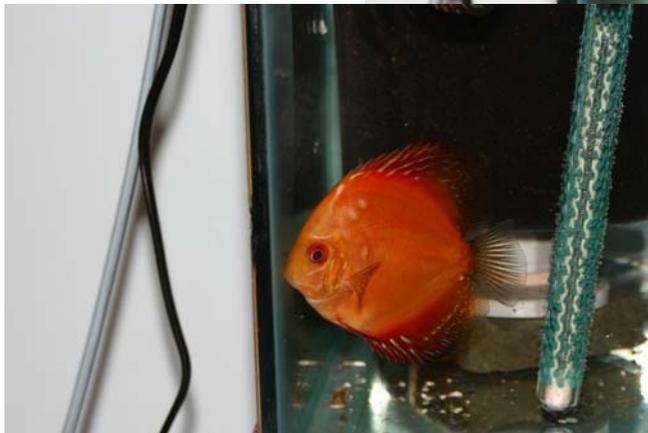


WET PET GAZETTE



September / December 2006

VOLUME 55 / ISSUE 3



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My Beginnings in the Hobby

NAS BAP End of Year Report

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

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Affiliations

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

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Images - by John Chapkovich



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

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GENERAL MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday of each month (except July & December) at Earthplace, The Nature Discovery Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT. Each meeting includes a short business meeting, program or event, door prizes, raffle, auction, and refreshments. All regular meetings are open to the public to attend.



A VIEW FROM UP FRONT
By John Chapkovich

Well it is another new year. The past year has been event full. We had a some what successful show and auction, a great judges dinner and a lot of help from sister clubs. I want to thank all the clubs that helped out; Danbury, Aqualand, Pioneer Valley and the NEC members at large.

The work that went into getting the club to agree to have a show was a bit of a strain however. As a result of that and some personal issues I have decided not to rerun for president this year. Barry Lynch has graciously accepted the nomination with Sal Silvestri running for Vice President.

I had a great time for the most part as President this year, and Vice President the previous two years. I also had fun doing the wet pet for 3 years, with my wife Cathy taking over last year. Also I have been running the web site since the first year I joined.

What I guess I am trying to say is I have been burning the candle at both ends....actually my candle has had more than two ends...lol.

Over the past few years I have seen the membership dwindle a bit with poor attendance at the meetings. I can say over the past few months we have had a few new faces appear, which is encouraging. However I tend to see the same dozen or so faces at each meeting.

We have tried to entice members to show with more fish from Sal through the house of Fins but even that has not done what I had hoped.

Finding speakers has also been a difficult task with Sal trying his best with the pool he has been drawing from. That may be turning around since the Board of Directors has agreed to try and put money into the budget to try and bring in a couple of name speakers from around the country.

Hopefully this will help turn things around.

To all Involved, I am thankful for the help I have gotten. You know who you are. Especially my wife Cathy, who has put up with my general grumpiness when it comes to club issues.

I will be staying on the Board as Past President at large and helping Cathy with the Wet Pet. Web issues are being transferred to another member as well but I will contribute as needed.

Happy New Year to all.
John



Editorially Speaking
By Cathy Chapkovich

I enjoy my position as editor of the Wet Pet, but sometimes it gets very frustrating. Everyone wants to see a new Wet Pet at least every two months and I don't mind in the least putting it together. The problem is I can not come up with every article for it. As most everyone knows, I am a hacker when it comes to fish. I do not breed them, I do not study them, I sit back with my planted tanks (don't ask me what the names of the plants are) and enjoy the chaos of my creations. Yes, I can put a good looking planted tank together and I can get my plants to grow. After this point however, I usually put what ever fish I can into these tanks, to John's dismay.

I really would like to see some articles from other members and guests of the NAS. It does not have to be technical in nature and you don't need to be a writer to do it. A short little essay maybe on what you like about the club or don't like, your experiences with setting up and maintaining your tank or your failure with your tank, how you got someone interested in keeping a tank. If you have kids or animals, give me a short story on something they did to the tank when your back was turned. I would love to get some humorous articles from others. As most know, my first article I wrote for the paper was about my mass murder of my guppies. (That's who I got the title as "The Guppy Exterminator" ☺)

Please don't be afraid to write something, it can be found. Just don't think you are going to take over being "The Guppy Exterminator", that's my title and I am proud of it.

You can give me your articles at the meetings, send them through regular mail or e-mail them to me at the following addresses:

Cathy Chapkovich
NAS Article
4 Benanto Dr
Derby, CT 06418

e-mail: cvscukas@snet.net (please refer this as NAS Article)

Thanks and I look forward to reading your articles.

Cathy Chapkovich
Editor – Wet Pet Gazette

P.S. Lets get some humor going --- things have been to serious lately



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUPPORT YOUR SISTER SOCIETIES

JANUARY

- 4 NAS Board Meeting - at the Chapkovich's
- 18 NAS General Meeting
Speaker - AL Sabetta, Discus, Foster Parenting of Angelfish Eggs
- 20 NAS Pot Luck / Holiday Party

FEBRUARY

- 1 NAS Board Meeting - TBD
- 11 PVAS Annual Auction
- 15 NAS General Meeting
Speaker - TBD
- 25 NAS Benefit Auction - to Benefit "The Earth Place"
- TBD NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting - TBD

MARCH

- 11 Jersey Shore Aquarium Society Auction
- 15 NAS General Meeting
Speaker - TBD
- 16-18 NEC Annual Convention

APRIL

- 19 NAS General Meeting
Speaker - TBD
- TBD NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting - TBD

MAY

- 17 NAS General Meeting
Speaker - TBD
- TBD NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting - TBD

JUNE

- 21 General Meeting
Speaker - TBD



NAS 2006 SHOW RESULTS

The NAS Annual Show in October brought many entries. The NAS Show committee would like to thank everyone involved for their help in making the show a success. Thank you.

Betta Single Tail Male:

1st Place Rich Martucci
2nd Place Leo Buss
3rd Place Rich Martucci

Rasboras, Danios, Characins

1st Place John Chapkovich
2nd Place John Krol
3rd Place Douglas Kneissl

Photography:

1st Place Warren Rosenberg
2nd Place Rich Martucci
3rd Place Rich Martucci

Betta Double Tail Male:

1st Place Rich Martucci
2nd Place Daniel Maldonado
3rd Place Rich Martucci

Killies:

1st Place Dave & Janine Banks
2nd Place Dan Mckicher
3rd Place Dave & Janine Banks

Best Cichlid: John Krol

Best Junior: Kevin Heyel

Best Of Show: Rich Martucci

Betta Single Tail Female:

1st Place Rich Martucci
2nd Place Rubirosa Amin
3rd Place Rich Martucci

Egglayer Other:

1st Place Steve Ng
2nd Place Dan Mckicher
3rd Place John Krol

Best Reserve: Dave & Janine Banks

Betta Double Tail Female:

1st Place Illig Siegbert
2nd Place Illig Siegbert
3rd Place Rich Martucci

Family Tank:

1st Place Douglas Kneissl
2nd Place Barry Lynch

Catfish Other:

1st Place Dave & Janine Banks
2nd Place Dave & Janine Banks
3rd Place Rich Weglinski

Goldfish / Koi:

1st Place Anselmi Nestor
2nd Place Anselmi Nestor
3rd Place Anselmi Nestor

Anabantoids Other

1st Place John Chapkovich
2nd Place Douglas Kneissl
3rd Place Douglas Kneissl

Guppies:

1st Place Anselmi Nestor
2nd Place Frank Siracusa
3rd Place Frank Siracusa

Haplochromines, Aulonacara, Mbuna

1st Place Kevin Heyel
2nd Place Dan Mckicher
3rd Place John Chapkovich

Livebearer Other:

1st Place John Chapkovich
2nd Place Barry Lynch
3rd Place Barry Lynch

Cichlid Under 4" New World (South American)

1st Place John Krol
2nd Place John Krol
3rd Place John Krol

Swords, Platys, Mollies:

1st Place John Krol
2nd Place Dan Mckicher
3rd Place John Chapkovich

Cichlid Tanganyikan

1st Place Chris Boulanger
2nd Place John Chapkovich
3rd Place Dave & Janine Banks

Novelty Tank:

1st Place Dan Mckicher
2nd Place Douglas Kneissl
3rd Place Mark Broadmeyer



THE 40TH ANNUAL NAS SHOW & AUCTION A RE-CAP & SPECIAL THANKS

By: Barry Lynch

Background: There was never any doubt the Auction would be held this year. After all, it is the Auction which funds NAS operations through the year. While membership dues and the general meeting raffle and mini-auction revenues help, they do not cover all operating costs. It is the revenue from the annual Auction which makes the difference - funding the Wet Pet Gazette, BAP, premium speakers, necessary capital expenditures and other operating costs.

As many of you know, there were, however, serious questions raised about holding the Show this year. One concern was the consistent trend over the past several years of diminishing show entries. In the past three years, Show entries had declined from 267 to 87. Sister societies which put on shows experienced similar declines. The question raised was whether interest in fish shows had waned to the point where all the effort in putting on a show was simply not worth it.

The major concern was the lack of volunteer help. Putting together a fish show is a massive undertaking. Last year, there was a dearth of volunteers. This was exemplified by the Wednesday night set-up when only six volunteers showed up - a totally inadequate number to get the job done. After much soul-searching and vigorous pleas by the Board for volunteers, the decision was finally reached to hold the Show.

The result - success on all counts. Show entries increased from 87 to 152. As opposed to six, eighteen volunteers showed up for the Wednesday night set-up. This level of support continued throughout the 5-day Show/Auction period.

We are very appreciative of the positive response and wonderful support by so many people. By this article, we want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Show and Auction. We recognize that, in any effort of this sort, we will undoubtedly omit a few helpers due to memory lapses and the like. **We apologize to anyone inadvertently left out of this special thanks. A big thank you is due to all.** With that said, special note and thanks are extended to the following people.

Anne Broadmeyer: Anne, a long-time lifetime NAS member, effectively came out of retirement to assume the responsibilities of Show Chairperson. She provided the knowhow, direction and leadership necessary to ensure the Show's success. She did not, however, limit her activities to administrative duties. She arranged for the Show trophies, presided over the awards ceremony, produced the Show Bulletin and co-hosted the Judges Dinner.

John Chapkovich: The fact that there was any Show at all is, in large part, due to the drive and persistence of our President. Over many months, John waged a relentless campaign to drum up volunteers and persuade the Board to give the Show one more chance. The next best thing John did was appoint **Anne Broadmeyer** Show Chairperson. Thereafter, he pitched in and helped in enumerable ways. He produced and distributed the Show Rules. He developed the Show Class signs and award certificates. He oversaw the Wednesday night set-up. All weekend long, he was on site assisting in whatever needed to be done.

Summer Work / Show Committee: Throughout the summer months, there was considerable work which had to be done in preparation for the Show and Auction. This work was principally done by members of the Show Committee. The Show Committee consisted of:

Don Barbour
Chris Boulanger
Anne Broadmeyer
Mark Broadmeyer
Cathy Chapkovich

John Chapkovich
Peter Fraboni
Doug Kneissl
John Krol
Barry Lynch

Dan McKercher
Maryanne Naylor
Ken Purcaro
Sal Silvestri
Rich Weglinski

The Show Committee first met on June 29. The meeting was essentially one of planning, review of the multitude of associated tasks, both large and small, and the assumption of responsibilities to get the work done. As one might expect, the names of the Committee members will appear throughout this article due to their continued assistance. During the months preceding the 5-day Show/Auction period, the following names stand out.



Anne Broadmeyer & John Chapkovich deserve mention again for their summer contributions.

Cathy Chapkovich produced the Show flyers, coordinated the raffle (selection and acquisition of the prizes, production and distribution of the raffle tickets, etc.), solicited manufacturers and other companies for auction donations and prepared to co-host the Judges Dinner.

Doug Kneissl was a dynamo in selling raffle tickets - selling over \$150 worth. He also arranged for additional outside signs (providing directions to Earthplace) and later posted them through the area. He was also instrumental in obtaining sponsorships from betta aquarium societies for the four betta classes - contributing to the record number of betta entries.

Barry Lynch obtained sponsors for all the Show classes and special awards. He received, inventoried and prepared for auction the products donated for the Auction and sent out thank you letters to the donors. He also assisted with the Show awards - picking up the trophies and plaques and preparing the certificate awards - i.e. labeling the envelopes, distributing the cash prizes, etc.

Wednesday Night Set-Up: As most now understand, setting up for the Show on Wednesday night can be a monumental chore. The airline system needs to be set up. Canopies need to be hung. Display tables and shelves need to be lugged up from the basement and assembled. Fish bowls and aquariums in the hundreds likewise need to be carried upstairs. We were optimistic that a sufficient number of volunteers would appear. We were floored by the gang that arrived. In addition to numerous Show Committee members, non-Committee members **Carl Addicks, Bob Alberino, Julie** and **Kevin Heyel, Charlie Kreidler** and **Steve Ng** lent their assistance. The eighteen participants completed the set-up and eliminated the need to return Thursday night.

As has been the case for many years, **Don Barbour** handled the air supply system. This year presented a challenge since the two separate Show areas necessitated two systems. Don, of course, was up to the task. A special thanks goes to **Rich Weglinski** whose foresight in bringing his pickup truck eliminated many taxing trips upstairs with heavy tables and the like.

Friday Night/Saturday Morning: During this period, exhibitors bring in their Show entries. **Sal Silvestri** played a lead role in assisting the exhibitors. He determined the appropriate locations for the various Show classes and hung up the class signs. He also ensured that needed supplies (de-chlorinated tap water, tubing, airstones, etc.) were readily available.

All Friday night and Saturday morning, **Dan McKercher** was a fixture at his computer producing the labels to be affixed to the show tanks and simultaneously logging in the entries for future reference.

Doug Kneissl and **Rich Weglinski** disappeared to post the direction signs to the Earthplace throughout the Westport area.

As Show time approaches, it becomes necessary to clean up the Show areas. While this sounds rather straightforward, there is much manual labor involved to include returning many unused fish bowls and aquariums to the basement. Getting their exercise were **Mark Broadmeyer, Peter Fraboni, Barry Lynch, Maryanne Naylor** and a new face. The latter turned out to be **Amin Rubirosa**. Amin apparently enjoyed the work so much that he immediately became the newest member of NAS.

Showtime: The Show officially began at noon on Saturday and ran through Sunday afternoon. In addition to noting the contributions of all those who worked through the summer and the set-up period, we express our heart-felt thanks to the following people who helped ensure the Show's success:

Show Exhibitors: We sometimes take the Show exhibitors for granted. But, without them, there could be no show. This year there were over 150 show entries submitted by exhibitors too numerous to list here. Their participation was invaluable. Of special note is **Rich Martucci's** 30 betta entries, one of which took Best in Show. A listing of the other Show award winners follows this article.

Also, **Ray "Kingfish" Lucas** must be complimented for the manufacturers' exhibit he set up in the main hall. It was a thoroughly professional display of aquarium related products offered by his numerous industry sponsors (all of whom donated items to the Auction).



Show Sponsors: All Show classes and special awards were sponsored this year. The generosity of the sponsors absolutely helped to defray Show expenses. The sponsors were:

Aqua-Land Aquarium Society	Carl Addicks	Don Barbour
Big Apple Betta Breeders	Ron Castellano	Cathy Chapkovich
Connecticut Area Betta Club	John Chapkovich	Dennis Cummings
Philadelphia Area Betta Society	Peter Fraboni	Kevin Heyel
Ray "Kingfish" Lucas	Doug Kneissl	Charlie Kreitler
The Norwalk Aquarium	John Krol	Barry Lynch
The Broadmeyer Family	Bob McKeand	Dick Moore
Maryanne Naylor	Steve Ng	Ken Purcaro
Sue & Scott Reed	Ed Schildnecht	Sal Silvestri
Marcia Smith	Charlie Sundberg	Rich Weglinski

The Judges: **Sal Silvestri** served as Chairman of Judges. In this capacity, he selected and made arrangements for the judges. He also condensed the Show classes, where necessary, prior to the judging. It was our privilege to have the following judges judge the Show:

Diane Adinolfi	Jack Adinolfi	JD. Ewtuch
Lee Finley		Ray "Kingfish" Lucas

The Judges' Dinner: A longstanding and very special tradition of NAS is its Judges' Dinner. It is held Saturday night following the judging and is open to the judges, NAS members and friends of the Society. It provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone to socialize in a relaxed environment and partake in a sumptuous feast. This year the dinner was co-hosted by **Anne Broadmeyer** and **Cathy Chapkovich**. Many fabulous dishes were prepared by **Anne, Cathy, Julie Heyel** and **Maryanne Naylor**. As it turns out, there were many leftovers which were later offered to Auction attendees. Without a doubt, this was the best food made available to auction attendees in anyone's memory.

Show Breakdown: The breakdown of the Show is a major undertaking which is usually under-staffed for understandable reasons. To complete the breakdown in a timely fashion, it must commence while the Auction is in full swing. Understandably, attendees don't want to leave the Auction at that time to lug aquariums, shelving, display tables and the like back to the basement. And, when they're ready to leave the Auction, they're eager to get home with their fish and other acquisitions.

This year, while a few more volunteers would have been appreciated, due to the efforts of the Show breakdown crew, the breakdown was efficiently effected and completed prior to the end of the Auction. Leading this effort were **Don Barbour, Mark Broadmeyer, John Chapkovich, Peter Fraboni, Doug Kneissl, John Krol, Barry Lynch** and **Rich Weglinski**.

Awards Ceremony: Immediately preceding the Auction, **Anne Broadmeyer**, with a little help from her husband, presented their well-earned awards to the Show award winners.

Auction Time: The Auction commenced around noon on Sunday. From all the fish lots and dry goods stacked up on the front and side tables, it was immediately evident the Auction would be a good one. The Auction went off smoothly and without hitch in large part due to the efforts of the following people:

Computer Operators: To the computer operators fell a multitude of administrative duties to include processing vendor/bidder forms and bidder fees, issuing bidder cards, generating labels for vendor lots, recording and tabulating auction bids, closing out bidder accounts and developing vendor sales records. The group was led by **Dan McKercher** and included **Cathy Chapkovich, Debbie Davies, Maryanne Naylor** and **Ken Purcaro**.

Raffle Table: Four different raffles were conducted at the Auction. The responsibility for these raffles was ably handled



by **Julie Heyel**.

Membership Table: **John Krol** manned the membership table and commenced the 2007 campaign for new memberships and renewals.

Book Table: **Lee Finley** of Finley Aquatic Books once again offered a wide selection of current and vintage fish books at bargain rates.

Auctioneers: A good auctioneer can make the difference in a successful auction. We were fortunate to have three outstanding auctioneers - **Jack Adinolfi** and **Ray "Kingfish" Lucas** as lead auctioneers and **Dave Banks** as needed relief.

Lot Selectors: Throughout the afternoon, **Dave Giza** and **Joe Masi** worked the front tables determining the appropriate order in which lots would be presented in the Auction.

Runners: The tireless work of the runners is always appreciated. Runners this year included **Chris Boulanger**, **Bill Cole**, **Barbara Day**, **Kevin Heyel** and **Steve Ng**.

Donors & Vendors: It goes without saying that a successful auction is dependent upon the quantity and quality of the fish and products offered at auction. We thank all the individual donors and 50/50 vendors who brought so much to the table. A special note of thanks is extended to all the companies and other organizations listed below for their generous donations to the Norwalk Aquarium Society.

All-Glass Aquariums	Aquaculture Tech, Inc	Aquarian Flake Foods	
Aquarium Pharmaceuticals	Aquarium Systems	Aquarium Technology Inc	Boyd Enterprises
	Cichlid News Magazine	Cichlid Press Books	
Ecological Laboratories, Inc	Diskus Brief	Finley Aquatic Books	
Hans Discus USA	Hikari Sales USA Inc	House of Fins	
Jungle Laboratories	Kent Marine	Kingfish Services	
Marine Enterprises International	Maritime Center	New England Aquarium	
Novalek	Omega Sea Ltd.	Petstar	
Python Products Inc	Rolf C Hagen Corp.	San Francisco Bay Brand	
Tetra Sales USA	That Fish Place	The Fish Factory	
Tropical Fish Hobbyist	Two Little Fishies, Inc	Zoo Med Laboratories	

Post Show/Auction: Following the Show and Auction, most return home to rest and relax. Many will enjoy their new fish and other acquisitions. Some will savor Show awards won. Hopefully all will feel the weekend was an enjoyable time - an experience well worth it. All of those who helped put on the Show and Auction should feel pride in a job well done. For a limited few, however, the work was not yet finished.

Treasury: Due to doctor's orders following a successful by-pass operation, our Treasurer **Charlie Sundberg** was unable to travel to the Earthplace to participate in the work sessions or the ensuing festivities. In his absence, **Cathy Chapkovich**, **Barry Lynch** and **Sal Silvestri** handled the various treasury responsibilities. Following the close of the Auction, we each forwarded to Charlie Show and Auction records, expense reports and receipts, cash, checks and money orders and anything else which might help him sort everything out. The first chore was to get vendor checks out to all the Auction vendors. Next came the challenge of a complete accounting - a job recently completed in Charlie's typical professional fashion.

Conclusion: We once again thank everyone for a job well done. The level of support was tremendous. All questions about holding the 41st annual Show have been eliminated. We look forward to the same team effort next year. **Thank you.**

Note: Barry Lynch had asked me (Cathy Chapkovich) to co-author this article with him. After reading it, I found that Barry had done an excellent job on recapping the events and people involved. I feel that he deserves the credit for this article alone. Thanks Barry - you did a great job.



My Beginnings in the Hobby

By
Douglas Kneissl

My story begins as I'm sure most others do, a fair, a ping-pong ball and a small glass bowl. Actually it was my father who had the game skills (or maybe my younger brother) and we brought home a little yellow fish, my brother named him "Goldie." Of course, the next line of the story is very familiar; he promptly died about two weeks later. Of course we did what most families did, go get another, "Goldie II." This one managed to last a while in his little 1 gallon bowl, though I don't remember exactly how long he (she) was with us.

The next step we took as a family was going to a fish auction with a neighbor. Growing up in Norwalk, I have a feeling that it was an NAS auction. My most vivid memory of that day is the instructions I received from my father prior to the auction – "don't raise your hand, don't scratch your nose, don't scratch your ear – if you do they might think you are bidding, and I don't want you costing me \$100 because you had an itchy nose" - or words to that effect, and me & my brother slouching down to scratch our heads, because when you are told not to scratch, you start to itch. The rest of the auction is kind of a blur, but we did come home with a bag of very colorful guppies. I do remember asking someone at the auction if we can keep these like goldfish, after getting the answer, we then drove to Tony's Pet Shop in East Norwalk (you old Norwalkers should remember that place) and getting a tank, heater etc. to take care of our new tropical fish.

The years pass, and we had more guppies, neons (or cardinals, I didn't know which one) and some small angelfish. In true species fashion, eventually the guppies were ready to have babies. Another trip to Tony's to get a breeding trap and soon we had guppy fry. I don't quite remember how many actually survived, but with advice from Tony, we tried. Trips to Tony's were a weekend treat. The shop had puppies, kittens, guinea pigs, etc. and all the necessary supplies, but the special place, was the fish room. It wasn't like a lot of pet stores today that have the fish tanks in the back, and puppies on the side, this was a FISH ROOM, complete with sliding glass door. I remember it was dark and humid; the only lights were from the tanks, the fish showing brilliant colors in the dim light, and my father's booming voice in the darkness;

"Don't tap on the tank."

"No, we can't get that one, its too big for our tank."

"No, we already have a lot of those, let's get something different."

Of course, the fun of buying the fish was counter-balanced with tank maintenance (playing with a dog is fun, cleaning up the back yard with a shovel – not so much). However at 10 years old, being big enough to help is a milestone and therefore it becomes fun to help dad clean the fish tank. I remember holding the bucket while my father siphoned the tank, until the bucket got too heavy for me to hold. My big break was when he let me add the conditioner to the water before we lugged the bucket back to the family room...one, two, three drops...good.

Eventually our setup consisted of a wrought iron stand with a 10 gallon on top and a five gallon on the bottom. Both tanks contained pretty much the same fish, but as we all know, you can't just have one tank.

More time passes, the kids develop other interests, the dad's interest wanes and it becomes a waiting game. Deceased fish are not replaced and eventually the setup goes to a friend or a tag sale (I don't remember what happened to the tanks or the stand).

Fast-forward to 2002. The kid now has a kid and he is thinking his family would like a pet, but the condo they live in is not real conducive to a dog, so...reaching back to the memory banks – a goldfish in a bowl would be great, and my one year old will love it since she will have one like her friend Elmo does. So one trip to Slither & Swim and one discussion with the clerk and \$4.79 later and now I was the proud owner of my first betta splendens (I was talked out of the goldfish, they need a bigger tank not a 1 gallon bowl, a filter, they produce a lot of waste etc). On the advice of my daughter's god-mother, we named him "Rufus." Not much had really changed since that fair so long ago; Rufus died about a week later. Back to the store, more discussion...



“Did you wash the bowl?”

“Yes, it was on the bottom shelf in the store and dusty”

“Did you use soap?”

“Of course”

“That is bad; the soap is bad for the fish”

“OK, I can run it through the dishwasher a few times without soap to sterilize it”

“OK, that should be good.”

“Thanks, and I’ll take this red one while I’m here and put him in the bowl after the dishwasher is done”

“\$4.79 please, thank you”

Well, Rufus II comes home to a sterile bowl and after a few days he appears to be doing well. A week or so later, its time for a water change. A few days later #2 is done. Back to the store...

“What kind of water are you using?” – which I thought was a silly question at the time...

“West Haven municipal”

“Our water is not the best; do you have a Brita pitcher?”

“Yes”

“Put the water through that first, then in the bowl”

“OK, I’ll try that. I’ll take the blue guy there too”

“\$4.79 please”

So now I had a sterile bowl, filtered water and a blue betta, the two week window was approaching...well Rufus III made it and after a month, I got another one. Eventually I became enamored with these little guys, and began buying books (of course I should have done that first), then it really hits me, I had a big tank as a kid, I should get one now. After talking to a few people at work I found a guy with a 125 gallon saltwater setup and an old 20L with hood & light in his basement currently not being used, would I like it? – Sure I’ll be right over! Another trip to Slither & Swim for filter, heater and gravel, 48 hours later, another trip and 6 Serpea Tetras were swimming in my living room.

More years pass and the tank has been populated by tetras, swordtails, gouramis, rasboras, danios, I even tried (and failed) a few convicts, and we had a kitchen counter with 4 betta jars.

Forward to February 2006 and something bad happens...I break the Second Rule of Fish Keeping*, I dumped the bag water into the tank (which by this time has been running for about 4 years) and within four days, I had an empty tank. My wife decides we need a break from fish so I tear the tank down and put it in storage.

Needless to say, I was not fishless for long. After looking at the empty spot I decided I should get a small tank to take its place, enter the Eclipse 6, a few Black Skirt Tetras and White Clouds to start. A few weeks later and the 6 just ain’t cutting it now, enter the Eclipse 12, some rasboras and gouramis and now we are on to something.

I start buying Tropical Fish Hobbyist, FAMA and Aquarium Fish Magazine. I notice in the back of the magazine there is a listing for the Norwalk Aquarium Society, and there is a meeting coming up – in two days - , I decide to drive down from West Haven for the meeting and learn all I ever wanted to know about discus from Al Sebetta. Actually what I really learned from that meeting was that it will be a long time before I’m ready to even *THINK* about buying a discus.

Now in October 2006, I have four tanks running, a 6 gallon, a 12 gallon, a 10 gallon grow out tank and the 20L finally came back out of storage. I also have 14 bettas, including one in my office at work. I have spawned bettas, panda guppies and ameca splendens. I am a member of the Norwalk Aquarium Society, the International Betta Congress, and a founding member of the IBC chapter Connecticut Betta Club. I attended the ALA convention in New



Jersey, and the IBC convention in Lancaster Pennsylvania. I have attended, and have gotten some good deals at some club auctions including – NJAS, ALAS and PVAS, not to mention the monthly auctions at the NAS meetings. I have entered my first fish show (PVAS in September) and took first and third place in the Egglayers Labyrinth class with my bettas. I also entered a photograph in an IBC show and took first place. But the big step confirming my obsession was working with the show committee to put on the NAS show, I knew shows were a lot of work, but I didn't know what I was getting myself into! Between begging for ads (that no one bought) and posting flyers (that people kept pulling down) to bringing 100+ betta bowls and 2 gallon tanks up from the basement of Earthplace, to running bags of fish during a fast moving (and buyers market) auction, it was a whirlwind of running around, heavy lifting and bagging fish, and I also had my own entries to worry about. I entered 13 fish and 3 photographs into the show and walked out with five awards, and that was a highlight of the weekend. As a new member of NAS I must admit I was a little disappointed at the amount of entries from NAS club members. While I know that no club gets 100% participation for any activity, I would have thought there would have been more participation from the general membership for the premier event of the club.

I'm not sure what killed my fish in February, or how setting up a new tank compelled me to search out magazines, clubs and shows, I just know I'm glad it did. My wife on the other hand..., while she is not discouraging my new obsession, she doesn't quite encourage it either. Though I do catch her looking in the tanks from time to time, watching the fish swim about, telling the sword-tails to stop picking on the dwarf gourami, and noting that the ameca splendens fry are getting big, she would never admit to being a fish person, but I'm working on that. The kids love the fish of course. I now have a 5 year old daughter and a 2 year old son, both like watching the tanks, and helping me feed the fish. When they get a little bigger, I'll teach them how to use the Python. Of course, weekend trips to the fish store are also a treat my kids also look forward to. That is when I'm sure I hear my father's voice;

“Don't tap on the tank”

“No running in the store”

“I'm right here, you don't need to shout”

oh wait, that is my voice...

*First Rule of Fish Keeping - Know what you are buying before you buy it



THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY BAP REPORT

By: Barry Lynch, NAS

Year-End Review - 2006

Overview – 2006: The year 2006 was a very good year for the NAS BAP program. Twelve participants submitted a total of 53 entries - including nine entries of species never before submitted in the program. By way of comparison, in 2005 (a good BAP year) seven participants submitted 43 entries.

The People: The participants included an interesting mix of the new and the old. First time participants included **Bob Alberino** and the husband/wife team of **Dan Mc Kercher & Maryanne Naylor**. I originally thought that **Pete Izzo** was likewise a first time participant; but, recently discovered that, in an earlier incarnation, he had submitted a BAP entry in 1995. This places him in the next category - participants who have returned to the BAP program after a too long hiatus. Included in this group are **Anne Broadmeyer, Bob McKeand** and **Sal Silvestri** - all major participants through the years. The remaining group consists of participants who have consistently contributed to the BAP program in recent years, namely **John Chapkovich, Barry Lynch, Dick Moore, Steve Ng, Charlie Sundberg** and **Anton Vukich**. The entries submitted by the twelve participants are set out in the "Breeder of the Year 2006" listing which follows this report.

The Fish: One significant change instituted to the BAP program in 2005 was the awarding of ten bonus points for each entry which is the first entry of the particular species in the NAS BAP program. The purpose of the change was to make new fish available to the membership. It clearly has worked. Nine bonus entries were submitted in 2006. They were:

Apistogramma inconspicua	Barry Lynch
Aulonocara lwanda	Steve Ng
Badis badis	Barry Lynch
Bujurquina sp "yellow"	Pete Izzo
Greenwoodchromis christyi	Dick Moore
Haplochromis sp "red tail blue neon"	Dick Moore
Limia tridens	Barry Lynch
Skiffia multipunctata	Anton Vukich
Stomatepia pindu	Dick Moore

Traditional Awards: Five members earned BAP awards in 2006. They were:

Don Barbour:	Expert Breeder
Barry Lynch:	Master Breeder
John Chapkovich:	Senior Breeder
Steve Ng:	Senior Breeder
Charlie Sundberg:	Breeder

Breeder of the Year Award: The Breeder of the Year competition was introduced as part of the BAP program in 2005. **John Chapkovich** won the inaugural award with a total of thirteen entries. I am proud to say that **I** won the award in 2006. My total of 20 entries was the third highest yearly submission total in the 34 years of the BAP program - trailing only former members **Tony Skojec's** 23 in 1994 and **Kevin Cyr's** 22 in 1991. See the "Breeders of the Year" listing following this report.

BAP Point Standings: The BAP point standings for all participants who currently hold NAS membership are also set out at the end of this report.



**NAS BAP PROGRAM
BREEDER OF THE YEAR 2006
FINAL STANDINGS**

Barry Lynch

Ameca splendens
Apistogramma borelli
Apistogramma cacatuoides
Apistogramma inconspicua
Badis badis
Characodon lateralis
Cichlasoma octofasciatum
Cichlasoma sajica
Corydoras aeneus
Heterandria formosa
Ilyodon furcidens
Limia melanogaster
Limia nigrofasciata
Limia tridens
Melanotaenia splendida inornata
Poecilia salvatoris
Pterophyllum scalare
Skiffia multipunctata
Tateurndina ocellicauda
Xiphophorus montezuma

Steve Ng

Ameca splendens
Aulonocara lwanda
Corydoras aeneus
Corydoras paleatus
Neolamprologus brichardi
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Pelvicachromis taeniatus
Protomelas taeniolatus

John Chapkovich

Astatotilapia nubila
Corydoras aeneus
Melanochromis johannii
Neolamprologus splendens
Tropheus moorii

Maryanne Naylor & Dan McKercher

Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum
Heros severus
Poecilia reticulata
Pseudotropheus zebra
Xiphophorus helleri

20 entries

Butterfly Goodeid
Umbrella Dwarf Cichlid
Cockatoo Dwarf Cichlid
Undistinguished Dwarf Cichlid
Badis
Rainbow Goodeid
Jack Dempsey
T-Bar Cichlid
Albino Aeneus Cory
Mosquito Fish or Least Killy
Goldbreast Ilyodon
Black-Bellied Limia
Humpbacked Limia
Tiburon Limia
Checkered Rainbowfish
Liberty Molly
Silver Angel Fish
Speckled Sawfin Goodeid
Peacock Gudgeon or Goby
Montezuma Swordtail

8 entries

Butterfly Goodeid
Lwanda Peacock
Albino Aeneus Cory
Long Fin Peppered Cory
Albino Brichardi
Kribensis
Striped Kribensis - "Moliwe"
Spindle Hap - Red Empress

5 entries

Albino Aeneus Cory
Cobalt Cichlid
Neolamprologus helianthus
Moorii ("molliro")

5 entries

Convict Cichlid
Gold Severum
Panda Guppy
Zebra
Pineapple Swordtail

**Dick Moore**

Greenwoodochromis christyi
Haplochromis sp "Red Tail Blue Neon"
Pelvicachromis taeniatus
Stomatepia pindu

4 entries

Red Tail Blue Neon Hap
Striped Kribensis - "Moliwe"

Bob McKeand

Corydoras aeneus
Corydoras sterbai
Dario dario

3 entries

Albino Aeneus Cory
Sterba's Cory
Scarlet Badis

Charlie Sundberg

Labidochromis sp "Hongi"
Pseudotropheus zebra

2 entries

Red Zebra

Anton Vukich

Corydoras caudimaculatus
Skiffia multipunctata

2 entries

Tail-Spot Cory
Speckled Sawfin Goodeid

Bob Alberino

Aphyosemion volcanum

1 entry

Volcano Killie

Anne Broadmeyer

Ilyodon xantusi

1 entry

Xantus' Ilyodon (Goodeid)

Peter Izzo

Bujurquina sp "yellow"

1 entry**Sal Silvestri**

Dario dario

1 entry

Scarlet Badis



**NAS BAP PROGRAM
Point Standings
Current NAS Members
12/31/2006**

Participant	Species Points	Bonus Points	Total Points
Sal Silvestri	1545	515	2060
Bob McKeand	830	600	1430
Don Barbour	1040	170	1210
Anton Vukick	545	250	795
Barry Lynch	437.5	80	517.5
Ed Katuska	470	40	510
Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	280	25	305
Rich Grenfell	260	45	305
John Chapkovich	250	10	260
Dick Moore	165	90	255
Steve Ng	185	20	205
Diane & Jack Adinolfi	120	20	140
Joe Masi	85	10	95
Doug DeMent	70		70
Ed Schildnecht	70		70
Carl Addicks	60		60
Charlie Sundberg	50		50
Dan Mckercher & Maryanne Naylor	35		35
Pete Izzo	20	10	30
Ira Friedman	10	10	20
Ed Peters	10		10
Sue & Scott Reed	10		10
Bob Alberino	5		5



**NAS BAP PROGRAM
Breeders Of The Year**

AWARD WINNERS:

YEAR	NAS MEMBER	# OF ENTRIES
2006	Barry Lynch	20

YEAR	NAS MEMBER	# OF ENTRIES
2005	John Chapkovich	13

* UNOFFICAL WINNERS:

2004	Barry Lynch	15
2003	Anton Vukich	19
2002	Anton Vukich	13
2001	Anton Vukich	8
2000	Sal Silvestri	6
1999	Ken Balog	9
1998	Don Maloney	7
1997	Gene Harris	7
1996	Mark Keitel	15
1995	Mark Keitel	18
1994	Tony Skojec	23
1993	Don Barbour	10
1992	Sal Silvestri	9
1991	Kevin Cyr	22
1990	Don Barbour	6
1989	Sal Silvestri	13

1988	Sal Silvestri	12
1987	David Quinn	10
1986	B McKeand / T Tilles	5
1985	John Stankevitch	9
1984	Griffin Kessler	9
1983	John Stankevitch	13
1982	John Faucett	11
1981	Bob Mckeand	9
1980	B Mckeand / T Tilles	4
1979	Bob Mckeand	9
1978	Bob Mckeand	8
1977	Tom Tilles	3
1976	Tom Tilles	5
1975	Lee Finley	7
1974	Don & Joan Johnson	16
1973	Joe Bellantoni	11

* Note: The Breeder of the Year contest was not inaugurated until 2005.



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 cvsckas@snet.net — please refer your questions to KC of the Wet Pet. Thank You

The following charts were taken from “The World of CATFISHES” by Midori Kobayagawa - Published and translated by TFH Publications, Inc, 1991

Figure 1
LIST OF 31 CATFISH FAMILIES

Family Name	Range	Genera	Species
DIPLOMYSTIDAE	South America	1	2
ICTALURIDAE	North America	6	16
BAGRIDAE	Africa + Asia	27	205
CRANOGLANIDIDAE	Asia	1	3
SILURIDAE	Asia + Europe	15	70
SCHILBEIDAE	Africa + Asia	20	60
PANGASIIDAE	Asia	8	25
AMBYCIPITIDAE	Asia	2	5
AMPHILIIDAE	Africa	7	47
AKYSIDAE	Asia	3	8
SISORIDAE	Asia	20	65
CLARIIDAE	Africa + Asia	13	100
HETEROPNEUSTIDAE	Asia	1	2
CHACIDAE	Asia	1	2
OLYRIDAE	Asia	1	4



Figure 1
LIST OF 31 CATFISH FAMILIES

Family Name	Range	Genera	Species
MALAPTERURIDAE	Africa	1	2
MOCHOKIDAE	Africa	10	150
ARIIDAE	N&S Amer + Asia + Australia	20	120
DORADIDAE	South America	37	80
AUCHENIPTERIDAE	Cen + S America	19	60
ASPREDINIDAE	South America	8	25
PLOTOSIDAE	Africa + Asia + Australia	8	30
PIMELODIDAE	Cen + S America	56	290
AGENEIOSIDAE	South America	2	25
HYPOPHthalmIDAE	South America	1	1
HELOGENIDAE	South America	2	4
CETOPSIDAE	South America	4	12
TRICHOMYCTERIDAE	South America	27	175
CALLICHTHYIDAE	South America	8	110
LORICARIIDAE	South America	70	450
ASTROBLEPIDAE	South America	1	75



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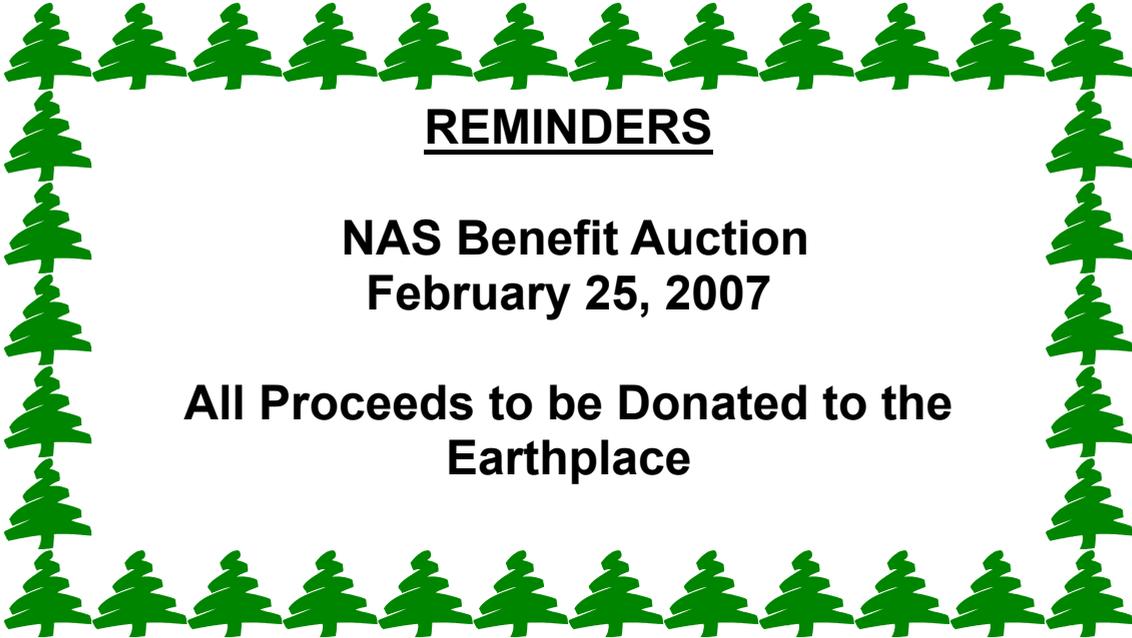
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REMINDERS

**NAS Benefit Auction
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