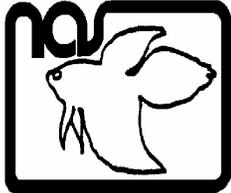


# WET PET GAZETTE



July / August 2006

VOLUME 55 / ISSUE 2



## *In this issue*

**The How and Why to  
Showing Tropical Fish**

**The Peacock Gudgeon**

**The Emperor Tetra**

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

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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. For information visit:

[norwalkas.org](http://norwalkas.org) or call 1-866-219-4NAS



A VIEW FROM UP FRONT  
By John Chapkovich

Time flies when your having fun. Or in this case when things are interesting. I won't say they are exactly fun, but at least not boring. The upcoming show or possible lack there of has me running around like a chicken with my head cut off. I won't elaborate since the editor is covering the issue, but I think we need the show to attract future members and give the club a sense of belonging.

What I will talk about is the monthly meeting auctions. Granted the June meeting is usually light in attendance, but when I end up having to bid on lots that get no interest and come home with 8 bags of fish, something is wrong. Is there anyone but a few handful of members out there keeping fish? This is an aquarium club after all, and I don't think the majority of members have just a fish bowl on their counter.

It's not as if these fish are going for a lot of money. Most went for less than a dollar a fish and half went for less than 50 cents a fish. So please start keeping fish. Try something different. Be daring. The worst thing is you'll kill 3 dollars worth of fish, and you might even learn something about a new fish, or a new way to breed fish. If it is a fish you have no knowledge of, just ask myself, Sal, or another member. One of us will know something or know whom to ask.

So have a great summer and please keep me from having to set up another tank. I already have almost 50 tanks and I am running out of room.

Please consider helping setup or teardown for the show.

See you in August

John



Editorially Speaking  
By Cathy Chapkovich

The Norwalk Aquarium Show is an integral part of who we are at the Norwalk Aquarium Society. The show has been going on for years, and yes --- it can be a royal pain in the ass. This is especially true when it is hard to find the volunteers to help set up and tear down.

I have to agree with some of the board members that last years show was a big disappointment. Number 1 – we didn't have the people to help set up and tear down. This fell mostly on the board members and lets face it, the members on the board are not the healthiest around. In fact, most of us have some type of health issue or other. Number 2 – the number of entries last year was way down from previous years. This I contribute to the circumstances that happen just before the show. In all honesty, I feel that anyone who has not looked at what happened prior to the show is blind. Katrina hit the south (New Orleans especially) hard. This caused gas prices to skyrocket, which made a lot of people sit back and take count. No one knew how high the gas was going to go at this time; in fact we are still waiting to see. I know if I had to travel any distance at that time, I probably would not have gone also. In fact, people from Jersey and Long Island who normally bring fish did not since it meant that they would've had to make two trips, one to bring fish and one to attend the auction.

To try and help solve some of the problems from last year, I have sent e-mails out to other clubs and requested help for the show. The response I have been getting is great. I have received responses from people that will not be able to attend the show or auction that weekend, but are willing to help out on Wednesday night when we are setting up.

All in all, I believe as others do,

# **THE SHOW MUST GO ON!**

This is my opinion.

Cathy Chapkovich  
Editor  
Board of Directors Member



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SUPPORT YOUR SISTER SOCIETIES

### JUNE

29 Show Committee Meeting

### JULY

No Meeting — Have a Great Summer

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

### AUGUST

3 Board Meeting

31 Show Committee Meeting

17 General Meeting — Hurst Gurbner (possibly)

### SEPT

7 Board/Show/Auction Meeting

21 General Meeting — Tony Pinto (possibly)

27 Begin Setting Up for Show

28 Finish Setting Up for Show

29 Show Entries start to arrive

30 Entries still beginning accepted, Judging of Entries, Judges dinner

### OCT

1 NAS Annual Auction, Tear down of show

19 General Meeting — Speaker TBA

### NOV

16 General Meeting — Elections — Speaker TBA

23 Thanksgiving

### DEC

No Meeting — **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



# NAS HAPPENINGS

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## OCTOBER ANNUAL SHOW AND AUCTION SEPTEMBER 30TH & OCTOBER 1 DON'T MISS THE FUN & CONFUSING

### BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

As always the Board Meetings have been interesting in a lot of aspects. Especially when you take into account the controversy of having the show this year. But all in all, we have gotten some things done. John Kroll has joined the Board recently and is a welcome member, he has also taken over doing Membership along with Barry assisting him.

Barry has been doing a great job with the BAP updates. Thanks for doing that Barry. Anyone who wants to know their standing in the BAP only has to ask him and he usually has the information with him.

Cathy Chapkovich has taken over doing the WetPet. Leaving John Chapkovich to his presidential duties and trying to keep up with the web site.

Don Barbour is waiting patiently to set up the air system for the show, while he is working ungodly over-time at work. Hopefully, he'll have the energy to do the air system — just teasing Don.

Dick Moore — has been working with the Danbury club to set up a tour / buying spree at an importers place of business. Anyone interested in going should talk with him about it.

Sal — what to say about Sal. Well we see Sal at the board meetings but he seems kind of scarce lately at the general meetings. Sal has contributed a lot over the years to the club and he still does. His knowledge of what needs to happen and the contacts he has for speakers is extremely welcomed.

Charlie — this poor guy has the unfortunate duty of keeping track of how, where and what we spend the money on. You have to give Charlie a lot of credit, he keeps up with it all.

Steve Ng — we don't see much of between April and August. Between his son being involved in sports and him playing softball — we miss him at the meetings.



## **Tateurndina ocellicauda - The Peacock Gudgeon**

**By: Barry Lynch, NAS**

Background - BAP: In the NAS BAP program, there are five award levels - Breeder, Senior Breeder, Master Breeder, Grandmaster Breeder and Expert Breeder. There are also five point classifications assigned fish species based upon breeding difficulty - 5, 10, 15, 20 and 50. Last year I received the Senior Breeder Award - which meant that I had accumulated 100 points, had bred at least one 15 point fish (*Ctenopoma ansorgei*) and had met article requirements.

The fact is that, at that time, I had already met the 200 point requirement for the next level Master Breeder Award. What I lacked for that award was a 20 point fish - the bane of many BAP participants. I put considerable thought into which 20 point fish I would try to breed. I recognized that, within each fish point classification, there are varying degrees of breeding difficulty - e.g. some 20 point species would be more difficult to breed than others. For my first attempt at a 20 point fish, I resolved to try one of the "easier" ones. I immediately eliminated from consideration 20 point fish which had never been bred by NAS members. I wanted to select a fish which had been bred before - one that was doable.

I reviewed the NAS BAP records and determined that members had bred thirteen 20 point species. I eliminated a couple (*Discus* and *Tilapia buttikoferi*) because I then didn't have tanks large enough to accommodate them. I also eliminated a number of dwarf cichlids because I had bred very few cichlids and no dwarf cichlids at that time. Several other species were eliminated because they were virtually impossible to obtain. Eventually my focus was upon *Tateurndina ocellicauda* - the Peacock Gudgeon or Peacock Goby - a beautiful little fish that would do fine in a 10 gallon tank. An additional selling point was that it had been bred by three friends (Don Barbour, Bob McKeand and Sal Silvestri) who could provide advice when needed.

Background - The Fish: *Tateurndina ocellicauda* is a sleeper goby first introduced to the hobby in the early 80's. It originates in the lowland rivers and ponds of New Guinea. It is definitely a freshwater fish - no salt is required. Soft water of neutral PH is preferred.

The fish is slender and generally does not exceed 2 ½ inches in length. The coloration of both males and females is quite distinctive. The background body color is a light blue intermixed with some yellow. Vertical squiggly red markings are distributed throughout the body. The finnage carries the same coloration - the dorsal and anal fins highlighted by a brilliant yellow border.

The Search, Acquisition & Set-Up: Although the Peacock Gudgeon is not common in the hobby, it is not impossible to find. About six months ago, while delivering a number of panda guppies to the local pet shop, I spotted a small group mixed in with many other fish in one of the store tanks. Due to the potential exposure to parasites and disease in such situations, I am generally reluctant to acquire my fish in this fashion. However, the fish appeared healthy and I dearly wanted them. I traded the panda



guppies for the population of seven gudgeons.

I immediately proceeded to set up a 10 gallon tank for the fish. The substrate was new gravel. Seventy percent of the water came from an established tank. The water was soft, the PH was neutral and the temperature was set at 78 degrees. An aged sponge filter was taken from another tank. Several caves created from small pieces of shale were distributed throughout the tank. Java moss and water sprite were added. Following appropriate acclimatization, the fish were introduced to their new home.

Disaster: Everything appeared fine for the first two days. The fish were out and about exploring the tank. All foods offered were readily taken. Two, presumably a male and female, had appropriated a small cave for themselves. However, on the third day, I noticed clamped tail fins on two of the fish. On closer inspection, I spotted a transparent film on one of the fish. While I knew I had a problem, I quite frankly did not know what it was. I tried a water change followed by medication (first "Clout" for parasites and then "Spectogram" for bacteria). Nothing worked. Within a week, all seven had died. I conveyed the bad news to the pet shop and was told the fish would be replaced when next available.

Second Try: Several months later, I received a call that a shipment with some Peacock Gudgeons had just arrived. I requested they be kept in their bag and rushed over to the store. The bag contained eight - I wanted two pair. As the store was very busy, it was suggested I take all eight and return four at a later date. Once again I proceeded to set up a 10 gallon tank - exactly as described in the first instance.

The fish immediately took to their new home. And, I'm happy to say that no problems were encountered this time. I did have difficulty sexing the fish. There were two fish which I presumed to be males because they were somewhat slimmer than the others. I kept these two and two of the full-bodied females, returning the other four to the pet store. The resident expert confirmed that I had returned four females.

I then sat back to await some spawning activity. I waited and waited. After a month, I began to suspect that I had four females. After two months, I was convinced and requested some males. It took a while; but, eventually another shipment came in. Viewing the fish in the bag, it was quickly clear some males were present. Their dorsal and anal fins were broader than the females' fins. The dead giveaway, however, was their heads - much larger and rounder. I netted three out of the bag and took them home.

Third Try: The three males were introduced to the tank without consequence. (There was some harmless fin nipping.) The next day, the tank presented a pretty picture of seven colorful gudgeons swimming slowly through the environment. There was a dramatic change the following day. Only one lonely female was visible - the other six had disappeared. I checked the caves but found nothing. I finally found separate pairs crammed into tiny nooks and crannies formed by the shale I had used to create the unused caves. This was progress.

The females did not remain long in the crevices. The males stayed there for several days presumable guarding and fanning eggs and then emerged one by one. After the first two males re-emerged, I carefully checked their areas for eggs or wrigglers but found nothing. I became concerned that predation was occurring. (The females are known for stealing eggs and the males for possibly feeding on fry.)



I decided that the safest course was to remove the adults to include the one male which still seemed to be guarding something. This was done. I then waited to see if any fry had been produced. After five days of witnessing nothing, my patience wore thin. I decided to strip the tank to find my answer. I first siphoned some water into buckets and very carefully and gently moved the water sprite, java moss and sponge filter into the buckets. A search of the buckets uncovered no fry. I then disassembled the caves piece by shale piece. I was now left with a tank half full of water and a gravel bottom - still no sign of fry. As the last resort, I slowly gravel siphoned water from a corner of the tank into another bucket. As there was considerable debris siphoned into the bucket, I had to wait for everything to settle. After about five minutes of peering into the bucket (it seemed like a fruitless eternity), I spotted one fry. I finally had fry !

I, of course, put everything back into the tank (substituting a white rock for the shale caves) and awaited developments. I didn't have to wait long. The very next day I saw a number of fry (turned out to be twelve) swimming back and forth in front of the white rock. In hindsight, if I had just waited that one extra day, I could have enjoyed the fry without tearing the tank apart.

Feeding the Fry: The gudgeon fry were incredibly small - mere flitting specks. As has always been my experience with small fry, my first concern was the availability of food small enough for them to eat. I try to create an infusoria heaven via an aged sponge filter and plenty of java moss. I am, however, reluctant to rely solely on food I can't even see. Accordingly, the fry were fed three times a day - the principal food being freshly hatched brine shrimp. Occasionally, frozen rotifers or fine powdered flake food was substituted for the shrimp. I am sure I overfed them (something I tend to do) but potential problems were remedied by a small population of pond snails and periodic water changes.

Growth: Initially, growth was agonizingly slow. I began to despair they were not getting proper nutrition. Although the food put into the tank disappeared, for a while I feared I was merely feeding the pond snails. On the positive side, the fry remained lively and, most importantly, alive. After three weeks, there was a noticeable growth spurt. With the exception of one "runt", most were about a quarter inch long. I suspect the fry only subsisted on infusoria while slowly approaching a size where they could appreciate the shrimp. Then came the growth spurt. Thereafter, growth was gradual but consistent.

Water Changes: In addition to feeding, my second concern with small fry is water changes (particularly when there is gravel in the tank). With my propensity to overfeed, frequent water changes are a must. I am always afraid I will accidentally siphon out some of the fry (I do siphon into a bucket so siphoned fry can be caught and returned to the tank) or, even worse, that some fry will be damaged by gravel moved in the gravel siphoning process. It turns out there was no reason for concern. The gudgeon fry do not try to hide in the gravel. Instead, they swim at mid-level. So, I was able to gravel siphon to my heart's content - which I did every five days.



Observing the Fry: With feeding and water quality issues resolved, the only thing to do was to sit back, enjoy the fish and watch them grow. During the first month, the fry were always visible and constantly moving - flitting back and forth in front of that white rock. They seemed to avoid the java moss - I never saw any venture into the java moss. In the second month, their behavior became more similar to the adults - i.e. they tended to hover more and sometimes hid behind the java moss but not in it. However, put some baby brine shrimp in the tank and they'd streak out of seclusion for a feast. In the third month, they've come to realize the tank is theirs. The java moss is no longer a barrier to their wanderings.

Adulthood: As I write, the fry are three months of age. Six were donated under the BAP program at the May NAS meeting. The other six were sold 50/50. It is my understanding it will be another three months before the fish are sexually mature. At that time, two fellow hobbyists will hopefully enjoy similar breeding success.

Conclusion - Breeding Difficulty: Based upon my experience, I do not think *Tateurndina ocellicauda* is all that difficult to breed and raise. I certainly had some initial difficulties in finding healthy fish of both sexes. Once these problems were overcome, the process went rather smoothly. (I may have been aided by my inadvertent isolation of the females - i.e. when the males were finally introduced, the females were ripe and ready.) I do think that twelve fry from the probable spawning of three pairs is inordinately low. This bespeaks the danger of predation of both eggs and fry. This predation problem was undoubtedly exacerbated by the presence of seven adults in a ten gallon tank. My recommendation for greater success is a larger tank, fewer adults and removal of the adults upon their emergence from their spawning crevices.



# ALA CONVENTION — 2006 — NEW JERESY A SMALL COLLECTION OF LIVEBEAR SHOW ENTERANTS

By  
Cathy Chapkovich





## The How and Why to Showing Tropical Fish

By David L Banks Jr, TFCB

Tropical fish shows are an aspect of the hobby that many people enjoy seeing, but in the recent past, fewer hobbyists are participating by bringing their fish to shows. I'm presenting two topics that will hopefully help those that want to show and encourage those that have not shown fish.

I will start by giving some tips on showing your fish, but also go through the process so you know what to expect.

**DECIDING TO SHOW** - Make sure you give yourself enough time to prepare for the show. If you know your club, or a nearby club, has a show coming up, the earlier you start to think about it, the more prepared you will be. Determine how many entries you will want to enter and what equipment you will need for these entries. Read the show rules as these will tell you what the club will provide and what you need to bring. The show rules will also tell you what is allowed and what isn't as each show is different. There will also be a list of which classes the fish will be judged in. Try to first visit a show that you will not be showing fish so you can see how others have setup and the fish they have decided to show. Like most other aspects of the hobby, take in what you can about how others are doing things, and decide for yourself how you want to do it based on that information.

**CHOOSING A FISH** - While you should always consider the quality of the fish and how the fish will be judged, you might also want to consider entering a fish because it is interesting or unusual. Just because the fish is unusual or rare, it will not be given any additional points during the judging, but it may pique someone's interest that will be visiting the show. Fish that have split fins and other injuries are not a good choice, even if they have time to heal, there may still be evidence of the injury. Don't choose fish that will not be adult size for the show, and don't choose a fish that will be too old when it is time for the show.

**CONDITIONING THE FISH** - Once you decide which fish you want to enter you should consider preparing the fish for the show. This could be something as simple as stepping up tank maintenance and feeding the fish extra well. But there are other things we can do. If you have an extra tank, you can isolate the fish to ensure it doesn't become damaged while fighting with other fish. It also allows the fish to become accustomed to being in a smaller environment and being alone. Another hint is to put the fish in a high traffic area so that a fish that is not accustomed to people walking by the tank will not be frightened when all of a sudden brought to a show where hundreds of people will be walking by in a weekend. It doesn't do much good to bring a fish to a show, only to have it hide in a corner where no one can see it.

**PREPARING** - A couple of things to consider; are you going to have a filter or air stone in your tank, does the club provide air, do you need your own air valves, does the club provide



electricity, can you have a heater or light on the tank. Even if water is available at the show location, you should consider bringing your own water from home. It is the same water your fish have been in so there won't be any change in water chemistry.

**TRANSPORTING** - Try to setup the fish at the show as early as possible to allow it to settle in after moving it. Be very careful when netting the fish and try not to stress it by chasing it for any length of time. Also don't startle it and have it chance damaging the fins or scales. You might want to consider using an alternative to nets when catching the fish. A large plastic container or fish bag could be used and the fish coaxed into it. If you were able to move the fish to its own tank, and that is the tank you will be showing it in, you can move the fish in the tank. Drain the water level down enough so you will not risk breaking the tank when it is moved. Find a fish box that the tank will fit in and cover the tank with plastic wrap to avoid spills and the fish jumping out. When in the car, keep the fish out of the sun as the water can heat up very quickly, also avoid leaving the fish in the car when it is cold outside. Warm up the car first, remembering that 50 degrees seems warm to us in the spring and fall, but not to your fish. It is a good idea not to feed your fish for 24 – 48 hours before transporting them to the show, so they will not add extra waste in their small temporary setup. For this same reason, fish at shows should not be fed. Most adult fish can go for several days, even up to a week without being fed if they are healthy. Many fish will also be more willing to “greet” someone looking into the tank because they think they will get fed.

**SETTING UP** - I would suggest checking out the show area before you bring in everything. Find the easiest way in and where your entries will be setup. Remember reading those show rules? Well now is when you need to ensure you setup everything according to the rules. Take your time setting up, you don't want to harm the fish or break anything.

**DURING THE SHOW** - Again, avoid the temptation to feed the fish while at the show. Once setup, check on the fish frequently to make sure the air is appropriate if you have an air stone or filter. As others are setting up, there is always the chance you may get too much or too little airflow. You may need to get assistance from the show committee to correct any problem. They are there to help and also to ensure everything is done safely. Once everything is setup, be sure to clean the front glass as you want everyone to be able to see the fish. Judges also take into account the glass being clean and the water looking clear, along with judging the fish itself. If you get the chance, being a judges assistant or scribe is very useful in learning what judges look for when judging fish. Although, if you have fish that are being judged, be sure not to help with the classes that your fish are entered in. In general the judges will be judging your fish against what the ideal fish of that species should be. They will look very closely at the condition of the fins and the overall body of the fish. They will look at the size and shape of the fins and body. Color is also a very important aspect. Many fish lose their color when they are not in ideal conditions. The judges will also look at something called deportment, how the fish is behaving. If a fish is hiding in a corner, and it is normally out swimming around, you will lose points. A good healthy fish, with good color and size should do well at a show.

**TEARING DOWN** - So now the show is over, and you are tired from a long day or weekend. But this is an important time for your fish. Don't be too hasty in tearing down, as you still need to consider the fish and take care not to damage or stress it. You may want to show it again, and at the very least



you want him to make it home and take over his old role. Teardown can be very confusing because everyone is looking to get out at the same time, so know ahead of time how you are going to be transporting the fish out and back home.

**GETTING BACK HOME** - The same things should be considered when bringing the fish home as when you brought them to the show. You want to make sure the fish get back at home safely and setup either back in their temporary show tank, or reintroduced back into their original tank.

So now you know some of what happens at a show and what you need to do to bring your fish into the show. But why would you want to do this? Lots of reasons! In no particular order:

**PUBLIC AWARENESS:** Shows are a great way for your club to be seen by the general public. Visiting a show is much more interesting when there is a good selection of quality fish being shown. It gives the club and its members an opportunity to show off a little and potentially attract new members. Having a fish auction also brings in outside people, but a show tends to attract a much larger crowd.

**INCREASE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE HOBBY:** Not just for the visitors but also for the hobbyists that are showing. Having a well attended show gives all involved more enthusiasm for our hobby.

**ENCOURAGE OTHER HOBBYISTS TO GROW** by seeing good quality adult fish and through seeing different types of fish. Shows provide a great opportunity to see what others are keeping, talk to others that might be keeping similar fish or introduce someone to something that they are not familiar with.

**SELF IMPROVEMENT:** Showing better fish and doing better than at previous shows always helps. It is a great feeling to see that you are improving how you are caring for your fish by seeing them judged against others fish. If your fish do not show well, it gives you the opportunity to find out why and see what you can start doing differently.

**COMPETITION:** It is always good to have a little friendly competition; it encourages everyone to do things a little better. And the thrill of getting first place in a class is tremendous, not to mention being awarded the ultimate, the Best of Show award!

**RECOGNITION OF QUALITY AND AQUARIST SKILLS:** We all like to have others recognize that what we are doing with our fish has been successful. While some go out of their way to find the recognition, others more modest are encouraged when other hobbyists recognize their efforts.

**Participation:** As with most things in life, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it. Participating in a fish show gives you the chance to mingle with others who are showing. You can talk about your fish, how you are keeping your fish and where you are from if you are participating in another clubs show. It is very different than just visiting a show because you get to know the other people involved better and you come away feeling that you were a part of the show.

In closing I would just like to say that showing fish is an important aspect of our hobby. If more people don't participate, we may end up losing the few shows we do have left. So please consider entering in the next show that comes around. It will be well worth your effort!



Breeding Nematobrycon Palmeri  
(The Emperor Tetra)  
By John Chapkovich

I was hosting a Norwalk aquarium society board meeting when one of our board members looked at the 55-gallon tank in my living room and said “Wow that male emperor tetra is a moose, you should have entered him in the show”. He was right the male I had bought at a local store had grown to enormous size. I asked him how hard they were to breed and he said. “Easy if you can find a compatible pair”.

So I started to search for females to try my hand at the first tetra I would attempt to breed. The next club auction I attended happened to have several bags of sub adult emperor tetras so I bid and won a bag of 8 fish.

The emperor tetra is very easy to sex as the male has blue eyes and the female green. Also the male has a center extension to his tail fin. So when I got the bag home I put what turned out to be 3 males and 5 females into a 55-gallon tank along with the huge male I had in my community tank. The tank had my miscellaneous “bullpen” adult angels that were waiting to pair off.

A month or two went by and the males started to set up “vertical territories”. I call them that since the males have the tendency to hang vertically in a stationary position at mid water. The females will hang at a 45 deg angle as well but the males can really stand on their heads. Males would occasionally chase a female and each other, but for the most part hang out in their area. Females tend to wander more than the males and will stay together at times.

As it turned out the original large male and one other male showed up floating one day, so I was down to two males and three females. By the time they were fully-grown I eventually ended up with two males and four females.

My first attempt was to take the best male and female and put them in a 20-gallon long tank with a lot of java moss. The water was 78 deg F and the PH was 7.8. I do not know what the KH was which brings me to an interesting issue I was facing at the time with my tanks

I had several tanks that acquired a fungus problem do to the introduction of new fish without proper quarantine. I won't say anything more here; I learned my lesson, but the real problem I had after was trying to get the tanks restarted. I would get the tanks to cycle through the ammonia cycle and produce Nitrite, but that was as far as they would get.

I never had this problem before and was stumped. So a friend suggested that I test the hardness of my tap water and found that the KH was extremely low, about 3. He suggested adding a bit of crushed coral, which also raised the PH out of my tap from 6.9 to 7.8-8.0. It did the trick so I do this with all my filters and live with the Higher PH and KH. I have been told since that I should raise Discus....lol. Eventually....I will. I later read the water company literature and found that my town has both reservoirs



and wells so depending on the time a year the water can be soft or neutral.

Back to the Tetras.

The male chased the female around for a couple of days and I took them out to wait.

Nothing materialized. Except for a very frightened female.

So I started to do some research and found that it was recommended that the pair be isolated during conditioning. I also remembered what the member of my club said when I had asked him 6 months ago about finding a compatible pair.

I took the females and isolated them and waited for them to get plump. Then tried again with a different pair. The second I put them in the tank the started playing tag in and out of the java moss. So I let them be for a couple of days and removed them.

A week went by and I didn't see anything but added a small amount of micro worms daily knowing that the infusoria in the java moss would keep them going as well. Another couple of days went by and I started to think that I had failed. So I started to remove some of the java moss around and eureka, I saw little slivers hovering at 45 degrees all around the edges of the java moss.

I kept adding micro worms for a week then transferred to baby brine shrimp. They got bigger and bolder and eventually venture out of the java moss and actually started to swim in a school when they got to be about a quarter inch long. It was neat to see them exhibit the schooling behavior that you see in other tetras, since they started out life in "vertical mode" like their parents. I ended up with about 40 fry. They stayed in this schooling behavior for quite a while until they were big enough for me to tell sexes by eye color. They started to separate, as they got older.

Since this initial spawn I have tried again with similar success only this time I tried two females and one male and did not remove the adults. I ended up with about 30 fry, probably do to some attrition, but it seems to be possible as long as you're willing to loss some fry.

I enjoyed this first tetra experience and look forward to trying other species.



## NAS Schedule of Events for the Tropical Fish Show & Auction

### June:

- 29 — Thursday > EarthPlace  
Show Committee Meeting:  
assign job leaders & to go over what & where things need to go

### August:

Date, Time & Place — TBD

### September:

- 27 — Wednesday — 7:30pm — EarthPlace  
Set-up Air System  
Drape Back Drops  
Bring up Stands and Tanks from Basement  
Set-up Stands for Tanks
- 28 — Thursday — 7:30pm — EarthPlace  
Finish Set-Up from Wednesday Night
- 29 — Friday — 8:00pm to 10:00pm  
Entrants for show being accepted and set-up
- 30 — Saturday  
9:00am to 11:30am — Entrants for show still being accepted  
Noon — Judging begins  
Noon to 5:00pm — Show is open to public  
3:00pm — Set-up for Judges dinner begins  
Between 5pm & 6pm — Judges Dinner

### October:

- 1 — Auction  
9:00am — Set-up for Auction begins  
9:30am — Vendor lots accepted  
10:30 to 11:30 am — Viewing of Lots  
Noon — Auction Begins  
4:00pm — Teardown of Show  
Auction End — Clean up



THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
BAP REPORT

By: Barry Lynch, NAS

Mid-Year Review - 2006

**Breeder of the Year Competition:** The BAP program has truly taken off and is thriving. At the June meeting, four members (John Chapkovich, Dick Moore, Maryanne Naylor and me) each brought in two BAP entries. At this half-way point in the Breeder of the Year competition, nine participants have submitted 34 entries compared to seven participants with 43 entries for all of last year. The Breeder of the Year standings through June 15 are set out at the end of this report.

**The Fish:** In reviewing the 34 entries, you will note there are only two duplications (Ameca splendens and Pseudotropheus zebra). This means a great variety of fish have been made available to the attendees at the mini-auctions. This is highlighted by the first time submission of seven different species. These were Dick Moore's Greenwoodochromis christyi, Haplochromis sp "Red Tail Blue Neon" and Stomatepia pindu, my Apistogramma inconspicua and Badis badis, Steve Ng's Aulonocara Iwanda and Anton Vukich's Skiffia multipunctata.

**The People:** The participants include an interesting mix of the old and the new. It was particularly nice to see two of our big-time BAP participants (Anne Broadmeyer and Sal Silvestri) submit entries after a several year hiatus for each. And, it's always exciting to see first-time participants enter the program. One of our newest members (Maryanne Naylor) brought in her first submission (Pseudotropheus zebra) in May, followed it with Gold Severums and Panda Guppies in June and promises more in August.

I mentioned above that Dick Moore has submitted three bonus eligible entries this year. Dick is making it a habit of collecting bonus points. Of his thirteen overall BAP entries, nine have earned bonus points for being the first ever entry of those species in the program. Dick is a true pioneer to all of our benefit. I also note that at the Board meeting hosted by Dick in June, I had the opportunity to view his fish room. It seemed there were fry in virtually every tank - a promise of things to come.

Dick is rapidly increasing his BAP point total by submitting 10 and 15 point fish, most of which also earn bonus points. This year I am also rapidly increasing my point total; but, by a somewhat different method - sheer volume. The fifteen entries made through June equals my previous high for a full year. Although I will not double my total in the second half of the year, I do hope and expect to exceed twenty for the year. This has only been done twice before. Kevin Cyr had 22 in 1991 and Tony Skojec holds the record with 23 in 1994.

**Awards:** It was my privilege to present the highest level BAP award, Expert Breeder, to Don Barbour at the May meeting. To earn this award, you must accumulate 500 points (Don has in excess of 1200 points), submit four 20 point species entries and satisfy article requirements. In the 33 years of the BAP program, only two others (Don Maloney and Sal Silvestri) have earned this prestigious award. Now there are three. Award winners to date in 2006 are:

Expert Breeder: Don Barbour

Master Breeder: Barry Lynch

Senior Breeder: John Chapkovich & Steve Ng

**Point Standings - Current Members:** The up-to-date point standings for all current NAS members is set out at the end of this report.



**NAS BAP PROGRAM  
POINT STANDINGS - CURRENT NAS MEMBERS  
Date: 6/15/06**

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Species Points</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Sal Silvestri	1545	515	<b>2060</b>
Bob McKeand	795	600	<b>1395</b>
Don Barbour	1040	170	<b>1210</b>
Anton Vukich	545	250	<b>795</b>
Ed Katuska	470	40	<b>510</b>
Barry Lynch	402.5	70	<b>472.5</b>
Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	280	25	<b>305</b>
Rich Grenfell	260	45	<b>305</b>
Dick Moore	165	90	<b>255</b>
John Chapkovich	230	10	<b>240</b>
Steve Ng	135	20	<b>155</b>
Joe Siskay	115	40	<b>155</b>
Diane & Jack Adinolfi	120	20	<b>140</b>
Joe Masi	85	10	<b>95</b>
Jeff Polster	75		<b>75</b>
Ed Schildnecht	70		<b>70</b>
Doug De Ment	70		<b>70</b>
Carl Addicks	60		<b>60</b>
Jennifer Broderick	30	10	<b>40</b>
Charlie Sundberg	40		<b>40</b>
Maryanne Naylor	25		<b>25</b>
Ira Friedman	10	10	<b>20</b>
Denise Hofer	15		<b>15</b>
Ed Peters	10		<b>10</b>
Sue & Scott Reed	10		<b>10</b>



**NAS BAP PROGRAM  
BREEDER OF THE YEAR - Date: 6/15/06**

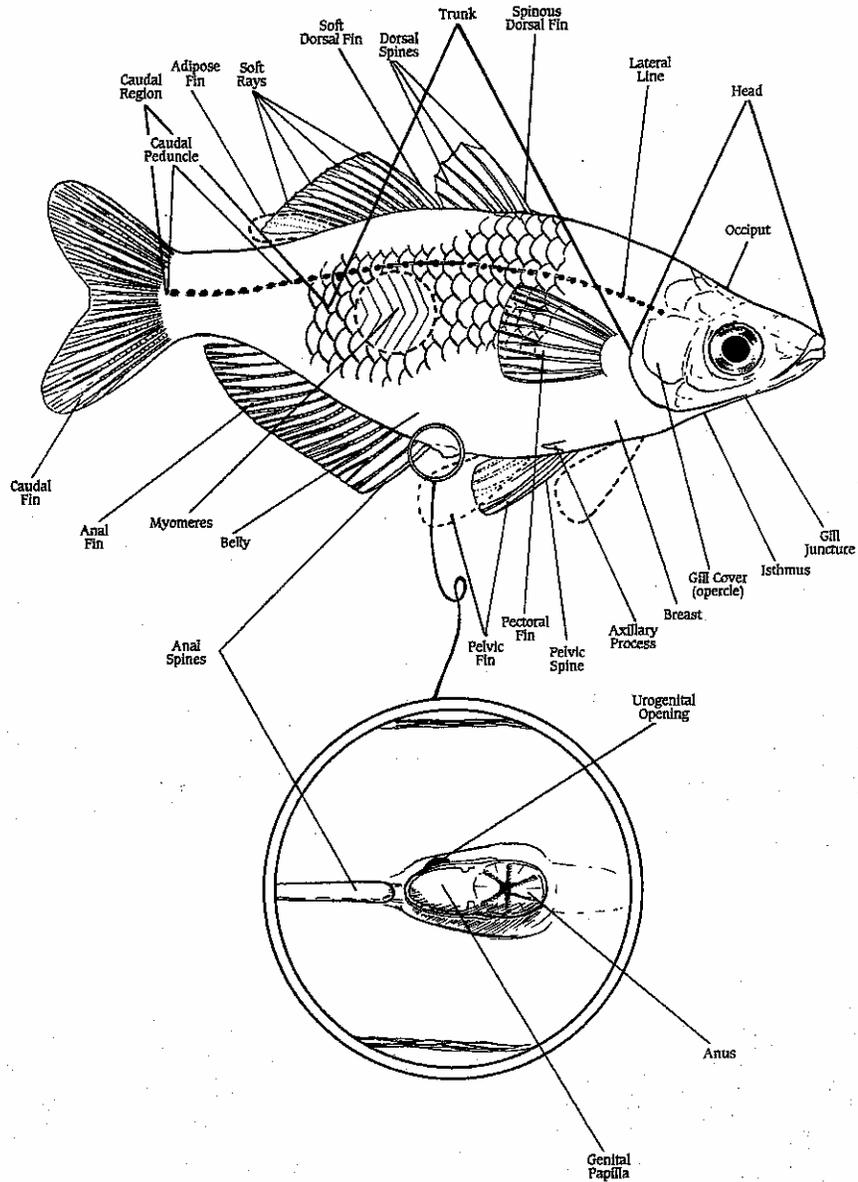
<b>Barry Lynch</b>	<b>15 entries</b>	
Ameca splendens		Butterfly Goodeid
Apistogramma borelli		Umbrella Dwarf Cichlid
Apistogramma cacatuoides		Cockatoo Dwarf Cichlid
Apistogramma inconspicua		Undistinguished Dwarf Cichlid
Badis badis		Badis
Characodon lateralis		Rainbow Goodeid
Cichlasoma octofasciatum		Jack Dempsey
Corydoras aeneus		Albino Aeneus Cory
Heterandria formosa		Mosquito Fish or Least Killy
Ilyodon furcoides		Goldbreast Ilyodon
Limia nigrofasciata		Humpbacked Limia
Melanotaenia splendida inornata		Checkered Rainbowfish
Poecilia salvatoris		Liberty Molly
Pterophyllum scalare		Silver Angel Fish
Tateurndina ocellicauda		Peacock Gudgeon or Goby
<b>Dick Moore</b>	<b>4 entries</b>	
Greenwoodochromis christyi		
Haplochromis sp "Red Tail Blue Neon"	Red Tail Blue Neon Hap	
Pelvicachromis taeniatus		Striped Kribensis - "Moliwe"
Stomatepia pindu		
<b>Steve Ng</b>	<b>4 entries</b>	
Ameca splendens		Butterfly Goodeid
Aulonocara lwanda		Lwanda Peacock
Corydoras paleatus		Long Fin Peppered Cory
Protomelas taeniolatus		Spindle Hap - Red Empress
<b>John Chapkovich</b>	<b>3 entries</b>	
Astatotilapia nubila		
Neolamprologus splendens		Neolamprologus helianthus
Tropheus moorii		Moorii ("molliro")
<b>Maryanne Naylor</b>	<b>3 entries</b>	
Heros severus		Gold Severum
Poecilia reticulata		Panda Guppy
Pseudotropheus zebra		Zebra
<b>Anton Vukich</b>	<b>2 entries</b>	
Corydoras Caudimaculatus		Tail-Spot Cory
Skiffia multipunctata		Speckled Sawfin Goodeid
<b>Anne Broadmeyer</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Ilyodon xantusi		Xantus' Ilyodon (Goodeid)
<b>Sal Silvestri</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Dario dario		Scarlet Badis
<b>Charlie Sundberg</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Pseudotropheus zebra		Yellow Zebra



# ask KC



KC (aka Krazy Cat) is a new addition to the Wet Pet Gazette. He will try to answer your questions to the best of his ability. If he can't, he will find someone with the answers. So if you have a question for KC, please E-Mail him in care of Cathy at [cvscukas@snet.net](mailto:cvscukas@snet.net) —

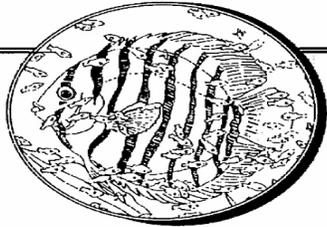




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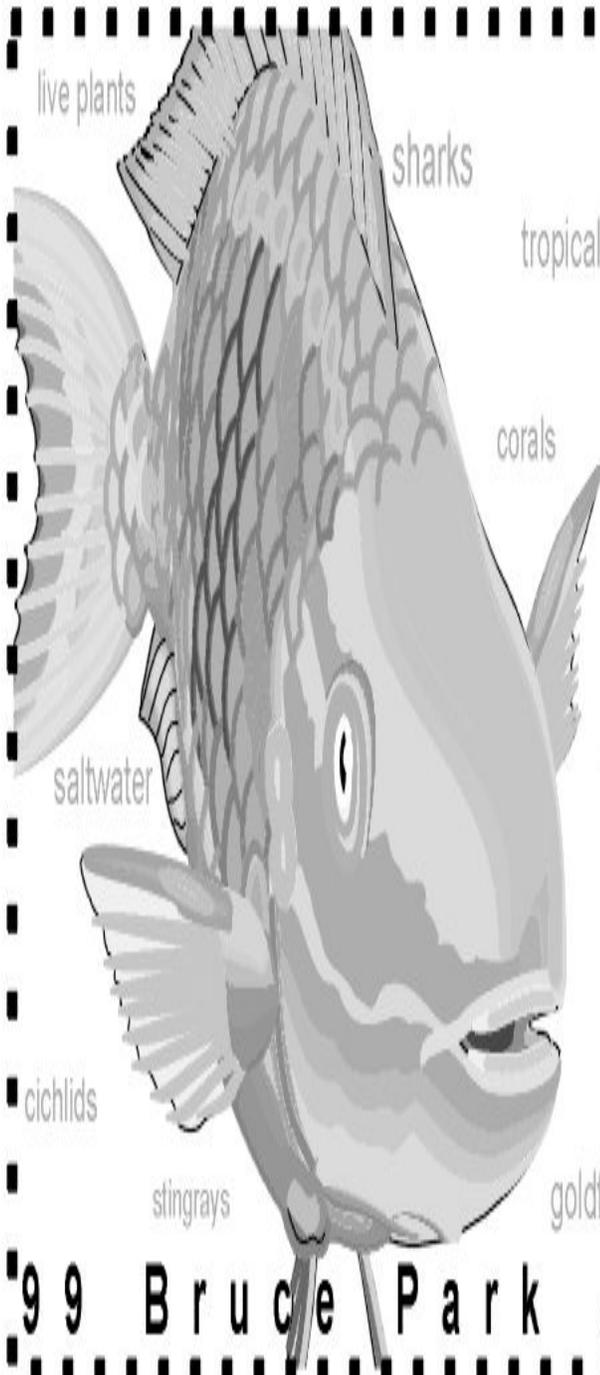
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