Silvestri	12
2003	Anton Vukich	19		1987	David Quinn	10
2002	Anton Vukich	13		1986	B McKeand / T Tilles	5
2001	Anton Vukich	8		1985	John Stankevitch	9
2000	Sal Silvestri	6		1984	Griffin Kessler	9
1999	Ken Balog	9		1983	John Stankevitch	13
1998	Don Maloney	7		1982	John Faucett	11
1997	Gene Harris	7		1981	Bob McKeand	9
1996	Mark Keitel	15		1980	B McKeand / T Tilles	4
1995	Mark Keitel	18		1979	B McKeand	9
1994	Tony Skojec	23		1978	Bob McKeand	8
1993	Don Barbour	10		1977	Tom Tilles	3
1992	Sal Silvestri	9		1976	Tom Tilles	5
1991	Kevin Cyr	22		1975	Lee Finley	7
1990	Don Barbour	6		1974	Don & Joan Johnson	16
1989	Sal Silvestri	13		1973	Joe Bellantoni	11

*NOTE: THE BREEDER OF THE YEAR CONTEST WAS NOT INAUGURATED UNTIL 2005.



Connecticut Betta Club – 2nd Show - A SUCCESS!



Connecticut Betta Club – 2nd Show - A SUCCESS!

For the second year the Connecticut Betta Club was invited by The Norwalk Aquarium Society to hold a joint show. The show was held October 3 – 5, 2008 at Earthplace, The Nature Discovery Center in Westport Connecticut. The Betta Show had 245 entries and the NAS show had 156, making Earthplace THE place to be to see some excellent show fish. Mohan Balakrishnan took Best Of Show – Male in the CBC show. Sieg Illig took Best of Show Female, and RBOS for Male & Female. The BOS Male was up for auction and went for a CBC Auction Record of \$140.00. I'm sure Sieg will give him a good home. In the NAS show the IBC was well represented as Rich Martucci took Best of Show with one of his male bettas and an Apistogramma cacatuoides took RBOS. At the October 16, 2008 NAS general meeting Douglas Kneissl presented Earthplace a check for \$75 as a "Thank You" for their support and hospitality. Thank you to all who sent show fish and auction fish, they were all spectacular!



Doug Kneissl and Rich Martucci begin setting up the



The show is finally set up!



Leo Buss, JD Ewtuch, Rich Creighton and Sieg Illig judging the entries while Julee Paine and Daniella Malca stand by to assist



Leo, JD and Rich discussing the Best of Show candidates



Todd Beamon and Rich Creighton looking over the winning fish.



One of the VT Entries



The BOS fish on display with the award



Rich working the crowd and taking bids during the auction



Sieg looking over the auction fish and making notes



Breeding and Maintaining

Dario dario (Badis Bengalensis)/ Scarlet Badis

By

Sal Silvestri

Every hobbyist lives to hear these words ...“I Have an outstanding NEW Species!” So, about 6 years ago a friend of mine called me and said those words. I immediately rushed to his house! Once I saw these new beauties I new I was hooked! They’re not large fish, maxing out at ½ to ¾ of an inch...

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - Male Scarlet Badis (their common name) are like little rubies. They are easily identified by their bright red stripes. The head and back is bright red, and there are 7 bright red stripes on the body, interspersed with pearly white strips. The fins are also bright red, lined with iridescent blue-white. The females are slightly smaller and much, much duller. Compared to the males they are plain (this is why they are rarely imported). The body and fins are a pearly-pink, with sometimes very faint traces of pinkish stripes running into the fins. Not rare in their natural habitat. Not common in pet stores (not rare, just hard to find). Some fish stores may carry males from time to time, and scarlet badis can at times be found through dealers. If breeding is your object, aquabid.com and various dealers may provide sources for females.

DISTRIBUTION - West Bengal, India

HABITAT- They are found in densely planted, relatively shallow areas along the banks of small streams.

TANK - Due to their small size, these fish are perfect candidates for small office, kitchen, office, bedroom aquariums. I kept two pairs in a 10 gallon tank. However, I do recommend keeping more of them, in larger tanks - they aren't schooling fish, but they obviously enjoy living in a social environment. They are not highly active fish, preferring to just hover among the plants, but they do frequently exert little bursts of energy interacting with each other. They will not fight if given adequate ground space to establish their own territories; each male should be allotted about 3 gallons or 35 to 40 square inches of territory. If females are also present, there should be as many females as males. They don't seem to pair up, and the males are not particularly over-amorous with the females, but a single female can be pestered by the rowdy boys and so more is better. Each female will also need her own territory. If you're going with a species tank, you could keep 5 in a 10gallon tank; 7 in a 15 gallon tank, 10-15 in a 30 gallons tank etc. They can be kept in a community tanks, but because of their small size and relative inactivity, they should not be kept with any fish big enough to eat them.



TANK DECOR - Scarlet Badis really enjoy a heavily planted tank, including floating plants. Driftwood is fine to use particularly if it has lots of ins-and-outs, and Texas holey rock is ideal because the scarlet Badis seem to really enjoy swimming in and out of the holes in the rock. Personally, I find a white or light beige sand substrate is the nicest against the vibrant red of the scarlet badis.

DIET - Most Scarlet badis will turn their little fish noses up at flakes and pellets. Some can be weaned onto flake or slowly sinking pellets, but most will eat only frozen foods such as bloodworms, small daphnia, Cyclops and brine shrimp. A rare, finicky few will refuse to eat anything but live food. Care should be taken to offer a variety of foods. I must say that mine loved my "Home made" paste food.

CHEMISTRY - Water conditions: Scarlet badis are pretty hardy fish, capable of thriving in many water conditions, providing that extremes, and extreme fluctuations, are avoided. They are most active and most colorful at about 76-78F, but will do fine in as warm as 79F. 6.5-7.0 pH, and moderately soft water is recommended. If water chemistry is not agreeable to them they will wash out, some will turn completely white.

MAINTENANCE: Care should be taken to clean their water frequently, as they are sensitive to water quality. I recommend small weekly changes, such as 15-20% every 7 days.

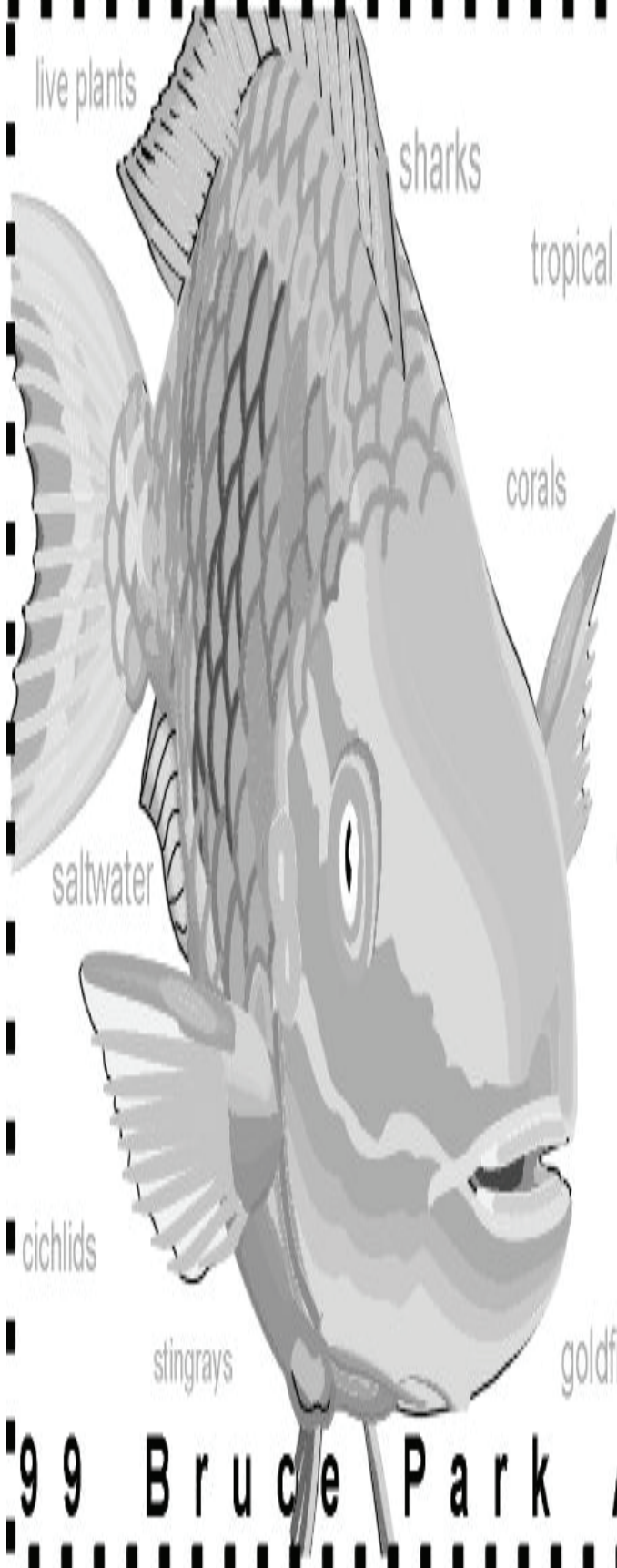
RECOMMENDED TANKMATES - Typical community tank fish are fine - dwarf gouramis, bushynosed plecos, glass catfish, Otto cats etc... - but you will appreciate your badis much, much more in a species tank. I can, however, understand the desire for a little variety in a tank. I recently put 15 Darios in a well planted 46 gal. tank, unfortunately with only one female, and as tank-mates they have; a school of ottocinclus, Black Rasboras, Espei pencil fish, Cherry Shrimp, which are bright red, and Amano shrimp. They are expensive, but are a great addition to a tank and will help keep your tank clean. In addition I keep 3 *Loricaria* sp. "Red Lizard" and a pair of *Taniacara candidi*.

SPAWNING - The spawning of these fish is a rare occurrence. Not because it is difficult to do, but because they are not easily available and when they are, it is likely to be only males in a tank. By all accounts, they are not difficult to breed. Happy fish will readily spawn, so keep your Badis in clean water, with lots of plants, and feed them well. I bred mine in a 10 gal. species tank, I didn't want any other tank mates for fear of the eggs being eaten. I provided lots of java moss and floating plants, such as water sprite. When the male is feeling amorous (or boastful), he will display his bright red colors, puff himself up, and display his long, bright fins. He will quiver and shake at the female (or, another male) who, if she accepts his proposal, will follow him back to his territory. He will embrace her (like the hug of the Betta) and she will release her eggs. They aren't really adhesive, they just fall into the java moss (or wherever). The female is then chased



eggs, he just keeps other fish out of his territory. The eggs will hatch in 2 or 3 days, and the fry will disappear into the plants, feeding off micro-fauna. Pouring in some liquid fry food, infusoria, baby daphnia or baby brine shrimp is not necessary, but can be done to provide an abundance of extra food for the fry. A week or so later, the fry will emerge as little pale versions of their parents. They are sexable at about a half inch long. The pair will continue to spawn every 3 to 4 weeks. They do not seem to eat their fry, but 3-week-old fry should be removed from the tank, lest they eat their younger siblings. I found this out when I left my first spawn in with the parents and I noticed that the number of fry were slowly dwindling! From approximately 40 fry I ended up with 12. Seeing this I came to the conclusion that not only will larger fry eat smaller siblings but the parents will also.

COMMENTS - These little fish are active but not stupid (you know the impression of imbecility you get, watching a group of neon tetras ricochet around a tank?) they are social, they are smart, and they aren't very shy. Yes, they love their plants, but they are always out and about, interacting with each other, showing off to each other. I frequently find myself running late for work because I had to stop and watch them for a few extra minutes. So, if you see these little jewels in your pet store (and are able to care for them, of course), buy them! They're a joy to keep and watch.



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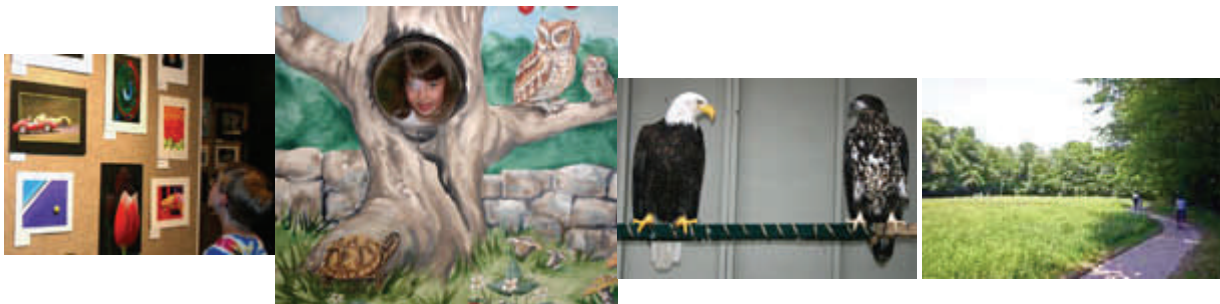
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Earthplace

The Nature Discovery Center



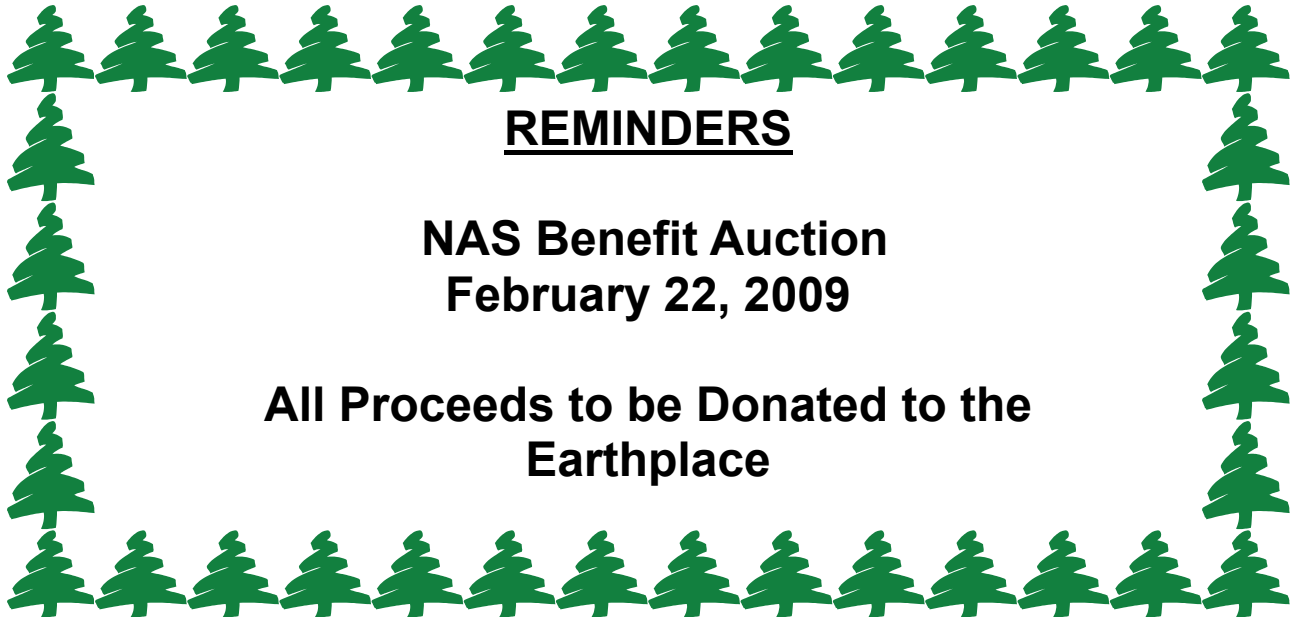
Welcome to Earthplace, a haven for those who love nature.

Grounds open daily 7 AM - dusk
Building: 9 AM - 5 PM Monday-Saturday, 1 - 4 PM Sunday

10 Woodside Lane
P.O. Box 165
Westport, Connecticut 06881
203-227-7253

info@earthplace.org

Admission: \$7 Adults and children over 12, \$5 Children 1—12 yrs & Seniors



REMINDERS

**NAS Benefit Auction
February 22, 2009**

**All Proceeds to be Donated to the
Earthplace**

NAS meets the third Thursday of every month (except July & Dec.) at Earthplace,
The Nature Discovery Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT.
Free admission—Public welcome
Raffles, door prizes, guest speakers, refreshments and more.



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