

# Wet Pet Gazette

The Journal of the Norwalk Aquarium Society  
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September - October 2000

## The View From Up-front

by *Kenneth Balog*  
*President, Norwalk Aquarium Society*

September is already here and it's time for me to remind everyone about The NEC Tropical Fish Showcase 2000 that we will be hosting at the Nature Center for Environmental Activities. This promises to be one of the largest fish shows that New England has seen in a long time. Entries are already coming in, and everyone should be sure to remember that they must be preregistered by September 15th. NEC will not accept walk-in entries. Entry forms are available on both the NEC and NAS websites.

Our NAS auction on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> also promises to be huge. As a result, we were forced to limit each vendor to 12 lots, and all vendor forms must be turned in by 12:00 noon on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Furthermore, no styros will be allowed in the auction room on Sunday. NAS will box all lots and they can be picked up before you leave. We will also be starting earlier than we normally do. Presentation of trophies to the winners will begin at 10:00 and the auction will start immediately thereafter. So remember to wake up early that morning.

Finally, I want to ask everyone to help out as much as possible. Set up for the show will start on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and continue all week: the air system will be set up on Monday and Tuesday nights, tables and stands on Wednesday and Thursday nights, and entries will be set up all day Friday and Saturday morning. We need all of the help we can get on all of these nights as well as on Sunday for the auction, or your Board members will quite simply drop dead from exhaustion. So, I hope to see everyone there.

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## Editor's Notebook

*by Douglas De Ment  
Norwalk Aquarium Society*

Hi everybody.

Well once again we have Ed Katuska's excellent column, "Did You Know?" Every month I get a real kick out of it. Wonderful work, Ed.

Being editor has few privileges, but one of the few is getting to pick the golden oldeis. This motnh I have one of my all time favorite golden oldies: Bill Pontin with "OH NO, NOT THAT STORY AGAIN!"

Hey everybody, the pipeline is empty on articles. You want to see a Wet pet, I need to see some articles!

**WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES!**

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**WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES!**

Write up a few! I'll take them in any format, by e-mail, on disk, typed ... even "old fashioned" handwritten on paper, sent by "snail mail."



## A Little Technology

*by Norman D. Edelen, Jr.  
Greater Portland Aquarium Society*

Those members who have access to the web would serve themselves well by investigating the online auction site [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com). This site allows registered users to browse through an amazing assortment of items offered for bidding. Browsing and bidding are both free. In addition, registered users can place items up for sale for others to bid on. I sold a Zippo lighter for \$35. Selling an item does incur some cost, but it is very minimal.

Our trusty librarian, Marcus, first brought this site to my attention. He indicated that quite a few aquarium related items were offered for sale, most notably aquarium books. He and I seem to share the same fascination with collecting aquarium books, and he knew I could benefit from perusing eBay. I have now managed to add about 30 books to my collection via this fun site. However, it is not just books that are available, but filters, heaters, ceramic items of décor, fish foods, live plants, plastic plants, old and new magazines, tropical fish postage stamps, marbles, antique collectibles, and even whole aquarium setups. This brief listing is in no way exhaustive.

Since I have started shopping eBay, the aquarium related offerings have increased tremendously. There is about 5 times as much aquaristic items offered now as there was just 6 months ago.

My most recent purchase from an eBay seller is a small acrylic aquarium with the heater,

light, and filter all built into it. It is called a "Living World TropiQuarium," and is a product of Rolf C. Hagen. It was the first of the "high tech" complete aquaria to hit the market. Very innovative. Very science fiction. It is similar to the new small "Eclipse" aquarium manufactured by Marineland, but has the heater built into it as well. Nothing else like it had ever hit the market when this little gem came out. The amazing thing is that to run the filter, heater, and light, only one outlet is needed. These items are all wired together. This unit I have was the first "TropiQuarium" system manufactured. It is not as fancy as the current line, having no digital readout for the heater, but it was the only one with the acrylic tank. The seller described it as being new in the box, and never having been used. This excited me, as I always wanted that cute little tank, having seen them about 8 years ago at a pet shop in Oregon City, but could never afford the steep price. They were selling then for about \$150.00. I could never bring myself to spend that kind of money on such a small tank. Hagen stopped making that particular model eventually, so I had despaired of ever owning one. The modern models were even more costly, bigger, and not as cute. Now I could perhaps recapture that dream that I had thought lost. I decided to bid as high as \$75.00. The seller lived in Washington State, so shipping wasn't going to be too expensive.

The day the auction was slated to end, there was a GPAS meeting scheduled. The bidding had gotten pretty high. I checked the highest bid before I left for the meeting. I was still the highest bidder, and the price seemed to have leveled off at about \$65.00. I took note of the ending time for the auction, and realized that I might not make it back to the computer in

time to re-enforce my bid if I was outbid. Oh well, another neat opportunity lost. I left to the meeting.

During the meeting, I completely forgot about that cute little tank. Arriving home about midnight, I booted up the email, and decided on a whim to look into what was going on at eBay. That small tank suddenly was remembered! I checked into that auction's status and discovered that I had been outbid as I had expected, however, there was still a minute left before bidding closed! I had another chance! I quickly registered my new bid and then nervously hit the refresh button of my browser to update the page. I was the high bidder! Refresh, refresh, refresh, refresh, and refresh.... Finally bidding closed. I was the high bidder! Within minutes congratulatory email arrived from the seller, who was also up late watching his auction wind down. Amazing my high bid was only \$76.00! Only one dollar higher than the mental limit I had set myself.

Today I set that tank up. It is definitely as cool as I had remembered!

## **Book Review: Corydoras**

*by Grant Gussie  
Calgary Aquarium Society*

This is a review of the new CAS library book Corydoras: The most popular armoured catfishes of South America, by Werner Seuff; (1993). This book was purchased for the CAS library with financing from a special auction of

Corydoras catfishes donated by CAS members Birgit McKinnon and Gernot Kostera.

Dr. Seuff; (pronounced soos: don't laugh) is an avid aquarist, and he has raised almost the entire Corydoras species flock in his own home in Sparneck, Germany.

Since the publication of this book he has also had a fish named after him; Corydoras seussi. Too bad that this fish was described too late to be included.

This is a fabulous book.

All 128 Corydoras species known in 1993 are in the book; and all of them are presented with description, a location map, and a pen-and-ink drawing; and almost all of them with a color photograph as well.

And the photography is the best I have ever seen in any publication other than National Geographic. Each picture shows the fish clearly and with exquisite sharpness in a beautifully planted tank. Not a blemish or any hint of grain is found in any of the photographs. Yet each photo has soft natural light that does not reveal any clue as to what lighting was used. It is however obvious that the subjects were at least partially fore-lit as the reflective iridescence of the scales is clearly seen. No better photographs of aquarium fish will ever be published (the photograph of the two Corydoras "C5" is particularly wonderful).

Unfortunately, the book makes no mention of what camera, film, or lights were used; only that the photographs were "from a collection of many thousands of slides".

The book also has pen-and-ink drawings of each fish by Jürgen Härtl. These are also of the very highest quality.

As far as the other technical aspects of the book's production goes, it is your typically German over-engineered artifact that uses the highest quality paper and bindings.

The book was translated from German by Klaus Berold and Bernard Michaelis, who did an outstanding job. The grammar of the translation is impeccable. Their only lapse is the retention of the single German word "Fundorte" in the map foldout.

And of course the proper German spelling of "Seuff;" is retained, rather than the commonly seen translation "Seuss".

The book uses metric units throughout, except that the German degrees of hardness are used (these can be converted to PPM by multiplication by 17.9). The spelling convention used in the translation is British, which has the annoying affect that temperatures are written with the redundant "o" symbol, as in "27 ° C", rather than the scientific standard "27C". Another minor annoyance is that Corydoras, although always capitalized, is not italicized when it is used outside of a complete scientific name (and unfortunately one or two scientific names didn't get italicized either).

The final comment about the book's production is that this is neither a readily available nor inexpensive book. Despite extensive searches, I have yet to find a Canadian supplier. It can however be ordered over the Internet from the States.

Try the Aquatic Bookshop (<http://www.seahorses.com>) who have it in stock for US\$67.44. Or else try Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com>) who can get the book for US\$49.10, but only on special order (4 to 6 week before shipping). You can pretty much double those prices once you pay for shipping, currency exchange, and GST.

The book opens with a brief presentation of the classification of the Corydoras, as members of the subfamily Corydoradinae, of the family Callichthyidae, of the order Siluriformes.

The Corydoras share their subfamily with the genera *Aspidoras* and *Brochis*. It is stated that *Brochis* can be told from *Corydoras* by the larger number of dorsal rays in *Brochis*: 10 to 17 rather than the 6 to 8 in *Corydoras*. *Aspidoras* is however more difficult to identify; as they have the same number of dorsal rays as *Corydoras*, but tend to be smaller and more elongated than the typical *Corydoras*. *Aspidoras* do however have a dual fontanel (defined as an "opening in the headbone") while *Corydoras* and *Brochis* have a single fontanel. This is of no use in identifying living specimens however.

I think it is a shame that the book is restricted to detailed descriptions of only the *Corydoras* species, and leaves out *Aspidoras* and *Brochis*. The entire subfamily Corydoradinae could have been covered with relatively little additional effort, given that *Brochis* and *Aspidoras* have so few species. Why not include the two related genera in a future edition?

The housing of *Corydoras* in the community aquarium is discussed in the second chapter. It is recommended that at least 6 to 8 of each species be kept together in a tank. The

practice of keeping *Corydoras* in pairs or in mixed-species schools is discouraged. A substrate of well-rounded gravel is suggested. The tank should be planted and supplied with caves. The recommended water chemistry is not very restrictive: a pH of 6.5 to 7.5 and a hardness up to 270 PPM CaCO<sub>3</sub> is recommended (by these criteria Calgary's water is too alkaline by 0.5 points but has an OK hardness). Temperatures in the range of 22C to 28C are advised.

The need to feed the *Corydoras* properly is stressed: do not rely on them scavenging the other fishes' leftovers; feed them sinking food tablets, thawed frozen foods, or live foods.

Seuff cautions against the use of several common aquarium medications, as these are detrimental to catfish. He also states that "Even though I have used many types of medications I have barely been able to save diseased *Corydoras*": an experience repeated by aquarists all over the world who have wasted their money on over-the-counter fish medicines. It is always better to maintain fish properly, thus preventing diseases from occurring in the first place, than trying to cure a diseased animal.

The breeding of *Corydoras* is discussed next. While some *Corydoras* spawn readily in the aquarium, others have proven difficult. Seuff has bred more than 30 *Corydoras* species, but there are still some that continue to frustrate.

Seuff uses 45-liter breeding tanks with a thin (2 to 3 mm) layer of fine gravel on the bottom, some plants (usually *Anubias*), a few hiding places, and a fairly powerful outside power filter. He also keeps a *Sturisoma* species catfish in the breeding tank for algae

cleaning duties (apparently they won't eat the Corydoras eggs).

His breeding hints include instructions on how to catch a catfish in a display aquarium: don't feed for two days then put a couple of food tablets in a net propped up inside the aquarium. Be patient and the catfish will (eventually) find their way inside the net.

Once the catfish are caught, they must be sexed: male Corydoras have much more pointed anal fins than females.

The prospective parents are transferred to the breeding tank, where they are fed heavily on live foods. White worms, Grindal worms, and Tubifex worms are choice foods (the thinness of the sand layer is to prevent the worms from burying themselves out of the catfish's reach). Mosquito larvae are also recommended as food.

To stimulate breeding, Seuff recommends a change of water every two days with fresh water that is slightly cooler than the tank, and a drop in temperature of 4C at night. Lower the pH with peat filtration, and provide a stronger current.

Changing the fish's diet and/or the location of the tank to a brighter location may also help. Oddly, he also recommends placing "dried seed-free alder cones" in the tank, but does not mention their intended purpose. (pH reduction?)

Courtship is initiated by the male, who swims around in a nervous fashion agitating the female. Pairing begins when the female stops avoiding the male and remains stationary at the bottom of the tank, making only small movements. The male will position himself

cross-wise in front of the female in the "T-position". The female then releases eggs into her ventral fins, which she cups into a basket to carry them. The eggs are fertilized by the male while in the basket. The female then carries the eggs to be deposited at a suitable site, usually a plant leaf. Seuff recommends Anubias plants as suitable egg sites, as they are tough enough to withstand the abuse.

The plant with the eggs is then transferred to a 20-liter bare-bottomed hatching tank, to which the anti-fungus medication CILEX is added. The hatching tank is kept aerated and filtered with a sponge filter. Temperatures kept at a relatively low 23C or 24C, as it is stated that the lower temperature results in lower mortality. The tank bottom is to be kept clean with a brush.

Unfertilized and fungused eggs are removed as they are noticed. Two or three days post hatching feeding is begun: newly hatched brine shrimp are fed to all except the fry of the smallest Corydoras species, which require infusoria.

The fry are transferred to rearing tanks when they outgrow their hatching tank.

A thin sand substrate is recommended since Seuff finds that bare-bottomed tanks, unless kept scrupulously clean, result in fungus attacking the ventral fins and barbels. A powerful filter is also advised. And finally, it is suggested that the young fry be sorted for size every couple of weeks, or the smaller fish will never attain their full size.

The chapter of breeding advice is followed by a table of 28 representative species, and for each lists the desired sex ratio, temperature,

size of eggs, hatching time, time of first feeding, suitable first food, total number of eggs laid, and the number of eggs carried by the female at any given trip in her ventral fin basket. The last entry I found most surprising, since most *Corydoras* females only carry 1 or 2 eggs at a time, but a few species really load up, with as much as 25 eggs in the case of *Corydoras elegans*.

The remainder of the book contains detailed descriptions of 128 scientifically described species of *Corydoras*, with three of these species having separate entries for their identified subspecies. There is additional entries for 17 undescribed species identified by their "C numbers", 1 through 17. Each description includes a detailed line drawing, a textual description of the appearance with pointers on how to distinguish the fish from similar species, and a location map of the place the fish is found in nature. Most descriptions also have a color photograph.

All *Corydoras* aficionados need this book. It is simply the best book on any genus of aquarium fishes available, and it would be the constant companion for anyone wishing to begin breeding a representative collection of these fishes. My only serious concern is that, with a publication date of 1993, the book is already getting old. Many new species of *Corydoras* have been properly described since the publication of this book, and a second edition would be greatly welcome.

#### REFERENCE

Seuff, W. 1993. *Corydoras: The most popular armoured catfishes of South America*, Dähne Verlag, Ettinglen, ISBN 3-921684-18-8 ?

## You're a fish-head if...

*by Susan Aufieri  
B.A.S.*

You're a fish-head if...

... you evaluate any item entering your home for potential use in your aquaria.

... at the local hardware store you neglect to get what you went to buy - you get distracted looking for items that can be used in your fishroom.

... you are happier at the spawning of your [insert favorite species here] than the birth of your first child.

... when your mail order shipment of fish goods arrives, you think it's Christmas.

... after opening the box it really does look like Christmas.

... you make your own filtration systems from scratch.

... you spend more time in the kitchen creating piscene cuisine than you do for your own meals.

... you can pass by any store except a fish store.

... you see animals mating and think to yourself "Look at them spawn!"

... your monthly fish-related electric bill approaches numbers resembling the National Debt.

... you promise the significant other "This is my last tank. Honest." while silently chuckling to yourself, "Define last tank. Last ever? Or last one 'til the next?"

## **OH, NO, NOT THAT STORY AGAIN!**

*by Bill Pontin  
Norwalk Aquarium Society*

We were newlyweds while I was stationed at the Newport Rhode Island Naval Base. In our living room, at our off-base apartment, I maintained a thirty gallon aquarium.

Coming off duty one day at the base, I found a very large puddle that was just plum full of mosquito larvae. Darn, it would be a good twenty minute drive to our apartment for a fish net, but the thought of all this free natural food for my pets got the best of me.

After an hour drive (return trip and traffic), I arrived back with the largest net I owned and a bucket. Thus armed, I proceeded to gather my quarry. Greed and maybe the ease in catching them suckers prompted me to catch every last one. Night fall saved a few in the puddle to propagate the species. On the ride home, something was amiss; the car had some adult mosquitoes bussing around. I was familiar with the life cycle of a mosquito, eggs to wriggler to pupa to adult, but that took a week or so. Noooooo problem, my pets would make short work of them.

On arrival home, I dumped the contents of the bucket through a net and thoroughly rinsed the huge wriggling mass under running water. I turned on the aquarium lights to wake my pets and, several minutes later, dumped in their feast.

My pets woke slowly, but it wasn't long before the zebras and tetras were darting through the hoards, devouring as they went. The angelfish devouring, the gourami devouring .... "great," I thought, enough food in here for possibly a week. Feeling proud of myself, for here was food with no waste, no spillage, and it didn't cost me a penny.

As fast as the feeding frenzy started, it stopped. My pets could not hold another piece of food. Getting ready for bed, I shut off the aquarium lights. The thought of them having all the food that they wanted for the next couple of days was reassuring and I was thinking of where I could find more when they ran out.

Something again was amiss. Continual buzzing in our bedroom woke the misses and I up. Turning on the lights, I found a few mosquitoes in the room. Suddenly, the light attracted what seemed like a swarm from the living room. Proceeding into the living room and turning on the lights, the sight made my skin crawl. For there on the walls, ceiling, and everywhere were MOSQUITOES. The heat in the aquarium apparently had accelerated their metabolism and they were hatching out of the tank at an alarming rate.

That night we slept with the front door and windows wide open. We sealed the floor crack to our bedroom door with towels.

It's taken years to live this story down. If I ever was to mention aquariums when the misses was around ..... "Ya, let me tell you about the time we were eaten alive ....."



Sept/Oct 2000

## Did you know?

by Ed Katuska  
Norwalk Aquarium Society

Greetings fishheads. We are only a few weeks away from the upcoming NEC show. As most of you know, the NEC and the NAS show committees have been planning this event for a long time. I always look forward to these big events in the hopes of meeting up with fellow fish friends from sister societies that I usually do not see too often. I hope that all of you are able to attend and enjoy the festivities.

This month we have some more fish facts to help expand your aquatic knowledge and also some more hobby related clippings from newspapers around the world for your reading pleasure. Enjoy.

### Did you know...

#### **Jeepers, Creepers, Where did ya get those peepers?**

The surface bearing livebearer, anableps, has eyes divided in two. When the fish swims near the surface, the top half of each eye sees above the water and the bottom half of each eye sees below the water, hence the common name: four-eyed fish.

#### **Fly Fishing**

The flying hatchet fish is one of the few fish that can actually fly. A hatchetfish can take off from the water surface and can fly as far as ten feet using its pectoral fins as wings. A great escape device from attacking predators.

#### **Here Kitty, Kitty**

The walking catfish can live for days out of water and even walks on land from one lake to another. This fish has special air breathing organs and uses its side fins and caudal fin to crawl over land.

### **The Wacky Fish World**

#### **Stern Spanking**

5/16/00 – New York, New York (AP)- It appears that longtime radio shock jock Howard Stern has come under fire from animal activists groups. On a recent broadcast of the “Howard Stern Radio Show” on CBS, Howard apparently spanked one of his female guests on the derriere with a dead fish. Dawn Carr, the campaign coordinator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals was not amused, and publicly condemned this action declaring that using a dead fish in that way “shows a disrespect for life, certainly for the lives of those fish.”

#### **Dracula Fish**

4/19/00 – Big Pine Key, FL (AP) – A 17 year old girl snorkeling for the first time was almost killed when a needle-nosed houndfish jumped out of the water and struck her in the neck. Stephanie Mittler was recovering Tuesday after emergency surgery to close her wounds and remove two pieces of the fishes serrated bill, including one that came within a millimeter of her carotid artery. Stephanie was standing in chest high water when the fish jumped from the ocean and stuck in her neck.

Houndfish are related to needle fish, average between three and six pounds, and are feared

by fishermen because they can leap from the water and inflict stab wounds when they are startled.

Laura Mittler, Stephanie's mother, said that it is ironic that her daughter was injured by a fish. "She hates seafood and she hates fish," Mittler said. "I told her the fish gods have gotten her back for hating them so much."

### **OOOuch, That's Gonna Leave A Mark**

8/1/00 – Acapulco, Mexico (Reuters) – A giant swordfish hooked off the Mexican coast jumped into a fisherman's boat and stabbed the man through the abdomen, a hospital spokesman said. Dr. David Millan of the General Hospital in the pacific resort of Acapulco said Jose Rojas Mayarita, 39, was reeling in the 10-foot marlin when the fish leaped from the waves and landed on him. The marlin's spear pierced the fisherman's abdomen and came out the other side. Rojas drifted for two days in his boat, unable to get up, until another vessel rescued him. He was treated and under observation in the hospital.

### **Last Months Trivia Question**

Walt Disney was quoted as saying, "There is a natural hootchy-kootchy motion to goldfish" referring to the fish ballet in this classic Disney animated movie. Can you name the movie?

#### **Answer**

Fantasia

### **This Months Trivia Question**

There is only one animal on earth that is known to see both infra-red and ultra-violet light. This animal happens to be a fish that all of you are familiar with. Name that fish.

## **Pseudotropheus Zebra "Cobalt Blue" Just another Zebra**

*By Chuck Pixley*

*Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society*

Of the first few fish I purchased when I started getting interested in Africans, three were cobalts. I got them from a fella who must have assumed that I knew a lot about fish for when I asked him about the specifics of keeping and breeding them he simply said, "Oh, they are just another zebra." Those three, along with maybe a half dozen others have come and gone since that time. I have always liked them, but when it came to spawning them, they may as well have been twenty pointers. Nothing I did seemed to have any positive effect on inducing them to spawn. Water changes, addition of salts to the water, separation and re-introduction of males to females, all proved fruitless. I even lowered the water temperature to 70 deg. for a couple of weeks one time, at the suggestion of a friend, who said that cobalts are seasonal fish and that lowering and then raising the temperature would help get them in the mood.

I guess the key ingredient that was missing really had not to do with the fish, but the owner. As I became more familiar with different types of Africans, I found that patience is just as important when trying to breed certain types of fish as is the correct environment within the aquarium. In the case of the cobalts, I had simply been too anxious and not given them enough time.

I had not planned on getting any more cobalts, but just as in times before, when I saw them the urge to get them was too great to quell. This urge along with the resulting expenditures has prompted my wife to suggest therapy for me on occasion. Anyway, there were five cobalts in this group; three females and two males. I originally put them in a 70 gallon tank but shortly thereafter put them in a 100 gallon tank with about 25 other Africans of comparable size. The tank was built up with lots of rockwork. The temperature was 78 to 80 deg.

The cobalts added a lot of color to the tank, especially the males. They would change from sky blue to a light powder blue in a matter of seconds after the females came in sight. Exhibiting the familiar shimmying motion, they would try to lure the females down to the holes that they had dug in the gravel. Their efforts were not only seemingly ignored by the females but were also being constantly interrupted by other curious fish, especially the male red zebras who would try to claim the same territory for their own purposes.

Although things got a little rough at times, there was lots of room to run and no one seemed the worse for wear.

Approximately 2 1/2 months after I put them in the big tank it happened. It was the night before I was to leave on a 5 day fishing trip that I noticed not one but two of the females appeared to be chewing. I decided to leave them where they were until I returned, I asked my wife to keep an eye on them and if they started to get beat up she could have the pleasure of trying to catch them.

All went well however, so when I got back I had to break down the hundred and dig them out. After a half hour of chasing them around the six foot long tank and catching the wrong fish a number of times, I finally got the two females placed in separate tanks. One of the females evidently got too excited or just didn't like the change, for within two days she was no longer carrying. I left her in the ten for a few days, fed her all she wanted, and then threw her back in the big tank. The other female did better and continued chewing for two weeks. Although she only spit out eleven fry, it was as good as a hundred as far as I was concerned. They were a beautiful light blue in color and were about 3/8 an inch in length. After a week of feeding the female on brine shrimp and beefheart she was also put back in the big tank. I started feeding the fry on frozen baby brine shrimp and powdered pellet food. After a week or so they would eat just about anything I dropped in the tank as long as it was small enough.

After reading this you might ask where the patience I spoke of comes in if it only took about three months for these fish to spawn. Consider that these are adult fish about four inches in length and are in excess of two years old. I have seen common zebras spawn at a young age at sizes of well under two inches. I have never heard or seen this concerning cobalts.

Perhaps the guy from whom I acquired my first cobalts was not an African lover. To each his own. Personally, however, I find them a beautiful fish, a little more difficult than some to breed, and far more than "just another zebra".

### **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).

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