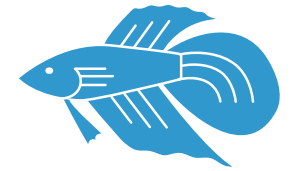


Winter 2021



The WetPet Gazette

News of the
Norwalk Aquarium Society



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Editors note. Please consider submitting an article for a future WetPet Gazette issue. This is our club news and this is your newsletter.

This Issues Cover Photos are by NAS Member **Brian Kimbark** Thank you Brian for the beautiful pictures of your tanks!



N.A.S. is a member of the
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Welcome 2021. Thinking Green



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.

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



View from up front

Hi NAS and welcome to 2021. We are all glad to see the end of 2020, what a year so much worry. Now that they are starting to vaccinate the world, this year looks like much of the same but with the promise of a much better ending. So, last year has shown us all a lot of challenges and changes. This time last year few of us ever heard of a 'zoom' meeting and now we are experts lol. We managed to continue the club experience and will be ready to again meet face to face once the dust settles from this pandemic. Maybe if all goes well we can have a fall Auction and a meeting or two later this year. We all have missed having a simple cup of coffee together and exchange fish stories.

So, that is what we are hoping for and this is what we can do now. First, stay safe and remember we are all in this together. Second, we are planning another trunk to treat for this spring . (April or May) lol. We are continuing the BAP program, see page 5 for more details.

My apologies for the WetPet delays, some technical issues, and some personal but we will be on a regular schedule from now on. In fact, we are starting a new contest to encourage articles from our members. We are refining the details and all input is welcome. The base will be each submission will give you a ticket. Each ticket will be put into a drawing at the end of the year. And whoever name is pulled will win a prize. The more articles you submit the better chances to win.

We are also starting a drawing for each of our zoom meetings. Attendance at a meeting is your door prize ticket. One ticket will be drawn after the presentation. You have to be there to win. We are working on a Winner's choice of a NAS Tee shirt, a \$25 gift card, and a \$50 House of Fins gift certificate. One winner per meeting. Come to a meeting and your odds of winning are very good.

Of course, Sal and Basil will continue to present us with wonderful programs. Don't forget to follow us on our website <https://norwalkas.org> also on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for our latest news. See you at the next meeting.

Artie Platt
President and WetPet editor
Norwalk Aquarium Society

A message from the NEC

Let's make a difference! The NEC raises money annually in support of an established conservation effort revolving around the tropical fish hobby. Conservation groups always need our help, but they especially need it this year. Since there was no Conservation Auction last year and may not be one this year, the NEC has decided to sponsor a "James J. White Conservation Drive" and the NEC will match funds donated up to \$1,000.00!

This year's Conservation recipient will be "Project Piaba". If you, your club, or any of your members would like to help, donate NOW! The fund matching Conservation Drive ends April 25, 2021.

Individuals and clubs should send their donation directly to Project Piaba (<http://project-piaba.org/get-involved/donate/>) and then notify Carlos Pereyra at (carwa71@yahoo.com) to let the NEC know that the donation has been made and the amount that was donated. The NEC is coordinating with Project Piaba and will match all donations up to a total of \$1000.

Raise money however you see fit! A portion of auction proceeds, collect small donations from members for a grand total, sell raffle tickets or hold an auction of chosen lots and donate the proceeds to Project Piaba – there are many options!

Your donation must be made by April 25, 2021 and Carlos must be notified by that date. Thank you - Let's make a difference!



The NAS Board

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Ira Freidman

The NAS Home Show

Here is a compilation of the NAS Home Show winning photos. Unfortunately Brians photos were left out in error so they are on the front cover. I d like to thank all who sent in their photos.



Above Jeanine Aquarium Third place
Below Basil Aquarium Third place
Bottom Right Guy Aquarium Third place



Above Molly aquarium First place
Below Ben aquarium Second place





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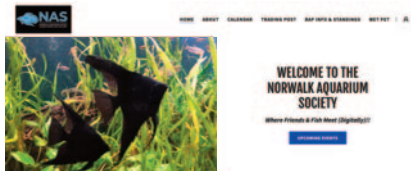


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Also visit us on our website @

<http://www.norwalkas.org>



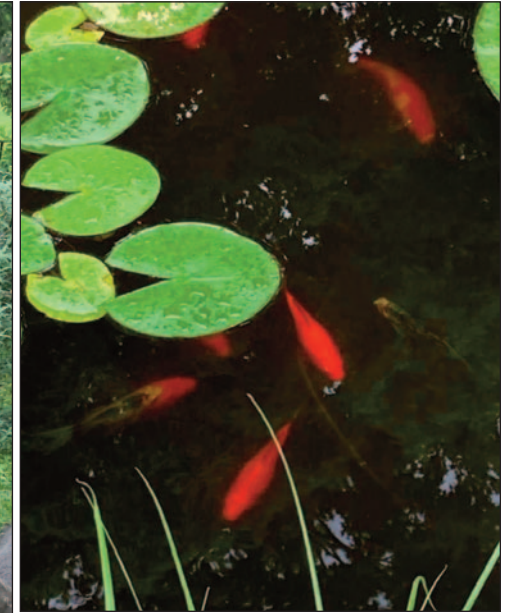
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WHERE FRIENDS AND FISH MEET



Left 1st Rick
Top 2nd Basil
Below 3rd Brett





New NAS branded Apparel is here. Tees, Hoodies and Polos will be available for order. Tees starting at \$15 to NAS members



NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
WHERE FRIENDS AND FISH MEET

BAP Report 2021

Hi gang. As of now the BAP program is continuing as it has for the last 11 months. it only change is that all submissions will be sent to ben.chalfin@gmail.com and artie1209@gmail.com. In the Subject line write "BAP submission". The requirements for the foreseeable future will be as follows.

BAP submissions are sent as a PDF version of the BAP form along with video and or photos of the fry. Please send your submissions to ben.chalfin@gmail.com and artie1209@gmail.com. As for the fry, the fry should be the size they would be if you were to bring them to an auction. In effect they should be at least 2-3 months old regardless of family. The NAS BAP form can be down loaded from the website.

As Don has previously stated. The main purpose of the BAP program is to keep breed-able aquarium fish in the hobby – redistribute fry amongst members. Also, part of the new normal BAP program, fry are strongly requested to be posted online in the new trading post. I know we've all been busy as of late, but few if any of the species from the breeders have been listed in the trading post. Please, don't forget to list your fry. The time to post your fry, in the Trading post, is the third Thursday of every month (Except December). Kindly send an e-mail listing your fry's availability and any other fish you wish to offer to ben.chalfin@gmail.com and artie1209@gmail.com. In the Subject line write "Available fry".

I will send you a quick confirmation for all submissions. It is my hope that this fall we may return to our normal operations and when the weather is warmer we may attempt another trunk swap. keep the faith and happy fishing!!!

Put a Fish in It

By: Basil Holubis

Boy, what a summer it's been! Not sure if it's a record for 90° days, but it was way too hot for some of my tubs. I saw Rainbow fry in June, but lost them in July. I think they melted. Rainbow fry stay on top of the water, even with lots of plants the upper two inches of water was 90°. No pumps in these tubs, just minimal fish, (breeding stock), and lots of plants. They got too hot and I proved this when at the end of August fry started to appear again.

This has been a strange year with no auctions, currently no in-person meetings to sell or trade fish at so I planned on minimal breeding outdoors this year. I'm gonna have to wait to next year for a few special projects – maybe Discus outdoors & I also want to try breeding African Butterfly fish, Pantodon Buchholzi. Go big or stay home!

I don't know what else spawned yet because I still have to break down the ponds. Hoping for Flag fish, Sparkling Gourami's and maybe those late blooming Rainbows!

It's starting to get cold at night so watch those temperature swings. A small tub can lose 20° at night. Fish will not be happy or take that for too long. Bring 'em in!

Ok, so when you break down your tub or pond, have an extra bucket for all that muck you're going to net out. If you don't know how many fish or fry you have fill this bucket half way and dump your nets into it. Let it settle out and check for fry or fish you missed. You'll be surprised what you may find. I also leave a few inches of water in the tub and come back that night to check for fry or fish with a flashlight.

Better luck next year. Let me know how you did!



Meet the Members

By: Basil Holubis



This time I'll write about one of our newer members, Brett Felmer. Brett has only been a member of Norwalk

Aquarium Society (NAS) for a few years. Rick Marino met him at a Danbury Aquarium Society meeting and invited Brett to attend a meeting at our club. His first NAS program he attended was Sal Silvestri's Betta's program... and he still came back -- just kidding. Sal's my buddy.

Brett wasted no time in volunteering to help the club. He's a key member of the IT group with Ben and Molly, who keep NAS on various social media sites on the internet. Brett handles Twitter and watermarks all out photos put on the internet

so everybody sees our logo. We're up to 540 Twitter followers. Way to go Brett!

Ok, now about Brett Felmer who's a local boy makes good. He grew up in Danbury and went to his first fish club meeting with his mom to DAAS when they used to meet at the Stony Hill Fire House in Bethel which was many years ago.

Like many of us, mom or dad took us to pet shops when we were kids. Two shops in Danbury back then were Hubbard's Cupboard & Fins & Things and Brett and his mom went to them and she like the Angelfish. Brett is now breeding Black Angels, trying to get Blackfish with red eyes which is a breeding project I have a soft spot



in my heart for.

Anyway – Brett was a typical young man who graduated Danbury High School in 1986, forgot the fish for a while. Met his wife Cathy, had a son Branden and moved to Brookfield 15 years ago.

Brett now has the bug real bad – no pun intended. While he was home during the Covid-19 pandemic he built a very nice fish room. Check





Name... that Fish?

Have your fish published in the WetPet Gazette. Send in your photos and in every issue we will post 2 of the most interesting photos here!!



YOUR FISH PHOTO HERE



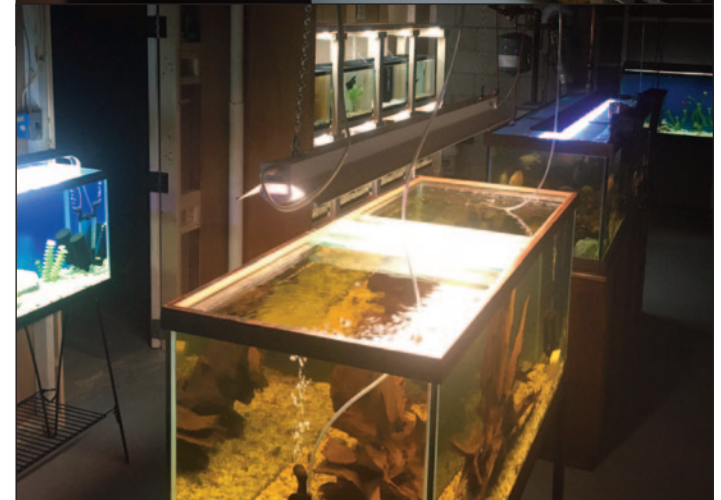
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out the pictures

He likes Peacocks and Angels & now wants to start breeding - good fish that people want and to help support his habit.

Of course here's a picture of Brett. If you get the chance to talk to him when we start having meetings again you might have to start the conversation, Brett is soft spoken but not shy, and is always willing to lend a hand. He's always working behind the scene discussing what worked and what could be better for our meetings. Brett had one of our first discussions for our on-line membership when thinking about the club's future. We need more people to step up like Brett. Don't be afraid just give us your ideas as this is a team effort.

Another way you can spot Brett is he always wears shorts – July or January – yes he admits it's cold but it's him. I've asked him and yes he owns long pants but they probably don't fit any more! That's what makes Brett one of us, and he never turns down a brownie! Our friend Brett...





The Archive

by Artie Platt and a host of others.

Welcome to the second installment of "The Archive". Here we will pick out articles from old issues of the WetPet Gazette.

NAS has a rich 40 plus year history with the WetPet Gazette. There are literally hundreds of articles for us to explore. For most of us this will be the first time seeing them. For a precious few they will be like seeing old friends.

Don Maloney found another great article to reprint. In fact it is Dons very first article, written years ago. Maybe you can write an article for the Wetpet and have a place in fish immortality or at least a place to tell all your story



NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
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A Recipe for Cichlid on the Half Shell Dweller or Spawning *Neolamprologus multifasciatus* – A BAP report

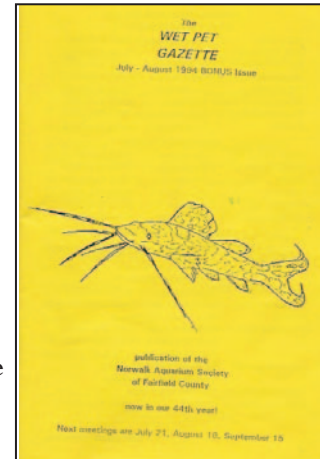
By Don Maloney

Originally published in the July/August 1994 issue of the Wet Pet Gazette

These LITTLE APPETIZERS come to us from the rocky shores of Lake Tanganyika in east Africa. *N. Multifasciatus* is a diminutive shell dwelling cichlid (males get about 2") who prefers to live it's life in and among empty snail shell that lie scattered at the base of the rocky slopes on the floor of the lake. *N. multifasciatus*, in my opinion, is one of the more attractive dwarf Lamprologines with it's soft hazelnut color and about ten thin, light golden bars (hence the name) on it's body. Described by Boulenger in 1906, these dwarf cichlids have become quite popular amongst African Rift Lake Cichlid connoisseurs. A little patience and attention to good water quality are the only skills necessary to successfully bring this "dish" to the table, auction table that is!

INGREDIENTS

- 2* *N. Multifasciatus*
- 10-15 gallons of water
- 1 dozen assorted size, shape and color snail shells**, cleaned
- 2-3 heaping tablespoons of salt mixture***
- 1 medium round box filter filled with crushed coral and filter floss, aged several weeks
- 1 50-75w heater, submersible preferred
- Life time supply of newly hatched baby Brine shrimp



- Assorted high quality Cichlid flake foods
- 1 * Assuming you have one of each sex, or use 3-4 fish and go with a 15-20 gallon tank
- 2 ** Beware of some store bought shells that may have been clear coated (they'll appear very glossy)
- 3 *** Salt mixture - tablespoons, 3 kosher salt, 1 Epsom salt and 1 African Cichlid salt mixture.

Combined all ingredients, except for fish and food. In a 10-15 gallon all glass aquarium. Age several days and maintain these water qualities. 76-78 degrees F, pH. 7.8-8.4 and a hardness of 180-220 ppm. After "aging" process, stir in fish, slowly. Then sprinkle in the newly hatched brine shrimp and cichlid flakes two to three times daily. Newly hatched brine shrimp? You might ask? Instead of adult shrimp? Yes, adult shrimp can be used also. However, newly hatched brine shrimp have a higher nutritional value and if you pair decides to spawn the newly hatched shrimp will be there for the fry. Believe me, you won't know they've spawned until the fry are quite large! Perform 15-20% water changes twice a month. Add the salt mixture proportionally to each water change. Keep the light moderate to avoid a heavy algae growth. Allow approximately 4-12 months (depending on the age of the livestock used) to simmer at 76-78 degrees, of course. Now some might say that this recipe can easily be doubled, tripled and even quadrupled! With fry that is!



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Accidental Breeding with *C. pygmaeus* “Pygmy Cory”

By Jeannine Lambert

Background

I’m a novice when it comes to fishkeeping, with only a couple years of experience keeping Betta splendens... Being a member of this club has been a huge source of inspiration! It’s safe to say my first encounter with Corydoras pygmaeus was an accident; A common theme in my relationship with these fish. I ordered a school of Corydoras habrosus, and a few renegade *C. pygmaeus* made their way into my order and flourished in my tank’s soft and acidic water.

Appearance and Sexual Dimorphism

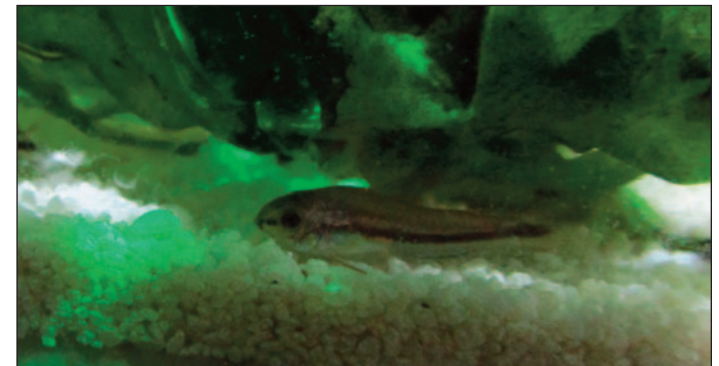
C. pygmaeus can be identified by a long fawn-colored body with a white stripe running parallel to a bold black stripe stretching from whisker to tail. Eye colors vary from a dark black to gold. Adult females are larger than the adult males, with females growing approximately 1.5” and males topping out at just under 1”. Older fish may fade in color, most notably the black stripe may dull to a brown or copper color.

Maintenance

These fish prefer fine substrate or a bare bottom tank to support their delicate whiskers and their habit of nosing around in the sand. The tank needs to be heavily planted or decorated with a lot of areas to hide during the day. *C. pygmaeus* are most active at night, so it’s best to feed them right before you turn off the lights in the evening. They prefer temperatures around 80F and a 6.0 pH with water on the soft side.

Breeding

It was not my intention to breed the fish just yet; I wanted to wait until the summer when I had time off from work, but the pygs had other plans. One evening my thermometer read a higher temperature than usual and thinking the heater was malfunctioning I poured a little cool water into the tank; The next morning I had eggs! The first batch of eggs were infertile so I got up at dawn to try and figure out why; Imagine my surprise to find two females had paired off! It didn’t take longer than a week or two for the males to figure out what was going on.



C. Pygmaeus break from the school when breeding. One to two males will follow a single female around while she hunts for a good place to put an egg. Eventually, she produces a single egg and carries it around in her anal fins until she finds a spot for it, usually in some plants or on the aquarium glass. With only two confirmed breeding groups I’ve found up to 15 eggs scattered around my aquarium after a single night!



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Fry

Eggs are clear or yellow-tinged at first. Unfertilized eggs will turn solid white and grow fungus, so it's best to remove them as soon as they can be identified. Fertile eggs will develop a black dot in the center of the egg, which grows larger and darker each day. *C. pygmaeus* will not eat their own eggs, so it's ok to leave them with the adults. Fry hatch within 3 days and can be identified by a large black head and three tiny black dots along their spine on an otherwise translucent body. They are tiny!

Since it was my first time breeding, I needed to find out which environment was best for the fry, so I left some eggs in with the adults and removed some eggs just before they hatched. The eggs are relatively tough so I used a plastic straw to scrape them off the glass and placed them in a separate container with tank water, a heater, and a weak airstone. I noticed the fry in the main tank preferred to hide under plants and decor, so I decorated the fry tank to match; The fry immediately hid underneath.

The fry tank got a 50% water change every morning with a 50/50 mix of fresh water and water from the established adult tank. The fry are incredibly small, so I fed boiled egg yolk and a finely powdered fry food once every morning and tried to clean up as much of it as I could the next day. I haven't yet found a way to increase the survivability of the fry which means most of the fry die within the first 2-3 days, likely after their yolk sac is used up.

After two weeks their organs are developed enough to see through their skin near their eyes as a small pink mark, and at this point it's safe to say the fry will make it to adulthood. Fry remain black speckled until about 1 month old, where they begin to color up and develop their white and black stripes. This is also when they begin to school with their parents!

Notes

I hope this article tempts others to give breeding *C. pygmaeus* a try! While not the most exotic fish to display in a tank, they're a charismatic addition to any nano community tank and not too difficult to urge into spawning for some quick BAP points! Good luck!

