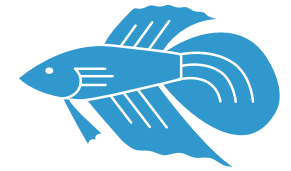


Summer 2020



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.

NAS would like to dedicate this issue to **Charlie Sundberg** long standing member of NAS and overall great man!!!!



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

Stay at Home Stay Safe Issue



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

Summer is here and so is the heat. I hope you are all staying cool, or hot if you prefer. Despite being limited to where you can go and how close you can be to a fellow human being, I hope you've been able to get out and enjoy your garden, your pond, perhaps the beach or mountains, safely. Not only is it good for us to get out and enjoy nature, it's also important to stay in touch with our friends and family. No matter how, keeping in touch with them is vital to our health and well being. Here at the NAS virtual headquarters we are committed to being there with you by way of our virtual meetings and, of course, the WetPet. It was unfortunate we weren't able to gather for our annual picnic earlier this month and we hope to get together real soon. It will be a relief to get back to normal. We all need it. But, for now, more importantly, we need to be safe. Apart, we will get through this together.

On to NAS news.

During this time of change and uncertainty the board has continued to make the club a great one to belong to. We will continue to deliver excellent programs and talks from well known, and some not so well known people from our hobby. We also look forward to taking the NAS website and Wetpet to another level with up-to-date information on topics such as the BAP program, Home show, speaker line up and more! We haven't forgotten our picnic, the Wetspot group order, our club logo wearables and our auctions. Every board meeting contains much talk and ideas about moving these, and many other things forward and getting them to the membership.

Our club has had to cancel only one meeting due to the pandemic. According to many members our Zoom meetings have been a success and we will continue holding them for as long as necessary. Which, of course, we hope isn't for much longer. But they (Zoom meetings) hold great promise for board and regular meetings alike.

(Many thanks, by the way, goes out to Ben Chalfin for making (all) the (virtual) meetings happen). In the future, we can always count on on-line meetings when the weather or pandemic turns foul. Mark your calendar. The third Thursday of every month is NAS Thursday!

As most of you may not be aware, Barry Lynch, past President and current BAP co-chairman has suffered some health issues recently and as of this printing, should be well and resting at home after a minor procedure. Charlie Sundberg, past treasurer, has also spent several stints in the hospital and is scheduled for a procedure, as well. We wish both Barry and Charlie speedy recoveries and look forward to seeing them soon. Get well, guys!

Artie Platt has announced that he is stepping down from the presidency of the club due to matters that require his attention at home. As we all know, family comes first. Artie will take the baton from Ben and concentrate on being the Wetpet editor, and of course remain an active and contributing member of our great club.

On a lighter note, Sal Silvestri, past president, past BAP chairman and past many other vital club board positions, current programs chair and all time BAP points leader can now add Grandfather to his impressive resume. Congratulations Sal! So, um, you should still be able to get speakers for our meetings with a grandchild on you lap, right?

So, that's the view from up front. Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy the Summer and the Summer issue of the Wet Pet Gazette. See you at the next meeting!

Don Maloney
Vice President and BAP co-chair
Norwalk Aquarium Society

Editor Note: After this was written our dear Friend Charlie Sundberg has passed away. Rest in Peace dear friend you will be missed! This issue is dedicated to his memory.



The NAS Board

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Vice President: Don Maloney

Treasurer: Chuck Sundberg

Membership Secretary:

Apparel chair: Peter Izzo

Recording Secretary: Lynn Duffy

Sergeant at Arms:

Donations Chair: Basil Holubis

Speaker Chair: Sal Silvestri

Photo /image coordinator

Guy Van Rossum

Instagram coordinator

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Director: Dick Moore

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Director: Barry Lynch

Past President

Wetpet Editor: Artie Platt

Contact information for the board members can be found on the membership directory

Directors Emeritus

Diane Adinolfi • Don Barbour
Ed Katuska • Jack Adinolfi
Anne Broadmeyer • Sal Silvestri
Ira Freidman

My Experience with *Alestopetersius cf. nigropterus* - “Orange Flash Congo Tetra”. *By Sal Silvestri*

Background

As most of you know... I’m a cichlid breeder. But, every once in a while I see a NON- cichlid fish that blows me away! Such was the case when I first saw *Alestopetersius cf. nigropterus*... commonly know as the “Orange Flash Congo Tetra”.

I knew that I wanted them... and maybe try to breed them. But, only to find out that they are NOT readily available.. they are rare and when imported they command a hefty price!

They originate from - Mai-ndombe (middle Congo River basin) in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sexual Dimorphism

Adult males are more colorful than females and possess extended dorsal, ventral and anal fins. Courting males develop additional red pigmentation on the body.

Females also develop extended median rays in the caudal-fin but the caudal lobes and other fins are significantly shorter than in males and have no color.

Adult males can get to be approximately 3” TL. While females are a bit smaller.

Maintenance

These fish are best kept in groups of 8 or more. Try to buy both males and females,

add other schooling fishes to provide security. The interaction between rival males is also interesting to watch and they will display their best colors when competing for female attention or hierarchical position within the group.

After 2 years of searching I bought my first batch of eight in 2016. I housed them in a 29 gallon with very little substrate, a piece of driftwood and some Anubias plants.

I fed a variety of food, from flakes to frozen bloodworms and brine shrimp to live blackworms. They’re voracious eaters.... ate everything that I gave them.

Water Conditions
Temperature: 77 Degrees
pH: 7.0
Hardness: 179 ppm

Female





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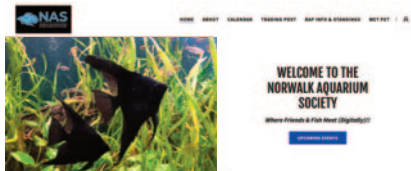
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NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY
WHERE FRIENDS AND FISH MEET

Breeding

I tried every method written as to how to breed tetras. Nothing worked. I was so frustrated that I almost gave up. Then one day a miracle happened. Talking with a fellow hobbyist he told me that he knew of someone that could help me. He put me in touch with this wonderful lady! What she told me was almost the opposite as to what I was doing!

She told me to use 100% RO water, didn't have that so I used 100% rainwater. Feed very heavy with live blackworms or frozen bloodworms. Which I did!

Water parameters were; pH 6.0... 79 ppm and 77 degrees. No substrate (tell you why later), a sponge filter, some Riccia and a large clump of java moss, which took up 70% of tank space and extended from the floor of the tank to the top. Here's the kicker.. NO WATER CHANGE for a month! I know...I know.. it goes against everything we were ever told or practiced!

I was told that they spawn in the java moss. So, I waited a month and before doing a water change, I removed the Java Moss from the tank and threw it in a 5 gal bucket. Then I syphoned the bottom of the tank into the same bucket, just in case some eggs dropped to the bottom. Also, this was the main reason to leave the bottom bare, this way I would not syphon gravel with any eggs. Plus, by syphoning the bottom of the tank into the bucket I made sure that they would hatch in the same water as the parents. I put a 25W heater in the bucket because it just got too cold! It kept the temperature around 76 degrees. Plus, a very small sponge filter with a slow air flow and lastly I covered the bucket with a black towel...yea.. it could also be white, or you can use a paper bag...main purpose is to not allow any light to enter the tank! Why you ask? Because tetra eggs are light sensitive. Providing that there are eggs in the bucket, it takes three days for the eggs to hatch. So, on



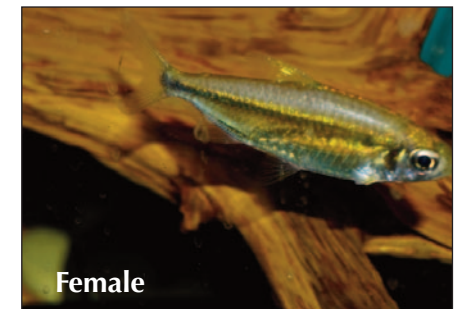
Male

the fourth day I slowly pulled back the towel so that one half of the bucket got light. If there are fry, they usually move toward the light. Well, alleluia! FRY!

I fed them powdered fry foods for about one week and then they are able to take BBS. I also used microworms. I waited ten days before I uncovered the bucket. I ended up with 11 fry. With this regiment the fry grew quite quickly.

They're such a beautiful fish. I enjoyed the experience and the challenge. If you get a chance to purchase these fish I would highly recommend to get them.

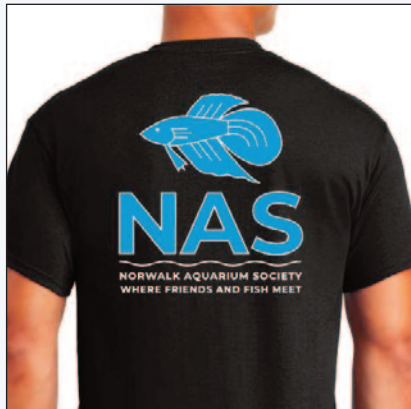
P.S.- I subsequently started collecting eggs every week (using the same method as described above) and was successful in getting many fry.



Female



New NAS branded Apparel is coming. Tees, Hoodies and Polos will be available for order.



NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY WHERE FRIENDS AND FISH MEET

BAP Report 2020/07

I know everyone has been looking forward to the complete set of BAP stats including the standings of the Breeder Of The Year. As you read from the “View from up front” column, Barry has been suffering from health issues and until recently had single handedly managed the BAP program. The “old” way of managing the BAP program’s stats and reports was one requiring time and a tremendous amount of typing input. That’s not to say that the newer method of record keeping will be much easier. It will however be internet savey, future proof and have the capability to capture far more fact and stats. As BAP co-chair I will have all of them for the Fall issue of the Wetpet.

As a reminder, BAP submissions are sent to me as a PDF version of the BAP form along with video and or photos of the fry. 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 4 months old regardless of family. That goes for livebearers to Catfish. The NAS BAP form can be down loaded from the website. 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. In the Subject line write “BAP fry submission.”

Don't forget

THE NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY HOME SHOW 2020

Enter pictures of your favorite tanks & ponds.
Our November 2020 meeting will be the Home Show, produced by Guy Van Rossum and judged by our members that evening.

This is a contest for the nicest home aquarium and pond or water garden. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each category.

General Rules:

- Photos must be of one of your own tanks or ponds.
- Photos must be in JPEG format. If Guy can't use the photo the sender will be notified and it's up to them to fix the problem.

Rules for Home Aquarium Tanks:

- Any size, shape or themed tank can be entered.
- Limit of 3 tank entries per member.

Rules for Ponds or Water Garden:

- Any size pond or water garden can be entered.
- Limit of 3 pond or water garden entries per member.

It's easy to enter:

- Take your photos & submit them to Guy at mgoj@hvc.rr.com.

All entries must be submitted by September 30, 2020.

In the next four months take lots of photos then select the three best in each category. Enter them and who knows, you may have the best in the club.

LET EVERYONE SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!



Meet the Members

By: Basil Holubis

This is a new Wet Pet feature written by a member about a member. It was Artie's idea and I said I'd take the first try.

I'm going to tell you about a cute couple that have been members of NAS for a very long time, Dan and Sue Katz. They're a little on the quiet side compared to Artie... and myself. They're always bringing fish and plants for our auctions and offering advice about breeding fish, especially Killies & Tetras. You might even have bought fish food from Sue at our goody table at our Sunday Annual Fish Auctions, as she runs the table for us.

So let's get to know more about the Katz's. Dan and Sue grew up in the Bronx, NY. They met while both were attending City College in NY. Dan and Sue would often go on dates to pet shops. Sue's dad had a fish tank of Live Bearers & Dan had Goldfish when he was six. Their favorite shop was a place called Aquarium Stock Company...it took up a whole city block! I wish I had a store like that today.

After graduation they married in 1963. Let me help you, that's 57 years together. They then moved to Stamford, CT in 1964. Sue was a teacher for over 20 years and Dan worked for American Cyanamid La-

boratories in Stamford for 32 years before both retired. They raised 2 children and have three grandchildren.

Back to the history lesson – I asked Dan how he heard about NAS and he said from a pet shop owner, Pete Falcione and the store was the Norwalk Aquarium. Both Pete and his wife Pat were involved with NAS and supported the club for many, many years. Oh by the way the store logo was a Betta. See a connection – I'm sure that's how we adopted our beloved Betta!

Back to Dan and Sue –that was in 1969 which makes them members for 51 years! Dan did keep Cichlids until he joined AKA (American Killifish Association) in 1974. Dan has kept and breed many rare species over the years and still maintains the Cuban Killie, Cubanichtys Pengeleyi from a wild pair obtained in 1982.

Sue maintains a 55 gallon tank upstairs in their home with her beloved Angelfish, (that's a Cichlid Dan), and beautiful live



plants. This is the tank that won the NAS Home Show for tanks last year.

Dan's fish room is in the basement of their home with about 30 stainless steel framed tanks full of live plants and many types of fish from Guppies to many types of Cory Cats and rare Tetras. Yes, he has spawned and raised Neons too!

The best part about this is I got to write about my friends who truly have a passion for our hobby and a real care for the people they have met over the years. I almost forgot to mention LIKA (Long Island Killie Fish Association) which Dan has been a member of since the 70's and is a past President, with many of the area's top aquarists and best breeders that I have ever met and also call my friends.

Well I think I've pretty well introduced you to Dan and Sue Katz. When you get a chance to talk fish or need advice on breeding please observe the true passion these two have for our hobby and the warm friendship they offer us which is the cornerstone of: "Where Fish and Friends Meet".





The Archive

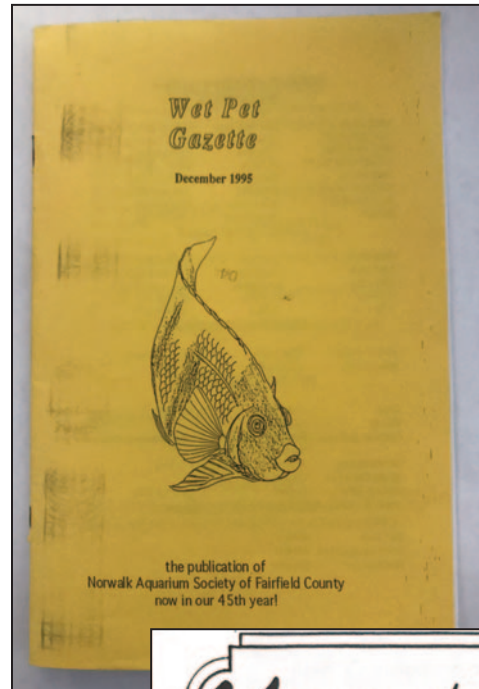
by Artie Platt and a host of others.

Welcome to the first 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.

This article reprint is from the December 1995 issue. It was chosen and retyped by Don Maloney. I have been advised this may also have won an award with the NEC.

Take notice I am also reprinting an advertisement from a sponsor then that still sponsors us now. Thank you House of Fins



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HOW COME?

By Bill Pontin (NAS)

How Come? The most expensive or interesting fish in your tank is the one that jumped and you find dried up on the floor?

How Come? After you put away your cleaning pads, close up the top, and dry your hand you see the 2 inch swath of algae you missed on the glass?

How Come? The fish caught in the gravel cleaner will not swim out when you stop the water flow?

How Come? A bucket, you are siphoning water into, takes several minutes to partially fill, but only a milli-second for the last three inches?

How Come? A bucket of water accidentally filled to capacity cannot be moved, no matter how careful, without a major spill?

How Come? An interruption always occurs when you are running water into a tank at the last critical moment?

How Come? There has to be an audience when you're starting a siphon and get a mouthful?

How Come? That the one fish in the tank of many knows you are after him?

How Come? Water gets spilled or slopped only after you're told to be careful?

How Come? You're told after setting up and filling a large tank that it would look better over there?

How Come? A pair of breeding fish you are told are easy – won't?

How Come? I'm still in the hobby after all the above aggravations?

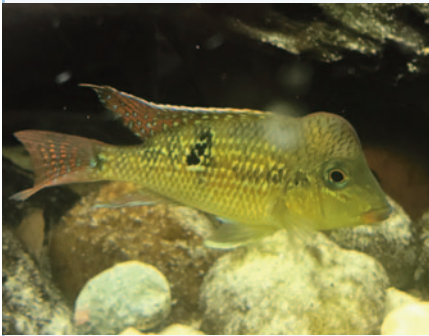
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Name... that Fish?

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



NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY WHERE FRIENDS AND FISH MEET

Breeding Teleogramma Brichardi

By: Basil Holubis

I came across this bottom dwelling cichlid courtesy of Sal Silvestri. As luck would have it, Sal and Artie Platt had split a bag from an auction. I did my research to prepare for this rare and unusual bottom dwelling fish from, the rapids of Zaire. There are five species of Teleogramma that are all from the Congo.

Brichardi is the most colorful and they all resemble their cousins, the Buffalo Heads. Like Buffalo Heads these fish like to lay on the bottom and hang out. Their swim bladder is evolved for this life style. When hungry at feeding time they will wag their way up to get fed, but quickly settle back down once they get a mouth full. Favorite foods include bloodworms, mysis shrimp, and believe it or not I had to starve them a day to get them to eat earthworms. This cost me \$25.00 for 250 worms for a starter culture since I can't get my favorite live black worms because the airlines closed down and there was no air freight out of Florida.

Now the set-up – Sal told me they need a tall tank. The female stays up top hiding in the live plants and waiting to come down to the male's cave. To spawn – lots of plants, a few caves, I used broken flower pots as all my Rhino Caves are busy with Apistos that won't spawn. They are set up in a 29 gallon with a pool sand substrate. I just use sponge filters in my tanks, no powerheads or current in this set-up, PH 7.0.

I believe in dither fish. I like Rainbow Fish which are fast, peaceful, and plentiful, especially now. I have tons of them. I put 4 sub adult Melanotaenia Kamaka in and they eat the extra food and provide stress relief.

The Big Day – put them in their new home. Both fish picked out a cave and over the next few days they dug in. I have never seen a Cichlid dig like these. Basically they sit on the sand and wiggle their bodies to move sand, Once home was dug in, both fish hung out in their own caves. Both ends are open so each fish would travel pass-



ing through the other one's cave especially at feeding time when chasing down dinner, live daphnia and mosquito larvae were special treats.

Everything was normal for a few months like puppy dogs at dinner time wagging up the glass to get a treat. My first clue they had spawned was when the female would only leave her cave to dash out for food. Next clue was she would not tolerate those happy go lucky Rainbow Fish in her airspace. Although not a midwater swimmer, Teleogramma Brichardi can move fast. Mamma put a move on those Rainbows leaving no doubt in their minds to stay away!



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NORWALK AQUARIUM SOCIETY WHERE FRIENDS AND FISH MEET



Of course the cave faced the wrong way for me to see any eggs, the male was in his cave but not chased away. Waiting for days to see fry, (eggs hatch in 3 to 4 days, so a week 'till free swimming. I checked them morning and night at feeding time expecting a cloud of fry. I watched the female, she came out to eat and something bounced off the sand. I looked closer and resting there was a big 1/2" long fry! These babies are huge! Not knowing how long they were free swimming already I ran to make their first meal of live Baby Brine and a little powder fry food. This is my standard baby fish cocktail and I dumped it in both ends of the tank and about 8 to 10 fry popped out. Nice pink bellies showed their good appetites just like their parents. Also the male now stepped up to guard the fry & Dad popped the Rainbow Fish too! Guess I'll have to move the parents to a new tank. Yes, I'll change the poor Rainbows and let's see if they do it again. Cool fish with a personality! Try 'em!

Memory Lane

By: Artie Platt

Everyones hobby has a beginning. I can't tell you the exact year but my fascination with fish began sometime in the 1970's. My dad had a huge 29 gallon Metaframe slate bottom aquarium. I remember the bubbles and the thump, clack, thump, clack, thump, of the piston pump. Of course there was also that itchy white stuff, fiber-floss that he would jam into the filter along with the shiny black charcoal. Swordtails, silver dollars, blue gouramis, Paradise fish and cory cats. these were my dad's fish. The occasional need for supplies or new fish would mean a trip the pet store.

One store I would never forget was *Eds Tropical Aquarium Pet* a store in *Cross County Shopping Center, Yonkers NY*. The front entrance was shaped like a freshwater Angel-fish. What a amazing first impression, especially to a kid like me. When you walked into the store, the walls were dark and the entire store was aglow by the lights of the fish tanks. With a quick internet search I have now learned they are long ago out of business and they were part of a small chain of stores with the main office located in Long island.

The world is a small place. I am somewhere in New Jersey, maybe a LIKA meeting or possibly NJAS meeting. For arguments sake let's say the year is 2017. Dr Ted Colletti and I strike up a conversation and it turns out he is from Yonkers and remembers ED's well. If for nothing else this common experience starts a new friendship. Now I am proud to serve on the NEC board with him and call him my friend.

Our hobby is full of experiences the lead us to new friendships and of course new fish. Tell us about some of yours so we can share with the rest of NAS in the Wet-Pet Gazette.



Put a Fish in It

By: Basil Holubis

Finally summer is here! Was cold and crummy May and part of June so I hope July is nice. Right now it's hot and we need some rain.

My tubs are out, put out a few Rainbows to spawn, Black Angels in my 220 gallon tank grow out tank. Putting out a few Tetras and some Killifish, Florida Flag Fish and maybe even try something new. It's a secret so you'll have to read my next column in the fall.

Have some German Blue Rams paired off. I think they need to get some sun too!



Some ponds are pea soup green. Some are loaded with plants and no, I can't even see the fish! But that's the fun of it, looking for fry, lots of tadpoles (tree frog type), and a few bull & leopard frogs. We need rain. I top off my big pond and pump out to the smaller ponds and tubs. Great year for lilies too!

Hope to spawn a few species this year, Sparkling Gourami, Red Eye Tetras, Rams, Rainbows, Swordtails. Let's see what works and what don't.

Also rescued two baby, baby Crawfish 3/8" long found in a Daphnia puddle. Don't know how they got there but the puddle dried up. Gone till next spring. I saved them from the raccoons so let's see how fast they grow. So far 1 1/2" in a month – that's fast!

So have a great summer! Breed some fish and have some fun!

Stay safe, see you back this fall...

