

# Wet Pet Gazette

Volume 61, Issue 2

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The journal of the Norwalk Aquarium Society celebrating 61 Years





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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 in our opinion is offensive, and / or does not promote the aquarium hobby.

**Affiliations**

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

**Cover Photograph**

From the site [www.ru-aqua.ru](http://www.ru-aqua.ru)



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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.

**REPRINT POLICY**

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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 second edition of the Wet Pet with me as your editor. The board and I have an ambitious goal of producing 4 issues this year. So far so good, we are halfway there. This month we have a contribution from John Krol with his experience in breeding the interesting African riverine species *Steatocranus Tinanti*. Also is an article on how to write an article for the Wet Pet and to make the next step in the Breeders Award Program. Hopefully our readers will find inspiration from these submissions and create a few submissions of their own. During the last board meeting this editor has resorted to bribery to get an article. With a little luck and good humor I am convinced that we may see an article or two from our in house Victorian cichlid expert. I am also excited that our youngest member is in the process of writing her first article and maybe dad as well. With all this help and a few submissions from our membership we will have the best Wet Pet in years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the re-emergence of the exchange editor position. We are now exchanging out WET PET with the Durham Region Aquarium Society (DRAS) and their wonderful newsletter "Tank Talk". An electronic copy of their newsletter will be posted on our website. Also an electronic copy of our Wet Pet will be posted on their website. Below is a copy of the letter sent to us so you can become familiar with them.

My name is Derek Tustin and I am the newly appointed exchange editor for the Durham Region Aquarium Society (DRAS). I'm contacting you to discuss the potential for our respective clubs adding each other as a newsletter exchange partner.

DRAS is one of the largest and most active aquarium societies in Canada. Located just east of Toronto, Ontario, the club was established in 1966, and is home to some of the most accomplished freshwater hobbyists in Canada. With a membership hovering around 100, we have acknowledged experts in cichlids, rainbowfish, invertebrates, guppies, ponds, aquatic plants and a variety of other specialties. We are also members of CAOAC (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs), FAAS (Federation of American Aquarium Societies) and the Canadian flagship club for the C.A.R.E.S. Program (Conservation, Awareness, Recognition, Encouragement and Support).

Our club members are regular speakers at other society's monthly meetings as well as at Canadian and American conventions. (I note that NAS is a member of the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies. If you attended their convention this year, you may have met Klaus Steinhaus of our club who was presenting on cichlids.) Several of our club members are employees of the Toronto Zoo and are experienced professionals.

We have both a BAP and AHAP program, have a club website (which won the 2011 CAOAC award for best website) with an active forum, and publish *Tank Talk*, DRAS's official publication.



*Tank Talk*, the 2011 winner of the CAOAC award for best publication, is published on a monthly basis (with a hiatus in July and August). Our club members are active participants in the authoring of original content. We have entered and have won various awards from the FAAS Publication Awards Program, including the Author of the Year award for both 2007 and 2008.

I hope that doesn't come off as bragging, but we are an experienced club. However, even a club with a lot of top tier hobbyists can learn something new from others. As we both can appreciate, this hobby continues to advance. As a club, we decided that it is time to expand our exchange program from our traditional exchange partners. I was tasked with researching other clubs to find clubs who are comparable to our own in terms of experience and who are regularly sharing that knowledge through their own publications.

In examining the copies of *Wet Pet Gazette* that you have online, we believe that becoming publication exchange partners would be beneficial to both NAS and DRAS.

*Tank Talk* is exclusively published in an electronic format. Our proposal is that we send *Tank Talk* to you on a monthly basis via e-mail at an address convenient to you and receive *Wet Pet Gazette* in the same format at our exchange address. We would further request (and grant in return) permission to post the electronic copy to our club forum in the section only accessible to our members. This would permit our members to read *Wet Pet Gazette* in its entirety rather than just a synopsis published in *Tank Talk*. We would also from time to time re-print articles from *Wet Pet Gazette* in *Tank Talk* that we believe would be beneficial to the entire membership of DRAS.

So that's the pitch. If this is something that you feel would benefit your club, please get back in touch with me and we'll iron out the details. For your review, I attach what I think is one of the better *Tank Talk* issues from 2011. Hope you like.

Sincerely,

Derek P.S. Tustin  
DRAS Exchange Editor  
Grandmaster Aquatic Horticulturist

Just another reason for all of us members of the Norwalk Aquarium Society to remember our long and proud heritage. So Please keep those articles coming in and with your help I will continue to do my best in producing a newsletter we can be proud of!

Sincerely

Artie Platt  
Editor



## The Hills Have eyes

### The keeping and breeding of *Steatocranus Tinanti*

*By John Kroll*

*Steatocranus Tinanti* is a riverine cichlid from the Congo River in Africa. The requirements for keeping and breeding are a GH between 1 and 80 and a PH range of 6.5 to 7.2. I found *S. Tinanti* to be a species easy to keep as well as breed. This is a species that I wanted to acquire in the mid

1980's but was unable to find them until about three years ago. Fellow member Pete Izzo and I were visiting the Puppy Center in West Hartford, CT. In one of their many aquariums I spotted the elusive *Tinanti*. I immediately purchased all eight that they had. Within a month to a month and a



Photo by Nicolas Delourmel from the French site [www.aquabase.org](http://www.aquabase.org)



half I was provided with a Spawn of approximately twenty five free swimming fry (FSF). The fry were huge (bigger than a 1/8 of an inch). They were in a 40 long in the basement and were not viewed as much as I liked, so they spawned twice more before being moved. Now they were in the 75 gallon in my living room upstairs, where I could observe them and their behavior better. The original eight specimens that I purchased became 3 pairs and a pair of males. It did not take long for the group of eight became one hundred. When they reached that many they stopped breeding altogether. That was until I started pulling them out of the tank for donations, giveaways or auctions. I found out rather quickly that each time a bunch were pulled /netted out, a spawning would follow. So after distributing approximately a hundred individuals I still have a hundred in the 75 gallon tank. It is as if S. Tinanti practices population control!

S. Tinanti spawning ritual consists of a great deal of body quivering, head shaking and tail beating, before they retire under the drift wood and out of sight. After mating the female retires to a secure spot, such as a clay flower pot or some horizontally placed pieces of slate, while the male guards the area. The female does not come out of her hiding place, nor does

she eat for 14-15 days. This causes me to question is she a mouth brooder? No she is not. She is just a very good protector of her eggs.

On the fifteenth day out comes the female herding her FSF while the male continues to guard the perimeter. The conspecifics do not seem to prey on the fry, so the survival rate in a community setting is high. S Tinanti does not bother with the Swordtails in the tank, but any swordtail fry that wander to the bottom third of the tank are a live meal!

S Tinanti is part of the hump head cichlid family which do not possess a swim bladder. But that does not mean they are slow! They can move like a bullet, when chasing food or evading a net. That may be the only drawback to the species is trying to catch them to share.

The title "The Hills Have Eyes" stems from all the eyes peering out from their hiding places at me while on the couch, waiting for their next meal. I feed them 4-5 times a day. They are not picky eaters and greedily accept Frozen Bloodworms, several different flake foods, algae wafers and baby brine shrimp.

Hmm, I wonder how they will do in my 180, with the Angles, Apistos and Giant Danios! Til Next time!



## How to write a Wet Pet Article 2012

*By Artie Platt*

Many of us have been members of NAS and /or other Aquarium clubs for years. Not to state the obvious but one can say with quite certainty that we like fish and its associated challenges and techniques. Some if not most of us have dabbled with the Breeders Award Program or BAP. As you are aware the BAP program is a contest of sorts and its participants' are involved for various reasons. The premise of the BAP truly enriches the club by providing the opportunity for its members to share experiences with a plethora of species. It also provides much needed finances to the club thru the auction of BAP entries. In addition this constant exchange gives fellow aquarists the chance to try something different, a species they may have never considered before, and with our club at a pretty inexpensive price.

As part of this there are a few rules. One rule is in order to graduate from breeder to master breeder; an article is required documenting one of your breeding success stories. Well here is the rub! We all like to boast of our breeding triumphs and show off at the club. We can talk about them all day, if only someone would listen. Here is your opportunity to get everyone to listen...write an article. I know ...you say "WHO HAS THE TIME TO WRITE A (+@#\$\$%\*) ARTICLE"!!! I got this to do and that and who has time after work and all those other things that need to get done. In other words anything and everything but putting pen to paper. To be quite honest with you I am in the same boat as many of you. After pondering for quite some time and making excuses from 1 to 100, I came up with a few compelling reasons to write my long overdue article. In fact maybe I can help you as well. If you truly think about it, writing an article is not that difficult or even time consuming. After all we don't have to write a six page masterpiece like our beloved Sal. It can be simply a one page journal of that fish breeding, what you did and what you saw. Here is a simple questionnaire that basically writes an article for you. Add a picture or two and you have one happy Wet Pet Editor. And likely a new certificate to hang on the wall. Good luck and happy writing!

For a complete set of rules for the BAP go to <http://www.norwalkas.org/xoops/modules/news/article.php?storyid=4>. also for more information On how to write a Wet Pet article refer to Ed Katuska and his article How to write an article in the 9/2002 edition of the Wet Pet.



What is its Common Name? \_\_\_\_\_.

What is its Scientific Name? \_\_\_\_\_.

Where is it found in nature? \_\_\_\_\_.

What is its Natural water like? Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Hardness \_\_\_\_\_ Temp \_\_\_\_\_.

What is your water like? Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Hardness \_\_\_\_\_ Temp \_\_\_\_\_.

How big do they get? \_\_\_\_\_.

How big were they when you got them? \_\_\_\_\_.

When did you get them \_\_\_\_\_.

Where did you get them? \_\_\_\_\_.

What are you keeping them in? \_\_\_\_\_.

Are you keeping them with other fish? \_\_\_\_\_.

When did they spawn? \_\_\_\_\_.

Did you see them spawn? \_\_\_\_\_.

Describe what you saw \_\_\_\_\_.

How long before you saw Fry \_\_\_\_\_.

How many fry? \_\_\_\_\_.

How big are the fry? \_\_\_\_\_.

Do the parents Protect or ignore the fry? \_\_\_\_\_.

What are you feeding the fry? \_\_\_\_\_.

Are the fry fast growing? \_\_\_\_\_.

And in your own words write a sentence or two why another member might want to give this species a try! \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

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\_\_\_\_\_.



## A VIEW FROM UP FRONT

By: Barry Lynch

### That's What it's All About

I brought in my six BAP discus to May's meeting. I was pleased they went for \$25 - a pretty good price for one of our meeting mini-auctions. Afterwards, **Kaitlin Fearnley** approached and said she'd like to get some of my two-month old discus fry. As I really hadn't thought about what I was going to do with the remaining 23 fry, I was somewhat non-committal at the time. The next week, I brought in 5 BAP discus to the DAAS May meeting. There the five fry went for \$30.

The two BAP sales made it clear to me there was definitely a market for the young discus. So, what was I going to do with the remaining 18?? The answer was simple - give them to friends. I called up **Dan Fearnley** and asked if **Kaitlin** was still interested. I said I'd like to make a present of six. He said she'd be thrilled. I told Dan I was really enjoying the discus but would enjoy even more giving them to friends. His response was: "**That's what it's all about**".

As I look back upon my 10+ years with NAS, I see many, many instances of generosity arising among friendships formed. The gifting of valued fish among members has been commonplace. The breeding pair of discus was given to me by **Dan McKercher**. I only learned recently that **Amin Rubirosa** had given the pair to Dan. But, as I have personally learned, the generosity extends far beyond making gifts and trades of quality fish.

Eight years ago, while standing on an old chair cleaning a tank, the chair collapsed and I broke my arm. I am forever grateful to **Sal Silvestri** - who came over and cleaned my tanks while I was unable to do so. Also, at the time, I had a lot of fish I wanted to bring in to our Auction. Have you ever tried to bag fish one-handed? Then member **Anton Vukich** and his brother **Ed** came over and took care of that problem.

A few years later, I was preparing our Old Greenwich home for market and discovered some carpentry work to include replacement of rotted outdoor fire escape steps was needed. I knew **Ryszard Krzynowek** was a highly recommended carpenter and contacted him. He came over almost immediately to see what was needed and was back the next day to do the job. When I tried to pay him, he wouldn't even take reimbursement for his expenses.

Shortly after this, I broke my ankle (no - not on the fire escape). This, of course, presented problems. I could not drive. How could I pick up groceries? Friends and neighbors helped. One of those very helpful friends was then-member **Marcia Smith**. At the same time, we were getting ready to move to Stamford. And, packing was really slowed down by the broken ankle.

**Pete Izzo** and **John Krol** came to the rescue - coming all the way down from New Haven to devote a Saturday to packing.

When we think about the Club, I think a lot of us tend to think about fish bargains and great programs. To my mind, friendships formed are at the top. **That's what it's all about!**



# 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.

Welcome to another addition of tips and tricks. I recently ran into a very handy device for us breeders. It is a hang on breeder box made by Marina, a Hagan company. They come in three sizes: Small (3 1/2" wide, 6" high, 6" deep and holds 0.18 US gal.), Medium (6 1/3" wide, 6" high, 6" deep and holds 0.3 US gal.) and the large (10 1/4" wide, 6" high, 6" deep and holds 0.5 US gal.). What makes this device unique is that they hang on the outside or your tank. For you old timers they are like the old air driver outside "power filters". Simply attach to an airline and adjust with the included valve and the same parameters that are in your tank are in this breeder. The large one also has 2 dividers to make 3 separate compartments. They come with tops to prevent jumping, and a pair of exit grates with small and med slot sizes to prevent fry from escaping into the main tank. They are also cost effective, about \$5 for the small and \$11 for the large. The small and medium fit on



tank frame sizes up to 40 breeder and the large easily hangs off my 125 frame. I have found it great for Angel fry because in a small space you can really concentrate the available food with little concern for ammonia spikes because it is connected to a much larger volume of water. So in short if you

are looking for an inexpensive way to set up a fry tank without setting up a tank take a look at the Marina Hang On Breeding Box. I purchased mine at Kens Fish and That Fish Place.





## THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY

### BAP REPORT

**Overview:** We have certainly gotten off to a very good start in the first five months of 2012. Fifteen members have already participated in the program - tying the total participants in 2011. The members and their 38 entries are set out in the attached Breeder of the Year Standings. It should also be noted that a number of BAP awards have been earned and awarded to NAS members with more to shortly come.

**Breeder of the Year Competition:** As we near the mid-point, **Amin Rubirosa** leads the way with 10 entries. I am particularly impressed with the diversity of his entries - apistos, rams, angels, livebearers and paradise fish. Lurking just behind **Amin** is three-time defending champion, **Jon Nevins**, with 7 entries.

**BAP Entries:** I sometimes get caught up in the numbers and overlook the quality of the entries. So far this year, two twenty-point entries have been submitted - blue turquoise discus by me and Ivana-cara adoketa by **Don Barbour**. Last year, **Sal Silvestri** became a member of a small elite group within the U.S.A. to successfully breed the Adoketa. Since that time, **Sal** and **Don** have been making Adoketa available to NAS members and, via the internet, to hobbyists throughout the country.

Five of the entries were first-time entries earning bonus points for the participants. **Artie Platt** submitted one - Metriaclima daktari. The remaining four were submitted by **Jon Nevins**, namely Betta albinmaginata, Hemigrammus hyanauary, Haplochromis sp "dayglow" and Pundamilia pundamilia.

I also note **Amin's** submission of Pseudosphromenus dayi, a beautiful small paradise fish which had only been submitted once before and that was eighteen years ago.

**BAP Point Standings:** The BAP Point Standings for current members is attached. As has been the case for some time now, **Bob McKeand** and **Sal Silvestri** are neck and neck at the top with an astounding 2000 plus points each. Recently, **Sal** has been narrowing the gap and probably will soon regain the top spot he held for so many years. A thousand points down the list, **Don Barbour** and **Barry Lynch** are likewise engaged in a friendly competition - although only one of them regards it as a "competition". Guess which one!

**Award Winners:** Four BAP awards have been awarded this year, namely:

Breeder Award

**Dan Fearnley**

Breeder Award

**Chuck Sundberg**

Breeder Award

**Rich Weglinski**

Master Breeder Award

**Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor**



**NAS BREEDER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS  
MAY 17, 2012**

**Amin Rubirosa**

Apistogramma eunotus  
Apistogramma sp "Melgar"  
Girardinus falcatus  
Heterandria formosa  
Microgeophagus ramirezi  
Poecilia chica  
Poecilia reticulata  
Pseudosphromenus dayi  
Pterophyllum scalare  
Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl

**10 entries**

Orange-Tail Apisto  
Sickle Girardinus  
Least Killy  
German Blue Ram  
Dwarf Molly  
Black Guppy  
Brown Spike-Tail Paradise Fish  
Orange Koi Angelfish  
Neza Swordtail

**Jon Nevins**

Astatotilapia burtoni  
Betta albinmagninata  
Haplochromis nyererei  
Haplochromis sp "dayglow"  
Hemigrammus hyanauary  
Ptyochromis sp "salmon - Hippo Point"  
Pundamilia pundamilia

**7 entries**

Burton's Mouthbrooder  
Nyerere's Victorian Cichlid  
Costello Tetra

**Barry Lynch**

Phallichthys fairweatheri  
Symphysodon aequifasciatus  
Zoogoneticus tequila

**3 entries**

Fair Weather Widow  
Blue Turquoise Discus  
Tequila Goodeid

**Artie Platt**

Copadichromis chrysonotus  
Girardinus denticulatus  
Metriaclima daktari

**3 entries**

**Kaitlin Fearnley**

Danio choprae  
Xiphophorus helleri

**2 entries**

Glow Light Danios  
Cherry Swordtails

**Ryszard Krzynowek**

Poecilia orri  
Xiphophorus couchianus

**2 entries**

Monterrey Platy

**Don Maloney**

Metriaclima estherae  
Poecilia reticulata

**2 entries**

Red Zebra  
Yellow Snake Skin Guppy



**Sal Silvestri**

Xiphophorus helleri  
Xiphophorus xiphidium

**2 entries**

Tuxedo Swordtail  
Spike Tail Platy

**Bob Alberino**

Ancistrus sp

**1 entry**

Longfin Bristlenose Pleco

**Don Barbour**

Ivanacara adoketa

**1 entry**

Zebra Acara

**Slawek Konrad**

Poecilia orri

**1 entry**

**Bob McKeand**

Ancistrus sp

**1 entry**

Albino Longfin Bristlenose Pleco

**Steve Ng**

Sciaenochromis fryeri

**1 entry**

**Charlie Sundberg**

Neolamprologus leleupi

**1 entry**

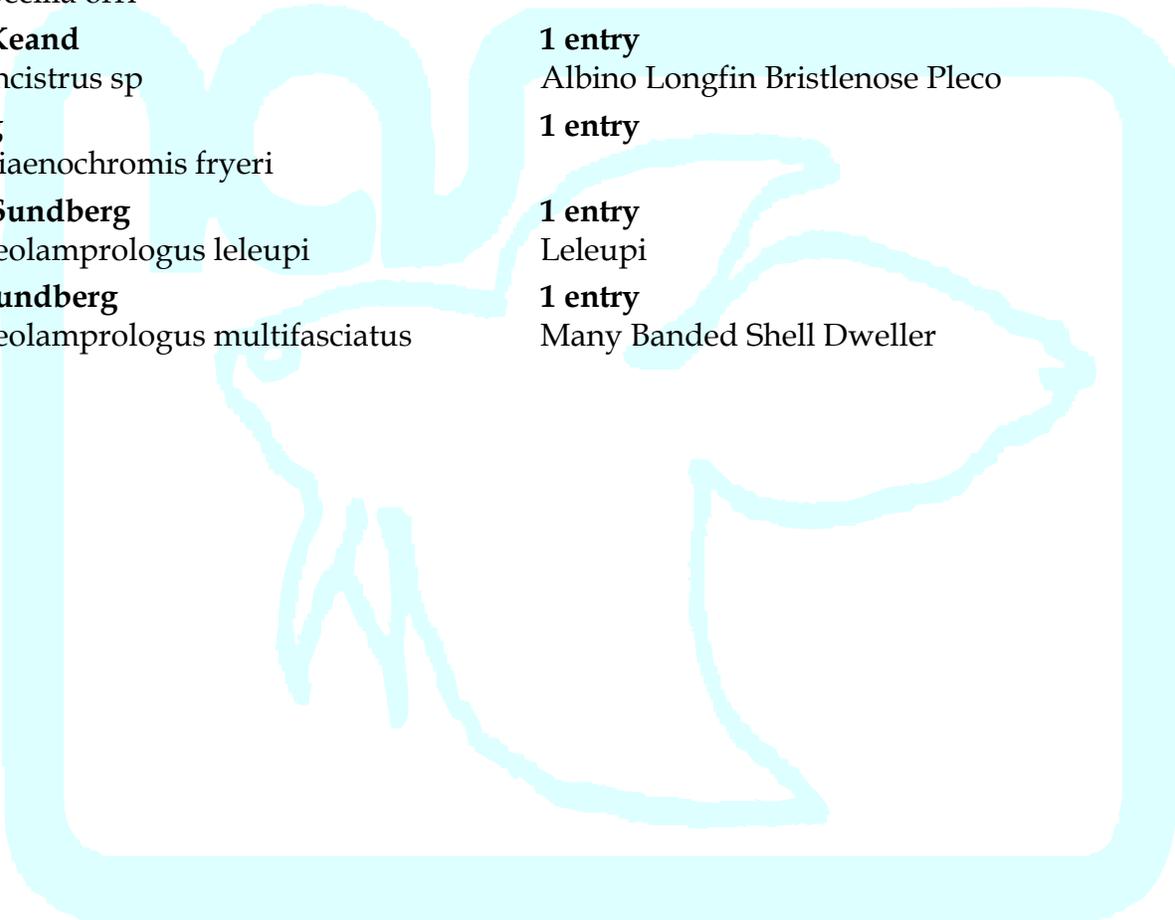
Leleupi

**Chuck Sundberg**

Neolamprologus multifasciatus

**1 entry**

Many Banded Shell Dweller





**BAP POINT STANDINGS-CURRENT NAS MEMBERS**

**Date: 5/17/12**

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Breeder Award</u>	<u>Species Pts</u>	<u>Bonus Pts</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Bob McKeand	Grandmaster	1312.5	1000	2312.5
Sal Silvestri	Expert	1720	565	2285
Jon Nevins	Master	1310	570	1880
Don Barbour	Expert	1115	160	1275
Barry Lynch	Master	1000	200	1200
Don Maloney	Expert	715	120	835
Tom Tilles	Senior	410	170	580
Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor	Master	480	60	540
Ed Katuska	Grandmaster	465	40	505
John Chapkovich	Senior	420	40	460
Amin Rubirosa	Senior	350	35	385
Ryszard Krzynowek	Breeder	330	25	355
Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	Breeder	280	25	305
Rich Grenfell	Grandmaster	260	45	305
Dick Moore	Breeder	175	100	275
Steve Ng	Senior	210	20	230
Artie Platt	Breeder	150	30	180
Charlie Sundberg	Breeder	170	10	180
Doug Kneissl	Senior	145	10	155
Jack Adinolfi	Senior	120	30	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	Breeder	50		50
Bob Alberino		35		35
Kaitlin Fearnley		35		35
Ira Friedman		10	10	20
Ed Peters		10		10
Gina Bell		5		5



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 21

NAS General Meeting  
Speaker: Gary Lange  
Program: Rainbowfish

### NO NAS MEETINGS IN JULY

Sunday, August 12

NEC Auction

Thursday, August 16

NAS General Meeting  
Speaker: Tony Orso  
Program: Asian Fish

Thursday, September 6

NAS Board Meeting  
Host: Dick Moore

Friday - Sunday, September 7 - 9

Show & Auction  
Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island

Saturday - Sunday, September 15 & 16

40th Anniversary & Auction  
Aquarium Club of Lancaster County

Thursday, September 20

NAS General Meeting  
Speaker: Pete Izzo  
Program: Uruguay Collecting Trip

Wednesday, September 26

NAS Show Set-Up

Friday, September 28

NAS Show Registration

Saturday, September 29

NAS Show Registration & Show

Sunday, September 30

NAS Show & Auction



# 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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