

THE WET PET GAZETTE

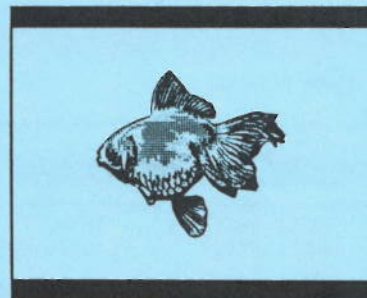
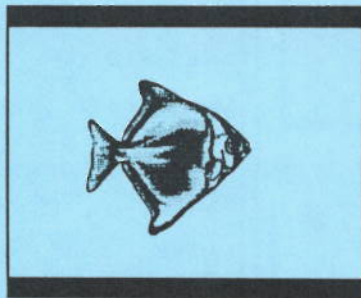
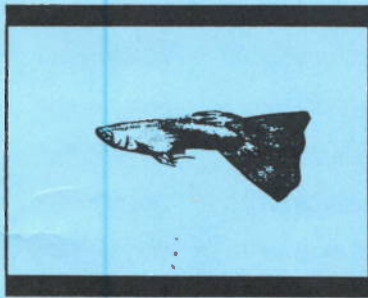
SEPTEMBER 1997



Volume 2 Issue 6

The Journal of
The Norwalk Aquarium Society

NAS 32nd ANNUAL TROPICAL
FISH SHOW AND COMPETITION



OCTOBER 3rd - 5th 1997



t to:



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	ED KATUSKA	(203)375-4479
V. PRESIDENT	BASIL HOLUBIS	(914)669-5030
RECORDING SECRETARY	GENE HARRIS	(203)882-0812
TREASURER	SARAH BETH De MENT	(203)268-5358
SERGEANT AT ARMS	CHARLES GRANDEL	
PAST PRESIDENT	ANNE BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

EDITOR	MARK BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	JOE CANNA	(203)271-2167
1995-1997	DOUG De MENT	(203)268-5358
1995-1997	SAL SILVESTRI	(203)972-0610
1997-1999	MARK KEITEL	(203)250-7968
1997-1999	ED SCHILDNECHT	
1997-1999	TONY SKOJAK	

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

MARGARET VITTING	MILLIE SCIUBBA (DECEASED)	DOROTHY MILLARD (DECEASED)
DIANE ADINOLFI	JACK ADINOLFI	JOHN STANKEVITCH

REGULAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

There are regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month except July and December. Meetings are held at The Nature Center for Environmental Activities, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport, CT. Meetings start at 8:00 PM. Each meeting includes a short business meeting, program or event, door prizes, raffles, auction, and refreshments. All regular meetings are open to the public.

REPRINT POLICY

Unless noted by copyright, articles from this publication may be reprinted by not for profit aquarium societies. You are required to acknowledge the source and send two (2) copies of the publication they are printed in to us.

WET PET GAZETTE EDITORIAL POLICY

The views expressed in this publication are the views of the author(s), and are not necessarily the views of The Norwalk Aquarium Society, its Officers, Directors, or Editorial staff.

We reserve the right to reject any article which are in our opinion is offensive, and/or does not promote the hobby.

WET PET GAZETTE

EDITOR	MARK BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228
EXCHANGE EDITOR	ANNE BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228
CLUB MAILING	JOE CANNA	(203)271-2167
EXCHANGE MAILING	ED KATUSKA	(203)375-4479
PRINTING	MARK KEITEL	(203)250-7968

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BREEDER AWARDS PROGRAM	SAL SILVESTRI	(203)972-0610
MEETING PROGRAMS	ANNE BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228
COLLECTING TRIP	DON MALONEY	(203)531-1759
JUDGES DINNER	PAT FALCIONE	(203)878-8022
SHOW COMMITTEE	ANNE BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228
SHOW COMMITTEE	BASIL HOLUBIS	(914)669-5030
F.A.A.S DELEGATE	SAL SILVESTRI	(203)972-0610
NEC DELEGATE	BASIL HOLUBIS	(914)669-5030
RAFFLE	MARK KEITEL	(203)250-7968
RAFFLE	SAL SILVESTRI	(203)972-0610
VENDOR DONATIONS	MARK BROADMEYER	(203)834-2228
ANNUAL PICNIC	GINA BELL	(203)762-1157



AFFILIATIONS

N.A.S. IS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN AQUARIUM SOCIETIES (FAAS) AND THE NORTHEAST COUNCIL OF AQUARIUM SOCIETIES, INC. (NEC)

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.

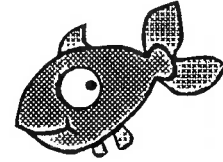
WET PET GAZETTE EXCHANGES

Norwalk Aquarium Society gladly exchange its publication with other societies that send us a minimum of 100 copies a year. We publish nine issues a year. We send 100 copies as bulk mail in March, June, and September.

Requests and publications should be sent to:
Exchange Editor
Norwalk Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 84
Norwalk, CT 06856



IN THIS ISSUE



WET PET GAZETTE - SEPTEMBER 1997

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY'S WHO'S WHO	PAGE 2
VIEW FROM UPFRONT ED KATUSKA - <i>NAS PRESIDENT</i>	PAGE 4
FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR MARK BROADMEYER, <i>WET PET EDITOR</i>	PAGE 4
PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS ANNE BROADMEYER, <i>PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON</i>	PAGE 5
CALENDAR	PAGE 6
"DISCUS DIARIES -part 2" BY GENE HARRIS - <i>NAS</i>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	PAGE 8
"AN ASTERISK CLUB MEMBER" BY RICK MARINO - <i>NAS</i>	PAGE 9
"SHOW FEVER" BY BRIAN NEWMAN CALGARY AQUARIUM SOCIETY	PAGE 10
WORLD WIDE WEB SITES	PAGE 15
NEW PRODUCT UPDATE	PAGE 15
CLASSIFIEDS	PAGE 16

**SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
RATES**

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES
SUBSCRIPTION TO
THE WET PET GAZETTE

JUNIOR	5.00
FAMILY	17.00
NAME BADGE	5.00

SEND TO:
JOE CANNA
NAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
492 OAK AVE
CHESHIRE, CT 06410

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

OCT 9*	BROADMEYER'S
NOV 6	SAL SILVESTRI
DEC 4	ED KATUSKA

* DENOTES 2nd THURSDAY OF
MONTH

**COMING NEXT MONTH
IN THE WET PET GAZETTE**

ANNUAL TROPICAL
FISH SHOW
EDITION



A VIEW FROM UPFRONT

ED KATUSKA
NAS PRESIDENT

IIIIIIIIIIIT'S SHOWTIME !!!!!!!!!!!!!

I can't believe how fast the year by. Our Annual Show & Auction is only a couple weeks away. As usual, the show committee has labored many hours over the year to make this event a successful one. I would hope everyone is going to compete in the competition, This year Ray Lucas will have manufactures displays set up ,and once again we will have guest speakers on Saturday afternoon. This is the main event of the society every year , and can only be successful with your help and participation, hope to see all of you there.

There is a directors position open on the board, with elections coming up in November this would be a good opportunity for someone interested in running for a board seat and would like to try it out. Being on the board involves you having say in the growth, development, and the over-all good to ensure a future for the society, BOD meetings are usually held the first Thursday of every month at members homes. The October BOD meeting will be Be at at the Broadmeyer Home. Anyone interested in filling the position can see me at the next meeting, or phone a board member in their area. Board meetings are open for all who wish to attend.

I would like to thank Shemya Bryant of the Wardleys Corp. for the delightful meeting program last month. I'm sure everyone picked up some helpful tid-bits Thanks Shemya, hope to see you again soon.

At this months meeting program you will be able to view the entrants of our yearly homeshow, with the combined efforts of Basil Holubis, Charlie Grandel, Mark Kietel, and tape editing by Ed Peters this event was a successful one. The 1997 homeshow had more entries than years past, and don't forget the pond catagory which was added this year. Good luck to all the entrants. Look for entry forms at the October meeting for next years homeshow competition.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

MARK BROADMEYER
WET PET GAZETTE EDITOR

This month is a good article from Brian Newman of the Calgary Aquarium Society on showing fish. Read this article, read our show rules, and get your fish ready for October 3,4,5 our 32nd Annual Tropical Fish Show and Auction Weekend. The Discus Diaries Saga continues with part 2 this month. Look for Rick Marino's BAP article, clearly this is breeding in the 90's.

The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies Convention Chairperson Janine Banks has informed us that the Logo Contest for next years Convention in now under way. The Logo will appear on convention shirts and publications. The winner will receive a free registration for speakers. The rules are simple :

- 1.) You must be a member of an NEC Club (we are)
- 2.) entry must be an original and never used before
- 3.) Entry must be submitted by the artist. send two copies of each entry, one signed and one not signed.
- 4.) The design should be submitted in black and white. We also recommend the artist provide a copy using four colors.(black outline counts as one color if used)
- 5.) The winning logo will be decided at the December NEC meeting
- 6.) The winner will receive a free t-shirt and speaker registration at the convention.
- 7.) The deadline is December 1, 1997. All entries must be in the hands of the AC committee by this time. You may mail your entries to Janine Banks, RR 3 Box 1548, Hinesburg, VT 05461

The Federation of American Aquarium Societies has announced that the FAAS convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 20, 1997. The event is sponsored by The Circle City Aquarium Club of Indianapolis. There will be a 52 class tropical fish show at the event. For more info call Les at 317-353-9766



MARK

PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS

ANNE BROADMEYER - PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON


I hope you have been enjoying the programs. We have been very fortunate to have so many great ones this year ... and the year is not over yet. There have been a few requests for more marine programs, so hopefully I can find something interesting to keep you marine friends fascinated. Please keep in mind if you have seen or heard about a program you think the membership would enjoy, let me know. Also remember if you are one of Sal's BAP asterisk club members you can give a program instead of an article.

September 18	Home Show Program and Results presented by Basil Holubis. Video by Ed Peters, Video Reflections.
October 16	Discus, by Ellen Halligan of Long Island Discus. Ellen has some new slides and always brings a few of her lovely fish
November 20	Election of Officers and Directors - Program To Be Announced
December	NO MEETING - Happy Holiday's
1998	
January 15	Lake Tanganyika Cichlids - By Sal Silvestri. Sal is a long time member of the Norwalk Aquarium Society, and has speaking engagements all over the northeast. He has just completed this new program.

Tips, Techniques and How-tos.

SIMPLIFIED REEF KEEPING

The first easy to understand
guide to building, maintaining
and enjoying
a successful
reef tank



Robert M. Metelsky

A must for all reef keepers

it's really not brain surgery...

**so why treat it that
way?**

Simplified Reef Keeping is the first clearly-explained guide to reef keeping. With over 250 pages detailing the direct approach to a rewarding, successful reef tank.

\$39.95 plus \$3. S&H
CT Residents add 6% sales tax

Send Check or Money Order to:
SHORELINE RESOURCES
P.O. Box 227-2, Branford, CT 06405
Credit Card Orders Call:
1-800-377-4479



WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR

1997

- SEPTEMBER** 14 CONNECTICUT RIVER AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION
- 19- TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL SHOW AND AUCTION
21
- 21 DANBURY AREA AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION,
HATTER BANQUET HALL, DANBURY ,CT 1:00PM
- 28 NORTHEAST COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING - FARMINGTON MARRIOTT
- OCTOBER** 3-5 NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW AND AUCTION
- 26 LONG ISLAND AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION
- 31 NORTH JERSEY ANNUAL WEEKEND EVENT
- NOVEMBER** 16 AQUALAND ANNUAL AUCTION
- DECEMBER** 7 NORTHEAST COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING - FARMINGTON MARRIOTT

1998

- FEBRUARY** 1 NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY BENEFIT AUCTION
- 15 PIONEER VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY AUCTION
- 22 NEC GENERAL MEETING - FARMINGTON MARRIOTT
- MARCH** 1 EXOTIC FISH SOCIETY OF HARTFORD AUCTION
- 13- NORTHEAST COUNCIL OF AQUARIUM SOCIETIES CONVENTION
15
- MAY** 15- AQUALAND ANNUAL SHOW AND AUCTION
17

NOW IN OUR 47TH YEAR

DISCUS DIARIES
 BY GENE HARRIS
 NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
 PART 2

It's now April 1, 1997 and Mother Nature just dumped tons of white stuff on New England. No April Fools, this is real snow ! I'm happy to report that all 4 discus are alive and well - no joke.

Each of the discus has 9 vertical bands if you count the strong one through the eyes all the way back into the caudal. The bands appear at times and at other times the fish appear a solid tannish/brown/green combo coloration. There are sky blue patches on the face and upper mid body and lower mid body almost forming a circular blue on the animal. There is a red tinge on the dorsals. Three of the four individuals have red eyes, the other has tan eyes.

There have been more than a few scuffles among the troop. The tan eyes fish appears to be the aggressor, although this is not the largest fish. Most of the trouble outbreaks after a feeding. They continue to gobble up Hikari frozen blood worms. Flake foods are rejected. I've tried a homemade, and I'm told expensive, frozen potion from a friend upstate. He has quite a bit of discus experience over the years but oddly is not keeping any at this time. Anyway, the discus are not taking to this food either. They were fed some live cut up earthworms one night. They were interested but didn't bite. The next day while foraging, a fight broke out over some of the pieces of the worm. It seems that when someone else wants something, then everyone suddenly wants it. (Does anyone have children that exhibit this same behavior ?) I did manage to get them to at least try to eat some Aqua Select brand Mini Sticks. Perhaps because it was freshly opened and looked similar to bloodworms - they showed enough interest and hunger to

eat a few sticks. Despite the fact that the retail store had been successfully feeding the discus live black worms, I will not feed them live black worms. I'm even nervous about my own home grown earthworms as live food, but I do know the fish need a more varied diet than frozen bloodworms.

During one of the partial water changes last week, I lifted a piece of driftwood out of the tank so that I could vacuum under it. This caused a real panic among the discus and one thrashed himself about and went upward. Moments later I noticed some abrasive gashes on the upper body. It must have hit the edge of the overhang tray inserts that extend down into the top of the tank. This fish breathed heavy for about an hour, possibly because of pain, possibly because of fish equivalent to adrenaline. I was worried the fish would develop fungus on the wound and/or be scarred for life. Several days have passed and it never developed fungus and is almost indistinguishable now.

Water changes have been done every other day and average 10% to 15%. I'm keeping temperature at 80 degrees F. Ammonia, nitrites and nitrates are negligible. The pH is between 5.5 and 6.5 depending on Tetra or Wardley, I used both. I was a bit surprised to find the pH this low as I was not adding anything to the tap other than a few drops of Tetra Blackwater extract. Anyway, the conventional wisdom is that acidic is good for discus.

There are times when the discus appear to be forming a pair when two apparently stronger individuals take some territory at one end of the tank. The tan eye fish always seems to be one of the two that

forms a pair. Considering that the other 3 have red eyes, is he a male and they females, or vice versa ? I've told my friend that works at the store that I am in the market for 3 to 5 more of this same size and wild caught variant "Gypsy Blues" so that I can increase my odds for a male/female pair.

During Easter vacation I stopped in Lancaster, Pennsylvania as is my habit to visit "That Fish Place." They had at least 10 different hard bound books on Discus. I was overwhelmed with information overload and opted to stick with the AFM articles that I already had at home - December 1996 issue "Wild Discus: The Real Thing" and May 1997 issue "Breeding Wild Discus" both articles by Wayne Leibel. I might add that leafing through the various discus books resulted in what I thought was duplicated material and even some of the same photos used in different books. I won't name names but you get the idea.

To be continued ...





Refreshments
& Food Available



Get the
Best Fish!

5th Annual
New Hampshire Aquarium Society

AUCTION

(FISH & DRY GOODS)

Sunday, October 12, 1997

Moses Paul Lodge, Pearl Street, Dover, NH
Directions on back of Auction flyer.

- 9 - 11 AM - Fish Registration, & Bid Cards
- 11 AM - 12 - Preview
- 12 Noon - Auction
- 3 PM - Raffle Drawing

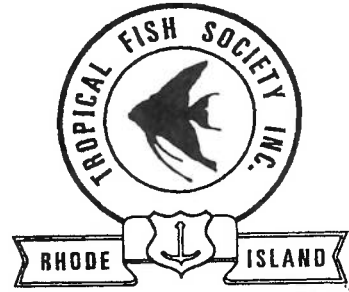
RAFFLE:
55 GALLON AQUARIUM

Additional Raffle Items
30 GALLON AQUARIUM
POWER FILTER

\$1 per Ticket 6 Tickets for \$5
Drawing to be held October 12 at the 1997 Annual Auction

Donations accepted or
Sell your extra fish & equipment.
50/50 split.

For more information & directions
Call Bill Janetos (603) 749-2667 or
Martha Doane (603) 742-8174.



THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY

THE TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND, INC.

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL

AQUARIUM AND TROPICAL FISH SHOW

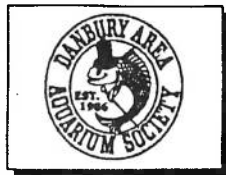
FEATURING:

THE WALTER INDELL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR BEST KILLIE FISH
THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GOLDFISH CHAMPIONSHIP
THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND CICHLID CHAMPIONSHIP
AND
THE BEST JUNIOR ENTRY

.....
OPEN TO ALL OPEN TO ALL OPEN TO ALL OPEN TO ALL
.....

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTER
1303 MENDON ROAD
CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND
SEPTEMBER 19, 20 AND 21, 1997

CALL FOR MORE INFO: Paul Muscatello @ 508-883-4256
Paula Andrus @ pandrus@argo.net



DANBURY AREA AQUARIUM SOCIETY

PROUDLY PRESENTS IT'S
10th ANNUAL AUCTION!

OF FISH, AQUARIUM EQUIPMENT AND AQUARIUM RELATED DRY GOODS,
TO BE HELD AT THE HATTER'S COMMUNITY BANQUET HALL, DANBURY, CT.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1997

AUCTION HOURS:
REGISTRATION: 10:30 AM TO 12 NOON
VIEWING OF GOODS: 12 NOON TO 1 PM
AUCTION: 1 PM TO 5 PM

for more information contact:

RAY MASSAGLI (203) 746-6203
OR
JOE MASI (914) 896-4793

Tropical Fish
Salt Water Fish



Fish Tank
Maintenance
Birthday Parties

TONY'S PET SHOP

239 WESTPORT AVE.
NORWALK, CT 06851

(203) 847-9035



AKC Puppies
Supplies

Reptiles
Live Animals

MON - FRI 10-8
SAT 10-5 SUN 11-4

10 GAL TANK \$ 6.99	ANY PURCHASE (EXCLUDING DOG FOOD) TAKE \$ 5.00 OFF PURCHASE OF \$ 25 \$10.00 OFF PURCHASE OF \$ 50 \$20.00 OFF PURCHASE OF \$ 100	IGUANA \$ 9.99 \$ 50.00 OFF OUR LOW PRICES AKC PUPPIES
HAMSTER OR GERBIL AND SETUP \$ 39.99		

An Asterisk Club Member

by Rick Marino - Norwalk Aquarium Society

Being one of Sal's (BAP chairman) Asterisk Club Member I decided to try and get out of that club for a while and write a short breeding club tale.

Working all the time I don't get much of a chance to actually witness my fish spawning. I laugh every time I fill out those Breeder Award Forms. They ask all kinds of questions like, date spawned, date hatched, date free swimming and so on...I barely have the time to feed my fish never mind actually witnessing all these things going on.

One night before I was getting ready to go to work I noticed in my 70 gallon Malawi community tank, two of my Labeotropheous Fuellerborni going at it (spawning) in the left corner of the

tank. The male was chasing everything in sight, except for this one female who would come over to the corner of the tank with him and start spawning right in front of me. The male was really colored up and circling the female like a nut! Also, as the female was dropping the eggs and the male was fertilizing them my other male Fuellerborni would try to get into the action. But the dominant male would just push/chase him away. As fast as the female was dropping the eggs the male was right beside her fertilizing them, she would immediately pick them up and hold them in her mouth (these fish are mouthbrooders).

At first sight of the male chasing away all the other fish and the female

staying in the corner with him I realized what was going on and watched for about ten minutes until I had to go to work. I called my wife downstairs also to watch and to let me know how long this spawning went on. When I got back from work she told me that it lasted only a few more minutes after I left and that the other male kept trying to get into the action. Well, so much for my first eye witness of my fish spawning. Figures though?!..first time I get to witness spawning and I had to go to work.

Well, I hope this article takes me out of the asterisk club for a while. At least till the next time I get in there.

Not a writer
Just a fish keeper

From:Compuserve/Aquaria/FishSection: News/Clubs/Events
To :All From : Marine Gorsline/Staff, 74670,2017#753213
NEW YORK LEGISLATION

I'd like to thank Tom Miglio, a member of the Brooklyn A.S.. for the following information.

On February 3, 1997, New York State amended the general obligations law, in relation to the liability of volunteer members of not-for-profit organizations for damages in certain circumstances (Section I, Article 3, adding a new title 6).

In essence it grants immunity to officers, directors and members of not-for-profit, and non-profit organizations. It covers those who render volunteer services, either in directing organizations or services, or in the assistance in the course thereof if not wanton, willful, grossly negligent or operating a motor vehicle.

Volunteers will not be held "liable in any action for damages and injuries alleged to have been sustained by any person or for damages for the death of such person alleged to have occurred by reason of an act or omission arising out of and in the course of rendering such volunteer service or assistance.

As Tom reported to me, this piece of important legislation also affects all volunteers that are in the various fish clubs that are located in New York State.

Does your state have a similar law or are your executives and members liable?



- AKC PUPPIES & KITTENS
- 100's OF CAGED BIRDS •
- 12,000 TROPICAL FISH IN STOCK!
- SALT WATER FISH &
- UNIQUE AQUARIUMS

THE LIFE GALLERY, INC.

1310 Post Road • Fairfield Center
Next to U.S. Post Office • Rt. 1
255-1188 • 1-800-852-6234 • Fax 256-1601
Open 9 to 9 - 7 days

PROFESSIONAL AQUARIUM SERVICES AVAILABLE AT
CONNECTICUT'S PET SUPERMARKET!

The New Danbury

FAIR



Dodge

Victor Jackson
Sales Consultant

102 FEDERAL ROAD, P.O. BOX 436 • DANBURY, CT 06813
CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE 1 203-750-5730
PHONE (203) 730-5737 • FAX (203) 730-5717



SHOW FEVER

BY BRIAN NEWMAN

CALGARY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the June 1974 Issue of Calquarium. publication of the Calgary Aquarium Society P.O. Box 6116; Calgary, Alberta, Canada T 2P 2 C7

Man is, by nature, a competitive animal and aquarists are no exception. Within the hobby, this competition takes many forms. It may be breeding a difficult species, searching for new and better methods of handling the day-to-day tasks which plague hobbyists, or simply the production of good quality fish. To many aquarists, however, the ultimate in aquarium competition is the showing of their fish.

Showing fish requires as much knowledge and hard work as breeding most species. The monetary rewards reaped by a successful exhibitor are seldom sufficient to cover the additional expenses incurred but the feelings of pride and elation when your fish is judged "best in class" is hard to describe.

This article is aimed primarily at those of you who are contemplating entering your first show. My first show experience consisted of winning one first, and two seconds with twenty entries. Determined to do better, I applied the following techniques and in the next year, collected three first, one second and five thirds from twelve entries. What worked for me can and should work for you if you will accept the basic assumption that the best fish does not always win! The reasons for this will become apparent as the article progresses.

Step One-- Know the Show Rules and Classes.

Before you decide to enter a show obtain a copy of the rules, and regulations study these until you know them backwards, and forwards. When in doubt as to how a particular section may be interpreted, consult the show committee, as it is their decision which will be the final word in the matter.

While this may appear to be a somewhat tedious task (it is!) it can pay dividends as you may find one, or more minor points which may be an advantage to your entries. If nothing else, you will have learned something, and thus the exercise is not a total waste of time and effort.

Step Two -- Be Familiar With The Judging Standards used.

Where possible, the majority of shows will utilize judging standards set by national specialty organizations. This is particularly true in the case of guppies and bettas. Other classes will usually be judged on a basis selected by the show committee

Know how, and on what points will be awarded so that you can "prejudge" your prospective entries -- before filling out your entry form. In addition to familiarizing yourself with national standards (where applicable) the astute competitor will also beg, borrow or steal a copy of the show "bible". This is the text selected by the show committee as the final authority in the case of disputes as to size, coloration, etc. This is an important point, in that judges (despite the opinions of some competitors) are human and cannot be expected to know the "vital statistics" of all the species they may encounter. When in doubt the judge will refer to the "bible", and it is essential that

you do the same when prejudging your fish.

Step Three -- Select Prospective Entrants.

Now that you are aware of what the show involves, take the show rules, list of classes, and copy of the show bible, and retire to your fishroom. Upon arriving, do not look for a specific fish but let your gaze wander, and see what catches your eye first. The fish which attracts your immediate attention will be the one which will catch the judges eye first. Initial impressions are the difference between a trophy and an also ran.

When selecting fish as possible entries, be "super critical". This is a preliminary judging only, and nothing but the best should be considered. The first point you should look for is body size as compared to the standards listed in the show "bible". If you find a specimen which meets your Preset standards, look at the color of the fish. Points on color are awarded for intensity, and conformity to standards. Be sure you take both into consideration, prime emphasis should be directed at conformity to standards as intensity can always be improved (see later paragraph on conditioning);

How are the fins of your fish? Are they all there? Ridiculous as this question may seem, it is not unusual to find bettas missing ventral fins, or catfish whose barbels have gone astray. Does finnage conform to standard in so far as length, shape and coloration is concerned? Do the fins exhibit scars, the result of altercations between tankmates?

(Continued from page 10)

A final point to be considered in pre-judgement is one which is often overlooked by amateur exhibitors. The scales of a fish (or lack of them) are often the points which are used to break a tie. When dealing with larger fish, a knowledgeable judge will often overlook a missing scale or two. In the case of smaller fish a missing scale is paramount to disaster and often results in "unofficial disqualification"

Step Four -- Delay Submitting Your Entry Form for as Long as Possible

This does not mean that you should let the deadline for entries pass intentionally, DO NOT be late in submitting your form but remember that we are talking about a period of two months in advance of the show. As any experienced aquarist can tell you, much can an usually does occur in an eight week period!

(Note: Many readers may feel that I am "nit-picking" in that I continually refer to points which are essentially tie-breakers. The purpose is to assume that some one else has a fish equal to yours, and thus, the emphasis is placed upon points which may appear insignificant to many of you, but which often enable a knowledgeable exhibitor to best out an equal or superior fish.)

Step Five -- Conditioning and caring for Your Entries.

Many Societies hold their annual shows in the early spring (late April and early May as they cannot attract sufficient entries in the early Fall. To my way of thinking, this reflects poorly upon the members of the clubs involved, In that it means they neglect their fish during the summer months. The point I am trying to put across is that winning a trophy often involves keeping your fish in "mint condition" year-round (something good aquarists

do anyway).

Admittedly, most of us do experience "slack seasons" when our leisure time is diverted away from our fish. Inattention such as this can be disastrous if it occurs in the two months immediately preceding a show. Getting back to the subject, after you have selected your possible entrants, go back to your aquariums and select the second best fish in each category. The idea behind the "back-up" entries is to avoid problems caused by the demise of your original entrants. A side benefit may be that the "second-choice" fish are immature and by the time the show rolls around, they may be the better fish.

Where possible, isolate your possible entries from their fellows in order to give them more personal attention. This isolation technique is particularly valuable where fish such as bettas and guppies are concerned, as these particular fish are very prone to split finnage as a result of inattention.

Diet plays an important role in the appearance of a fish. Emphasis should be placed upon variety. Frequent feedings of live foods are recommended to bring out the best in your fish. Conditioning fish for a show is similar to conditioning them for spawning purposes.

Water changes are also important and should not be neglected. As most of you know, partial water changes (up to 1/3 weekly) stimulate the activity of the fish and thus tend to improve its appetite. In as much as we are satisfying this appetite with wholesome foods, growth is also stimulated and the overall quality of the fish improves accordingly.

Step Six -- Familiarize Your Fish with Show Surroundings.

this is a detail many exhibitors tend to ignore, and one which has undoubtedly cost them points. A portion of the marks

awarded a fish are for deportment. To translate this into simple terms. "deportment" is the manner in which the fish behaves while on display. To be sure, your marks for deportment seldom count for more than 10% of the total, but it is the classification which is most often used as a tie-breaker. A good example of this was at our 1972 show where two female platties tied for first place. Both were excellent fish, and in order to break the tie, the judge went back and looked at the behavior of the fish. One of them, obviously accustomed to being in the limelight, swam around, and displayed itself beautifully. The second fish tended to "hug" the back of the aquarium, and seemed ill at ease. The result? Fish number one was judged best in class and went on to win a second trophy as "Best Livebearer in Show". A far cry from the second fish which had to settle for a second place ribbon.

Taking a fish from a large, well planted aquarium and suddenly thrusting it into a small, relatively bare aquarium can be a traumatic experience for the fish. This often results in a quivering coward attempting to hide in the corners of the tank. Judges cannot judge what they cannot see.

While my method of acclimatizing fish to show surroundings will vary with the fish involved, (some species, or in some cases individuals, are more flighty than others). I try to follow procedures much like this:

1) Two weeks prior to the show, place the fish in the show aquarium and put the aquarium in a place where members of the household are constantly passing by. To most fish, the sudden appearance of a shadow is indicative of the presence of a predator and they attempt to blend into the background and be as inconspicuous as possible. This particular point will be of benefit to



(Continued from page 11)

those of you who maintain your fish in a separate fish room where there is little traffic.

2) Subject the fish to bright lighting as most shows are extremely well lit and there will be no floating plants to diffuse the light.

Step Seven -- Choosing the show tank.

This is not as simple as it sounds, as several points should be considered perhaps the most important is the size of the container in relation to the size of the fish. Using a large aquarium for a small fish is a definite "no-no" as the fish tends to get lost. On the other hand, failure to provide adequate room will result in "poor deportment". The happy medium is an aquarium (or container) which affords the entry room to swim, and turn around without effort.

Condition of the show aquarium is also important. Ensure that the glass is not marred by scratches which will obstruct the judges' view of the fish. Most shows permit or encourage the use of a solid color background. Avoid using a background which contributes to the "Chameleon-like" ability most fish possess. For example, avoid reds for red swords, etc. Use of a light colored background will "bleach out" most fish, and thus the majority of aquarists favor a dark blue, green or even black backgrounds

Step Eight -- Choosing Plants and Gravel

If you know the show rules, you will know whether or not you can use plants or gravel to enhance the appearance, of your fish. In the event that you cannot use bottom medium (a rare occurrence in today's show circuit) paint the bottom of the aquarium to minimize unsettling reflections.

Assuming that the use of gravel is permitted, exercise care in its selection. Avoid light colors such as white as once again, this will tend to "bleach out" many fish. Use of black gravel will enhance some fish but my own preference runs to dark brown or reddish tints. The size and shape of the grains also deserves consideration. Avoid sharp edges which may injure the fish by marring its finnage. Size relative to that of the fish is also important in so far as general appearance is concerned. A small fish in an aquarium using large grained bottom media will not usually fare as well as one with fine sand.

The use of plants will enhance appearance of many fish but discretion is the better part of valour. Do not over plant, and provide your entries with a convenient "hide away". Plants should be in good condition (no brown or ragged leaves), and should be concentrated near the back of the aquarium to afford the fish proper swimming room.

Step Nine -- File Your Entry Form.

Assuming that it is now two weeks prior to the show date, it is time to fill out the entry form. When doing this, have some compassion for your fellow man (in this case the show committee), and take the time to fill your form out properly

Do not guess at the length, width, and height of the show aquariums. It will take you only a few moments to measure them, and will save the show committee valuable time. Space is at a premium in most shows and an error (or estimate) can involve considerable shuffling of tanks and entries.

Step Ten -- Relax.

This is it, you have done all you can for now, so sit back and take a well deserved rest - until show time.

So much on "how to win: a trophy by

really trying". The following will deal with transporting, setting up and tearing down.

Transporting Fish to the Show

If at all possible, prospective trophy winners should be taken to the show in the aquarium they will be shown in some cases this is not feasible due to the size of the aquarium involved but, if the size of the fish permits, and you have been following the acclimation procedures outline, you have no problem.

My method involves draining off excess water until the aquarium is 2/3 full. If you have been astute enough to utilize all glass aquaria as show tanks, there should be very little likelihood of leaks occurring. While I will concede that emptying more than 1/3 of the aquarium will ease the load, I do not do this for two reasons. Firstly, while a partial water change may be beneficial to the fish, more than 1/3 of capacity can be detrimental. Secondly, and in my mind, more importantly, transporting fish in a minimum of water will cause the fish to dash about madly and perhaps tear fins or break off scales.

Assuming that you find yourself forced to transport your fish and their water separately, I would suggest the following procedure:

1) Examine the show aquarium, and ensure that it is clean and does not leak.

2) Double check your gravel or other bottom media for cleanliness. Some show committees are astute enough to provide diatom filters to cleanse your water, but do not count on this service being available. In addition, air is sometimes at a premium and it is thus impossible to operate a corner filter to improve upon the clarity of your water,

3) transport as much of the fish's original water as possible. To be sure, this may involve some hardship but, may make the difference between

(Continued from page 12)

winning and losing.

Another point to be considered is the use of a net to catch your entries. While many species, cannot be caught without nets, many others can be captured by using your hands, or another container. By avoiding the use of nets you will minimize potential fin and/or scale damage.

Arriving and Setting Up

As soon as you can, register your entries with the door committee. I recommend setting up one aquarium at a time. DO NOT place all of your fish in their respective places with a minimum amount of water Fish which do not have adequate water ten to dash about frantically, often injuring themselves or worse, yet jumping out! This brings up another point which we should have covered earlier, namely, covers

Fish, Despite how well you may have acclimatized them are likely to become nervous during the show. Covers are mandatory, If you wish to preserve your entries. All show aquaria should be covered completely with a transparent material, with ordinary window glass being ideal.

Once you finish getting your last entry in place take a good look at all your other fish. Ensure that covers are in place, decorative plants a not floating ,and that the fish have adequate aeration, leave the show site, and let those who are not as well organized as you tend to their problems You will have ample time during the show to view your competition so try not to contribute to the general confusion which always seems to prevail on set-up night.

Reconciling Yourself to the Possibility of Losing.

As unfortunate as it may seem there can only be one winner. If you are among the also ran, you do have the right to learn why your fish failed to live up to your expectations. Most of the judges (there was. an exception) I have encountered will bend over backwards to explain why another fish was chosen over yours. learn to be a good loser and try to benefit from your mistakes, Failing to win ,can be beneficial if you learn WHY you lost.

Taking Your fish Home

this task is infinitely easier than setting up the show tanks The prime point to remember is to ensure you have adequate containers available. (Transporting your neons and oscar in the same bucket' can be disastrous.) The procedure adopted by many exhibitors is td utilize plastic pails or bags and carry home as little water as possible An advantage of this system will become more evident when you next get around to doing your regular partial water change.

Assuming you have taken home an empty show tank, simply refill it from one of the established aquaria in you fish room. by doing the, you provide the fish y you brought home with aged water and also manage to reduce the volume contained, in the home tanks. Thus facilitating your regular water changes.

Planning for Next Year's Show

No, it is not too early to be.thinking of next year If you failed to win a class trophy, set your sights on this goal. assuming that you were fortunate enough to have won your class you may not have achieved the ultimate "Best Fish in Show", and thus, you still have room for improvement. This concludes my remarks on how to approach shows these are my own techniques, and what works for one, may not work for another. In addition to the foregoing I would like to reiterate a few points I feel are of paramount importance.

1) Be a nit-picker and pay particular attention to defects peculiar to specific species, i.e., missing pectoral fins on bettas, absence of barbels in catfish, and loaches, uneven fin length in fish featuring long filamentous "feelers" (gouramis, etc.).

2) If show rules permit, show your fish in pairs, trios, or schools. The presence of a female fish will do much to enhance the appearance of your male specimens.

3)If any entry consists of more than one fish, concentrate on conformity of size and coloration.

4) If the use of plants is permitted, do not just "stick in the greenery" Plan your planting arrangement and try to use plants which will compliment the looks of your fish.

5) If you plan to show a pair of fish, condition them separately. Absence makes the heart grow fonder and the sudden proximity of a female fish will often bring out the best In the male.

6) Try not to feed your fish or 24 hours prior to the time you take them to the show. This will eliminate some of the unsightly "by-products. If you have conditioned your fish properly, a few days without food will not harm them. Most fish will not eat under show conditions anyway.

There you have it, My formula for showing fish. If you were unsuccessful last show or if you are contemplating entering for the first time, give these methods a try, I can't guarantee that they will bring instant success but they will make you a more formidable competitor.



WORLD WIDE PET SUPPLY



**727 RUBBER AVE.
NAUGATUCK, CT 06770
203-723-0078**



**TROPICAL & MARINE FISH, DOGS, BIRDS, REPTILES
LARGEST SELECTION OF DRY GOODS IN THE STATE**



**WE MATCH ALL CATALOG PRICES ON ALL ITEMS
BRING IN YOUR FAVORITE MAIL ORDER CATALOG**

*RECIEVE YOUR MERCHANDISE TODAY
NO SHIPPING CHARGES
NO SERVICE CHARGES
NO MORE ORDERING FROM MULTIPLE CATALOG'S FOR BEST PRICE*

**IN STORE SPECIALS EVERY WEEK
DIRECT IMPORTS RECIEVED EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT
LOOK FOR OUR FULL LINE MAIL ORDER CATALOG
ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
<http://www.worldwidepetsupply.com>**

WORD JUMBLE



WOSH

LAST MONTHS
WORD JUMBLE ANSWERS:
REEF
DISCUS
HALFBEAK

TREWA

TEEWTP

House of Fins

-ESTABLISHED 1957-

- OVER 2000 GALLONS FILLED WITH RARE SALT WATER FISH AND INVERTEBRATES
- ONE OF THE LARGEST SELECTIONS OF FRESH WATER TROPICAL FISH & AFRICAN CICHLIDS IN THE AREA
- CUSTOM REEF SYSTEMS OUR SPECIALTY
- STATE OF THE ART AQUARIUM FILTRATION & LIGHTING
- ORNAMENTAL OUTDOOR POND & FISH



HOME & OFFICE

Aquarium Maintenance Available



Expert Personal Service

HOURS: MON.-SAT. 10 AM-7 PM SUN NOON-5 PM

Greenwich

661-8131



99 Bruce Park Ave., Greenwich
(Cor Bruce Park Ave & Davis Ave.) (Easy Access Off Exit 3, I-95)

AQUARIUM RELATED WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

The Internet World Wide Web has taken the world by storm. Each month we publish addresses of aquarium hobby related sites. Have you found an interesting site you would like to share ? Send us the the address.

The Black River Aquarium Society

<http://www.angelfire.com/vt/brasvt/>

Ray "Kingfish" Lucas

<http://www.kkcreate/kingfish/kingfish.htm>

Tropical Fish Classifieds

<http://www.classifieds-gmp.com/ads/pa/2230/post.html>

Bobs Tropical Fish

<http://www.bobfish.com/enter.htm>



NEW PRODUCTS UPDATE

Tetra introduced a new line of air pumps. The *Tetra Deep Water Air Pump*. There are 5 different models to choose from. The largest has the ability to pump air to a depth of 96". This line of air pumps is available now at your local pet shop.

Aquamarine Bio Chem Div. has a line of biological aquarium products which can vastly improve your water quality. There are microbes for Nitrate removal, Ammonia Removal, Phosphate removal, and Algae removal. These products have shown themselves to be effective, and without side effects. Other products in the line include a wide variety of very easy to use test strips for a variety of water quality tests.

Wardley Corp. now has an electronic handheld conductivity meter available. This unit is moderately priced, and can serve as an invaluable tool for all aquarists.



FISHY CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Vinegar eels live fry food, one gallon plus 15 micron porosity filters for \$ 20.00

Baensch Aquarium Atlas 1,2, and 3 editions all for \$ 79.00

Will trade 55 gallon tank with glass canopy, fluorescent light and solid wood stand in exchange for several breeder style shallow tanks

Contact Gene at

203-882-0812 or email" FreshFins4@AOL.COM"

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:

New Equipment Available:

Marineland Biowheel Penguin 300 \$30.00

Eheim 2213 canister filter \$ 80.00

New Books available:

TFH Colored Atlas of Miniature Catfish \$12.00

Tfh Diseases of Fishes Book 6 PS-213 \$7.50

The Marine Aquarium Handbook by Martin Moe \$10.00

Advanced Reef Keeping by Albert Theil \$10.00

Simplified Reef Keeping by Robert Metelsky \$39.95

Used Equipment Available :

Marine Aquarium Keeping By Stephen Spotte \$10.00

Innes Exotic Aquarium Fishes 19TH EDITION - \$15.00

Spencer Blower Mod. VB002S \$300.00

CALL MARK BROADMEYER AT 203-834-2228 OR E-MAIL TO 76501.671@compuserve.com

BLOWER FOR SALE

1/4 hp EG Rotron
cost new \$ 535 asking \$ 225
contact Ginny Rider
518-465-3241

FOR SALE

ASSORTED AFRICAN CICHLIDS
1-1/4" - 1-1/2"

CONTACT MARK KEITEL AT 203-250-7968

FREE

Do you have an extra tank? Want to raise your own fish ? Free Gold Gourami fry 1/4" or more offer infusoria, egg yolk, or brine shrimp, and dry flake. I have over 300 how many do you want. Call Call George Strolin at 847-3068 after 3PM

AUCTIONEER CERTIFICATION SCHOOL

The NEC is looking for all parties who are interested in attending an NEC certification school for Tropical fish auctioneers. Any one interested should contact Mark Broadmeyer

TROPICAL FISH JUDGES SCHOOL

The Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies is preparing for its next judges certification training school. Anyone interested in this 1-2 year commitment should contact Anne Broadmeyer - NEC Chairperson of Judging & Standards.

PLACE YOUR FREE AD HERE

Classifieds may be submitted for placement by members of the Norwalk Aquarium Society at no charge





RECIPIENT
"SERVICE EXCELLENCE"
AWARD

The NORWALK AQUARIUM

42 Years at the Same Location!

Specializing in Rare,
Exotic Tropical Fish,
Marine Fish & Goldfish

Over
120 Display
Aquariums

More than 5 Million Fish Sold

- A Large Selection of Pool Fish & Exotic Goldfish • Outdoor Pool Planning Ctr.
- Complete Stock of Tropical & Salt Water Supplies • We Receive New Fish Shipments at Least 4 Times a Week • Alternate Financing Available & Lay-a-way

Our Expert Staff is
Always Available
to Solve any Problems

We Open at
10 A.M. Every Day
Including Sunday

Aquarium Service,
Lease Plans

Peter Falcione - Proprietor

Featured on National Japanese & Local T.V., in People Magazine, the N.Y. Times & other Publications.

SEE OUR
OFFER IN
COUPON
PAGES



610 West Ave.
Norwalk
06850

853-7477



MEETING NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 18 , 1997



8:00 PM
FEATURING
HOMESHOW COMPETITION
VIDEO AND AWARDS
PRESENTATION



FREE ADMISSION - PUBLIC WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS, DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLE, AUCTION
MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:
THE NATURE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES,
10 WOODSIDE LANE, WESTPORT, CT



THE WET PET GAZETTE

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 84
NORWALK, CT 06856



FIRST CLASS MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEM. EXP: 12/31/97
BASIL HOLUBIS
307 POST ROAD
NORTH SALEM NY 10560
USA