

Wet Pet Gazette

The Journal of the Norwalk Aquarium Society
Volume 50, Issue 3
May-June 2000

The View From Up Front

*by Kenneth Balog, President
Norwalk Aquarium Society*

Now, with spring well underway, it seems to be a good time to remind everyone to support our sister clubs. Many clubs schedule their major shows and auctions in the spring and we should do our best to attend their functions whenever we can. If we don't, we can hardly expect their support when our auction arrives in October. We all need to remember that our purpose, as a club, is to promote the hobby we all love and we can only do this by supporting each other.

The Board of Directors is currently working on a number of projects. First, we are looking into a freshwater collecting trip for late summer. I have contacted the State DEP about the possibility of collecting native fishes in the area, and we should soon have the answers we need to do it properly and legally. Next, we are planning a club picnic for early August. The details have not been settled at this time and more information will be forthcoming soon. Lastly, we are discussing a bus trip for next spring. As always, your ideas are important to us, so if there is any place you would like to go, please feel free to let us know.

Norwalk Aquarium Society's Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT Ken Balog (203) 372-0265
VICE PRESIDENT Ed Katuska (203) 375-4479
REC. SECRETARY Basil Holubis
MEMBERSHIP

Anne Broadmeyer (203) 750-0030
TREASURER Don Barbour (203) 853-1127
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Michael Krasilovsky
PAST PRESIDENT Basil Holubis
EDITOR Doug De Ment (203) 268-5358

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
(2000-2001) Sal Silvestri (203) 750-8841
(2000-2001) Patty Nizlek (203) 637-3277
(1999-2000) Karl Addicks

DIRECTORS EMERITUS
Diane Adinolfi Jack Adinolfi John Stankevitch

Editor's Notebook

*by Douglas De Ment
Norwalk Aquarium Society*

WE NEED ARTICLES!

Did you know?

by Ed Katuska
Norwalk Aquarium Society

Let's hope it stops snowing by the time this article goes to print; after all it is April. At this rate my ponds won't be set up until August. This month's facts are for you folks that fancy our fish friends (say that five times fast) from the South America Amazon. I found some interesting tid-bits on this great river system to pass along. We also have some recent news stories to add to this month's segment of "*This Wacky Fish World*". I showed some mercy the last few months with easy trivia questions in my last two columns. This month is a bit more challenging but I have faith someone will come up with the correct answer. Good luck.

Did you know...

The Amazon River is about 4000 miles long and is 150 miles wide at the mouth.

In six months, more water flows from the Amazon than from the next six largest rivers of the world in an entire year.

In spring water levels rise and fall forty feet.

The river is warm. Around the city of Manaus 95° F is a cool day.

The Amazon is home to 2 million species of insects, 100,000 species of plants and over 2000 species of fish, many of which are not found in any other part of the world.

The Wacky Fish World

Hot, Wild Nights

3/21/00- San Jose, California (AP)- There's not much Connie Pranger can do about the noise in her backyard goldfish pond. A few dozen pacific tree frogs that inhabit the pond, apparently stimulated by the recent warm weather have angered neighbors with their rite-of-summer mating calls. Pranger has been cited by animal control officers for "animal nuisance". Charles Atkins, director for the animal control agency, said the action was not really a citation, preferring to call the notice informational.

Pranger says the noise will only last a few weeks. In the meantime, Pranger's husband has taped about 90 minutes of the frog chorus, which he might market, for his wife's legal defense fund.

Just dropping in for the holidays

12/16/99- Northampton, England (BBC)- A family sitting around the fireplace was astonished to see a goldfish plummet down the chimney, bounce off the coals and land on the hearth. Maureen Berwin and her daughter Jenny were amazed when the fish flipped its tailfin. Realizing it was still alive; they put the fish in a bowl of water. The RSPCA said the fish was probably snatched by a heron from a nearby garden pond and slipped from the bird's beak as it perched on the chimney for its meal. Mrs. Berwin said: "I think it is amazing that the fish survived. It is a very lucky, lucky little fish. We would love to keep it as a pet but we haven't got a pond."

The goldfish was later reported to have a few damaged scales and a torn fin, but no signs of

post-traumatic stress. The fish is remarkably unscathed by it's ordeal and has now been adopted by a family in Northampton who have their own pond. According to reports the fish seemed to settle into his new home very well.

Wrongful Executions

2-15-00- Coopenhagen, Denmark (AP)- The art display at the small museum in western Denmark featured 10 goldfish, each swimming in its own blender. The catch: Each blender can be turned on, depending on the viewer's whim.

The display has caused outrage among animal right activists and drawn unusually large crowds to the Trapholt Art Museum. Two fish were blended at the opening, and police ordered the plugs pulled after a local group, the Union for the Protection of Animals, complained.

Museum director Peter Meyers said five more fish were blended on Sunday. Five surviving fish were also stolen from their blender aquariums over the weekend, but the museum replaced the goldfish to maintain the original work of art, Meyers said.

Police Sgt. Poul Henning Christensen said an investigation is under way and museum organizers could face fines if they disregard orders to cut off the power to the blenders.

Last Months Trivia Question

Of all the ocean's organisms used by man which organism is used the most?

Answer

Algae

This Months Trivia Question

A group of dogs are called a pack and a group of fish is called a school. What is the correct term for a group of jellyfish?

WetWebPages.fish /goodstuff

*by Ed Katuska
Norwalk Aquarium Society*

I would like to welcome everyone to the new installment of the Wetpet Gazette. As most of our members know by now our website is up and running filled with information about our club, other clubs, national organizations and other hobby related information. A big round of applause to the webmaster Mark Broadmeyer for his continuing efforts on this project.

The World Wide Web is in my opinion is one of the greatest educational tools that ever developed. If you check out the link section of our site you will find there are a good number of links posted that bring you to some great fish related websites. Here in this column we will review some of these sites.

If you, your organization, or business has an aquatic hobby related website you would like to have mentioned in a future edition just email me the URL at edkat3@aol.com. All websites featured in this column can be found in the link section at

www.norwalkas.org

www.africanhut.net/

Fellow hobbyist Mike Pallante of Youngstown, Ohio owns this site. The site offers photo sections of Aulonacara peacocks, Tropheus and Mbuna. Check out the aquarium garage sale where other hobbyist like yourself can buy or sell fish and drygoods. If anyone is in the need of some quality fish food at great prices check out what the hut offers. I myself have never used any of his foods but I have heard good reviews from other hobbyist. One of the foods that you can find there is cyclopeze, a very good and inexpensive alternative to newly hatched brine. I was glad to see there is a page available that explains the nitrogen cycle and also a FAQ section. A good area for beginners and advanced hobbyist to explore. The FAQ section has been added with the help of another fellow fishhead, Allen Boatman. Questions and answers were taken from the African cichlid news group at egroups.com. Also see the bio page for his personal history with the hobby. Mike is a member of the ACA, Ohio Cichlid Assoc., the Great Lakes Cichlid Society and soon to be a member of the Canadian Rift Lake Cichlid Association. Check it out.

pages.cthome.net/vito/

Make a stop at the homepage of the Aqualand Aquatic Society located in Bristol CT. Aqualand does a good job at promoting the other sister societies throughout the New England area by posting other clubs meeting announcements. Check out the auction link and keep informed about upcoming shows and auctions. The site is very user friendly linking the club officers email addresses as

well as a telephone number for easy access for meeting and membership information. A nice feature is the photo section where members can display tanks or fish pics. Don't forget to sign their guest book and say hello.

www.actwin.com/fish/index.cgi

FINS: Fish Information Service- FINS is an archive of information about aquariums. It covers freshwater and marine, tropical and temperate. This site offers many different areas to help expand your aquatic knowledge such as a glossary of fish terms, aquaria and reef keepers FAQ, index of fishes, disease diagnosis and treatments, do-it-yourself plans, and even downloadable software. Also check out the mailing list archives from discussion groups, directories to pet shops and national aquariums, movies and plenty of links to hobby related sites worldwide. Definitely a site worth bookmarking.



A GOLDEN OLDIE:

From Wet Pet Gazette, April 1991....

Breeding Lamprologus Ocellatus "Golden"

By Kevin Cyr

Norwalk Aquarium Society

Feeding & Water Conditions

My water supply comes from a well that is chlorine and chloramine free. The PH is 7.0 and the hardness is 6 DH. To this I add 1 tbs./5 gal. of Instant Ocean, 1 tsp/10 gal. of Aquacichlid (an Aquatronics product) and 1 tsp./20 gal. of baking soda. This brings the water to a PH of 8.4 and water hardness of 18

History

Lamprologus Ocellatus "Golden" is an interesting and colorful variation of the "standard" *Ocellatus*. The lower body is a metallic blue and the rest of the body and face are a metallic gold. The fins are translucent yellow with a solid yellow/orange border.

Three of these fish were acquired by a U.S. breeder that tried to spawn them. After several months, the breeder determined that he had three males. He then acquired several "Gold Capped" *Ocellatus* that were from the same area of the lake as the "Golden" variety. The "Gold Capped" *Ocellatus* has the same coloration as a "standard" *Ocellatus*, except that there is some yellow above the eyes. A "Gold Capped" female was crossed with the "Golden" male. The offspring were all "Golden". I acquired seven of the "Golden" offspring from this cross. These "Golden" fish spawned yielding predominantly "Golden" offspring. However, there were several from each spawn that appeared more like the "standard" *Ocellatus*. I understand that the Germans have recently included the "Golden" *Ocellatus* on their price lists but I have not heard of anyone in the U.S. bringing them into the country from Germany.

After the *Ocellatus* were added to the tank, they would constantly pick at each other but eventually each claimed its own shell. Watching these fish was very entertaining. They would dig a hole under a shell and it would fall into the hole. It was amazing to see these little fish move these shells around to position them just right.

To move a shell, they would grasp an edge in their mouth and then flap their tail vigorously to get enough momentum to move the shell to the desired position. Once the shell was "dug in" and pushed into position, they would then cover the shell with sand. At times these fish were like army soldiers, they would fill the shell with sand and then dig it out again for no apparent reason. One day when I walked into the fish room, I saw a depression in the sand, it looked like a fish nest. I thought this might have been a sign that they were getting ready to spawn, even though I thought they spawned only in shells. Upon closer inspection, I saw a piece of tail sticking out of the sand. You can probably guess what my immediate thought was! I thought I was seeing loss number one. Especially since these fish constantly picked at each other. But Wait!! The tail moved and out of the sand popped a very healthy living fish. Just to make sure the fish was alright, I tapped on the glass and guess what? The fish made a quick dash head first, right into the sand. It was really neat to watch this. After a couple of days this little fish reclaimed its shell and I had never seen them do this again.

When I acquired the seven fish they were all just under 1" TL. After about two to three months they grew to breeding size (1 1/2" to 1 3/4") and it was relatively easy to distinguish between the sexes since the males were noticeably larger than the females. I had what

appeared to be three males and four females. Another couple of months passed and the *Ocellatus* had not spawned or even appeared to be paired off. The males seemed to be occupied by constantly fighting with each other. None of them got hurt or bruised but they would constantly pick at each other. In order to alleviate this situation, I setup a 10 gallon tank with an undergravel filter and 1" of sand. I then put one male and three females in this tank along with five snail shells. The male pinned one female in a corner of the tank and pinned one in a shell. He seemed to be getting along with the other female and I would periodically see the male go into the same shell as the female, sometimes they would both go into the shell together. A short time after I had seen the two fish together, I saw the female guarding the outside of the shell. The male was not bothering that particular female any longer. According to Konings (*Tanganyika Cichlids*, pp. 213), the way *Ocellatus* eggs are fertilized is that the male releases sperm as soon as the female starts backing out of the shell. The water displacement, caused by the leaving female, sucks the sperm inside the shell and consequently they are fertilized. I had not witnessed this event but apparently it had taken place because about three weeks after setting up the 10 gallon tank, I was a happy camper. I saw a couple of baby fish outside one of the shells. The eggs took about 3 days to hatch and about seven more days before they were free swimming. I was told this by the breeder that had the original pair.

The male eventually mated with one of the other females and the third female had vanished. I assumed she jumped ship and I just never found her. The three remaining *Ocellatus* in the 10 gallon tank are now settled in very well. Each of the three has staked out

it's own shell and each is quite docile. They basically sit outside their shell protecting the progeny inside. The male will periodically go bother the females and then spawn with them. I leave all of the babies in the 10 gallon tank with the parents until they are about 1/2". At this size, they are out of the shell more often than not and it is very easy to net them out and put them in a separate tank. The babies are fed baby brine shrimp in the morning and powdered flake food in the evening.

If you decide to try your hand at spawning the *Lamprologus Ocellatus* I think you will find it very entertaining and rewarding.

REPRINT
From The Kitsap Aquarian

**The Spawning of
*Corydoras panda***

by Jennifer and Henry Wilkinson
Kitsap Aquarium Society

The *Corydoras panda* is a relatively small catfish ranging from 4.5 to 5.0 cm. It has been collected from Rio Lullapichis where it was found in a clear mountain stream with a rocky bottom.

I first acquired my stock from Fraser Street Aquarium in Vancouver B.C. about 2 years ago. At the time I lived in Revelstoke which was about a 10 hour drive home. But who could resist these beautiful little pink babies. They were about 1/2 grown and look to be very healthy. So I purchased 6 and told the store owner to pack them in extra air, because they had a long trip ahead of them.

Needless to say, they made that trip safely. I placed them in a 10 gallon tank with a mini Aqua Clear with a prefilter on the intake tube. The tank had fine gravel and was quite thickly planted with *Cabomba*.

A few days later I noticed these little white things all over the front glass. When I did the changes I would wipe them down, but by the next day I noticed they were back again. I asked around but nobody seemed to have a clue what I was talking about. They just told me it must be snails. They didn't seem to hurt anything so I just left them and wiped them down every time I did a water change. They were in both my cory tanks but not in any of the others.

A few months later I found cory eggs and babies in both of the tanks. I can remember being so excited I called Henry at work to tell him. Unfortunately, all those babies and eggs disappeared. Very disappointed I tried to find the cause. Did the parents eat the eggs and then the babies? I didn't know....

It wasn't long, I found eggs again. This time I watched more closely. I still didn't see anything out of the ordinary. I moved some of the eggs to a different tank, but most fungused. I ended up with 3 from that spawn. All the ones I left in the parent tank disappeared again. So I gave up and started to breed other fish.

Shortly after we moved last year, I lost one of the original stock, and one of the babies that I raised. So now I have 7. By this time I had found someone else who had raised a spawn of corys. She told me to try a bare bottom tank. So that's what I did. I threw the gravel and plants out and bleached the tank, and filter. I added water from an existing tank,

then floated the pandas and put them back in. Whew!! At last I got rid of those little white things. [I still however had them in the other cory tank.]

I fed them blood worms, Hikari, sinking wafers and occasionally brine shrimp. Still they didn't seem interested in breeding. Then when I went to clean the prefilter, I found 14 eggs. I quickly moved the adults to another tank, removed the Aqua Clear and put in an air stone on low. Then I sadly watched as a few eggs fungused every day for the next few days. So once again I gave up.

A few months ago I decided I wanted to take a break from breeding fish, or at least cut down to only one breeding tank. I placed several species of *Corydoras* in a 10 gallon tank. Well shortly after to my surprise, there were eggs in every top corner of the tank. I left them there and in a couple of days they disappeared. Then every couple of days more eggs would appear. Then when our leopard danios spawned, I added the eggs of the day. For some reason, there was a breeder trap hooked on the 10 gallon cory tank. I'm not sure of its purpose, I don't remember anything being put in it, but when I went to remove it, it was covered with small eggs. So I finally gave in, and decided to try again.

I half filled a 10 gallon with water from the parent tank, and then topped up both tanks. I moved the breeder trap over and moved most of the larger eggs that were on the glass, with my fingers. They stick to your fingers until you stick them to the glass where you want them. I then added an airstone on low, and waited.

Over the next 4 days, most of the eggs on the glass turned light brown and then dark brown.

Then tails appeared and they dropped to the bottom of the tank. They still had a small yolk sac, but I started feeding baby brine shrimp and OSI micro food. It's now 6 weeks later and I have just been able to tell I have at least 50 *C. pandas*.

So I ended up with 3 pandas in the danio tank and at least 50 in the cory tank. Ah, enough to claim for BAP points.

Thanks to Ilene Alvis for the answer to the little white things in the two tanks. It must have been hydra. Which also explains where the fry and eggs went.

One more thing.....corys are such sociable little fish they should be purchased in groups of 3 or more. I personally buy 6 to 10.

So if you are looking for a peaceful community catfish, that is active

during the day, I would recommend *Corydoras panda* as a candidate for your aquarium.



Corydoras panda

BAP Report May-June 2000

by Sal Silvestri
Norwalk Aquarium Society

CURRENT POINT SUMMARY

Sal Silvestri	Expert Breeder	1255 points
Don Maloney	Expert Breeder	705 points (*)
Don Barbour	Grandmaster Breeder	875 points (*)
Bob McKeand	Grandmaster Breeder	835 points(#)
Ed Katuska	Master Breeder	405 points
Basil Holubis	Senior Breeder	240 points(#)(*)
Ken Balog	Senior Breeder	115 points
Doug DeMent	Breeder	70 points
Jeff Polster		75 points (*)

As for my famous "Asterisk Club Members"
...."YOU OWE ME ARTICLES!!"
That's all I'm going to say, "surprised??!!"
All joking aside, our Wet Pet editor is
begging for articles. In order to maintain the
quality of our publication we need original
articles. For those of you that are intimidated
of writing, we will help you.

RECENT SPAWNS:

*Sal Silvestri - Apistogramma - Agessizii (I
finally did it!! It only took me 10 years!!) and
Apistogramma - Viejita form II*

*Don Maloney - Paracyprichromis -
Nigripinnis and Tanganicodus - Irsacae*
(This fish commonly called Lake Tanganyika
Goby or rock hoppers, lives in shallow water
among the breakers. It's a beautiful little fish
and hard to breed. Unless they're living
environment is in optimum condition they
will NOT breed). Nice going Don!

*Don Barbour - Nanochromis - Parilus,
Apistogramma - Tucurui (This is not a
common fish), Apistogramma - Agessizii and
Apistogramma - Macmasteri*
"It looks like Don saw the fry this time!!"
Sorry Don I just had to say it.

NOTE: - As I stated in my last report I
dropped from the BAP report anyone who has
not bred a fish for two consecutive years. In
doing so I noticed that only a handful of
people are left that are breeding any fish.
This is an alarming observation!! What's
happening to the rest of the breeders? All it
takes is one spawn every two years to remain
on the active list. I don't think this is asking
too much! I want to see my page full of
breeders again... I even promise not to harass
my "asterisk club!" For a limited time only.

BEFORE I CLOSE I WANT TO THANK
ALL PARTICIPANTS. " JUST KEEP
THOSE FRY COMING".

DON'T FORGET THOSE NORTHEAST
COUNCIL BPP FORMS

REGULAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month except July and December, starting 8:00 PM at the **Nature Center for Environmental Activities**, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport. Meetings are open to members and the public. Each meeting includes a Bowl Show (members enter their fish to be judged), a short business meeting, refreshments, a raffle of new goods, an auction of new/used goods, and a program/event.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Board of Directors' (BOD) meetings are held in member's homes. They are generally but not always the first Thursday of the month. You do not need to be a board member to attend or to host a BOD meeting. Attending a BOD meeting is an excellent way to get better acquainted in the society, it also gives you a chance to see another aquarist's set-up. Just let the host/hostess know if you plan to attend. Hosting a BOD meeting is an excellent way to have some experienced hobbyists review your set-ups. Just let a BOD member know that you are interested in hosting a meeting and when. The BOD will gladly relocate a meeting to a member's home.

N.A.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAM

N.A.S. will exchange its publication with other societies that send their publication to us.

Articles may be reprinted by not-for-profit aquarium societies by acknowledging the source and sending us two copies (one for our library, one for the author).

WET PET GAZETTE ADVERTISING RATES

The Wet Pet Gazette will print a business card size ad and will offer a page on our web site for any business that will display and offer our membership flyers. (We supply the flyers, the business simply provides the space.)

For larger ad spaces the cost per issue is

FULL PAGE \$ 25

HALF-PAGE \$ 15

These larger ads must be paid in advance of printing.

AFFILIATIONS

N.A.S. is a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS), and the North East Council of Aquarium Societies (NEC).

Norwalk Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 84
South Norwalk, CT 06856