



Wet Pet Gazette

Volume 67, Issue 2

Spring 2018

The Journal of the Norwalk Aquarium Society Celebrating 66 Years

NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY HOME SHOW

Just a reminder, this summer we want pictures of your best tanks & ponds.

This is a contest for nicest home aquarium & prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place. Prizes will also be awarded for the nicest pond or water garden for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place.

Our November 2018 meeting will be the Home Show, produced by Guy Van Rossum & judged by our members that evening.

There are 2 ways to enter:

- Take your own photos & submit your pictures to Guy via email to mgoj@hvc.rr.com
- Or Guy has offered to take your pictures for you. Please contact Basil Holubis to schedule a photo visit via email to caminokid2@msn.com

Rules for Home Aquarium Tanks:

- Any size tank may enter
- Can be any type of theme – planted species tank to goldfish with pink gravel
- Limit of 3 tank entries per family or member
- Take lots of pictures but only up to 3 photos per entry will be presented in the Show

Rules for Ponds and/or Water Garden:

- Any size pond or water garden may be judged
- Up to 3 ponds or water garden entries per family or member
- 3 photos per entry will be presented at the show

Go ahead & enter 3 entries in the Tank & 3 entries in the Pond/Water Garden category to increase your chances. Let everyone see what you've got!

ALL entries must be submitted by September 30th to allow for editing.



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Cares:	Dick Moore	Programs:	Sal Silvestri
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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.

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.

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A view from upfront the Presidents Message

Transitions and changes, life is full of them. Here at NAS we are not immune. Board changes over the years even changes in meeting places has happened. The faces of our membership has changed as well. It may be the face of a 30 year member whose hair has turned gray or a new member starting their aquatic journey. The focus of NAS has always remained the same. It is and always has been about two things; the people and the fish. The people make this club great. I dare say best in tri state. The fish are our common thread. We share not only actual fish, but also valuable information about them.

The WetPet has had many editors and countless format changes. The WetPet has always been about disseminating information. BAP stats, from total points accumulated over a lifetime to the annual breeder of the year entries. Lets not forget breeder articles from our members and other fish related observations shared over the years. Currently we strive for four WetPets a year, in other words quarterly.

The world is changing, how we get information is not the same as it was 50 years ago. In fact over the last ten years the way we get our information has been turned upside down. Now everything happens instantly on the information super highway. Social media and the smart phone have changed everything. Over the past year NAS has clumsily dabbled with social media and is the better for it . As we have been filling the seats better at auctions and at regular meetings. Over the next 6 months NAS is doing digital and fully embracing social media and all its potential. We will have monthly updates on BAP. Articles and blogs so information is there at our fingertips. We plan on updating content, and how you can get to it. Emails and chat feeds can unite us and cement out friendships.

Technology is moving so fast that we have to get on board or be left behind. These updates will unite the best of what makes us strong. Bringing our club into the future and embracing our past. This will help get the word out and help NAS to continue to be the best club it can be.

Sincerely, Artie Platt

NAS President and WetPet editor.



We are dedicated to making your aquatic gardening, whether it may be aquarium keeping or water gardening an interesting and successful experience by providing you with the most up to date information, plants and products



Put a Fish in it—the series

By Basil Holubis

Ok, I guess summer is here! After a cold spring I am behind with my ponds.

I put out all of my Odessa Barb fry in my 220 gallon outdoor tank. This tank is perfect for a grow out tank with lots of Baby Brine, a water change with every rainstorm and a few potted plants... see you in September.

Next up, my Rainbow tub - 100 gallon tub tug in the middle of my tomato garden. Rainbows on the top with lots of floating plants and a pair of Wild Kribs on the bottom. Hope for fry from both.

Dan Katz recommended Red & Blue Columbian Tetras for a pond. Hopefully they don't want to eat their fry.

White Clouds for the cold, shady tub - somebody gotta eat them mosquitos!

I don't know if it will get hot enough to spawn any Gourami's. I have a big pair of Pearls. They do best in those "dog days of summer" with high heat and warm humid nights and that's when they spawn. They need the warm nights as the cool air kills fry as they take their first breath of cold air. I cover the tubs if I see fry and it's cooler than 65° at night. The last few years this has been an August problem.

I hope you get inspired to try your fish outside. It's very relaxing to watch them and look for fry or see what plants are growing... maybe even get a frog or two to move in! I still can't figure out how they get here? I'm a quarter of a mile from any real pond or stream - nature at her best I guess.

Good luck! Enjoy the summer and hope to see the labor of the summer at our auction table in October!



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Our Future Aquarists!

By: Basil Holubis

Back in April our sister club, Danbury Aquarium Society decide to sponsor a Putnam County 4-H Club, Tropical Fish & Aquatic Plant 4-H Program. I volunteered to help at bi-monthly meetings with the kids. The program was open to youth between the ages of 8 -12 and was limited to 10 kids. DAAS supplied 10 gallon tank start-up set-ups, including gravel, lights, filter, etc. and fish & plants for all the kids.

The weeks have flown by and the kid's tanks are all doing well. During the meetings we have covered how to set-up their tanks and care for them, the various fish and plants they were given, fish food including the kids made Repashy to take home with them. The Nitrogen Cycle and filtration was covered and they were able to use mini microscopes to examine filter media. We had Dan Katz give a small talk on Killie fish and then had killie eggs hatch while the kids were at the meeting & they loved it! Sue Katz had a handout for the kids and talked about how fish breathe since it's different than humans.

Overall this was a great experience at the kids and their parents have been very enthusiastic. All of this is leading up to the 47th Annual Putnam County 4-H Fair at the end of July. If you have free time that weekend to check out the fair and our exhibit I have listed the information below. These kids are hopefully going to be the future of our clubs someday.

Friday, July 27, 2018, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Saturday, July 28, 2018, 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday, July 29, 2018, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Free Admission! Free Parking! Animals, Country Living Auction, Food, Entertainment, Games, Activities, Exhibits, Horse Show, Country Pig Roast & Chicken Barbecue, Master Gardener Plant Sale, Touch a Truck! Rain or Shine!

Location

Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road
Carmel, New York 10512





THE NAS BAP REPORT

Date: June 15, 2018

Breeder of the Year Competition: Although the Competition has gotten off to a somewhat slow start, it is competitive. After five months, three participants (**Ben Chalfin**, **Don Maloney** and **Artie Platt**) are tied for the lead with 4 entries apiece. And, **Basil Holubis** trails by only one entry. The updated Breeder of the Year Standings is attached. As delineated therein, seven participants have contributed 21 entries. Clearly, all have the opportunity to claim the year-end award.

New Participants: Two of the participants are first-time participants in the BAP program. **Michael Berluti** brought in the 15-point *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*. **Ben Chalfin** brought in 4 entries to include the bonus-eligible *Otocinclus vittata* (Oto catfish). Their participation brought the all-time total of members participating to 125. We welcome and thank **Ben** and **Michael** for their contributions.

20-Point Species: Among this year's entries are two 20-point species - *Neolamprologus sexfasciatus* by **Don Maloney** and *Crenicara punctulata* by **Artie Platt**. As one of our three Expert Breeders, **Don's** success is not unexpected. And, as many of us are aware, **Artie** has been targeting 20-pointers for some time with the goal of becoming our fourth Expert Breeder. Congratulations to **Don** and **Artie**!

BAP Breeder Award: It has been some time since someone has earned a BAP award. Congratulations go to **Ben Chalfin** for accumulating the 50 points required for the first-level Breeder Award. I expect that his award odyssey has just begun and, as noted earlier, he certainly is in the running for the 2018 Breeder of the Year Award. Mighty impressive.

BAP Point Standings: The updated BAP Point Standings for current members is attached. There is nothing dramatic to highlight. It was nice to see **Bob McKeand** become active again. And, **Artie Platt** continues to move up in the standings. And, **Ben Chalfin** has definitely made a big splash.

BAP in Perspective: Only a dwindling few of us probably remember BAP in the immediate years before the institution of the Breeder of the Year competition (BOY). There were years with only 3 or 4 participants and maybe 15 to 25 entries. This was totally unacceptable. The BOY program was put in place in 2005 and was designed to restore vitality to the BAP program. It succeeded beyond our wildest hopes. In 2005, there were 7 participants and 43 entries; in 2006, there were 12 participants and 54 entries; in 2007, there 14 participants and 75 entries; in 2008, there were 15 participants and 90 entries. Thereafter, for many years, there were routinely 15 to 20 participants and entry levels in the 100's (topping out in 2009 with 135).

Unfortunately, in the past few years, the number of participants and entries have been trending downwards. There have been a number of reasons for this - some quite valid. Nevertheless, I do not consider this trend to be irreversible. I urge our breeders to set goals, breed some special fish, participate in the program and otherwise contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Norwalk Aquarium Society. NAS can only be what we all make it to be.

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NAS BREEDER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

5/17/18

Benjamin Chalfin

4 entries

Neolamprologus similis

Similis

Otocinclus vittatus

Oto Catfish

Poecilia reticulata

Fancy Guppy

Xiphophorus maculatus

Blue Mickey Mouse Platy

Don Maloney

4 entries

Betta rubra

Red Sumatran Betta

Epiplatys sexfasciatus togolensis

Togo Six-Barred Panchax

Lepidiolamprologus hecqui

Six-Barred Lamprologus

Neolamprologus sexfasciatus

Artie Platt

4 entries

Coptodon sp "Mamfe"

Crenicara punctulata

Red-Finned Checkerboard Cichlid

Enigmatochromis lucanuasi

Othochromis sp "Rainbow"

Basil Holubis

3 entries

Amatitlana siquia

Honduran Red Point

Apistogramma melgar

Pethia padamya

Odessa Barb

Bob Alberino

2 entries

Neolamprologus multifasciatus

Many-Banded Shell-Dweller

Tanichthys micagemmae

Vietnamese White Cloud

Ryszard Krzynowek

2 entries

Gambusia regani

Forlon Gambusia

Pelvicachromis pulcher

Kribensis

Michael Berluti

1 entry

Neolamprologus multifasciatus

Many-Banded Shell-Dweller

Bob McKeand

1 entry

Xiphophorus kallmani



BAP POINT STANDINGS - CURRENT NAS MEMBERS

Date: 5/17/18

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Breeder Award</u>	<u>Species Pts</u>	<u>Bonus Pts</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Sal Silvestri	Expert	2160	805	2965
Bob McKeand	Grandmaster	1415	1070	2485
Artie Platt	Master	1522.5	320	1842.5
Barry Lynch	Grandmaster	1370	280	1650
Don Barbour	Expert	1230	200	1430
Don Maloney	Expert	1050	250	1300
Ryszard Krzynowek	Breeder	630	145	775
Basil Holubis	Master	650	90	740
Dan McKercher & Maryanne Naylor	Master	530	80	610
Dick Moore	Master	350	210	560
Ed Katuska	Grandmaster	465	40	505
Pete Izzo	Master	332.5	90	422.5
John Krol	Master	270	80	350
Rich Grenfell	Grandmaster	275	45	320
Charlie Sundberg	Breeder	295	20	315
Anne & Mark Broadmeyer	Breeder	280	25	305
Tom Sands	Senior	262.5	30	292.5
Chuck Sundberg	Breeder	275	10	285
Steve Ng	Senior	230	20	250
Jack Adinolfi	Senior	120	30	150
Rich Weglinski	Breeder	120	20	140
Leslie Dick	Senior	110	10	120
Amanda Wenger	Senior	120		120
Bob Alberino	Breeder	95		95
John Cripps	Breeder	95		95



Joe Masi	Breeder	85	10	95
Ed Schildnecht	Breeder	75		75
Steve Capelle	Breeder	60		70
Doug De Ment	Breeder	70		70
Tim Gerson	Breeder	55	10	65
Dan & Sue Katz	Breeder	40	20	60
Benjamin Chalfin	Breeder	40	10	50
Stephen Gustafson		45		45
Antoinette Carey		30	10	40
Cal Darula		30		30
Michael Berluti		15		15
Bob Byrnes		10		10
Stephanie Campbell		10		10
Roger Griswold		10		10
Ed Peters		10		10
Barbara Romeo		10		10
Jerry Hricik		5		5



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