

July / August 2007



# WET PET GAZETTE

VOLUME 56 / ISSUE 4



*Apistogramma tucururi*



*Ancistrus dolichopterus*  
Bushymouth Catfish

*In This Issue*

**DWARF CICHLIDS  
APISTOGRAMMA**

**ANCISTRUS DOLICHOPTERU-  
TERUS**

**THE JOURNAL OF THE  
NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
CELEBRATING 56 YEARS**

# NAS WHO'S WHO

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### Affiliations

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### Cover Photographs

Acquired by Cathy Chapkovich



# IN THIS ISSUE

## WET PET GAZETTE

EDITORALLY SPEAKING - Cathy Chapkovich	4
A VIEW FROM UP FRONT - Barry Lynch	5
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	7
BREEDING ANCISTRUS DOLICHOPTERUS - Dan McKercher	8
BAP REPORT - Barry Lynch	10
BAP POINT STANDING - Barry Lynch	11
BREEDER OF THE YEAR - 2007 — Competition Standings	14
MINI-AUCTION FISH - Barry Lynch	15
NAS BAP Fish Classification List - Barry Lynch	16
APISTOGRAMMA - John Krol	17
ASK KC - Answers to May / June's Puzzles - Doug Kneissl	19
An Afternoon of Fishing - Cathy Chapkovich	20
UNH - SHORTEST FISH AUCTION IN HISTORY - Cathy Chapkovich	22
JUNE'S GENERAL MEETING - PICTURES -	23
ADVERTISERS, SPONSORS, CLASSIFIEDS	24

### 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 Earth Place, 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.



## EDITORALLY SPEAKING

By

Cathy Chapkovich - Editor

It's the busy season for the club now. With the Show & Auction just about a month and half away, its time for people to **VOLUNTEER** again. I know we go through this each year but I am asking for people to sign up for the Wednesday night show set-up (Sept. 26). It's nice to know that we will have enough people for the set-up. This helps us to avoid the stress of worrying about how many people will be there to help out. Not only that, we will know how much coffee & donuts to bring. So please sign up, if enough people do show up we should be able to do the set-up in one night. And as always, there are additional jobs over the weekend that help will be needed for, just talk to anyone on the committee. Don't forget the Judges Dinner on Saturday night (Sept. 29), there is always lots of food and good talk.

The begging letters were sent, the raffle tickets made up, Show/Auction Booklets and Flyers printed. Barry has ordered the awards for the show and I believe as of this printing, the awards are ready to be picked up. Maryanne and Julie have been busy organizing the food with Peggy helping out. I was smart this year, I volunteered Maryanne, Julie and Peggy for the job. I know they just love me for it. So, as you can see, it has been a busy time.

The **ANNUAL AUCTION GRAND RAFFLE** will feature:

1st Place: Emerson 20" Digital Flat Screen Stereo TV

2nd Place: Coleman 40 Quart Power Chill Color (you can plug it into your car or plug it into your house)

3rd Place: Durabrand CD Player Clock Radio

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each booklet is set-up with 6 tickets in it. Last year Doug Kneissl sold the most tickets. Don't forget these raffles help support the club and off-set the cost of the show. It would be nice if everyone in the club bought at least 1 book each and sold at least 1 additional booklet or more. After all, the raffle prizes are nice and should appeal to practically everyone.

This issue of the Wet Pet put me in a gander. Most months I am begging for articles and things to put in the Wet Pet. With an article from Dan McKercher (first time submitting), John Krol, and 2 club related activities, I had to expand this issue. This is the first time I had to expand the issue and I'll tell you what - I really enjoyed doing our publication extremely this month.

**REMINDERS:****VOLUNTEERS FOR THE SHOW & AUCTION ARE NEEDED****GET RAFFLE TICKETS TO SELL****DISTRIBUTE SOME FLYERS FOR THE SHOW & AUCTION****PUT YOUR NOVELTY TANK TOGETHER**



## A VIEW FROM UP-FRONT

By:  
Barry Lynch - NAS President

### A LOOK AHEAD

In my previous “Views” this year, I have tended to look back - to recap the highlights of a very good NAS year - the greatly increased membership participation both on and off the Board, the highly successful benefit auction for Earth Place, the marvelous New England Aquarium day trip, the top notch programs put on by our guest speakers, the quality and quantity of the fish lots being brought to the general meetings (see the “Mini-Auction Fish” article), the flourishing BAP program (see the “BAP Report”), etc. But, now it’s time to look ahead. **The time of the 41st Annual NAS Show and Auction is rapidly approaching!**

The festivities take place the weekend of September 29/30. The Show opens at noon on Saturday and continues through the afternoon and a good part of Sunday. The Auction is scheduled to commence on Sunday immediately following the Show awards ceremony - i.e. somewhere around noon. The Show and Auction promises to be a good one. Given last year’s successful experience, the Show has been expanded to include five new fish classes. Additionally, this year there will be a special treat. The Connecticut Betta Club will simultaneously host on premises an IBC sanctioned Betta Show. Over 200 entries are anticipated for the Betta Show alone! We expect the drawing power of two great fish shows to ensure an equally great auction.

Of course, as we have all come to learn, putting on a show and auction is a massive endeavor requiring assistance from the entire membership. **How can you help?** There are many different ways. Here are a few ideas.

**Show Class Sponsorships:** Cash prizes are awarded the first, second and third place winners in each Show Class. To at least partially offset these and other Show expenses, sponsors are sought for the Show Classes. A sponsorship costs \$25. Last year there was a sponsor for each class. Reaching the same goal this year could prove to be a challenge given the additional show classes and the unfortunate departure of some of last year’s supporters. This year 36 sponsors are needed. To date, 20 classes remain open. (I only recently started contacting people about sponsorships and the response has been great. By the time you read this “View”, I expect the number of un-sponsored classes to be greatly reduced.) If you haven’t already done so, please volunteer to be a sponsor.

**Raffle Tickets:** As I write, Cathy Chapkovich is in the process of purchasing the raffle prizes and then will print raffle tickets. (She anticipates three prizes highlighted by a television set.) Raffle tickets will be available for distribution at the August general meeting (and at the September meeting). Please pick up a bunch for purchase and/or sale to family, friends and associates.

**Pet Store Donations:** As always, we are soliciting hobby-related dry good donations from various manufacturers, wholesalers and the like. Already, donations are coming in. This year, we’ve decided to place an additional focus on the local pet stores. Most of us have developed strong relationships with one or more pet store proprietors. I think you will discover that, if asked, they’ll be happy to donate goods or gift certificates. They get some publicity directed to the perfect audience (auction attendees)



and the revenues go to a good cause (NAS). Give it a try with your local pet store. Please advise me of any donations received so I can ensure that appropriate recognition and thanks are provided the donor (one of my jobs).

Wednesday Night Set-Up: Mark your calendars for Wednesday night, September 26. This is when your help is desperately needed. Wednesday night is Show Set-Up night - an incredible endeavor. The air systems need to be set up. Background canopies need to be hung. Display tables must be transported and assembled. Hundreds of aquariums and fish bowls must be moved to the Show area. Etc. Etc. Two years ago, six volunteers struggled with this burden and had to return Thursday to complete the job - an absolute and unfair back-breaker for the special six. Last year, eighteen volunteers appeared. As a result, the job was quickly and efficiently completed on Wednesday night and no one felt unduly burdened. A similar workforce this year would be very welcome.

Show Entries: A fish show is only as good as the fish brought in for the show. The more entries the better. In talking to some various members, I found some questioned whether they had "show quality" fish. My experience says they do. Over the last several years, either as a Board member or as a friend, I have been in many member homes and viewed all varieties of fish. Without exception, I have seen beautiful quality fish definitely worthy of inclusion in the Show. Bring some entries into the Show for all to enjoy.

Miscellaneous: In addition to the above, there are all sorts of other ways, small and big, that you can help. These include the following. Get the word out. Cathy has developed flyers publicizing the event which can be posted in local pet stores and other locations. Following the completion of show entries, the Show areas need to be cleaned up late Saturday morning prior to the Show opening. About the same time, help is needed in setting up the downstairs area for the Judges' Dinner. Plan to attend the Judges' Dinner Saturday night. Bring a dish. (See Maryanne Naylor for details.) Sunday morning help is needed in setting up the Auction area. During the Auction, you can help by serving as runners or as back-ups to club members with assigned responsibilities - i.e. providing them with welcome breaks. In the mid-afternoon, if you could find some time to break away from the Auction to assist in breaking down the Show, that would certainly be welcome.

It all sounds rather daunting. Forty years of experience shows that, if all pitch in where they can, things will go smoothly, all will get done and everyone will leave with memories of an enjoyable experience and pride in putting on a great Show and Auction.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SUPPORT YOUR SISTER SOCIETIES

### August

- 16 NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting - 7pm before General Meeting
- 16 NAS General Meeting  
Speaker - **Al DiSpigna**: "Saltwater"
- 18 PVAS Picnic

### September

- 6 NAS Board Meeting - Hosted by Maryanne Naylor & Dan McKercher
- 19 NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting - 7pm before General Meeting
- 19 NAS General Meeting  
Speaker - TBD
- 26 & 27 NAS Show Set-up
- 28 Show Entries beginning to be set-up
- 29 NAS Aquarium Show  
Judges Diner
- 30 NAS Annual Auction

### October

- 4 NAS Board Meeting
- 14 New Hampshire Aquarium Society Auction - Newington, N.H.  
[nhaquariumsociety.com](http://nhaquariumsociety.com)
- 17 NAS General Meeting  
Speaker - TBD
- 21 Danbury Area Aquarium Society Auction  
[northeastcouncil.org/daas](http://northeastcouncil.org/daas)
- 26 NJAS "MEGA" Aquarium Weekend
- 29 NJAS Auction [www.njas.net](http://www.njas.net)

### November

- 1 NAS Board Meeting
- 15 NAS General Meeting
- 22 Thanksgiving

### December

- 6 NAS Board Meeting
- 25 Christmas  
**NO General Meeting -**  
Happy Holidays



## Breeding Ancistrus Dolichopterus

by:

Dan McKercher  
Norwalk Aquarium Society

One day I was doing a water change on one of my 20 gallon long tanks and saw something strange on the back of the tank. I started looking around for a looking glass to get a better look. "Yeah one of those things that my grand mother always needed. Boy I sure do miss the 20/20 vision days!" To my surprise it was a little baby pleco. Well you can imagine my excitement over the fact that my guppies had given birth to a pleco <G>. After some searching around I found the parents and a few other fry. This tank housed a big bunch of multi colored guppies and a few red sword tails. It was always on the dirty side with lots of plants, a boatload of duck weed on top, and one of those useless floating plastic logs that you see at all of the auctions that go for a few bucks. So thinking boy free BAP points, Yip-pee!!! "No fuss, no muss" I started to rip all the plants out and managed to find 5 of those little critters. 1 short of 6 needed to submit. I talked with Barry to see if there was any wiggle room on the rules of BAP. He said that 5 may be ok so I should take good care of the little fella's. A few days later to my surprise I managed to get this picture of mom caring for her clutch of eggs.



Photo by: Dan McKercher



Yup those useless plastic floating logs do in fact have a use! After a few days They hatched out and moved out of the log only to move to the outside of it. After watching them for a short time I found out why there were only 5 left from the 1st time the Parents did this. The guppies were trying to eat them. I managed to get them out before long. I did notice that the parents didn't seem to be bothered with protecting them at all. In fact the male had nothing to do with the clutch of eggs. Although he must have had some interaction or they wouldn't have hatched out. Below is a picture of the fry a day or so after they hatched out. They liked hanging on the side of the plastic shoe box but sure could swim fast when they needed to. Those plastic shoe boxes are good cheap small tanks, And work great in a pinch.

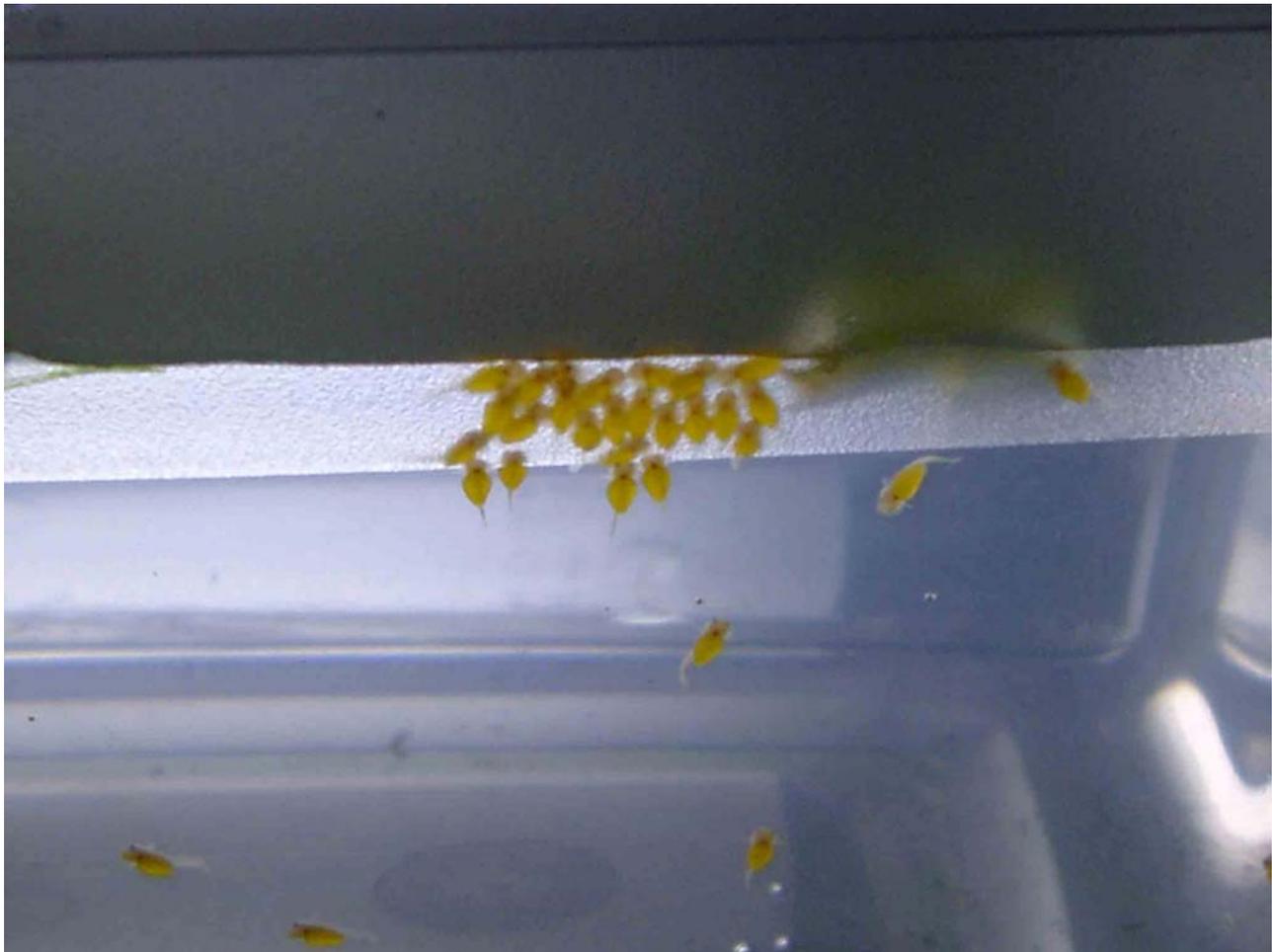


Photo by: Dan McKercher

They enjoyed eating rotting lettuce after they absorbed the egg sack. I was unable to get any more out of the pair as the male died about 2 weeks after they laid their 2<sup>nd</sup> bunch of eggs. I now have about 8 of the youngsters and hope to get another pair from them soon. They are a fun little fish to watch grow up and breeding them is a breeze.



## THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY BAP REPORT

By:  
**Barry Lynch**

There has been only one meeting (the June meeting) since my last report. You might accordingly think there would be little to report. Well, you'd be wrong. Five participants brought in 11 entries. Milestones were reached. Awards were presented. It was a great meeting for BAP (and, for that matter, a great meeting overall).

**Target Met!!:** In my last column, I reported that BAP entries in 2007 by first-time participants **Cathy Chapkovich, Peggy Heckler, Doug Kneissl** and **Rich Weglinski** had brought us within one of the 100 all-time BAP participants targeted at the beginning of the year. At that time, I had no idea who the magical 100th participant would be. The answer is: **Ryszard Krzynowek**. At the June meeting, he became the 100th participant with his donation of *Gambusia holbrooki*. To recognize the one hundred participants, I have expanded the BAP Point Standings update which accompanies this Report to include all BAP participants - both current and past.

Breeder of the Year Competition - 2007. The Breeder of the Year competition continues on its record pace. There were two new 2007 participants, the afore-mentioned **Ryszard Krzynowek** and **Slawomir Konrad** ("Konrad"), which brings the 2007 participant total to thirteen - one over last year's record of twelve. **Konrad**, who rejoined BAP after a couple years hiatus, brought in two notable entries - the first 20 point species this year (*Tateurndina ocellicauda*) and a new BAP species (*Geophagus iporangensis*) for which he earned an additional ten bonus points.

The 11 June entries brings the half way point total to 39 and puts us on a pace to easily break last year's record total of 53 entries. The 5 entries by **Dan McKercher** and **Maryanne Naylor** vaulted them by **Cathy Chapkovich** and **me** into first place in the standings. My two entries broke a tie with **Cathy**. **Doug Kneissl** followed his first BAP entry in May with *Pelvicachromis pulcher* in June.

The current Breeder of the Year standings follow this report.

Awards: **Cathy Chapkovich** and the team of **Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor** were both presented their well-earned Breeder awards at the June meeting.



Accepting 'Breeder' Awards from NAS President Barry Lynch - (left) The team of Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor (right) Cathy Chapkovich





**NAS BAP PROGRAM**  
**POINT STANDINGS: ALL Participants - Current & Past**  
**6/21/07**

**Note:** Current members are in bold print.

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Bonus</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>
1) <b>Sal Silvestri</b>	1545	515	2060
2) <b>Bob McKeand</b>	855	620	1475
3) <b>Don Barbour</b>	1055	170	1225
4) Don Maloney	700	120	820
5) Anton Vukich	545	250	795
6) Mark Keitel	610	105	715
7) Stankevitch Family	525	160	685
8) Kevin Cyr	535	120	655
9) Don & Joan Johnson	480	160	640
10) <b>Barry Lynch</b>	500	90	590
11) Tom Tilles	410	170	580
12) Robert Pelikan	475	90	565
13) <b>Ed Katuska</b>	470	40	510
14) John Faucett	415	90	505
15) Bill Selke	200	160	360
16) Tony Skojec	350	10	360
17) Emil Bella	220	85	305
18) <b>Anne &amp; Mark Broadmeyer</b>	280	25	305
19) <b>Rich Grenfell</b>	260	45	305
20) Basil Holubis	255	40	295
21) <b>John Chapkovich</b>	270	10	280
22) David Quinn	225	40	265
23) <b>Dick Moore</b>	165	90	255
24) Joe Bellantoni	120	130	250
25) <b>Steve Ng</b>	185	20	205
26) Ken Balog	140	20	160
27) Lee Finley	90	70	160
28) Richard Marino	160	0	160
29) Griffin Kessler	115	40	155
30) Joe Siskay	115	40	155



	<u>Species</u>	<u>Bonus</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>
31) Bruce Smith	110	40	150
32) <b>Diane &amp; Jack Adinolfi</b>	120	20	140
33) <b>Dan McKercher &amp; Maryanne Naylor</b>	130	10	140
34) Ray Clark	120	10	130
35) Mel & Alberta Emond	85	30	115
36) Paul LePage	105	10	115
37) <b>Slawomir Konrad</b>	95	10	105
38) Dan Tuttle	100	0	100
39) <b>Joe Masi</b>	85	10	95
40) Chip Stahl	85	10	95
41) John Herrmann	65	20	85
42) Raymond Smith	65	20	85
43) Kevin O'Brien	80	0	80
44) Ray Cole	55	20	75
45) Douglas Munson	55	20	75
44) Jeff Polster	75	0	75
47) Roger & Sue Ameden	50	20	70
48) <b>Doug DeMent</b>	70	0	70
49) <b>Ed Schildnecht</b>	70	0	70
50) Carl Addicks	60	0	60
51) Gene Harris	60	0	60
52) Dan & Sue Katz	40	20	60
53) <b>Charlie Sundberg</b>	60	0	60
54) Fran Natale	55	0	55
55) Ken & Rosann Athans	30	20	50
56) <b>Cathy Chapkovich</b>	50	0	50
57) Gary Bernier	35	10	45
58) Mark Hansen	35	10	45
59) Chuck Aldrich	40	0	40
60) Jennifer Broderick	30	10	40
61) Shawn Edwards	30	10	40
62) Robert Holt	20	20	40
63) Doug Martin	30	10	40
64) Mary & Russel Fairchild	15	20	35
65) Scott Stevenson	35	0	35
66) Stephen Gustafson	30	0	30
67) <b>Pete Izzo</b>	20	10	30



	<u>Species</u>	<u>Bonus</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pts</u>
68) Mike Klepacki	30	0	30
69) Sharron Blasius	20	5	25
70) Cherie Ellis	25	0	25
71) Tom Hrusa	15	10	25
72) Wayne Adelpkopf	20	0	20
73) <b>Bob Alberino</b>	20	0	20
74) Neil Druks	20	0	20
75) <b>Ira Friedman</b>	10	10	20
76) Bob & Missy Grun	20	0	20
77) <b>Doug Kneissl</b>	20	0	20
78) Dorothy Millard	10	10	20
79) Diane Folger	15	0	15
80) Denise Hofer	15	0	15
81) <b>Rich Weglinski</b>	15	0	15
82) Lynn Carter	10	0	10
83) Jacob Goodwin	10	0	10
84) <b>Peggy Heckler</b>	10	0	10
85) F Sutherland Masblem	10	0	10
86) Philip Osbey	10	0	10
87) <b>Ed Peters</b>	10	0	10
88) <b>Sue &amp; Scott Reed</b>	10	0	10
89) Kathleen Rogers	10	0	10
90) Fred Senerchia	10	0	10
91) Eric & Corey Siegel	10	0	10
92) Will Swanson	10	0	10
93) Carole Beers	5	0	5
94) <b>Gina Bell</b>	5	0	5
95) Allan Grabowski	5	0	5
96) Linda Kittell	5	0	5
97) <b>Ryszard Krzynowek</b>	5	0	5
98) Charles & Rose Levy	5	0	5
99) Neil Mendellsson	5	0	5
100) Patrick Skidd	5	0	5



**NAS BAP PROGRAM  
BREEDER OF THE YEAR - 2007**

<b>Dan McKercher &amp; Maryanne Naylor</b>	<b>9 entries</b>	
Ancistrus dolichopterus		Big-Fin Bristlenose
Aphyosemion australe		Lyretail Killy
Aulonocara maleri		Sunshine Peacock
Aulonocara stuartgranti		Ruby Red Regal Peacock
Dermogenys pusilla		Malayan Halfbeak
Julidochromis ornatus		Ornate Julie
Labidochromis sp "Blue/White Tanzania"		White Lab
Lamprologus ocellatus		Ornate Shell-Dweller
Poecilia sphenops		Balloon Molly
<b>Barry Lynch</b>	<b>7 entries</b>	
Ameca splendens		Butterfly Goodeid
Carlhubbsia stuarti		Banded Widow
Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum		Convict Cichlid
Corydoras caudimaculatus		Tail-Spot Cory
Gambusia affinis		Mosquitofish
Girardinus metallicus		Metallic Girardinus
Nannacara taenia		Banded Dwarf Cichlid
<b>Cathy Chapkovich</b>	<b>5 entries</b>	
Corydoras aeneus		Albino Aeneus Cory
Corydoras paleatus		Hi-Fin Pepered Cory
Melanotaenia boesemani		Boesemani Rainbow
Pterophyllum scalare		Black Marble Angelfish
Xenotoca eiseni		Red-Tailed Goodeid
<b>Bob McKeand</b>	<b>4 entries</b>	
Aphyosemion australe		Lyretail Killy
Fundulopanchax gardneri		Steel-Blue Killy
Poecilia heterandria		Venezuela Molly
Rivulus geayi		Chevron Rivulus
<b>Bob Alberino</b>	<b>3 entries</b>	
Ameca splendens		Butterfly Goodeid
Poecilia wingei		Endler's Livebearer
Xiphophorus helleri		Red Wag Swordtail
<b>John Chapkovich</b>	<b>2 entries</b>	
Julidochromis transcriptus		Masked Julie
Limia tridens		Tiburon Limia
<b>Doug Kneissl</b>	<b>2 entries</b>	
Corydoras aeneus		Green Aeneus Cory
Pelvicachromis pulcher		Kribensis
<b>Slawomir Konrad</b>	<b>2 entries</b>	
Geophagus iporangensis		Peacock Goby or Gudgeon
Tateurndina ocellicauda		
<b>Don Barbour</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Neolamprologus splendens		Neolamprologus helianthus
<b>Peggy Heckler</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Pterophyllum scalare		Black Lace Angelfish
<b>Ryszard Krzynowek</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Gambusia holbrooki		Holbrook's Mosquitofish
<b>Charlie Sundberg</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Haplochromis obliquidens		Zebra Obliquidens
<b>Rich Weglinski</b>	<b>1 entry</b>	
Julidochromis transcriptus		Masked Julie



## MINI-AUCTION FISH

By: Barry Lynch

One matter that came up at the last Board meeting was the fish being made available to the members at the general meeting mini-auctions. All agreed that the quantity, quality and diversity of the fish lots were impressive. It was suggested we keep track of and publicize the offerings. To help us do so, we have developed a "Donor/Vendor Sign-In Sheet" for donors (BAP or otherwise) and vendors (50/50) to sign in their lots prior to each mini-auction. (An additional benefit of the sign-in sheet is that it helps our Treasurer, Charlie Sundberg, keep track of bids, vendor shares, etc.)

Fish lots presented at the 6/21/07 general meeting included the following:

- 1) *Corydoras caudimaculatus* - Tail Spot Corys;
- 2) *Carlhubbsia stuarti* - Banded Widows;
- 3) *Xiphophorus helleri* - Pineapple Swordtails;
- 4) *Julidochromis ornatus* - Ornate Julies;
- 5) *Dermogenys pusilla* - Malayan Halfbeaks;
- 6) *Lamprologus ocellatus* - Ornate Shell Dwellers;
- 7) *Aulonocara maleri* - Sunshine Peacocks;
- 8) *Aulonocara stuartgranti* - Ruby Red Regal Peacocks
- 9 - 11) *Poecilia reticulata* - three different strains of Guppies;
- 12) *Pelvicachromis pulcher* - Kribensis;
- 13) *Nannacara anomala* - Golden Dwarf Cichlid (breeding pair);
- 14 - 15) *Gambusia holbrooki* - Holbrook's Mosquitofish (2 lots);
- 16) *Tateurndina ocellicauda* - Peacock Gobies; and
- 17) *Geophagus iporanguensis*.

I would certainly say that 17 fish lots representing a number of different fish families is mighty impressive for one general meeting mini-auction. The thing is - for this year - this is not unusual. All the general meeting mini-auctions have been similarly graced. I can't regurgitate all the lots because we didn't previously keep track. But you simply need to scan the Breeder of the Year listing at the end of my BAP report to see that 35 different species have already been submitted. Then, take into account all the non-BAP lots offered at the meetings. Finally, consider the fish brought in by some of the program speakers - for example, Al Sabetta's angelfish and discus and Ed Champigny's goldfish and koi. You get the picture. There have been fish galore at this year's meetings. I expect the August meeting to be equally bountiful!



## NAS BAP FISH CLASSIFICATION LIST

**NOTE:** An Asterisk (\*) indicates some members of the family or genus are in a different class.

This list is for reference only. Please check with the BAP Chairperson for any changes.

### Class A (5 points)

Brachydanio	Carassius	Cichlasoma*	Gambusia
Goodeids*	Killies*	Laetacara	Limia
Poecilia	Tanichthys	Xiphophorus	

### Class B (10 points)

Anableps	Archocentrus	Astatotilapia	Aulonocara
Barbs*	Belonesox	Betta*	Brachyrhaphis
Characins*	Chromidotilapia	Cichlasoma*	Colisa*
Copadichromis	Corydoras*	Cyntilapia	Enantiopus
Etroplus	Geophagus	Goodeids*	Haplochromis
Hemichromis	Heros	Iodotropheus	Killies*
Koi	Labeotropheus	Labidochromis	Lipochromis
Melanochromis	Melanotaenia*	Nannacara*	Nimbrochromis*
Pelvicachromis*	Phallichthys	Protomelas	Pseudotropheus
Pterophyllum	Telmatochromis	Thorichthys*	Tilapia*
Trichogaster	Trichopsis		

### Class C (15 points)

Altolamprologus	Ancistrus	Apistogramma*	Badis
Bedotia	Betta*	Characins*	Cichlasoma*
Colisa*	Corydoras*	Crenicara	Ctenopoma
Cyprichromis	Hypostomus	Julidochromis	Killies*
Lamprologus	Lepidolamprologus	Limnotilapia	Loricariidae
Melanotaenia*	Microgeophagus	Nannacara*	Monochromes
Neolamprologus*	Nicralestes	Nimbochromis*	Paracyprichromis
Pelvicachromis*	Thorichthys*	Tinfoil Barbs	Tropheus

### Class D (20 points)

Anostomous	Apistogramma*	Apistogrammoides	Dermogenys
Dicrossus	Hoplosternum	Labeo	Lamprichthys
Loaches*	Megalechis	Neolamprologus*	Pantodon
Petrochromis	Rasbora	Sphaerichthys	Sturisoma
Symphysodon	Synodontis*	Taeniacara	Tateurndina
Tetras*	Tilapia*	Toxotes	

### Class E (50 points)

Arrowana	Biotodoma	Botia	Coius
Distochodus	Monodactylidae	Pangio	Scatophagidae
Synodontis*			



## Apistogramma

By:

John Krol

*A. bitaeniata* is a black water species quite common in Amazonia but is often passed by collectors looking for rarer Apisto species. This is unfortunate because *A. bitaeniata* is one of the prettier large Apistos.

I find a PH of 4.0 and a general hardness of 1 to be optimal. Under these conditions, the males reach their full size of 3 ½ to 4" size at an accelerated rate. Under these conditions, they also spawn and provide free swimming fry. *A. bitaeniata* is a polygamous species - meaning a male will spawn with various females. They also will pair bond. I find that once a pair bond has been formed, the female will generally not accept another mate.

Of the 3 breeding pairs I currently have, only one has formed a pair bond. This pair is in a 20 gallon long tank with 60 to 80 fry in their 4th week of free swimming. For the first 3 weeks, the fry were herded around by the female in a tight shoal. In the 4th week, the fry split up. At that time, the male took on the care of approximately 20 fry and also harassed the female - chasing her around the tank. She is now guarding a new batch of eggs while the male continues to watch over the fry. I know I have to take some action or risk losing the new batch, a number of the older fry or a combination of both!

Two days ago the female came out strutting her stuff. I originally thought there were 60 to 80 fry but after a couple days of watching conclude the number is closer to 120. The male continues to tend to the older batch of fry. While the male is not herding the older fry, it appears he is doing what he can to keep them away from the female and her new brood.

There is also a sole survivor (about ½") from an earlier spawning. Both the male and female gang up on this one. The Sole Survivor did come out and mingle with the older fry for a while without consequence from the male or female. But, when the female showed herself with the third brood, the Sole Survivor is on the lamb again from both parents.

My second pair of breeders is in a 20 gallon high tank. The PH is 6.4. The pair spawned once - 11 fry which did not survive past two days. They have not formed a pair bond. (The male is in jeopardy.) The third pair is in a 33 gallon long tank. I have just started lowering the PH from 6.6 and will continue lowering until I reach a PH of 4.0. The male in this tank is in jeopardy as well; but, he has considerably more maneuvering room than the male in the 20 gallon high.

I feed the adults frozen bloodworms twice daily and the fry live brine shrimp naupali thrice daily. (I don't want the older fry feeling hungry and attempting to munch on the newly born.) Quite a few of the older fry are eating the frozen bloodworms as well as the baby brine shrimp.

YEAH! I know I have to take action and make some sort of movement out of this tank. I do have the tank space; but, the PH is way off. The majority of my tanks should be between a PH of 5.5 and 6.6. Instead, the majority are between 7.0 and 7.6. All my efforts to lower the PH have proven to be fruitless. I'm awaiting plenty of rain so I can collect it and provide my charges with their needs.

I've been pulling my hair out over the last 6 to 7 months. I've had over 30 batches of free swimming fry from a number of Apisto species with none making it past a day or two into the free swimming stage. WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON HERE? Well these days, I KNOW. And, I'm backpedaling for a while till I can correct it. I'll give an example. *A. tucururi* spawned (approximately 60 free swimming fry) and two days later all the fry and the adults were dead. When the fry appeared, the PH was 6.8. Two days later the PH was 7.6.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY IS THE PH FLUCTUATING THIS MUCH? HOW DO I CORRECT IT?



I've tried using PH altering chemicals available on the market and their use definitely says "CAUTION". My A. panduro male will definitely attest to that, if he's still alive. Earlier today I got a new PH altering chemical, used my lighted magnifying glass to read the instructions and proceeded as per the instructions. An hour or so later this vibrant male was belly up in the corner! I panicked. I grabbed a net and scooped him up. He was still breathing. I did a quick 40% water change and since have been doing an hourly vigil on him. Yeah. He's still alive. I hate losing my fish - especially when I've placed a bunch of time in them.

The A. panduro female has been spawning on a regular basis for at least six months but the eggs don't hatch. The little info I have indicates a PH of 5.5 for the eggs to hatch. So, either the info on the PH lower is incorrect or the info on A. panduro's requirements is incorrect. My water chemistry here is not making it easy for me to make a timely judgment call! C'MON SPRING RAINS!

When it comes to Apistogramma, never jump to the conclusion that the species you bought is actually that species. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAS A GREAT DEAL OF CATCHUP TO MAKE. Not to mention that when these fish are acquired, especially in the fry state, they may be tetras, dwarf pike cichlids, an unknown apisto species or otherwise!

On acquiring apistos, all one needs to do initially is watch and listen. The happy apisto is going to have its dorsal, ventral and caudal fins expanded and will be somewhat active (depending on its tank mates). An unhappy apisto will immediately fold in its fins and immediately find a nook or cranny to hide in. On occasion it may be their own fear factor coming into play. More often, it's the water parameters - i.e. PH and hardness.

O.K., if you're a rookie to fish, check your ammonia and nitrate/nitrite levels. However, when I'm keeping 2 or 3 dwarf cichlids in a 33 or 55 gallon tank and am trying to bring down the PH level, my last concern is ammonia or nitrates/nitrites. On these particular tanks, I've got 6 to 8 weeks leeway prior to the next water change - my methodology to finding the water parameters for breeding that particular species.

Using this approach, through my 28/30 years as a tropical fish hobbyist, I've bred and raised 56 species of apistos as well as many other species from discus to angelfish to koi, goldfish, killifish and tetras. THEY DID IT ON THEIR OWN! I just provided enough food for the fry/juveniles to bring them along. That is, once I realized a successful spawning had occurred!

ANYWAY, although I've spent 30 years around South American Dwarf cichlids, the last 10 years I haven't kept up with the literature. Within that time, the number of known apistos has grown from approximately 65 species to over 120 species! And, there are at least 3 more species I've kept which have not yet been described. I figure that when the end number comes in, there will be between 250 and 300 species in the Apistogramma genus.

Apistogramma are still on the cutting edge! There is not enough known about them. They are still being discovered! JOIN IN ON THE DISCOVERY!



**ask KC**



**KC (aka Krazy Cat)**

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](mailto:cvsckas@snet.net) — please refer your questions to KC of the Wet Pet. Thank You

**Answers to May / Junes Word Search**

S D T N M U P L E C O L K J T Y W S F R B  
 A S S W O R D T A I L V D E F I L T E R O  
 D I T O H D W E Y U J M E W H J K Y O R H  
 R G R R N J I B E T T A W X B V A C A K G  
 H U A S Q U A R D F V L A K I L N C R M R  
 K P H G T V A A L J N A R Q G E R K M G U  
 A P I S T O O B O L T W T G K U W B S R S  
 M Y M P W S N R E J E I E E P S E U G A M  
 N D K O Y C E E J A Q K R M W A I B I V S  
 N O E N N A M G C V A A C H G Y J B K E E  
 B N Y G B R O I A A S K H L P H U L U L G  
 H U T E D D I T I M X M A P L N H E W G H  
 U F C M I F H F J O R A N D A Z Y N A D U  
 I C O R Y G U R V S G H G L J F S E C W T  
 O L N K N T Y C G S J R E D B U P S J Y R  
 P P V L D B U T T I K O F E R I M T A N K  
 H S I F I L L I K T M L S C V I E O K U D  
 Q U C N H K L G O U R A M I I L D K I L X  
 A E T U J M O L L Y B K L I K H W D X Z C

**Answers to May / Junes Word Jumble**

**PEDYSME  
DEMPSEY**

**IWRTCNOLA  
CROWNTAIL**

**OUIEBKRTFIT  
BUTTIKOFERI**

**SRAOC  
OSCAR**

**IAANHRP  
PIRANHA**

**Norwalk in September means SHOWTIME !**



An Afternoon of Fishing  
by  
Cathy Chapkovich  
Photographs by: Cathy Chapkovich



A Beautiful Day for Fishing - on the way out

As everyone knows, Dan McKercher and Ken Purcaro put together a fishing trip for both clubs, Norwalk Aquarium Society and Aqualand. Dan had many people interested in going on the trip. It was scheduled for Sunday, July 22 with the boat leaving the dock at 1 pm. In all honesty, I really wasn't interested in going and Maryanne wasn't going to go either, but the night before Dan called John to find out if we were going and I decided what the heck – I may as well go.

Sunday dawned beautiful. The sun was shining, the sky was blue with scattered puffs of white clouds. Even the temperature wasn't that bad. As always, I was up by 7:00 am at the latest, feed the dogs, cats and the multiple fish tanks. Amazing how quickly time goes when you need to meet someone. Before I knew it, I was rushing around trying to pack some snacks and drinks for on the boat with John telling me to hurry up.



Dan, Maryanne & John relaxing before the hard work begins

We needed to meet up with Dan and Ken at the commuter lot in East Haven by 11:30 and it was already after 11. Doing one last check on the house and two pouting dogs, we were off. By the time we got to the commuter lot, it was 20 to 12. Ken had called Dan and told him that he wouldn't be able to go, so Dan talked Maryanne into going, for which I was happy. I had decided to go, because I thought Maryanne was going anyway. We all piled into Dan's car and off we went. It took just over an hour to reach the dock in Niantic where Dan's son Chris met up with us.



A Days worth of loot!

The captain and crew were fantastic throughout the afternoon. The crew consisted of three teenage boys that had the patience of saints with everyone on board. They had everyone fishing off the port (left) side of the boat, which unfortunately caused a lot of tangled lines that these kids had to untangle. I guess it would have been worse if they had let everyone fish from both sides of the boat.

Deep sea fishing is a lot of work. First off, we were using 16 oz. sinkers and dropping to the bottom. Okay, that part wasn't hard, put reeling the line back up. It doesn't sound like a lot of weight 16 oz. but let me tell you, reeling up that line along with your line tangled in someone else's (usually about 3 other lines at least) makes for a little bit of weight to reel in. Then to top that off, as you're reeling in the line with the tangles, guess what's on the end of your line – a blue fish. Needless to say, we were all tired by the end of the day.

John was the first one to catch a blue fish out of the five of us. As the day progressed, we had caught a total of 14 between the five of us and we also won the pool. Since we started putting all the fish in one bag, we weren't sure if it was John's fish or Dan's fish that actually won so we put the money towards supper.



The Great Fisherman Return with their booty.  
(l to R) Chris (Dan's son), Dan, and John



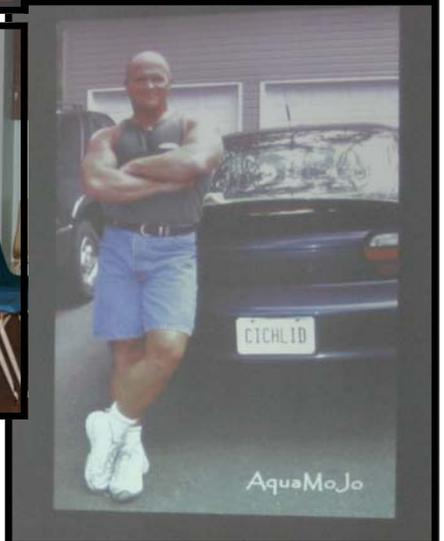
**University of New Hampshire - Shortest Fish Auction in History** - 14 minutes long - photo's by Cathy Chapkovich  
Back on July 15, all the sister clubs we're invited to attend a small fish auction at UNH. Even though there wasn't a lot of fish for the auction, just visiting their set-up was impressive. As you can see from the photo's below, they had a lot of fish. The auction selections were small, but the quality was fantastic.





# June 2007 General Meeting Featured Speaker Mo Devlin

Photos by: Cathy Chapkovich






live plants

sharks

tropical Fish

corals

aquariums

eels

discus

freshwater

goldfish

saltwater

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singrays

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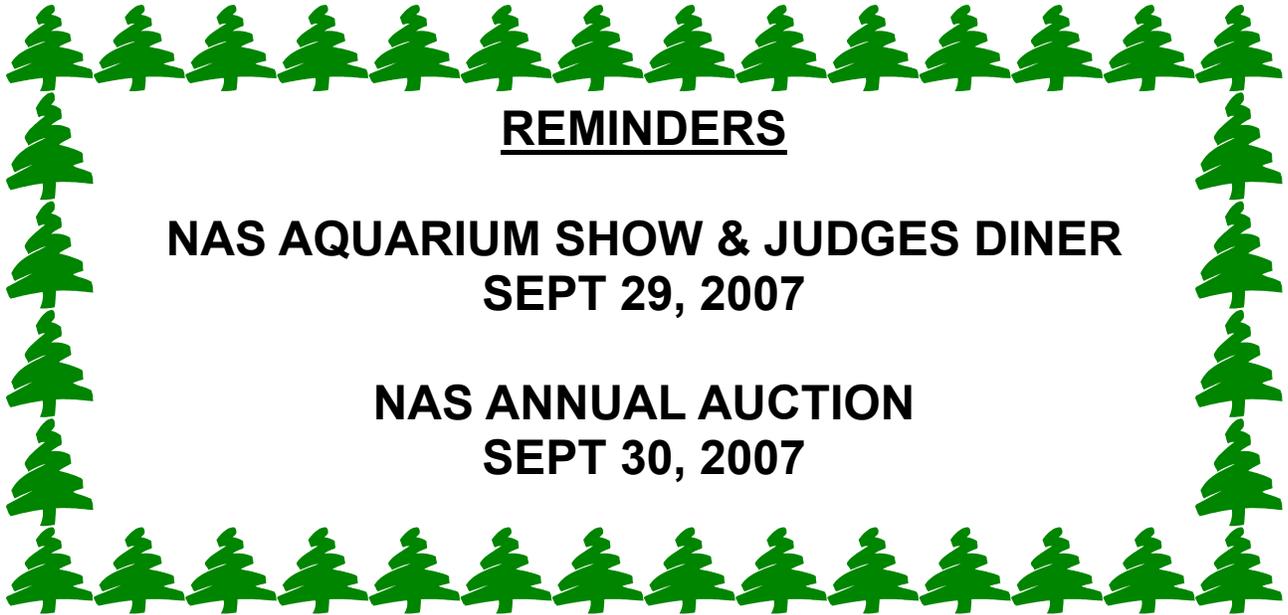
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**REMINDERS**

**NAS AQUARIUM SHOW & JUDGES DINER  
SEPT 29, 2007**

**NAS ANNUAL AUCTION  
SEPT 30, 2007**

NAS meets the third Thursday of every month (except July & Dec.) at Earth Place,  
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Free admission—Public welcome  
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