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WET PET GAZETTE

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Acquired by Cathy 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:
Barry Lynch - NAS President

A VIEW FROM UP FRONT

By: Barry Lynch

Although it's only been three weeks since I took over the duties of NAS President, I've already come to realize there is considerably more work involved than I had anticipated. First, there were the logistics of setting up my first Board meeting as President. Then came the development of a meeting agenda to ensure that all pressing issues would be addressed. All agenda items then had to be fleshed out to ensure that nothing slipped through the cracks. The meeting itself proved to be a grueling three plus hour affair with considerable time spent on program speaker issues, committee appointments and the establishment of a new committee (Special Projects), developing the proposed 2007 budget to be presented to the general membership, going through in detail all the responsibilities and work involved in preparing for the upcoming benefit auction, etc. Following the meeting, numerous matters requiring my attention as President have arisen.

In light of this experience, I tip my hat to my predecessor, John Chapkovich, and to the others such as Sal Silvestri and Ed Katuska who so capably handled the responsibilities of President. In his last "A View from up Front", John spoke of burn out - something I can now appreciate. Rest assured, however, that I will not suffer those symptoms. I have two advantages over the others. First, I am retired. Second and more importantly, I am coming in as President at a time when membership assistance and participation is growing in every area.

I'm not just spewing hot air. The figures back it up. The increase in membership assistance in putting on last year's Show & Auction was phenomenal. One typical example: In the all important Wednesday night set-up, the number of members on hand to do the job increased from six in 2005 to eighteen in 2006! In the BAP program I enjoy so much, the number of participants increased from seven in 2005 to twelve in 2006.

The Board make-up is just the latest example. In recent years, it's been difficult to fill all the Board positions. Last year we could field only nine members out of a By Law permitted thirteen. This year, there is the full thirteen. They are listed in the "NAS Officers & Directors" section on the inside cover of this Wet Pet Gazette. If you count carefully, you will note that fourteen are actually listed. While new member Linda Van Reet could not be a Board member because the maximum thirteen positions were already filled, her demonstrable enthusiasm and willingness to help led to her appointment as an additional officer prepared to step in and help when needed. On top of this, two other members, Don Barbour and Bob McKeand, declared their willingness to serve on the Board if all the openings could not be filled.

In short, there is reason to feel good about the Society and optimistic about the upcoming year. We're on track. Under all circumstances, the question is always: What do we need to do to make the club better? To me, the answer is simple: Retain and grow the membership. Put another way: The more the merrier.

Over the past few years, I have been involved in many informal and formal discussions as to what attracts and retains members. It always boils down to three things, namely good programs (speakers),



fish, and the opportunity to socialize.

Programs: To some members, the biggest draw is new and interesting programs put on by qualified speakers. They look for the opportunity to be both educated and entertained. In the past few years, we have been blessed by some excellent programs. Nevertheless, for whatever reason, it is proving to be more and more difficult to get speakers for all our meetings. The Board has taken two steps to improve this situation. First, a number of Board members have volunteered to pitch in and help Sal (our one man operation Program Chairman for many years) in identifying and obtaining new speakers and new programs. Second, in the proposed budget, an extra \$1000 has been allocated to Programs to enable us to bring speakers in from outside our traditional tri-state area.

Fish: To other members, the main attraction is the opportunity to obtain different quality fish at reasonable (some would say “dirt cheap”) prices. This is one of those “chicken and egg” scenarios. If we have more members in the club, more fish will be brought in for auction - which will result in more members. There’s really not much we can do in this regard. I do think, however, that the trend is positive. One example is the previously mentioned growth in BAP over the past year. This has certainly resulted in an increase in fish lots available to the membership.

Socialization: To a number of members, the opportunity to socialize is important. This is being addressed by the Board. The first example is the wonderful holiday party recently hosted by Cathy Chapkovich - the first club party held by the Club in several years. Also, a new committee (Special Events) co-chaired by Dan McKercher and Ken Purcaro was established at the last Board meeting. Its purposes are to identify potential outside activities, gauge member interest and follow through with one or more events in this year. Events presently being considered include trips to the Maritime Center, the New England Aquarium, and/or to fish wholesalers, a field collecting trip, a summer picnic and even a bowling extravaganza (two new Board members are bowling enthusiasts). In the proposed budget, \$1,000 has been allocated to Special Events.

Late Nights: While it is quite clear that the above three items are the most important factors in attracting and retaining members, one complaint often voiced by some existing members is the late time at which general meetings tend to close (particularly when some members have to get up early the next morning to go to work.) Some have suggested starting the meeting earlier (7:00 or 7:30). The problem with that is that some members have difficulty getting to the meeting by 8:00. It has been suggested that meeting business commence immediately at 8:00 to be followed immediately by the program (i.e, that the traditional coffee break be eliminated). The problem with this regimented approach is that it would essentially eliminate the opportunity to socialize - to chitchat with friends and make new friends - something many, including myself, would miss.

In short, I don’t think anything dramatic can be implemented to ensure the meetings will end earlier. I do pledge, however, as President that I will do everything I can to get the meetings started closer to 8:00 than 8:30, to make sure the coffee break is closer to 10 minutes than 20, and get the auction rolling immediately after the program end.

That’s it for now. I look forward to a great year for NAS and for all of us.



EDITORALLY SPEAKING

By

Cathy Chapkovich - Editor

I would like to thank Al Sebeta for it's time and energy for his January presentation. Al's presentation dealt with discus, adopting angelfish babies. This was a subject that Al stumbled over this past fall by accident. He has a pair of angelfish that are continually laying eggs and decided to see if the discus would adopt the angelfish eggs. He stated that everyone that he talked to said that there was no reference to discus parents ever adopting angelfish babies. I found Al's presentation very interesting and useful. Al is one of the few speakers that this club has been able to get to come in and talk lately.

I am also happy to report that the holiday party went very well. Everyone who attended seemed to have had a very good time. I would like to thank Don and his wife Wilma, Peter of the earth place, and Margaret one of our new members for their help in setting up for the dinner.

Now for something on a little more serious note. Sal does his best to try to get speakers that are local, unfortunately most of the speakers in the area don't want to travel anymore. So when he is unable to get a speaker, there are those in the club that have done something, try to share their experience with the rest of the club. I realize that when someone in the club is doing a presentation, it's not the same as when we bring in a top speaker, but it would be nice if the other members of the club would support those who are trying to do a presentation. Most speakers started out doing presentations for their local clubs. So even if we don't have a top number one speaker come in and it would still be nice to have the members of the club support those that are trying to share their experience with others. The Board of Directors has authorized additional money to be spent to try to bring in speakers that are not local, this becomes an expensive proposition, because you usually have to pay for air fare, hotel, food expenses and also the speakers fee. Depending on the expense we are hoping to be able to at least bring in two speakers that are not local. It is my hope that the club members will support any and all speakers that make an effort to present at our meetings.

We are also at that time of year again when we need to start thinking about our annual show and auction. The dates are set, Saturday September 29, 2007 for the show and Sunday September 30, 2007 for the auction. As always, we need volunteers to help plan, set-up and run both the show and auction. We were very lucky last year to have a show. Due to the lack of interest in past years, there was a lot of debate about having the show. After sending begging e-mail out to other clubs for help, we were able to get the people we needed to put the show together.

I really don't see why we need to beg other clubs for volunteers to help. The NAS have plenty of members that are able to do the work. It is true that members from the other clubs help out, but it is a shame that when we need to get a count of heads that will be there, we need to ask other clubs. Usually the setup can take only one night if we have the people to do it. Last year, the setup was done on one night. Why? There were enough able bodies to get the job done. Even if you can not lift things, there are jobs to be done that you can help out with. There is setting up the plastic back drop - hold the tape, cut it and pass the pieces up to the person taping at the top. It's these little jobs that help get the job done.

We are starting to organize the show now, and we are looking for the volunteers. Do not be afraid that you want be able to carry something, there is always something else to be done. So why not help out and support your club. After all, the NAS is known for its show, and we are the only club in Connecticut that is still doing the show. I hope to see more club members get involved this year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUPPORT YOUR SISTER SOCIETIES

FEBRUARY

- 1 NAS Board Meeting
Location: Steve Ng
- 11 PVAS Annual Auction
- 15 NAS General Meeting 8pm
NAS 2007 Show & Auction Committee Meeting
7pm at the Earth Place (before Gen. Meeting)
Speaker - TBD
- 25 NAS Benefit Auction - to Benefit "The Earth Place"

March

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

April

- 5 NAS Board Meeting
Location: John Krol
- 19 General Meeting
Speaker - TBD
- TBD NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting

May

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

June

- 7 NAS Board Meeting
Location: Rich Weglinski
- 21 NAS General Meeting
Speaker - TBD

July

- NO GENERAL MEETING**
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
- TBD NAS Show & Auction Committee Meeting



FISH IMPROVIZATION

By
John Krol

The Apisto Biteniata female just had a brood of 11 free swimming fry. I had finally caught the male and placed him in a livebearer net (breeding trap) in order to save him as the female was especially horny with him. The pair was/is in a 20 gallon long with plenty of rocks and plants. TOO SMALL OF A TANK! for this pair!

I just fed all the fish, but this tank caught my attention, there were what appeared to be eggs on top the java moss. The female was harassing the male in the breeding trap and I first thought she was trying to get at the male, but at the bottom of the breeding trap there are about 30 eggs which she was tending to. The eggs atop the java moss apparently were knocked down. The male unable to escape the breeding trap so the female laid the eggs where he could fertilize them.

The PH is at 6.5, KH 1, GH 1.

Hey they're not supposed to lay eggs this close apart! Another illiterate fish! The male wasn't scheduled to be released into the tank till 1/10/07. This is the highest PH that the Biteniata eggs have successfully hatched, approximately 20 years ago I had to bring the PH down to 5.5. But I'm living elsewhere since that time and my water is extremely soft so that PH fluctuations do occur. On receipt of Biteniata I had placed the majority into a 33 gallon long (4' long tank) with a PH of 6.2 only to have the PH jump from 6.2 to 7.6 and a bunch of dead fish. At least this time I had a test kit on hand to check the various water parameters (the tank went south) that's my term for the PH fluctuation.

Biteniata are a Soft Acid Loving Fish, with a PH of 6.8 over a period of time is detrimental never mind 7.6ph.

Fortunately for me I had split Biteniata into 4 tanks so I didn't loss them all. A Biteniata is an extremely beautiful apisto but quite demanding.

This first spawning there were only 11 fry, I decided to leave them with the female, so I could get a perspective on this particular female. Is she a good mother or not? I treat them as individuals because there is that much of variance between the individual fish!



A BASIC VERSION OF MY 20GAL PLANTED TANK

By
Cathy Chapkovich

I've been asked a few times about my planted tank's, and how I've set them up. I think the best version to start with is my basic take, which is my 20 gallon in my office. I don't claim to be an expert when it comes to setting up a planted tank.

My 20gal is a very basic plant tank that I keep in my office. I don't use any CO₂ in this tank. I do use liquid potassium once in awhile though and I haven't put any plant tab fertilizer in it yet. This tank has been up for almost a year now and the only real problem I have with it is brown algae and that is because of its location. It gets direct sunlight most of the day. I am going to block the side of the tank that is getting most of the sun, but as always with me – I haven't done it yet.

In my 75gal and 65 gal planted tanks, I did use the heater coil on the bottom of the tank. In these large tanks I believe the heater coil does help due to the size of the tank. In the 20 gal, I decided not to use the heater coil, but I still used the same method for my substrate that I used in the larger tanks.

For the first layer of substrate, I use sand approximately 1 to 1 ½ inches deep. What the sand does is help to distribute and hold the warmth evenly and gives the roots a place to grab hold of and grow. The next layer is fluorite and my last layer is eco-complete. You don't necessarily need to add the fluorite if you are using the eco-complete. I have used it in the 75gal as my main substrate because it was cheaper then the eco-complete. In the 65gal I used the fluorite as the second layer and then added the eco-complete as my third and top layer (this eventually mixed in together). But on my 20 gal, as I look more closely at it, I used just the sand for my bottom layer and then I used only the eco-complete for the top layer. No matter what I used for my middle and top layers, these average approximately 2 ½ to 3 inches deep. Overall depth of the substrate with the sand, is almost 4 inches. This gives the roots plenty of depth to grow and spread out.

My filter on the 20 is an AquaClear 70 which I know is overkill, but I don't have to clean as often as a smaller filter. I also have a box filter in the tank. With the box filter, I can take the sponge out of the AquaClear and clean it well. The sponge collects a lot of mud and crude, so it needs to be rinsed very well. To help stabilize the pH, I cut an old stocking, put some crushed coral in it and added it to the AquaClear filter.

Add a rock or two and a piece of drift wood to the tank and your ready to start filling your tank. To help keep the substrate in place and also to cut down on the murk from adding the water, put a bowl on top of the substrate and add the water slowly. It doesn't matter how slow you add the water, you will still get the murk from adding the water. The bowl will help to keep the murk down.

As for the plants in my 20 gal, I have 3 amazon swords in the back, 1 or 2 rosette swords (I think), 2 pieces of hygro, and micro sword (looks like grass on the bottom). I just added a dwarf sword and a couple pieces of italian(?) swords.

When planting the plants, you should trim the roots if they are long. The reason for trimming is you want to make sure that the roots are buried and not sticking out of the substrate. The biggest problem I have with planting the plants is the micro sword. When you buy micro sword, it comes in clumps and it is very hard to separate because it is like trying to take a piece of sod and separate the individual grass from it. The micro sword I cut into sections about 2 – 3" pieces (depending on the piece I have), set it onto of the substrate and place a couple of small rocks on top of it to hold it in place. Eventually the roots will take hold in the substrate and you can remove the rocks. Micro sword makes a nice foreground plant because it stays small and will spread making it look like grass in the bottom of the tank.

As to adding fertilizer, you don't need to add anything extra when you use the eco-complete for sometime. If you are using just the fluorite for your main substrate, then in about 3 to 4 months down the line you may want to start adding some fertilizer. My 20gal has been going for about a year now and

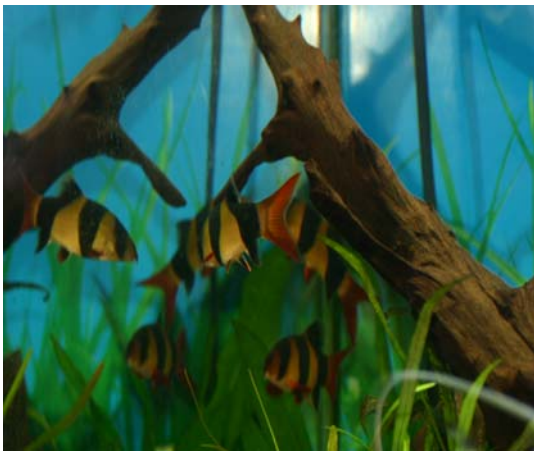


I haven't added fertilizer to the substrate yet. I have added liquid potassium a couple of times but that is it.

To which fish you want to add to your planted tank is up to you. I do have one main recommendation, and that is to add a few clown loaches to your tank. Clown loaches are a peaceful fish and they will take care of any snail problems that arise. Snails are a problem, and no matter how careful you are about inspecting your plants before you put them in, you will eventually end up with a couple of snails. Loaches are my main choice for snail control.

I hope this short article helps those of you who are looking to set up a planted tank while keeping the cost down. Good luck.

20 Gal Planted





65 Gal Planted



75 Gal Planted





JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

By
Cathy Chapkovich





**THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
BAP REPORT**

By: Barry Lynch, NAS

2/2/07

There is a tradition that the BAP Committee Chairman provide a BAP update report for each Wet Pet Gazette issue. Since there has been only one NAS general meeting since my last report, there is very little to report in terms of update activity.

Breeder of the Year Competition - 2007. In the Breeder of the Year competition, the slate starts clean on January 1 for every participant. The participant who has provided the most entries over the course of the year earns the Breeder of the Year Award for that year. As previously reported, I won last year's award with 20 entries. After one month, the standings for this year's competition are as follows:

Barry Lynch

Ameca splendens
Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum
Girardinus metallicus
Nannacara taenia

4 entries

Butterfly Goodeid
Convict Cichlid
Metallic Girardinus
Banded Dwarf Cichlid

Charlie Sundberg

Haplochromis obliquidens

1 entry

Zebra Obliquidens

Note: For those of you who may think the above presages another runaway win for me this year, I think you will be mistaken. None of my current potential BAP's are cooperating - i.e they're producing no fry. Accordingly, it will be at least a couple of months before I can bring in any more BAP's. This year's competition should be wide open.

BAP Points Standing: An updated BAP Point Standings for current NAS members (reflecting the above activity) follows this report.

BAP Awards: A fellow member recently pointed out to me that I have not provided in some time an updated listing of BAP awards earned by current members. (I do always highlight in my BAP Report awards earned during the report period.) Accordingly, I have added to this report's BAP Point Standings list a column which specifies the highest level award earned by each participant. You will note that the award levels do not necessarily correlate to the point standing. For example, I have accumulated 550 points and am at the Master Breeder level while Rich Grenfell has accumulated 305 points but is at the higher Grandmaster Breeder level.

This apparent discrepancy serves to make a point. The NAS BAP program is not just about points. To earn BAP awards, other criteria may have to be met. These criteria include breeding fish of certain specified levels of difficulty (i.e. 15 or 20 point species) and, in some instances, providing articles to the Wet Pet Gazette. In the above example, while I have earned the points required for the Grandmaster Breeder award (300 points), I have not yet met the requirement of two 20 point species. Rich, on the other hand, has met all the Grandmaster award requirements.

Potential BAP Award Winners: All BAP awards earned to date have been presented to the award winners. There are, however, a number of BAP participants who are closing in on various BAP awards and may reach these goals in 2007. They include:



Bob McKeand: needs one 20 point fish article to earn the Expert Breeder award
Dick Moore: needs one 15 point fish article to earn the Senior Breeder award
Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor: need 15 points to earn the Breeder award
Pete Izzo: needs 20 points to earn the Breeder award
Barry Lynch: needs one 20 point fish to earn the Grandmaster Breeder award
John Chapkovich: needs one 20 point fish to earn the Master Breeder award
Steve Ng needs one 20 point fish to earn the Master Breeder award

Conclusion - Increased BAP Participation: It's hard to believe I've only been administering the BAP program for two plus years. It seems a lot longer. I think the thing I'm most pleased about is the increased participation by NAS members. In 2005, my first full year, there were seven participants. Last year there were twelve. I hope this trend continues. In a recent rare moment when I had nothing to do, I decided to count the number of members who had participated in the BAP program through its 33 years. The count turned out to be 95. I am hoping we reach the 100 total this year. Since I already know of one member who intends to submit his first BAP entry at the upcoming benefit auction, we really need only four more first time participants to reach the magic 100 threshold - a reachable goal. I look forward to a great year for BAP in 2007.

**BAP POINT STANDINGS - CURRENT NAS MEMBERS**

Date: 2/5/07

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Breeder Award</u>	<u>Species Pts</u>	<u>Bonus Pts</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Sal Silvestri	Expert	1545	515	2060
Bob McKeand	Grandmaster	830	600	1430
Don Barbour	Expert	1040	170	1210
Anton Vukich	Breeder	545	250	795
Barry Lynch	Master	470	80	550
Ed Katuska	Grandmaster	470	40	510
Anne & Mark Broad- meyer	Breeder	280	25	305
Rich Grenfell	Grandmaster	260	45	305
John Chapkovich	Senior	250	10	260
Dick Moore	Breeder	165	90	255
Steve Ng	Senior	185	20	205
Jack Adinolfi	Senior	120	20	140
Joe Masi	Breeder	85	10	95
Doug DeMent	Breeder	70		70
Ed Schildnecht	Breeder	70		70
Carl Addicks	Breeder	60		60
Charlie Sundberg	Breeder	60		60
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 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	Nimbrochromis*	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*			

**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

AQUARIUM TERMS

The following terms are from “Dictionary of Aquarium Terms” by John H. Tullock – published by Barron’s Educational Series, Inc, 2000.

Acclimation: the process of slowly introducing a fish or other organism to new water conditions, usually following transport from one aquarium to the other

Acid: a chemical compound that dissociates in solution to yield one or more hydrogen ions and a negatively charged ion; a solution with a pH less than 7.0.

Aged water: 1) tap water that has been left to stand, and from which chlorine has been neutralized; 2) water from a healthy, well-established aquarium that does not contain large amounts of nutrients.

Alkalinity: a measure of the ability of a solution to neutralize acid without a change in pH, expressed in milliequivalents per liter.

Carbon Dioxide: a colorless odorless gas (CO₂), formed along with water during food metabolism by the majority of living organisms, accumulation in aquarium water is to be avoided because of toxic effects on fish; it is absorbed by plants during photosynthesis and eliminated by aeration and buffering.

Carbonic acid: the compound that results when carbon dioxide dissolves in water

Chloramine: a chemical often used in the treatment of municipal water supplies that must be removed from aquarium water by activated carbon treatment or by addition of an appropriate counteracting chemical.

Chlorine remover: usually sodium thiosulfate, or any chemical agent employed to eliminate toxic chlorine from municipal tap water before using it in an aquarium

Cycling: establishing a population of beneficial nitrifying bacteria in an aquarium’s biological filtration system; the name comes from the ecological term “nitrogen cycle”.

Dechlorinator: an agent added to tap water to eliminate harmful chlorine.

Degrees of hardness: divisions on an arbitrary scale for expressing the amount of dissolved carbonates of calcium and magnesium present in a sample of water.

Denitrator: a device for removing nitrate ions from aquarium water

Denitrification: the process by which anaerobic bacteria convert nitrate ions into nitrogen gas.

Denitrifier: any species of bacteria able to convert nitrate ions into nitrogen gas.

Ecosystem: all of the physical and biological components of a specific geographic area and the interactions among them, usually defined by a dominant feature, such as a coral reef or lake.



Ecotype: a variety of a species that is characteristic of a particular ecosystem or habitat.

GH: abbreviation for “general hardness” of dissolved salts of calcium and magnesium present in a sample of water.

KH: “German hardness,” a scale of measurement of alkalinity or carbonate hardness.

Nitrate: (NO_3) the a product of the metabolism of ammonia by nitrifying bacteria; it must be periodically removed from a quarry in water to prevent harm to the inhabitants.

Nitrification: the oxidation of ammonia to nitrate, by means of certain bacteria

Nitrifier: any of the bacteria capable of ammonia oxidation.

Nitrate: (NO_2) a toxic anion intermediate formed in the process of ammonia oxidation carried out in the aquarium by certain bacteria.

Nitrogen: a chemical element (N_2), a gas comprising most of the atmosphere and present and thousands of biologically important compounds.

Nitrogen cycle: the natural process through which nitrogen incorporated into food molecules by photosynthetic organisms is consumed directly or indirectly by other organisms, and subsequently excreted, acted upon by bacteria, and may available again for plant nutrition.

PH: the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration of a solution; pure water is at 7.0 on this scale, with acidity of the solution increase in below this point, and alkalinity likewise increase in above this point; aquarium waters are usually in the range of 6.0 to 8.5, depending upon the environment being replicated.

ppb: parts per billion, equivalent 2 micrograms per liter.

ppm: parts per million, equivalent 2 milligrams per liter.

ppt: parts per thousand, equivalent 2 grams per liter.

Saline: water with sodium chloride dissolved in it, often of a precise concentration chosen to match that of the body fluids of a living organism; as an adjective, having to do with water of any salt content.

Soft water: water that has dissolved solids amounting to less than 100 ppm.

Total hardness: the combined mass of carbonates of calcium and magnesium per-unit volume of water.

Water softener: any device or medium for reducing hardness, or the concentration of dissolved carbonates of calcium and magnesium in freshwater.



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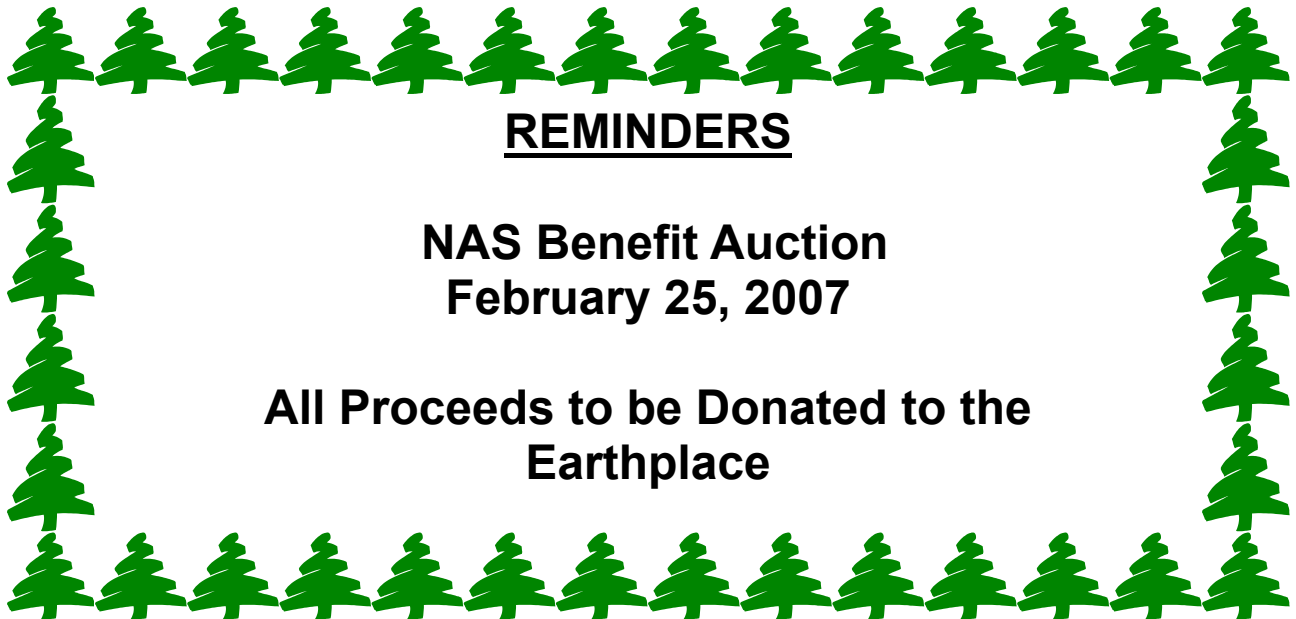
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