

THE WET PET GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 1997

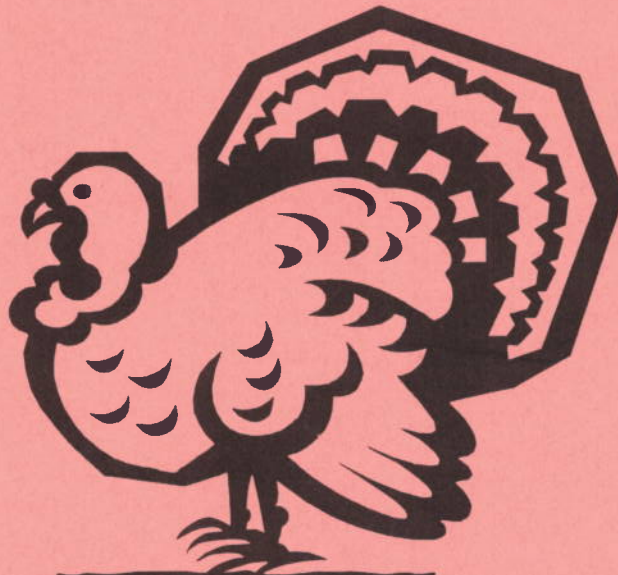


Volume 2 Issue 8



MEMBER

The Journal of
The Norwalk Aquarium Society



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DISCUS DIARIES
PART 4 & 5
by GENE HARRIS
Norwalk Aquarium Society

COLLECTING LEPOMIS
by MICHAEL
KRASILOVSKY
Norwalk Aquarium Society





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REGULAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

There are regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month except July and December. Meetings are held at The Nature Center for Environmental Activities, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT. Meetings start at 8:00 PM. Each meeting includes a short business meeting, program or event, door prizes, raffles, auction, and refreshments. All regular meetings are open to the public.

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We reserve the right to reject any article which in our opinion is offensive, and/or does not promote the hobby.

WET PET GAZETTE

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

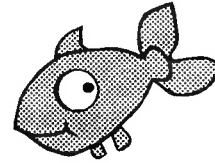
The Norwalk Aquarium Society is a not for profit, all volunteer organization, dedicated to the advancement, and promotion of the Aquarium hobby.

WET PET GAZETTE EXCHANGES

Norwalk Aquarium Society gladly exchanges its publication with other societies that send their publication to us. We publish nine issues a year. We send our exchange copies as bulk mail in March, June, and November

Requests and publications should be sent to:
Exchange Editor
Norwalk Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 84
Norwalk, CT 06856

IN THIS ISSUE



WET PET GAZETTE - NOVEMBER 1997

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY'S WHO'S WHO	PAGE 2
VIEW FROM UPFRONT ED KATUSKA - <i>NAS PRESIDENT</i>	PAGE 4
FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR MARK BROADMEYER, <i>WET PET EDITOR</i>	PAGE 4
PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS ANNE BROADMEYER, <i>PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON</i>	PAGE 5
CALENDAR	PAGE 6
"DISCUS DIARIES -Part 4 & 5" BY GENE HARRIS - <i>NAS</i>	PAGE 7
BAP STANDINGS - BY SAL SILVESTRI - <i>BAP CHAIRPERSON</i>	PAGE 10
BAP REPORT - BY SAL SILVESTRI - <i>BAP CHAIRPERSON</i>	PAGE 11
NORTHEAST COUNCIL OF AQUARIUM SOCIETIES	PAGE 12
COLLECTING LEPOMIS - BY MICHAEL KRASILOVSKY - <i>NAS</i>	PAGE 14
BOWL SHOW REPORT GENE HARRIS - <i>BOWL SHOW CHAIRPERSON</i>	PAGE 15
WORLD WIDE WEB SITES	PAGE 17
HOLIDAY PARTY INFO	PAGE 17
CLASSIFIEDS	PAGE 18

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RATES

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES
SUBSCRIPTION TO
THE WET PET GAZETTE

JUNIOR	5.00
FAMILY	17.00
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NAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
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CHESHIRE, CT 06410

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

NOV 6	SAL SILVESTRI
DEC 4	ED KATUSKA
JAN 8*	NEW PRESIDENT'S HOME

* DENOTES 2nd THURSDAY OF
MONTH

**COMING NEXT MONTH
IN THE WET PET GAZETTE****ELECTION RESULTS**

DISCUS DIARIES
PART 6,7,8
GENE HARRIS

FISH ECONOMICS
GENE HARRIS



A VIEW FROM UPFRONT

**ED KATUSKA
NAS PRESIDENT**

Happy Thanksgiving to all! The end of 1997 approaches and with it the busy holiday season. All of the auctions and shows for this year are now history. We have only one other function this year, the holiday party. This year the event will be held in December instead of the traditional January date. I hope you all can attend. Anne Broadmeyer has graciously opened her home to us, and will be hosting the event. Your admittance to this food fest is a food dish. Please call Anne as soon as possible if you are planning to attend so she can coordinate the traditionally extensive fare.

As of this writing the elections have not yet taken place, but as you read this they have been held. I wish to congratulate the new officers and directors, and wish them well in their new capacities. As you know I can not run this year for President as we have a two year term limit for the post. The new president now has the responsibility for carrying on the long traditions of this organization, running the day to day activities, and planning for the future of the club. With the support of the Officers, Directors, and the membership this job can be a pleasure. I hope you all will chip in and help in anyway you can to keep this club moving forward in a positive direction.

I want to thank Peter Falcione for speaking to the club at the November meeting. Pete has a long history with this club and it is always a pleasure to have him with us. The next meeting will be held in January 1998 and Sal Silvestri will be giving us a new program he has put together. I look forward to seeing you all again then.

The Wet Pet does have a December issue, at which time I will give you my final words of wisdom.



**FROM THE DESK OF THE
EDITOR**

**MARK BROADMEYER
WET PET GAZETTE EDITOR**

In this issue of the Wet Pet you will find part 4 and 5 of the Discus Diaries by Gene Harris. We will be finishing up the series next month with part 6,7,and 8. I have a number of articles from Gene for next year, and want to thank him for giving up his time to help with the Wet Pet. Michael Krasilovsky has given us another article with a native flair, Collecting Lepomis. Michael has also actively provided us with articles this year. I wish them both the best of luck in the NEC and FAAS publications competitions. I would like to see more original articles from other members next year. Do you not have anything to share with the rest of the tropical fish community?

I write this the day of the elections, so at this time I don't know the results. If you didn't attend the meeting, I will be updating you in the December issue.

Don't forget the holiday party.

The Wet Pet Gazette could use a staff. If you have access to a computer you can be a lot of help to me with out putting in a lot of time. If you think you would like to help out, let me know.

The holiday season gives us a little break from fishy functions, but come the beginning of the year it starts again. Look in the calendar for upcoming events. The biggest event of the year here in New England is the Annual Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies Convention. Announcements regarding this event are in this issue, and you will be receiving registration information in the mail as soon as they are ready. I hope to see you all at the holiday party.



MARC

PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS

ANNE BROADMEYER - PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank Peter Falcione, Owner of the Norwalk Aquarium for his program on Fish Disease and Treatment, at the November meeting. I am working on the line up for next year, and will keep you posted. Since there is no December meeting, the next program will be in January 1998. We will be starting off with Sal Silvestri giving a new program he has put together. I hope you all can attend the Holiday party, but remember you must call me if you are coming, and you will be required to contribute a culinary masterpiece for the affair

November 20

Fish Disease and Medications, Presented by Peter Falcione, Owner of The Norwalk Aquarium. Peter has studied this subject at The University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine under Dr. Gratzig.
Election of Officers and Directors

December

NO MEETING - Happy Holiday's

1998

January 15

Lake Tanganyika Cichlids - By Sal Silvestri. Sal is a long time member of the Norwalk Aquarium Society, and has speaking engagements all over the northeast. He has just completed this new program.


February 19

To Be Announced

Tips, Techniques and How-tos.

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WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR

DECEMBER	7	NORTHEAST COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING - FARMINGTON MARRIOTT
1998		
FEBRUARY	1	<i>NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY BENEFIT AUCTION</i>
	15	PIONEER VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY AUCTION
	22	NEC GENERAL MEETING - FARMINGTON MARRIOTT
MARCH	1	EXOTIC FISH SOCIETY OF HARTFORD AUCTION
	13-15	NORTHEAST COUNCIL OF AQUARIUM SOCIETIES CONVENTION
MAY	15-17	AQUALAND ANNUAL SHOW AND AUCTION

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NOW IN OUR 47TH YEAR

DISCUS DIARIES
 BY GENE HARRIS
 NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
 PART 4 & 5

Discus Diary Part 4

Hello loyal readers ! Today is Tuesday, May 6, 1997. The original four discus (*Symphysodon aequifasciatus haraldi*) known affectionately as Lucy, Ricky, Fred & Ethel are all alive and well. Last Sunday I decided to make a few changes. While making my rounds to local stores, I went back to the same locally owned store that was the source of the original group of four. Naturally, they had more full size wild caught discus. The owner asked how mine were doing and we talked about his current stock. I had been considering getting one more discus to balance out the 55 gallon. Here before me was a gorgeous full grown wild "blue" that had been acclimated to Connecticut water for about a month, much like the first group. He/she had a dull pale blue hue almost all over and reddish circular marks around all edges. He/she had striking red eyes and was fairly active in the tank. This one was definitely not from the same spot in the Amazon as the originals. The owner told me that if I bred this one to the Gypsy Blues he would not know exactly what they would look like but that he would buy any and all fry. This guy does love fish but I realize he is also a salesman at heart.

Anyway, I had just enough cash on me to haggle a deal.

The new blue, was bagged, boxed and brought home on a sunny Sunday last weekend. By the book, the community tank was fed, then the shades were lowered to darken the room, and finally I gradually added water from the 55 into the styro holding the new discus. Another dose of water was added 15 minutes later. Then about 10 minutes later the new discus was placed into the 55 gallon display tank and took well to the water. The natives were curious but not hostile.

"Blue Ghost" is the name I've coined for the latest entrant to the tank. She/he has been shy and has taken some pecks from the tan eyed one which is actually a smaller animal. The Blue Ghost has not eaten well but remains active. In fact by Tuesday, he/she was starting to claim some turf and occasionally would take some pecks at others. I take this as a sign that the fish has the will to live, even though the appetite could be better.

Feedings continue to be Hikari frozen bloods worms at the preferred item. I also used a mixed bag of flakes and some homemade frozen foods. Chopped up earthworms are added on rainy

days when I find them outside. The discus, angels, swords go after them vigorously.

As for other changes the four large black angel tank mates were sold to a different store than mentioned above. These specimens had developed ragged fins and had the noticeable black vertical lines of at least one silver parent. These fish will never be of show nor breeding quality so they were 'dumped' for some cash. On the same day, a hobbyist up state responded to an ad I had run in the local bargain paper. It stated "Wanted to Buy - Black Angelfish." I got few calls but those that did call were quizzed on the genetic lineage of the fish, if they were 100% black and did they have cherry red eyes. This person said that they did. I made the trek up state and found some truly nice black angels with red eyes. No ragged fins and no vertical black lines. He said he got them about 8 months ago from a breeder in Massachusetts but as luck would have it he lost the phone number. A deal was struck and I went home with 2 mid size and one small black angels, all having red eyes. I left my card and told John to call me if he comes across more black angels like the first batch. These were added to the 55 discus tank.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

The is a discus article so I'll advise that water changes of 20% every 3 days continue religiously. Temperature remains at 81 degrees F. The pH was 5.0 and checked twice to confirm. This may be too low even for discus. I use only tap water treated to removed chlorine and chloramine, no other additives. I'll have to keep watch on this issue, but so far the fish are fine.

I have added a 18" by 3" piece of black slate as a potential breeding spot for the discus. We'll see what develops.

Discus Diary Part 5

It's Saturday May 18, 1997. The five discus (*Symphysodon aequifasciatus haraldi*) known affectionately as Lucy, Ricky, Fred, Ethel, and Blue Ghost are all alive and well. The 55 gallon tank got some major maintenance today. The gravel was vacuumed with a siphon hose thus also accomplishing a water change. As you may recall from the prior episode, pH was at 5.0 and it could be lower, I just don't have the technology to be sure. This has been an ongoing concern of mine. I decided to move gravel away from the caps on the undergravel filter. After doing so, the hose (siphon

removed) was stuck down into the hole and gravity pulled out. A lot of black detritus was removed in this fashion.

However, the hose would only fit very close to the opening. I did this to each of the caps. It may not have been a perfect method, but at least partially cleared the bottom of the tank. One of the live plants was no longer "live" so it and root fragments were removed along with other pieces of other plants that had become detached. Freshwater was added to the tank after being treated with Wardleys "ChlorOut" which obviously removes chlorine but also chloramine. A few drops of Kent Blackwater Extract were added as well. The last item was the set up of the Diatomagic Second Nature filter. This filter takes out particulate down to the 1 micron level and is something I like to use at least once a month. I let it run at least 6 hours and it really makes the water crystal clear and 'polished.'

All of these efforts were done to improve water quality but particularly to make the water less acidic, or at least less likely to become more acidic. I have debated using chemicals to raise the water pH but fear harming the discus, even with gradual change. The discus all appear to be active, healthy and good appetites, even the Blue Ghost. What is old saying - if it is not broke then don't fix it? Sometimes the angelfish (*P. scalare*) stare off into the corner and appear

sluggish, is this a sign that it has become too acidic for them? The swordtails (*X. helleri*) appear active and hardy even though I know very well that they should be at neutral to higher pH. The long range plan it too remove them to an outdoor tank, but I digress.

Six hours after making the above changes I checked the pH of the tank and it was 5.0 on the Tetra scale, but again that is as low as the scale goes. Actual pH could be severely low. I tested tap water and it was 7.0. Considering that the tank got about a 50% water change today and was still measured at 5.0 leads me to believe that the actual pH is quite acidic.

I tested some of the same stored tap water 48 hours later and it was again 7.0. This is even more concerning as it indicates that the tank environment is really dropping the pH, as the tap itself is true and holding neutral.

Another concern has developed. One of the less dominant discus is showing stress. It is not eating, the fins are clamped down, and it hovers in the corner away from others. Coloration is pretty dark. All of these are signals that something is wrong. Not only does the fish look bad, but it is

(Continued on page 9)

DISCUS DIARIES CONTINUED

(Continued from page 8)

getting picked upon by the other discus. I have decided to not let nature take it's course with this rather expensive fish. But what has caused this to happen - very acidic water, aggression by other discus towards this one, not enough food, internal illness? I moved it (I don't know if *it* is male or female) to a twenty gallon tank downstairs in the 'fish room.' The only other fish are a handful of x. helleri swordtail medium size fry, and some java moss. I am glad to report that the discus lived through the night.

After several days the fish took to eating Hikari frozen blood worms, a treat this fish remembers well from life in the 55 gallon show tank. The animal is starting to flex it's fins outward and show much better deportment in general. I believe the problem with this fish was aggression by fellow cichlid discus tank mates. Now the question remains, will another of the 4 remaining discus in the 55 become the bottom of the pecking order and get beaten down into bad health?

I've added a black angelfish to the 55 that had been in the 20 high that now houses the one discus. Also, a group of 6 wild caught corydoras Sterbai have been added to the show tank.

These fish have exceptional color and large size, as far as a cory goes.

On the evening of May 23, I removed many of the live plants that had become sickly looking and covered with algae. Some new plants were added to the gravel, and the blinds are kept open less and less now that the long days of summer are fueling the algae in this 55 adjacent to a southern window. The entire gravel surface was siphoned to remove debris and to effect a water change as well. I have started to add drops of pH UP by Aquarium Pharmaceuticals in very, very small portions daily.

Half a teaspoon of salt was added. Again, all of these efforts are aimed at improving water quality and raising the pH safely and sanely.

To be continued ...



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BAP STANDINGS SEPTEMBER 1997

by SAL SILVESTRI

BAP PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

CURRENT POINT SUMMARY

Sal Silvestri	Expert Breeder	1185 points
Don Barbour	Grandmaster Breeder	805 points
Robert McKeand	Grandmaster Breeder	745 points (#)
Mark Keitel	Master Breeder	575 points
Don Johnson	Master Breeder	530 points
Don Maloney	Master Breeder	425 points
Ed Katuska	Senior Breeder	365 points
Robert Pelikan	Breeder	460 points (*)
Anthony Skojec	Breeder	350 points (*)
Broadmeyer Family	Breeder	270 points (*)
Basil Holubis	Breeder	85 points
Ed Schildnecht	Breeder	70 points
Doug DeMent	Breeder	55 points
Gene Harris	Breeder	55 points
Richard Marino		115 points
Joe Masi		85 points (#)
Jeff Polster		60 points (#)
Kenneth Belog		40 points
Sharon Blasius		25 points
Ed Peters		15 points
Peter Izzo		10 points
Will Swanson		10 points

(*) & (#)..As for my famous "Asterisk Club Members" .."YOU OWE ME ARTICLES!!"

BAP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1997

by SAL SILVESTRI
BAP PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

RECENT SPAWNS:

Sal Silvestri - Haplochromis sp.-"Rock Krib", Pelvicachromis-Humilis

Mark Keitel -Haplochromis sp.-"Rock Krib".

Rich Marino - Pterophyllum-Scalare, Melanochromis-Auratus

At this time it's only proper that I give credit where credit is due... Congratulations goes out to Rich, because due to my constant badgering Rich finally succumbed and wrote an article. Therefore, for the time been, he's off my asterisk club and has reached the Breeder plateau.

Don Maloney -Tropheus-Brichardi, Lamprologus-Leleupi, Neolamprologus-Cylindricus, Cyprichromis-Microlepodotis

Gene Harris - Xiphophorus-Helleri

Ed Schildnecht - Lamprologus-Leleupi

Don Barbour - Aulonacara-Caroli, Pelvicachromis-Taeniatus "Isokpto"

SPECIAL NOTE: The BAP Committee was reactivated and met again for the first time since July 1989. For those of you that are new to the club let me explain the purpose for the formation of this committee. The committee was formed to review and critique BAP and produce the means to improve and clarify BAP and its administration. It is NOT to be construed as an indictment of the BAP and/or its administration. Committee's purpose is and will remain constructive to BAP, NAS, and its members.

The BAP Committee members had a fruitful meeting on April 24, 1997. We've agreed that any fish that gets moved from the (20) point class to a lower class will have a grace period of 12 months. The clock starts from the time such notice is published in the WET PET...Lamprichthys-Tanganicanus is the first fish to be moved from (20) point to (15) point. *The clock starts now!!*

The Bap Committee meets quarterly but will meet in special session if required. If anyone is interested in contributing to the program (time, effort, knowledge etc.) please call me or see me at any meeting. Next meeting will be announced later on in the WET PET.

It is appropriate to thank Rick Marino, Basil Holubis, Mark Keitel, Charles Grandel and Ed Katuska for their efforts on behalf of the Breeder Award Program.

BEFORE I CLOSE I WANT TO THANK ALL PARTICIPANTS, YOU'RE ALL WONDERFUL... " JUST KEEP THOSE FRY COMING".

DON'T FORGET THOSE NORTHEAST COUNCIL BPP FORMS



NEC

The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies

presents their

“CATS’ MEOW” **the 23rd Annual Convention**

March 13-15, 1998

Hartford Marriott Hotel, Farmington, CT
Exit 37 off I-84, Farm Springs Park

Announcing:

Al Castro, California

Lee Finley, Rhode Island

Dave Grzanka, Michigan

Harro Heironimus, Germany

Mike Hellweg, Missouri

Ginny Eckstein as our Banquet Speaker

and 4 more speakers still to come!

Please join us for this fun filled educational weekend where hobbyists of all levels congregate. There will be a top lineup of speakers on a variety of aquarium topics, and catfish enthusiasts will be pleasantly surprised at the expert catfish speakers presented this year. There's the pet store tour and the North American Catfish Society meeting Friday, and, as always, don't miss the finest auction of tropical fish and plants in the Northeast starting Sunday at 11:00am. It is open to everyone and all starts Friday afternoon; come join in on the fun!

For more information contact:

David and Janine Banks 802-482-3616 dbanks@together.net

Al and Penny Faul 617-371-0593 apfaul@aol.com

Aline Finley 401-568-0371 lfinley@loa.com

Sue and Wally Bush 860-276-9475 wbush27@aol.com

Please visit our web site at <http://www.piscespub.com/nec.html>

The NEC's "Cat's Meow" The 23d Annual Convention

Plans for the 23d Annual Convention, March 13-15, 1998, are moving right along as we head into Fall. This year's focus is going to be on Catfish, hence the "Cat's Meow" motto! The theme this year for the banquet is no theme, so the Logo Contest is wide open. I will be accepting entries until December 1st, and the NEC will vote on which will be the winning logo at the December meeting.

As in the past, each club is allowed one half-page ad in the convention program. This ad can be about a specific event or just be a general advertisement for your club. Please email ads to Aline Finley at 76535.2735@compuserve.com or mail them to her at 150 North Rd., Pascoag, RI 02859 ASAP!! Or bring it to the Sept. NEC meeting.

Please bring your club's mailing list to the September NEC meeting!!! The convention is early this year and we must get them entered and sorted immediately. Al Faul is in charge of the mailing list this year, and you may send them to him (Preferably on disk) at 357 Commonwealth Ave., Concord, MA 01742 if you'd prefer.

Speakers!! Always the height of the convention. This year so far we have Lee Finley speaking - always an education! - and Mike Hellweg. I had the pleasure of meeting Mike in Chicago at the ACA convention and found him to be a very personable and professional fish enthusiast. His wife lets him keep their fridge and home full of all kinds of bugs and live foods, and that is his topic for our convention. He says he likes a hands on approach, so beware!! The "Queen of Catfish," Ginny Eckstein, has agreed to be our banquet speaker and MC, so we'll certainly be entertained at the banquet!! I am again excited about the speakers we have lined up and about those we will announce later. A catfish focus has not been done by a large convention in the past and promises to be a great opportunity to meet and learn from speakers you may not have seen before.

Have any aspiring auctioneers in your club? Friday night will be an Auctioneer's Contest (back by popular demand!) and the contestants will be auctioning off the manufacturer's donations. The auction will be Cash and Carry, so come prepared! We'll have more details later, but get your members thinking about joining in the fun!

The first ever meeting of the North American Catfish Society will also be held at the convention. They will be discussing all sorts of tid bits, so plan on attending this too if catfish is your bag.

Last year's convention was a great success, and this year is looking every bit as good. The Farmington Marriott Hotel seems to be continuing their quality service and has given us some interesting options we are still mulling over. The schedule will be switched around a bit, so plan on arriving as early as possible on Friday! Please call me or any member of the committee if you have any questions, and feel free to jot down any suggestions and mail them to us. We'll keep you informed as things progress!

"MEOW"



Collecting Lepomis

BY MICHAEL KRASILOVSKY

Norwalk Aquarium Society Junior Member

When I was a boy, I remember always trying to catch small sunfish with a butterfly net at my families little "cottage" up in Canaan, New York. We were often successful, outsmarting the pretty little green fish. Recently, I have noticed the popularity of the sunfish as an ornamental fish and on two occasions now, have gotten the old net out and tried my luck.

Queechy lake is a relatively small lake that is only 40 feet deep at its two deepest points. It is the home to small and largemouth bass, pike, minnows, catfish, some stocked trout, and of course, the classic green sunfish. Plants are in abundance, especially a form of Elodea Densa with red through the center of each leaf. Being in upstate New York, it is subject to extreme cold during the winter months. Because of this, the sunfish will have a relatively easy time in our area as pond fish, provided the pond is deep enough to adequately overwinter other fish as a prerequisite.

"Exhibition One"

On my first recent attempt to collect the sunfish from the lake, I failed miserably, they were simply too fast to catch in a net, or should I say, I was too slow! I did however spend the entire day observing two distinct large schools of sunfish, and followed them around the perimeter of a portion of the lake. Both schools were very large. Each had more than one hundred individuals 3" in length. The largest sunfish were about 6". I was unaware of any fry present and I have the feeling it was not warm enough for the fish to have spawned yet. Each school would always be contained in a giant moving boundary approximately 20 x 20 feet. No individuals left this boundary, the schools moved as a whole. One thing that I found particularly interesting was that each school had a single largemouth bass "patrolling" its perimeter. The bass were approximately 9-12 inches in length. The sunfish never mingled with the bass, they seemed to be wary of them, but I honestly saw no aggression on the basses part, or for that matter, no hunger towards the sunfish. At the end of the day, I had still been unsuccessful at netting any sunfish. My "catch" ended up being plants. I collected the previously mentioned Elodea, as well as a milfoil, possible dwarf sagitaria [?], and other unfamiliar plants. Interestingly, the plants are all surviving with a thin layer of detritus covering their leaves, blanketing them from sunlight.

"Exhibition Two"

On my second attempt to collect the sunfish, I went a different route. I cast aside my net, and donned a fishing pole. Sunfish not only look like cichlids, but they behave like them too. They are very friendly towards humans, and don't hesitate to hang around a wading fisherman, pecking at his or her toes. I went to Wal-Mart, and for a dollar got a dozen size twelve fishing hooks. These are extremely small. Unfortunately, I was unable to get barbless hooks, so the barbs must be filed off so as not to rip the fishes snout. The hook can be baited with almost anything, and need not be cast, simply dangled in the water in front of the fish. It is so simple that it insults the intellect of the species. Within a few seconds an individual may be caught. That's all it takes, seconds. The other fish will zip away, but return in a few minutes if attracted to a scent. The fishes nose should be dipped in saltwater to disinfect the puncture, better safe than sorry, right? On this second occasion collecting sunfish, I did notice fry. The fry were in schools between 50 and 70 individuals. I can't be sure if the fry were actually sunfish fry or fry from another fish. Not only did I not have the net, but I didn't want to stress the fry. After all, I certainly wouldn't do this to my fry. From above, the fry looked like a cross between a minnow and a female cherry barb. They were all less than 3/4".

I shall have to hope that I see the fry again, and maybe it will turn out that they are sunfish. The adults are easily caught, and should prove to be worthy pond and aquarium residents. Transportation should prove no problem, but do remember that sunfish do have dorsal spines, and when startled may flick them rapidly up. This could very well puncture a bag, so use your judgment and double bag and keep them in the dark. Feeding in captivity poses no problems with sunfish. Obviously, they love live foods, particularly worms [never forget red worms]. In the wild, I have never been able to get them to feed from the surface of the water. They are just too cautious. They may not always accept flakes. If you don't plan on collecting some sunfish, then I still hope you get something out of this article, and if you do, then have fun, and good luck!

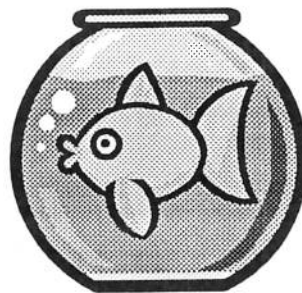
NEW BOWL SHOWS in 1998

\$\$\$ CASH AWARDS \$\$\$

Since we are a fish club, lets see some fish at every meeting ! Starting in January, we will have a Bowl Show at every regular meeting. First place wins \$5 in cash, second place wins \$3 in cash and third place wins \$1. The Bowl Show is open to all classes of freshwater and marine fish. Judging will be done you the people. Anyone can enter the bowl show, they need not be a member of the Norwalk Aquarium Society. There is no limit to the number of fish that can be entered by one person and there are no entry fees. A male and female pair can be entered in one container but that will be considered a single entry. Voting is open to anyone at the meeting, members or not. Silent voting will be done by check mark on a paper placed by each entry. The paper will identify the owner along with the common and/or Latin name of the fish. Each person cast only one vote for the one fish they believe to be the best. Voting can take place before the meeting, during the break and immediately after the program. Prizs are based on total votes, there will be no classes of differentiation. Participants do need to bring the fish in their own containers. Plastic is preferable for safety purposes, but not mandatory. Anything that holds water other than a bag is acceptable.

The Bowl Show Chairman, Gene Harris, will supply the papers and pens for voting. After the raffle drawings and BAP auction, he will count the votes and announce the winners before the end of the meeting. In the event of a tie, a coin toss will be conducted among the owners of the two entries that received equal votes. In the unlikely event of a three way tie, those 3 fish will be voted upon by the attendees again and in the interest of time it will be a show of hands vote. If this still does not result in a mathematical 1st, 2nd and 3rd, it will be the judgment of the Bowl Show Chair to decide. In the interest of fairness, the Bowl Show Chair cannot vote for their own fish in a run off vote situation such as described. Should we have only 1 fish entered in the show, that fish automatically wins first place. Should only 2 fish be entered, the highest vote fish wins 1st place and the second highest vote fish wins 2nd place. Should the Bowl Show Chair be absent from the meeting, the responsibility of conducting the Bowl Show will fall upon the President of the Club.

Bowl Shows are an opportunity to show off some of your best fish. It allows everyone to consider the size, color, fin quality, and deportment/behavior of fish. It brings fish into the club meeting and enhances discussion about our hobby. Everyone can learn something about fish that someone else owns. It's fun, it's free, and you can win \$\$\$\$. So bring some fish to Bowls Shows at every meeting in 1998.

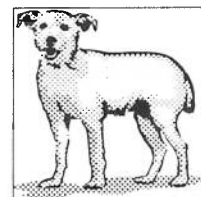




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AQUARIUM RELATED WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

The Internet World Wide Web has taken the world by storm. Each month we publish addresses of aquarium hobby related sites. Have you found an interesting site you would like to share? Send us the the address.

CATHY'S TROPICAL FISH HOME PAGE

TROPICAL FISH EMAIL POSTCARDS

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/plains/3515/postcard.html>

TROPICAL FISH CENTRAL

<http://www.geocities.com/hotsprings/3689/index.html>

TROPICAL FISH CHECKS

<http://www.artisticgreetings.com/tropical-fish.html>

BRINE SHRIMP INFO

http://homepages.enterprise.net/iangrainger/fish_brineshrimp.html



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The NEC is looking for all parties who are interested in attending an NEC certification school for Tropical fish auctioneers. Any one interested should contact Mark Broadmeyer

TROPICAL FISH JUDGES SCHOOL

The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies is preparing for its next judges certification training school. Anyone interested in this 1-2 year commitment should contact Anne Broadmeyer - NEC Chairperson of Judging & Standards.

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