



# Wet Pet Gazette

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The journal of the Norwalk Aquarium Society celebrating 61 Years





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**Affiliations**

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

**Cover Photograph**

Artie Platt



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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.





## Editorially Speaking

Welcome to the first Wet Pet with me as editor. Please let me begin by saying thank you to Sal for introducing me to NAS in the first place and for being both my mentor and friend in this process. I truly understand I have some big shoes to fill. I would also like to thank "The Academy" I mean the Board for having the confidence in me to accomplish this.

With the accolades out of the way please let me introduce myself. I graduated High-school with Commercial Art as my elective and attended The School of Visual Arts for 2 semesters with Illustration/Graphic design as my focus. I started my work career in the printing business as a blue-printer/proofer and Paste-up Artist. Over the years I learned the trade and made Printing plates, Camera work, offset stripping and finally computer graphics and design. About 4 years ago I left the printing business for greener pastures aka more money and now am semi-retired.

I have been keeping fish for as long as I can remember. I remember growing up with Dad's 29 gallon Metaframe filled with Cory cats, silver dollars and paradise fish. Back in those days there were only Mom and Pop shops and of course Woolworths. As a teenager I remember going to Petland Discounts They had lots of fish and other cool stuff. What was great that they even sold tanks that I could afford on a paper route budget! Got the Saltwater bug in the 80's and that was quickly followed by the reef bug. There are reports that crack is less addicting. Looking to have some variety and less work I started with cichlids, particularly Malawi Mambas and over the years Tanganikan Topheus amongst others. When I joined the NAS I had eight tanks. Now two years later I have twenty and an eviction notice in my loving wife's hand. This membership has opened my eyes to lots of new fish ideas. You guys have re-introduces me to Angels, a long lost love. And have also got me into breeding both live bearers and egg scatters. All I can say is thank you all for expanding this fantastic hobby for both me and my predecessors.

Well enough with the introductions. I hope to captivate your interest with this and future Issues. I have a new few ideas and plan to show them along the way. Starting with this issue we will be featuring Tips & Tricks, Simple helpful ideas from the membership to share. I will also need your help! Most of this membership has forgotten more than I know. That knowledge shouldn't go untapped. Please!! Please submit articles so we can continue to make the Wet Pet a newsletter one we can all be proud of.

Happy Fishing,

Artie Platt

Editor

PS: A special thank you to our President Barry Lynch for providing 3/4 of the content of the WetPet. As well as Dan McKercher for yet another submission this issue.



## A VIEW FROM UP FRONT

*By: Barry Lynch*

**The NAS Board:** Many thanks go to **Maryanne Naylor** who, after five years of dedicated service on the Board, has decided to step down. She will be sorely missed. Many thanks also go to the remaining 11 Board members all, of whom, have decided to continue on the Board in 2012. (They are listed on the inside cover of this Wet Pet.) This group has proven its willingness to work hard and effectively on NAS business. But, history shows that a full Board works best - i.e. we need to fill that one remaining open director position on the Board. Please volunteer.

**The Wet Pet Gazette:** **Artie Platt** has agreed to produce the Wet Pet. He is targeting four quarterly issues in 2012 - this is the first. I have no doubts about Artie's ability to put out quality WPG issues and know he is enthusiastically breaming with new ideas he wants to institute. But, Artie's ability to meet his target is ultimately dependent on all of us. We must provide articles.

**Membership:** I thank **John Krol** for his help as Membership Secretary. Seven new members joined NAS in 2011, namely **Rich Grenfell, Jerry Hricik, Dan & Sue Katz, Don Maloney, Steve Ng** and **Chris Persson**. Interestingly, all but Jerry were former long-time members who chose to re-join NAS after long absences. I add that, at this year's January meeting, former member **Slawek Konrad** (he goes by "**Konrad**") followed suit and re-joined the Club. I have to tell you that, given the turnover we've had through the years, if we could lure back more former members, we'd have one gigantic aquarium society!

**BAP:** I, of course, continue to administer the BAP program and it continues to flourish. The year 2011 was another banner year - highlighted by 15 participants bringing in 94 entries to include 20 pointers such as discus, betta macrostoma and ivanacara adoketa. The year 2011 appears likely to be just as strong as evidenced by 7 participants bringing in 15 entries to our first meeting. The one improvement I would like to see is the issuance of more BAP awards. A large number of members have satisfied all criteria for the next level breeder award except the article requirement. BAP, the Wet Pet and the Club in general would all be much enhanced by your articles. Please.

**Programs:** Over the years, **Sal Silvestri** has contributed so much and in so many capacities to NAS that are too numerous to lay out in this piece. One area in which he has excelled is bringing superb programs to our general meetings. He's been doing this for years - long before I joined NAS 10 years ago. Although Sal advises that, for whatever reason, it is becoming more challenging to line up quality speakers, I am confident Sal will once again put together a great schedule. Our help may be useful. A number of us attend sister society meetings. If you see a program or speaker you think we'd enjoy, pass it on to Sal. For example, I attended the DAAS January meeting where I truly enjoyed a newly developed program. I would have passed this info on to Sal but for fact that it was put on by none other than **Sal Silvestri**.

**Auction for the Benefit of Earthplace:** This is a reminder that the 34th annual auction f/b/o Earthplace takes place on Sunday, March 4. All net proceeds are donated to Earthplace. Please do your part by attending, bringing in some auction lots and otherwise helping out wherever possible.



## The Making of a NAS master breeder

By Dan McKercher

A few years back I got interested in the BAP program within the Norwalk Aquarium Society. I started out with things like Guppies and such. Then off to the Rift lakes I went. Then cat fish, Apistos, angel fish, and different types of Killies. Before I knew it I was turning out so many fry that I couldn't get rid of them quick enough. All along in the back of my mind was the allusive 20 pointer!

I picked up 6 Discus fry from Amin when he had his shop in West Haven. Thinking this was the 50 pointer I needed. Water changes, LOTS of money for the best food, heaters, top attention! These little fish always were skittish hiding and just no real fun to keep. I gave up on them. They sat in a 125 for 1.5 years taking up space and not much more. Water changes dropped, Food went down to a simple feeding once in a while of Tetra Color Granules. The Food was the best thing that came out of this relationship. Most all my fish love this stuff and the coloring of the fish is very nice.

So one day 2 of these buggers decided to start doing the mating dance. Shivering and chasing the others to the other end of the tank. They would lay eggs and eat them. I took the other 3 to a meeting to put into the auction. Off to Don they went. I was happy that they went there. He is a discus fan and I couldn't think of a better person to get them.

Now back to the pair. I started with water changes and took most everything out of the tank except for the shipwreck that they liked to lay their eggs on. They would lay eggs and then they would hatch. O boy wigglers! 20 points here I come. They ate them. This happened lots of times. Then one time the let them go free swimming before they ate them. One time they allowed 4 to just to under dime size. A call to Barry resulted in my 20 pointer. YES!!!

After that I all but ignored the fact that there was an

aquarium with fish in the house for about 6 weeks. I barely even fed them. Then one day out of the corner of my eye I saw the 125 gallon tank was about 6 inches low. I had a few minutes so I got out the hose and started to siphon it down to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  and refill with fresh water. What I saw as I inspected the tank amazed me. There were the 2 Discus. Thinking I'm surprised they are still kicking around. But then, WHAT IS THAT? About 50 fry hanging around the parents.

Moral of the story, if you want to breed Discus, ignore the aquarium for 2 months and you will have a tank full of them. Forget all that water change stuff! Dirty acid water is the way to go. I'm thinking if you don't feed them they will find something else to do like BREED!

So I win!!!!

Now the breeding pair are going off to Barry so he can flood the market with the little buggers. Humm, what to put in that 125 I wonder?



Photo by Artie Platt



# TIPS & TRICKS

Welcome to Tips and Tricks. The purpose of this column is to share those useful work, money and timesaving techniques you use and also to learn a few new ones from fellow members. If you have something to share please send it to [artie1209@verizon.net](mailto:artie1209@verizon.net). Then look for it in the next Wet Pet.

This Issue starts with a few from a friend of mine in the "service business" Tommy G. but I call him Tommy Tanks. One very useful tool is the 44 Gallon Rubbermaid garbage pail (the grey commercial one). It costs about 35 bucks and a set of wheels another 25. You can fill it with water and adjust its parameters to what you need and roll it to where you need it. Heaters, power heads, submersible filters can be easily used to correct temp without running water through that old rusty water heater, aerate to get rid of chlorine, or run peat in a bag for a few days to make "Tea". The pails are also commonly available in 20 and 55 gallon sizes and they all use the same wheels.

If you have ever stood on a 5 gallon bucket to reach for something DON'T. Mr Tanks can tell you the story of the now paralyzed painter who slipped on one. If you must use a flipped pail to stand on put a towel under to keep it from slipping better yet get a stool.

Bleach is a fantastic cleaner and disinfectant as everybody knows. Tommy Tanks says try putting a 50/50 solution in a spray bottle instead of making a whole bucket to soak in. In the spirit of recycling reuse your old toothbrush as a cleaning tool. It is great on the silicone on the tank, and those hard to reach crevices on your ornaments.

If any of you use Power filters like I do, here is a few money saving ideas. The cut to size felt pads have all but replaced "filter floss". They are easily cut to size to fit any shape necessary. If you are using the "quick filter cartridges" on a power head, wrap some around the opaque screens and use a wire-tie or rubber-band to hold it. You can easily rinse to reuse dozens of times. If you use an AquaClear filter, cut some felt to size to really polish the water. If you are using Marineland Emperor or Penguin BIO-Wheel Power Filters use the gray refillable carbon cartridge to hold a cut to size felt pad. I use this material to make new pre-filters on your air pumps also. And last but not least the scrap sizes make a great algae cleaning for your glass or acrylic tanks.

Well that's about it for this issue. I am looking forward to hearing from all of you and your suggestions.





## THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY BAP REPORT

**Part I: 2011 - The Year in Review:** 2011 was another very good year for the NAS BAP program. Fifteen participants brought in 94 entries - both the number of participants and entries were the third highest in the 38-year history of NAS BAP. The participants and their respective entries are delineated in the attached Breeder of the Year Standings.

**Breeder of the Year Competition - 2011:** Ryszard Krzynowek had a spectacular year, leading the competition for most of the year and finishing with a total of 18 entries - a total good enough to have won in thirty other BAP years. However, two-time defending champion **Jon Nevins** rallied in the end to finish with 25 entries - the third highest total ever. It goes without saying that **Jon** also produced the two higher totals in previous years. It should also be noted that, while **Jon** continues to concentrate on egg scatterers, he has expanded his successful breeding efforts to cichlids (apistos and africans) and other types of non-egg scatterers.

**Award Winners:** In addition to the Breeder of the Year award earned by **Jon**, two other awards were awarded in 2011. They were:

Breeder Award

**Dan Fearnley**

Breeder Award

**Rich Weglinski**

**Part II: 2012 - The Beginning:** This Part only covers the January meeting. We certainly have gotten off to a good start. Seven participants brought in 15 entries. **Amin Rubirosa** led the way with five livebearer entries. I also happily note the renewed BAP participation by two former member participants who have recently re-joined NAS after long absences, namely **Don Maloney** and **Slawek Konrad**.

**2012 - A Projection:** Based upon the January meeting, I expect 2012 to be a very good BAP year. I do not expect we will challenge 2009's incredible showing of 18 participants and 135 entries. However, there is one area where we can realistically improve the BAP program and make 2012 a truly banner year - the earning of BAP awards. The two earned in 2011 is inadequate. There are at least 12 awards which can be earned in 2012 simply by submission of BAP articles to the Wet Pet. Please help the BAP program (and, for that matter, the Wet Pet Gazette) by submitting your required articles - by doing as the politicians say "your fair share".





**NAS BREEDER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS  
FINAL STANDINGS - 2011**

**Jon Nevins**

Ameca splendens  
Aphyocharax paraguayensis  
Aphyocharax rathbuni  
Apistogramma agassizii  
Apistogramma eunotus  
Bedotia madagascariensis  
Betta falx  
Boraras merah  
Celestichthys margaritatus  
Danio aequipinnatus  
Danio albolineatus  
Danio choprae  
Danio kyathit  
Dimidiochromis compressiceps  
Haplochromis marginatus  
Haplochromis sp "Piebald"  
Hemigrammus rodwayi  
Jordanella floridae  
Melanochromis cyaneorhabdos  
Melanotaenia splendida splendida  
Oryzias woworae  
Puntius pentazona  
Rasbora borapetensis  
Rasbora einthovenii  
Rasbora rutteni

**25 entries**

Butterfly Goodeid  
Dawn or White Spot Tetra  
Green Fire Tetra  
Agassiz's Dwarf Cichlid  
Orange-Tail Apisto  
Madagascar Rainbow  
Red Skirt Betta  
Coffee Bean Rasbora  
Celestial Pearl Danio  
Giant Danio  
Pearl Danio  
Glow Light Danio  
Orange-Finned Danio  
Malawi Eye Biter  
  
Red-Finned Piebald Hap  
Brass Tetra  
Florida Flag Fish  
Electric Blue Maingano  
Australian Rainbow  
Neon Blue Rice Fish  
Five-Banded Barb  
Red-Tailed Rasbora  
Blue-Line Rasbora  
Royal Blue Rasbora

**Ryszard Krzynowek**

Allotoca goslinei  
Gambusia marshi  
Girardinus denticulata  
Girardinus metallicus  
Girardinus microdactylus  
Girardinus uninotatus  
Heterandria formosa  
Ilyodon furcidens  
Limia nigrofasciata  
Limia perugiae  
Phallichthys fairweatheri  
Poecilia caucana

**18 entries**

Gosline's Goodeid  
Pelucid Mosquitofish  
  
Metallic Girardinus  
Finger Girardinus  
Single Spot Girardinus  
Least Killifish  
Gold Breast Ilyodon  
Humpback Limia  
Perugia's Limia  
Fairweather Widow  
Cauca Molly



Poecilia chica  
Scolichthys iota  
Xiphophorus evelynae  
Xiphophorus helleri  
Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl  
Xiphophorus xiphidium

**Barry Lynch**

Apistogramma eunotus  
Cnesterodon sp "zanjahundas"  
Danio aequipinnatus  
Danio choprae  
Gambusia holbrooki  
Gambusia marshi  
Girardinus denticulatus  
Girardinus microdactylus  
Ilyodon cortesae  
Melanotaenia maccullochi  
Nannacara aureocephalus  
Scolichthys iota  
Zoogoneticus quitzeensis  
Zoogoneticus tequila

**Artie Platt**

Aulonocara maylandi kandeensis  
Copadichromis borleyi  
Copadichromis jacksoni  
Iodotropheus sprengerae  
Metriaclima estherae  
Pelvicachromis pulcher

**Sal Silvestri**

Ameca splendens  
Betta macrostoma  
Cnesterodon sp "zanjahundas"  
Ivanacara adoketa  
Nannacara aureocephalus  
Xiphophorus montezuma

**Dan Fearnley**

Ancistrus sp  
Apistogramma eunotus  
Apistogramma sp "Melgar"  
Nanochromis parilus  
Pterophyllum scalare

Dwarf Molly  
Iota Livebearer  
Puebla Platy  
Red Tuxedo Swordtail  
Neza Swordtail  
Swordtail Platy

**14 entries**

Orange-Tail Apisto

Giant Danio  
Glow Light Danio  
Speckled Mosquitofish  
Pelucid Mosquitofish

Finger Girardinus  
Cortez's Ilyodon  
McCulloch's Dwarf Rainbowfish  
Golden-Head Dwarf Cichlid  
Iota Livebearer  
Gold-Edged Goodeid  
Tequila Goodeid

**6 entries**

Blue Orchid Peacock  
Red Fin Borleyi  
Jackson's Nkata  
Rusty Cichlid  
Red Zebra  
Kribensis

**6 entries**

Butterfly Goodeid  
Big Mouth Betta

Zebra Acara  
Golden-Head Dwarf Cichlid  
Montezuma Swordtail

**5 entries**

Albino Bristlenose Pleco  
Orange-Tail Apisto

Blue Congo Dwarf Cichlid  
Half-Black Angelfish



<b>Bob McKeand</b>	<b>5 entries</b>
Girardinus rivasi	
Goodea atripinnis martini	
Limia melanonotata	
Xiphophorus mayae	
Xiphophorus couchianus	Monterrey Platy
<b>Kaitlin Fearnley</b>	<b>3 entries</b>
Ancistrus sp	Albino Bristlenose Pleco
Gambusia holbrooki	Speckled Mosquitofish
Poecilia reticulata	Red-Tail Guppy
<b>Chuck Sundberg</b>	<b>3 entries</b>
Ancistrus sp	Bristlenose Pleco
Girardinus unnotatus	Single Spot Girardinus
Poecilia reticulata	Red Tail Guppy
<b>Doug Kneissl</b>	<b>2 entries</b>
Girardinus falcatus	Sickle Girardinus
Poecilia reticulata	Fancy Guppy
<b>Amin Rubirosa</b>	<b>2 entries</b>
Ameca splendens	Butterfly Goodeid
Nannacara aureocephalus	Golden-Head Dwarf Cichlid
<b>Rich Weglinski</b>	<b>2 entries</b>
Mogurnda mogurnda	Purple Striped Gudgeon
Pelvicachromis pulcher	Red Kribensis
<b>Dan McKercher &amp; Maryanne Naylor</b>	<b>1 entry</b>
Symphysodon aequifasciatus	Turquoise Discus
<b>Steve Ng</b>	<b>1 entry</b>
Ancistrus sp	Albino Bristlenose Pleco
<b>Charlie Sundberg</b>	<b>1 entry</b>
Melanochromis johannii	Electric Blue Johannii



## NAS BREEDER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

January 19, 2012

### Amin Rubirosa

5 entries

*Girardinus falcatus*

Sickle Girardinus

*Heterandria formosa*

Least Killy

*Poecilia chica*

Dwarf Molly

*Poecilia reticulata*

Black Guppy

*Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl*

Neza Swordtail

### Jon Nevins

3 entries

*Haplochromis* sp "dayglow"

*Ptyochromis* sp "salmon - Hippo Point"

*Pundamilia pundamilia*

### Barry Lynch

2 entries

*Phallichthys fairweatheri*

Fairweather Widow

*Zoogoneticus tequila*

Tequila Goodeid

### Don Maloney

2 entries

*Metriaclima estherae*

Red Zebra

*Poecilia reticulata*

Yellow Snake Skin Guppy

### Slawek Konrad

1 entry

*Poecilia orri*

### Artie Platt

1 entry

*Girardinus denticulatus*

### Sal Silvestri

1 entry

*Xiphophorus helleri*

Tuxedo Swordtail





**BAP POINT STANDINGS-CURRENT NAS MEMBERS**

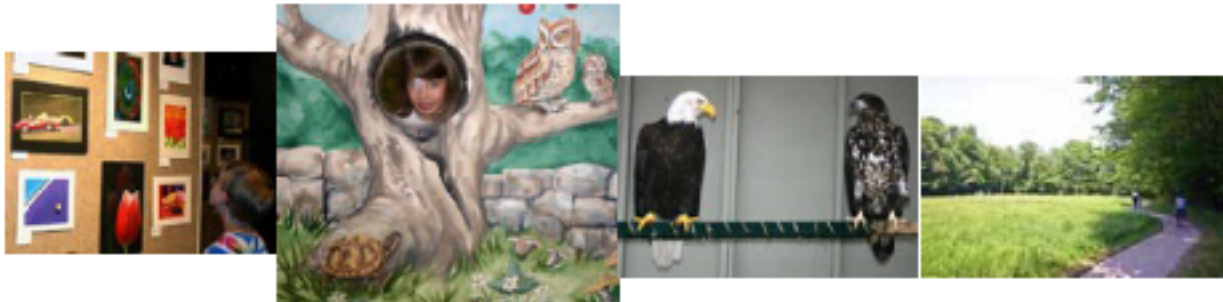
**Date: 1/19/12**

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Breeder Award</u>	<u>Species Pts</u>	<u>Bonus Pts</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Bob McKeand	Grandmaster	1297.5	1000	2297.5
Sal Silvestri	Expert	1715	565	2280
Jon Nevins	Master	1270	550	1820
Don Barbour	Expert	1095	160	1255
Barry Lynch	Master	980	200	1180
Don Maloney	Expert	715	120	835
Tom Tilles	Senior	410	170	580
Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor	Senior	480	60	540
Ed Katuska	Grandmaster	465	40	505
John Chapkovich	Senior	420	40	460
Ryszard Krzynowek	Breeder	320	25	345
Amin Rubirosa	Senior	285	35	320
Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	Breeder	280	25	305
Rich Grenfell	Grandmaster	260	45	305
Dick Moore	Breeder	175	100	275
Steve Ng	Senior	200	20	220
Charlie Sundberg	Breeder	155	10	165
Doug Kneissl	Senior	145	10	155
Jack Adinolfi	Senior	120	30	150
Artie Platt	Breeder	130	20	150
Pete Izzo	Breeder	105	40	145
Dan Fearnley	Breeder	105	20	125
Cathy Chapkovich	Senior	95	20	115
Slawek Konrad	Breeder	105	10	115
Joe Masi	Breeder	85	10	95
Carl Addicks	Breeder	70		70
Steve Capelle	Breeder	60	10	70
Doug DeMent	Breeder	70		70
Ed Schildnecht	Breeder	70		70
Rich Weglinski	Breeder	60	10	70
Dan & Sue Katz	Breeder	40	20	60
Chuck Sundberg		40		40
Kaitlin Fearnley		25		25
Bob Alberino		20		20
Ira Friedman		10	10	20
Ed Peters		10		10



# Earthplace

*The Nature Discovery Center*



**Welcome to Earthplace, a haven for those who love nature.**

Grounds open daily 7 AM - dusk

Building: 9 AM - 5 PM Monday-Saturday, 1 - 4 PM Sunday

10 Woodside Lane

P.O. Box 165

Westport, Connecticut 06881

203-227-7253

[info@earthplace.org](mailto:info@earthplace.org)

Admission: \$7 Adults and children over 12, \$5 Children 1-12 yrs & Seniors



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