



AQUATICNews

Brooklyn Aquarium Society Online Newsletter & Magazine

VOL. 2

Fall 2021

No. 7

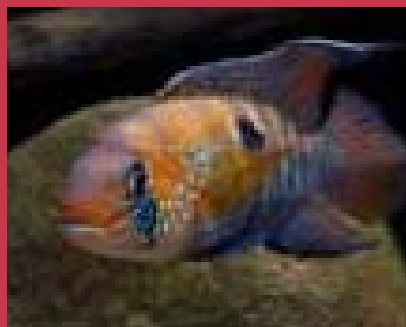


Virtual Meetings Still in Effect, Due to COVID

For more information, visit brooklynaquariumsociety.com



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Get To Know Our Sponsors

On the cover: An Orange Tessellated Blenny. Location: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, located 100 nautical miles offshore of Galveston, Texas. Photographer: Jackie Reid

President's Message for Sept–Nov

After almost a year and a half, I think the light is at the end of the tunnel as far as Covid-19 solitary confinement is concerned. We hope to meet with the New York Aquarium's acting director to return to general meetings for our members soon.

There is more good news for hobbyists — conventions are being booked that started this summer:

MACNA Marine Aquarium Conference of North America, Atlanta, GA.

Sept. 3–5

Catfish Cataclysm, Madison, WI.,

Oct. 8–10

American Livebearer Association, Coral Springs, FL. Oct. 21–24

BAS has scheduled virtual meetings for the remainder of this calendar year. When we have confirmation that we can have in-person meetings without the distancing issues, we will let our members know. All current members will be emailed to watch these informative and educational video presentations and when in-person meetings will begin. There will be FREE parking and FREE refreshments when we return. Let us all hope for the best and that we can all be together soon

BAS has held two online auctions so far. One was in March and the other in May. I will admit that the online auction started slow, with the March auction having several participants. The May auction had four times the March's participants. I believe it is beginning to catch on, and our next online auction will be even larger. Since the pandemic, many hobbyists have had to keep their fish, plants, and corals to themselves. We are starting to open a conduit for our members

and friends to share their aquatic interests. We plan to hold an online auction every other month until we can meet again in person. Please help us help you by joining in and participating in the auctions. Anything aquatic can be entered; lights, filters, fish tanks, books, plants, fish, and corals.

Any hobby or aquatic information you hear or read about, please share with our Editor Ginny Cahill. Please email your information to Ginny at basny.editor@gmail.com.



If you want to see different speakers and learn about other aquatic systems, fish, plants, and marine life, please let me know. The elected officials of the Brooklyn Aquarium Society are here to serve YOU! Please let us know what you want and why because it would be helpful to everyone. You must visit and patronize our sponsors. Most of them are open to serve you and our pets. It goes full circle: by helping them, they are also helping you as hobbyists, and everyone is supporting the Brooklyn Aquarium Society, so help us, help you!

For more info, please call our BAS Hotline at (718) 837-4455, or visit our modern website at WWW.BROOKLYNAQUARIUMSOCIETY.ORG.

Steven Matassa
President



Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BAS.FB/>



AquaticNews

Editor: Virginia Cahill

Associate Editor:

Daniel Smith

Copy Editor: Joe Graffagnino

Freshwater Shrimp Editor:

Ryan Curtis

Marine Editor: Steven Matassa

Plant Editor: Isidore Zwerin

Catfish Editor: Ian Fuller

Contributing Writers:

Ryan Curtis

Al DiSpigna

Ian Fuller

Anthony P. Kroeger

Joe Graffagnino

Marine and Reef.com

Alissa Sinckler

**The On-Line Journal
of the Brooklyn
Aquarium Society**

VOL. 2 Fall 2021 No. 7

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AquaticNews articles have been published should be sent to the BAS Exchange Editor; P.O. Box 290610, Brooklyn, NY 11229-0011.

AquaticNews will exchange publications with all interested societies. If we do not receive your publications for three consecutive months, we will assume you no longer wish to exchange and your club may be removed from our mailing list.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS PUBLICATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:

• Editor: Virginia Cahill 10 Ocean Parkway, B6, Brooklyn, NY 11218

You can submit articles to the Editor by mail, or E-mail to: basny.editor@gmail.com.

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The Brooklyn Aquarium Society Inc. is a non-profit organization 501(c) (3) for people interested in the aquarium hobby and the study of aquatic life. The Society meets the 2nd Friday of each month except July and August at the Education Hall of the New York Aquarium at Coney Island, Surf Avenue at West 8th St., at 7:30 PM. Meetings are open to visitors. Refreshments are served.

Upcoming Speakers

Sept. 10, 2021

Sal Silvestri

Inside My Fishroom

Sal Silvestri's tanks have grown along with his breeding skills, and 45 years later he has 16 running tanks, which range from 10 to 75-gallons.



Two of the tanks are devoted to communities of Lake Tanganyikan Cichlids, and four house several varieties of Apistogramma species, another of Sal's favorites. The remaining tanks contain a variety of cichlids from West

African to tetras, loaches, catfish and a new found love, bettas.

Sal joined and became very active in the Norwalk Aquarium Society in 1975, where he has held every position in the club and presently serves as vice-president and program chairperson. He traveled the show circuit extensively, his fish winning many awards. He then went on to become a certified NEC judge, for which he is high in demand during the show season. Sal's notoriety has spread far and wide, as he has generously shared his knowledge and wisdom during many speaking engagements throughout the Northeast and Europe.

Oct. 8, 2021

Joe Yaiullo

Rebooting a 20,000 Gallon Reef Tank

Joe Yaiullo is the Curator of Long Island Aquarium and Exhibition Center. Born and raised on Long Island, Joe graduated Southampton College with a BS in Marine Biology. Joe worked at the NY Aquarium from 1987–1995, then left to pursue a dream of building an aquarium on Long Island. He was instrumental in designing, developing and building the Long Island Aquarium located at 431 East Main Street in Riverhead, which opened in June 2000. The exhibits include a 2,000 gallon clownfish/anemone



tank, 120,000 shark tank and a 20,000 gallon live coral tank, which to date is the largest closed reef system in North and South America, and the 4th largest in the world. Long Island Aquarium and Exhibition Center also features a unique 2 hour

environmental tour boat, Atlantis Explorer, that navigates down the Peconic River and Flanders Bay. The tour is hosted by naturalists.

Visit the web site for more details:
longislandaquarium.com

Nov. 12, 2021

Lou Ekus

Water Changes and Additives

Lou Ekus is CEO of Tropic Marin USA and, along with his wife, Leslie, are responsible for all Tropic Marin products, product support and aquarist assistance in the US and Canada.



Lou has been actively involved in the marine aquarium industry for over 22 years. He frequently works with aquarists, helping them with system issues big and small from large public aquariums to ½ gallon nano reefs. Lou has been a salt water aquarist most of his life. As an

adult, he designed and built a multi-tank system in his home consisting of a 150 gallon mixed reef tank, a 150 community fish only tank and a 90 gallon predator tank. This system also incorporated a custom lighting and filtration systems all designed and built by Lou. Due to time and traveling constraints, Lou has downsized and is enjoying the ease of care of a 150 gallon African Cichlid tank and is currently working on a small, 29 gallon, mangrove ecosystem experiment. Lou is an avid saltwater fly fisherman, holds a commercial hot air balloon license and is an antique car enthusiast, often taking trips in their 1931 Ford Roadster, named Irma, with Leslie.

There's no telling where the three of them will show up! Lou and Leslie have recently taken on the management of Aquarium Munster USA as well.

Member News

During this period of stay home—stay safe mandate we will be working harder than ever to provide the best online information through our Forum and Facebook page. This will include live streaming of BAS presentations and events as well as the supportive platform for your questions and inquiries.

New Members

Jason Gold • Pasquale Lorina

Joseph Ugoretz

Open Board Positions

The board members meet once a month to discuss club business, and we can use your help! There are four board positions currently available: corresponding secretary, treasurer, webmaster and recording secretary. If you'd like to attend a meeting which are held the **1st Friday of the month**, September through June, please notify Steve Matassa at (347) 277-4793 by the Tuesday before the meeting.



ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL John Todaro Memorial Writing Program

First Place: Anthony Kroeger for
An Ode to A Man & His Killies: John Todaro

Second Place: David Manuel for
Breeding Fish the Natural Way

Third Place: Joe Graffagnino for
Teleogramma Brichardi

AQUARIUM WORLD CURRENT EVENTS: **Bulk Reef Supply acquires Marine Depot**

You may or may not have heard the big announcement which shook the Reefing community back in June. It was announced that one of America's largest online retailers, Marine Depot, had been acquired by Bulk Reef Supply. While the announcement may have been of great surprise to many in the United States reef aquarium industry, we all knew Bulk Reef Supply was going to be making some big moves following the big massive influx of cash it received from the investment group Bertram Capital.

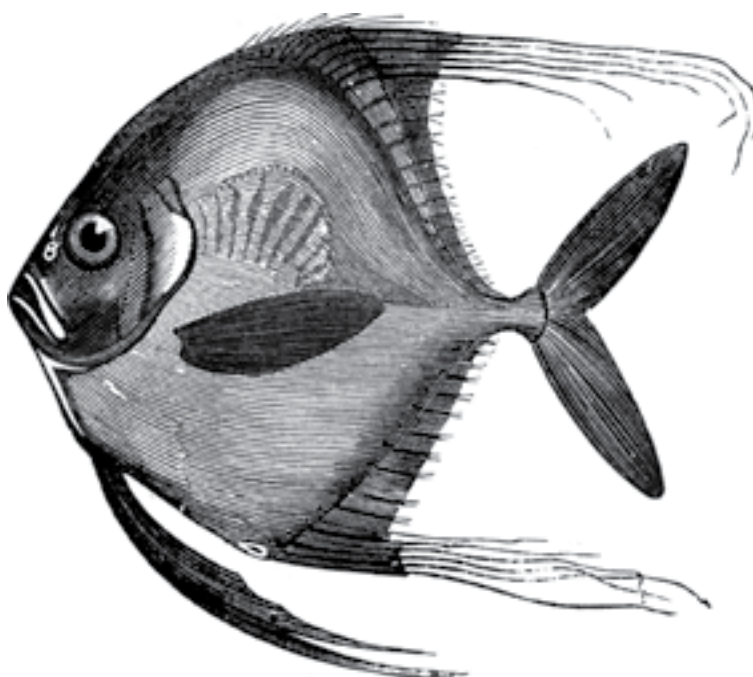
Marine Depot has published a detailed FAQ article detailing everything about their business that will be affected by the purchase. All Marine Depot customers should refer to this FAQ see link (<https://www.bulkreefsupply.com/content/post/md-2021-06-press-release?brs-source=mdredir>) to find answers about their outstanding orders, product



returns, gift cards, and loyalty points but the most startling revelation is that Marine Depot ceased their operations at the end of the June 2021.

As of July 30th the Marine Depot website and all its traffic and content was incorporated into BulkReefSupply.com and the southern California based company that has served the reef aquarium hobby for decades now exist only as a memory, vintage T-shirts and legacy magazine ads. Surely many of us have mixed emotions about the consolidation of the online retail market and the reduced competition that comes with it but only time will tell how the shuttering of Marine Depot will affect the online sales of reef aquarium supplies and equipment.

— David Manuel



Club Exchange



By **ALISSA SINCKLER**

YOUNGSTOWN AREA TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY JUNE 2021



The Youngstown area tropical fish society's *Beta splendid Siamese fighting Fish* by William E Shreves Jr is a good choice to read about the time he bred Siamese fighting fish that he got from PetSmart. All in a 5 gallon tank, with little to no flowing air. Along with feeding of baby Brine, he succeeded in getting his bubble nest.

NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY 'REPORTER' JUNE 2021

If you're looking for a good article on catfish, I would consider the article from North Jersey Aquarium Society by Robin Engelking *Consider Madtom Catfish*. With information on where to find them in their natural habitats along with his personal experiences on having them. He goes into their behaviors, eating habits, and how their tank setup should be.



BUCKS COUNTY AQUARIUM SOCIETY 'THE BUCKETTE' AUGUST 2021

The Bucks County Aquarium Society article *Spawning the Electric Blue Crayfish* by Mike



Matthews. Reprinted with the permission of the circle city aquarium club from the April 2008 issue of Fancy Fins. It's a good take on taking a chance on fish bought through the internet and getting lucky. He goes into how he made it possible.

GREATER CITY AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION 'MODERN AQUARIUM' AUGUST 2021

Greater City Aquarium Association Story *My Fascination with Shell Dwellers*, by Jules Birnbaum is a good read for an in depth take on these types of fish. Such as where to find them, price range, tank environment, and food requirements.



RALEIGH AQUARIUM SOCIETY AUGUST 2021

Last but not least, Raleigh Aquarium Society has a recipe for basil cashew salmon with asparagus tomato sauté; and between me and you, we need to try this ASAP.



110 Years of Educating Aquarists

Virtual Meeting!

FRIDAY, Sept. 10 @ 7:30 PM

THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Sal Silvestri

Sal's Fishroom



<http://www.basny.org/>

For Information Visit **BROOKLYNAQUARIUMSOCIETY.COM**

Or Call BAS 24 hr. calendar of events hotline (718) 837-4455

Tip of the Season

For those hobbist who unplug their heaters in the summer, dont forget to plug them back in before the cold weather returns. Check the heaters and make sure they are functioning properly — if not replace them.



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FRIDAY, Oct. 8 @ 7:30 PM

THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Joe Yaiullo



Rebooting a 20,000 Gallon Reef Tank

110 Years of Educating Aquarists

Virtual Meeting!

FRIDAY, Nov. 12 @ 7:30 PM

THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Lou Ekus



<http://www.basny.org/>

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Or Call BAS 24 hr. calendar of events hotline (718) 837-4455

The 5 Spot Cichlid

Thysia Ansorgei



A Hard To Find West African Cichlid

By Tony Kroeger — BAS



FIVE SPOT CICHLIDS ARE ATTRACTIVE, HARDY, BUT CHALLENGING TO FIND WEST AFRICAN CICHLIDS. They are native to Nigeria. Males can grow to about four and a half to five inches, and females to approximately three inches. Their color is bluish-gray with scales edged in a black network, as though a net of black mesh dropped over the fish. Five large black spots adorn the flanks near the lateral line. They have a white belly, and their eyes have red irises. They are easy to sex since the female has metallic scales just above the vent, while males don't. Typically of West African cichlids, the female's belly takes on a pinkish hue at spawning time. Not jawdropping colorwise. Instead, it is subtly beautiful.

Although not rare in its native habitat, this fish is difficult to find in the aquarium trade. Expect to look hard and pay a reasonably high price for it. The 5 Spot cichlid is a highly seasonal fish. Look for it at the height of the Nigerian dry season, March–April. It comes from a swampy region that is hard to access most of the year; thus, it's seasonality.

5 Spots are relatively peaceful community tank fish. You can keep them with any fish that you can maintain a kribensis with. They also make good tankmates for kribensis too! You can easily keep a pair in a 20-gallon long aquarium with a power filter. But if you really want to breed them, buy six and let them pair themselves in a 55-gallon aquarium.



Thysia Ansoergei from bioLib.cz

They take moderately hard water, with a pH 6.8-7.4, 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit temperature, and perform weekly water changes of 50%. Sand bottom, moderate lighting, and some anubias plants with lots of driftwood, rocks, and flower pots make them comfortable.

Feeding is easy. Typical cichlids, they eat everything, but they really love worms. All worms; black, tubifex, blood, and earthworms. Feeding worms condition them fast for breeding. More than one pair will spawn in the same tank if raised together. These cichlids are crevice spawners and lay a fairly large amount of eggs.

Initially, they usually make poor parents. So expect to lose the first few batches of eggs to being eaten until they get their act together, then they are

good parents. Usually, by the third spawn, they stop eating their eggs. If they eat their eggs much beyond that, look at replacing the male as he is usually the one with this bad habit.

Fry are easy to hatch and feed well at 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit. They do not eat well below 76 degrees Fahrenheit, so keep them warm. I feed my fry brine shrimp initially. However, get them on crushed flake food and diced worms as soon as possible. Their growth easily stunts if you don't feed them a varied diet. Some fry always grows faster than others. Be sure to remove and sort the largest fry by size so the rest of the fry don't become stunted.

Finding this cichlid is the hard part; it will keep you entertained and happy once you do. Try some!

Andinoacara latifrons 'PLATINUM ACARA'

By Joe Graffagnino — BAS

The term Andinoacara literally means 'Cichlids from Mountain Andes.'



THE ANDINOACARA LATIFRONS IS A SMALL, BEAUTIFUL SPECIES NATIVE TO THE MAGDALENA, ATRATO, SINÚ, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS IN COLOMBIA. At a North Jersey Aquarium Society event, I discovered a bag of a half dozen on the auction table. This species was clearly labeled with the genus and local name and even identified the location this particular species originated from – Rio Magdalena. This article is about raising and breeding this species of fish but also about the difficulties a layperson finds when the species he believes is one type and knowledgeable people in the hobby question the accuracy of the species name with the species you have.

First, let us discuss the fish I have and their environment and spawning in my fish room:

I brought the fish home and placed them in a 10-gallon aquarium that had a few small flower pots, plastic plants for cover and a corner filter. The pH was 7.0 and the temperature was 79 degrees Fahrenheit. The fish fed on discus pellets, flake food along with frozen blood worms and live black worms. The group grew quickly. After a few months, the fish created a pecking order and a couple of fish became darker and more colorful with the blue lines in their face now bright and the white and blue dots along their body also got brighter. I realized the existing aquarium was too small for them. I moved the group to a large and wider 12-gallon Metaframe tank. These fish can grow to 5 – 7 inches. Currently, they were 3 ½ inches.

The next day a pair laid brown eggs inside a ceramic urn. I couldn't tell which one was the male so I removed all the fish, except the mother, guarding the eggs into a 15-gallon aquarium. I siphoned most of the now hatched wigglers into a small breeder container. Using water from the tank they were spawned in I waited until they were free-swimming. I did this to ascertain if the parent was going to care for her fry or eat them. Turned out she was a good mother as she led her fry around the tank searching for food. At this point, I released the fry in the container back into mom's tank to circulate with their brothers and sisters. They all had a joyous reunion and remained together under mom's protection. I fed the fry frozen rotifers, Golden Pearls (50-100 microns)

and crushed flakes. The temperature in the fry tank was 80 degrees Fahrenheit, with a pH of 7.0. I would estimate approximately 75 fry in the tank.

Now let's turn our attention to the confusion in species identification within the Andinoacara and the differences in the Aequidens genus:

From the scientists, we have: (from Aquaticnation.org)

Andinoacara is a South American genus of fish in the family Cichlidae.

Taxonomy

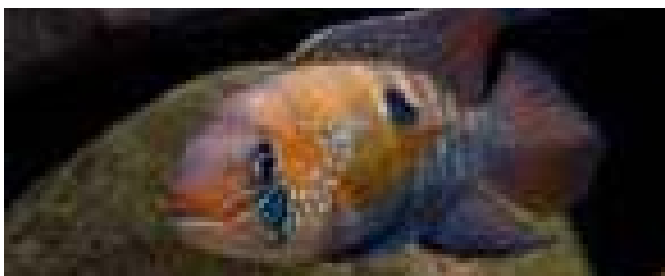
The genus Andinoacara was described by the Czech scientists Musilova, Rican & Nova`vk in 2009. Before this, the members of Andinoacara were placed in the "catch-all" genus Aequidens although they are not closely related to the other members of this genus.

The genus name Andinoacara is formed by two words "Andino" and "Acara." Andino refers to Andes Mountain Chain in South America. These cichlids are found on the slopes of Andes mountains and in the valley formed by three arms of Northern Andes. The term "Acara" has been used historically for Cichlids. So the term Andinoacara literally means "Cichlids from Mountain Andes."



Top pic This is also a photo of [Andinoacara coeruleopunctatus](#) from Cichlid Room, Cichlids.ru

Bottom pic This is also a photo of [Andinoacara coeruleopunctatus](#) from Fishbase.sinice.edu.tw Photos by [Musilova, Zuzana](#)



What are the following cichlids, can you identify them?

Photo by [Musilova, Zuzana](#)

All of these photos are of Andinoacara coeruleopunctatus! Please note some of these pictures were taken by the same photographer Zuzana Musilova, the same person that first identified the species.

These are photos of Andinoacara latifrons from Aquaticnation.org

Fishbase.sinice.edu.tw

Estalens.fr

Wikipedia.org

I, as a layperson, must wonder if these photos of the same species are wrong, in that they are not the same fish or are they geographic color differences in the location found or perhaps

breeding colors? These photographs and the species identified have not been done by amateurs, but by experts in their field. How do we truly know what species we have? It appears that the internet cannot solve this problem.

Another photo of Andinoacara latifrons, given the local name of Blue acara.

Aquaticnation.org

When you research the name Blue acara it appears as Andinoacara pulcher – Blue acara.

This species is from South & Central America, in Columbia, Venezuela and Trinidad. This Blue acara was discovered in 1858. The photo of the fish is below:

Fishbase.sinice.edu.tw

I leave it to you, the reader, to figure it out because I can't.

No matter what this beautiful cichlid is called, it will make a handsome addition to your aquarium.

Andinoacara Profile

DESCRIPTION

Species of Andinoacara are characterized by blue or green iridescent stripes on the side of the head and usually a slanting horizontal dark band along the side somewhat dorsally (upper side).

There is a dark blotch at the base of the caudal fin situated at the middle of the base, it is relatively small and only indistinctly ocellated if at all.

This sets them apart from genus Aequidens in which blue lines on the side of the head are rare, the lateral band is usually horizontal.

The caudal fin blotch is distinctly ocellated and situated on the dorsal half.

The colour pattern of Andinoacara is thus more similar to that of colour pattern in the genera Bujurquina and Tahuantinsuyoa (Kullander, 1986), with which they also share a uniserial predorsal scale pattern.

DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT

The genus Andinoacara is restricted to freshwater habitats in Northwestern South America, Trinidad and the Orinoco Basin west to the Pacific coast of South America. In the south it extends to as far as Peru, Southern Central America, Costa Rica and Panama.

There are no members of the genus in the Amazon Basin.

SPECIES

The two fish species genus-group for this topic is:

[Andinoacara pulcher group](#)

[Andinoacara coeruleopunctatus](#)

REFERENCES

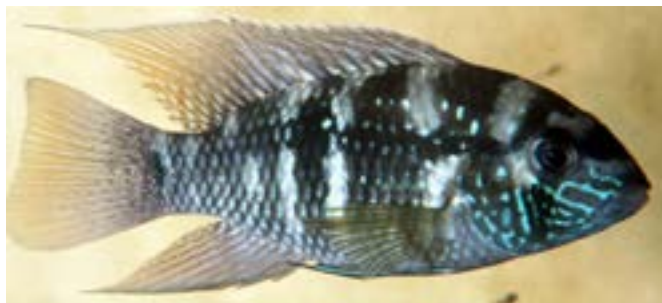
Aquaticnation.org

Fishbase.sinice.edu.tw

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Estalens.fr

Cichlid Room, Cichlids.ru



Andinoacara coeruleopunctatus from
[Cichlid Room, Cichlids.ru](http://CichlidRoom.Cichlids.ru)



From Panama



This is also an Andinoacara coeruleopunctatus
from Fishbase.sinice.edu.tw



From Costa Rica



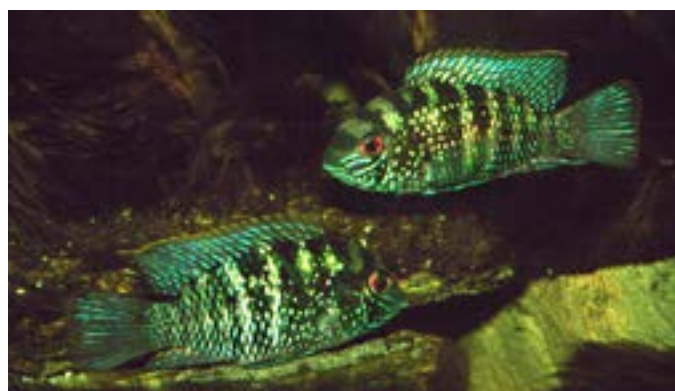
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References:

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Wikipedia.org
Estalens.fr
Cichlid Room, Cichlids.ru

The Case of the Ancistrus Assassin

By Joe Graffagnino — BAS



This strange, twisted and bizarre case of murder and mayhem started when I ventured into a tropical fish auction and discovered, much to my delight, a group of five bushy nose Ancistrus up for auction. The fish were approximately 3 inches in length and two of them were sporting their trademark bristles. I have heard from other hobbyists that these fish are easy to breed, maintenance is next to nothing and they will eat anything. I learned later that whoever sold me this "bill of goods" did not have these particular fish in mind.

I believed that I must have these little beauties — at almost any cost. I had a 20-gallon long tank, filled with clay pots, ceramic logs and algae covered stones just waiting for this algae eating, hide and seek, catfish. I was also thinking that spawning these fish would give me the fifth type of catfish or loach spawning

that was required for my hobbyist clubs "Breeder Specialist Award." I figured that I could earn some easy BAP (Breeder Award Points) and obtain a coveted "Specialist Award" in the process. My greedy mind started adding up the points these beauties would deliver for me, even though I still didn't possess them yet. I also thought of the great prestige of having the rare "Specialist" award. This was not just any "Specialist" award; oh no, this was for CATFISH! This would be quite an honor. After all, almost anyone could spawn cichlids or livebearers or even propagate plants, but only the best were able to breed CATFISH!

I could hardly contain myself when the group of bushy nose came up to the auction block. The auctioneer started the process by stating how wonderful these fish were and that they would be interesting, if you ever saw them after placing them in an aquarium. He

droned on about the only time that you saw them was when they died. He mumbled about they were fussy eaters and defecated a lot. He was not the type of auctioneer I would want to have trying to sell my fish. He was like a screen door salesman for submarines. Anyway the bidding started at \$3.00. I immediately wanted to eliminate the competition by making a “jump bid” of \$5.00. Well this had the desired effect because no one else bid on them. “Those fools, what were they ever thinking? Don’t they realize they are letting these classic beauties slip out of their grasp for ‘loose change’?” Well their loss is my gain. I immediately paid for them and left for home with my prize bag of future BAP points.

Performing the “drip” method, I acclimated these small wonders into their new home. It took several hours, but I didn’t want anything to happen to these treasures. They immediately loved their new home. They quickly disappeared under rocks, into caves and hid themselves very effectively. For several months the only time I had the opportunity to see them in action was with the lights out, using a flashlight with a red lens cover on and after feeding algae wafers and frozen zucchini tied to rocks. It was interesting to note that one of the males was pushing out the other male and the females when it came to feeding time, I believed that this was just a “macho” display of bravado to impress the ladies. Little did I realize that this was a small sign of what was to come?

One afternoon I had to move this family of Ancistrus to a smaller home. I had to relocate them because of a recent explosion of newborn fry from multiple African cichlids. I needed “grow out” room for the chichlids and I needed it quickly.

I moved the Ancistrus family into a 10 gallon wide, but to compensate I added more hiding places and an additional overflow filter. They seemed content.

Two days later when I returned home from work I went to feed the fish and all the fish were dead, except for one male. The bodies were strewn all over the tank. There were bite marks and blood along with the beat up bodies. I thought that their breeding or spawning

ritual that had gotten out of hand. The lone remaining male refused to come out of his clay pot. I believed that he was either very afraid of what had happened and that he had only gotten caught up into the ecstasy of the spawn or that he was remorseful of what he had done and was seeking solace or penance for his wrongdoing.

I let a few months go by and when the fry problems resolved themselves I returned the male to his original 20 gallon long. Much to his delight I had obtained, from a local pet shop, a pair of females; one his size and one slightly larger. I figured that they could take care of themselves. All was fine for several months

I returned home from work I went to feed the fish and all the fish were dead, except for one male. The bodies were strewn all over the tank. There were bite marks and blood along with the beat up bodies.

and then I was asked to “loan out” my smaller female ancistrus to a good friend. Now there was only the two of them.

Several months went by with the two fish getting along famously. The male would allow the female near his clay pot and on the wood piece adjacent to his home. He never bothered her. They would eat frozen bloodworms and zucchini together, the seemed like the perfect couple. I could hear the “pitter patter” of little baby ancistrus any day now. The male would be out more eating and seeming to store up food reserves for the soon to come day of nest guarding.

After about a week I went to see how the “newly weds” were behaving and I could not find the female anywhere. The male was in his clay pot and he was not coming out. I finally found the female wedged into a conch shell. She was inside as far as she could go and could not back out. I didn’t understand why this had happened? I resorted to using wire cutters to cut her out. She was just barely breathing. She was beaten and bloodied. After I freed her, she died. As I turned her onto her back I noticed



a string of yellow eggs still attached to her breeding tube. I assumed that the male was guarding the nest in the clay pot. I saved and froze ten eggs to remind me of this day. I gave the male two weeks. I then investigated the clay pot.... NO EGGS! Why that murdering bastard! He killed again. I realized then and there that there was no saving this evil creature from himself. He only lives for the thrill of killing. I was strongly tempted right then to remove the brute and bounce him off the floor and walls. I then realized that I would be no better than he. I had to think of what justice I could meet out to this sucker-mouthed assassin. There was a fish auction coming up for that weekend. I got an idea!

The Sunday of the auction I woke extra early so I could triple bag my ancistrus. I tossed into the bag a couple of Jungle Labs oxygen tablets and added a mild sedative. I wanted this murdering pescadore healthy but subdued. I arrived at the auction and was about to enter my ancistrus into the bags of fish going to the auction block when I noticed a little boy of about 10 years old standing on the side. I asked him what he was doing and he said that he was with his daddy and wanted to bring a fish home for his new tank. I asked his dad what type of fish he was keeping. He said that he has a group of South American cichlids called Heros or Cichlosoma dovii. The dominant male was huge, measuring over two feet in length and beats the hell out of anything going into his domain.

I said "Wow, what a coincidence? I have just the fish for you!" Let your dovii try to beat up on this sucker catfish! This little ancistrus could withstand anything he had to offer and come back for more. The father looked a little skeptical as I showed him the bag my little murderer was in. I said that don't let size fool you, this little guy was a bundle of dynamite. The father asked his son if this fish would be the one he wanted and the son was overjoyed. The father insisted that in order to have a deal he must make his son pay for the fish. I said that since it is your son's fish I would let him have it for 10 cents (one cent for each egg I froze). The boy paid me and I gave him the fish. The ancistrus had what appeared to be a sly smile on his face, probably anticipating the new havoc he would unleash on his unsuspecting tank mates. As I saw the father and son leave with their prize I couldn't help but think that there is justice after all, now that ancistrus will get his butt kicked over and over again. I turned to see the little boy was rapidly jerking the bag to make the fish "move" in the bag, as he walked to the family car. I smiled as I thought that there is a "pay back justice" even for fish.

I left the auction with a bag of whiptail cats. I was now ready for a catfish that seemed to be on tranquilizers. If I get babies great, if not that's OK also. Be careful the next time you seek out ancistrus catfish, they may contain one that is an ancistrus assassin!

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The Art of the Planted Aquarium

By Ole Pedersen and Anja Floytrup — TAG

Photos by the authors

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The European live championship in aquascaping was recently held in Hannover, Germany as a qualifying test for next year's main event. This year brought new rules and regulations for the contestants to provide equal opportunities to everyone. The contestants had to preorder rocks, sand and plants and then make the best out of them on location during the fair while the guests were able to watch the show like a giant workshop. New and previously unknown talent emerged as winners of both the nano and XL category and qualified for the big show next year. It will be exciting to see the results of the other qualifying shows elsewhere in Germany and the surrounding countries, and whether this idea of prequalifying translates into a much higher level of quality at next year's main event.

Aquascaping Materials

In previous years, there was a tendency for more and more contestants to bring semi-ready building blocks of aquascapes with already grown-in cultures of aquatic plants. Pieces of rocks and driftwood with attached mosses and ferns were particularly popular as they could easily be inserted into the fresh tanks—and after a few hours of hard work, the tank looked like a three month old planted aquarium. In the nano contest, people simply used to bring their 20 L nano

tank, which they had cared for the previous 3–6 months. This year, however, everything had to be ordered prior to the contest to provide equal opportunities to all, including people who travelled long distances and therefore were unable to bring large boxes of hardware and plants.

No later than one month prior to the contest, the contestants had to order a box of rocks directly on the APA website. Depending on whether they wanted to participate in the nano (35 L Dennerle scaper's cube tanks) or the XL (250 L Eheim tanks) class, they were allocated approximately 6 kg of rocks for the nano class or 40 kg of rocks in the XL class. The choice of rocks was extensive, and included all the popular types such as Dragon Stone, Leopard Stone, Bright Pagoda, Fossilised Wood, Fossilised Foliage, Iceland Lava, Aquarium Rock and the ever more popular Miniature Scenery. If you have ever worked with these great ornamental rocks, you know that selecting just the right piece of rock for the aquascape you have in mind can be a real challenge. But in the APA contest, the contestants were unable to pick the best stones; they simply got a box of rocks and had to make the best of it. In addition to ornamental stones, sand also had to be preordered from a choice of three standard colours (white, brown or black).



The winners of both the nano and the XL category together with the organiser Harald Sossna (blue t-shirt in the middle). The top three of both classes qualified for next year's main event, which will be held in Hannover in late January 2015.

Selecting plants for the tanks followed the same principle as for the ornamental rocks. The contestants had to select from Dennerle's production line listed in their online Plant Guide (www.dennerle.eu). Participants in the nano competition could choose up to 25 pots or bundles whereas the participants in the XL class could use up to 100 pots or bundles. Ornamental rocks, sand, background and plants were all included in the modest fee that amounted only 50 Euro in both classes. The participation fee could be kept at such a low level because of the many sponsors of the event.

Setting Up the Tanks

On the first day of the fair, the contestants were handed their boxes with preordered ornamental rocks, sand and plants. Various types of

driftwood were provided in one big container and each contestant could choose as many pieces as needed in the layout. The tanks in both categories were placed in nice clusters of four to enable networking among the working contestants, but the layout also allowed for much better contact with the audience. During the 1½ days allocated for setting up the tanks, the contestants could use all sorts of accessories to fix the rocks in the hardscape. Hot glue guns and various products of superglue (cyanoacrylate) were used to fix rocks and pieces of wood. The best contestants used more than half of the allocated time just for this purpose, demonstrating how important the hardscape is for the final look of the aquascape.

Fixing mosses and ferns to pieces of rocks and driftwood followed more



Winner of the XL class (250 L) by the young Florian Neumann from Germany. Florian must be a true talent as this tank is only his second attempt since he entered the hobby a year ago. He used approximately 40 kg of the popular "Miniature Scenery" rocks to create his "broken bridge." A hot glue gun along with several packs of superglue holds the pieces together. Florian arranged the many small patches of *Pogostemon helferi* in a very natural way and there was no doubt among the judges that this was the winning tank! This tank would have looked like a million dollars in about three months.

or less the same approach as above with some important differences. We saw people fixing specimens of *Anubias* and *Microsorium* to rocks and wood using a hot glue gun; the technique works well if both surfaces are completely dry. This is easy to achieve with the big fat rhizomes of these species, but it works less well with more delicate plants such as mosses. Superglue was widely used to fix mosses to various items but the disadvantage is that once the glue cures, it turns white. The best approach in our view is still to use very thin transparent string such as fishing line or sewing line made of polyester. Fixing plants in the sand proved to be a real challenge to many contestants. Have you ever tried setting up a new tank then watching most of the *Hemianthus* or *Glossostigma* float to the surface once the water was added? This happened to many contestants as well but the best ones had a nice trick ready to prevent this. They inserted

tiny transparent plastic pins into the small patches of plants and these pins helped to keep the patches in place once the water was added.

Judging and Results

To judge the results of 1½ days of hard work, Harald Sossna (the organiser of the Art of the Planted Aquarium) had put together a panel of three judges. I had the honour to work closely together with Stefan Hummel (plant product developer at Dennerle) and Oliver Knott (the world famous German aquascaper). We meticulously judged all the tanks from a set of public criteria including originality, composition of plants, harmony of plants, decor, use of space, artistic features and longterm maintenance.

The results of both the nano and the XL class revealed great tanks. In both cases, the tanks were created by young and talented people who were relatively new to the hobby. As an example, the winner of the XL class had



Second place in the XL category by Garvin Borschewski from Germany. He was using a selection of ferns, mosses and *Anubias*, which are obvious choices if you want a tank that looks great from the very first day.



The third place winner in the XL category by Lennart Skornia from Germany. The photo does not really show the great details of the layout and vivid movement by the slender *Cyperus helferi* in the background that can only be captured on video. This tank does not look like a tank that was aquascaped only a few hours earlier. Nevertheless, there are details in the layout that prevented the tank from getting a higher score among the judges, such as the red water lily placed on top of a dragon stone in the centre of the layout. The lily will not survive for very long in such a position.

only built one tank before. He had a 300 L planted aquarium at home that he had aquascaped approximately nine months earlier. The winning tank was only his second attempt, which in our view is a true indication of talent. In fact, several of the tanks in the top five looked extremely promising, and

it is a pity that these tanks are broken down just after the fair. It would have been exciting to see how these tanks developed over time as they matured and turned into grown-in aquascapes. As a consequence, next year we will try to find a means to keep and maintain the top three tanks in each



The winner of the nano class by Marcel Runde from Germany. He used only two species of plants in the 35 L Dennerle scaper's tank: small patches of *Cladophora* and a few pots of *Eleocharis* in the background. The hardscape is great and together with ornamental skills this secures first place in the nano competition.



This tiny "Wabi-Kusa" was one of our favourites and we decided to show you this instead of the tank that placed second in the nano competition; unfortunately the tank glass broke and there is no photo available. This tank by Boris Hildebrandt from Germany is a great example of a courageous layout, combining obvious choices of *Anubias* 'petite' and *Hemianthus* with various stem plants. The layout shows harmony and great potential for longterm maintenance.



The third place winner in the nano class, by Mona Kuhnigh of Germany. The style is completely different than the other examples of nano layouts shown in this article, and it demonstrates that no particular style is preferred in the contest. It is difficult to use delicate stem plants, such as the fine-leaved *Rotala* on the far right, as these often require at least a week to find their 3D structure after having been packed and shipped.



One of the judges, Ole Pedersen, explains to Edwin Reitz from Aquanet TV why this tank placed third in the nano competition. The interview with Ole, along with a great overview of the fair is available in English at www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXjzClwBwEk.

category and then publish photos and videos of the tanks as they mature.

The nano competition also brought great tanks in the top three. The winner was a very minimalist layout using only two types of plants—*Cladophora* algal balls spread out as small carpets and *Eleocharis* as small groups in the background. This is a true example of how important the hardscape is for the final look; without the great rock arrangement, the aquascape would not have won. Another interesting nano tank was the Wabi-Kusa layout placed as fourth in its class. In fact, we both loved this layout because of the almost perfect rock arrangement and the courageous use of both stem and rosette plants. It will take an hour a week to maintain such a layout but apart from that there is great longterm potential in this tank.

The top three winners in each

category received a fine trophy, but more important, they qualified for next year's main competition to be held in Hannover in late January 2015. From this year onward, the main event is only held every second year to maximise the quality of competition. Qualifying events will in the meantime be held elsewhere in Germany (Freiburg and Dresden) and similar qualifying events are planned for France, Italy, Poland, Great Britain and Scandinavia. We can hardly wait to see how next year's event develops and bring people together from most of Europe for this unique live aquascaping contest. It is the only one in the world to attract so many young, talented aquascapers and lets them work side-by-side while the audience can watch, learn and get inspiration. After all, this is what this event is about—to bring people with common interests together in the real world! 🌿

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American Glass Shrimp History

The American Glass Shrimp has been in the aquarium hobby in the United States for as long as the hobby has been around. The American Glass Shrimp is often found being sold as a feeder shrimp, to be fed to larger fish.



AMERICAN GLASS SHRIMP CARE

Most Ghost Shrimp that are found in America are sold as feeder shrimp and will not have a long life span in the home aquarium due to the conditions they are shipped to the store in and kept in the store. If the shrimp do survive, or if a captive raised stock is available, caring for the American Glass Shrimp is fairly easy. A well established aquarium will support a fairly large population of this aquarium shrimp.

AMERICAN GLASS SHRIMP DIET

Glass Shrimp are very enthusiastic eaters,

and will accept any food intended for aquarium fish or invertebrates, including flake foods and sinking pellets. The American Glass Shrimp has often been observed swimming upside down at the surface of the aquarium to feed on flake foods.

AMERICAN GLASS SHRIMP BREEDING

Breeding American Glass Shrimp can be a little bit difficult in the home aquarium. American Glass Shrimp are difficult to determine sex and they are a low order shrimp (their eggs hatch as free floating larva, not miniature versions of their parents) so

they are a little more difficult to raise.

Once hatched, the small larva will require powdered algae (Spirulina is a great algae for this) and should be in a separate aquarium to avoid predation. The larva will metamorphosis to miniature versions of the adults in about a week.

Once the larva have reached metamorphosis, they will require no further special care.

AMERICAN GLASS SHRIMP BEHAVIOR

The American Glass Shrimp is generally non-aggressive, but there have been reports of a few individuals that can get a bit aggressive.

They can sometimes eat baby shrimp of any species or even fish fry. They are always an active shrimp when there are no predators in the aquarium.

SPECIAL NOTES:

As with all aquatic invertebrates, it is important to make sure copper does not get into the aquarium. Copper is toxic to all Dwarf Shrimp. Many medications contain elevated levels of copper, so it is recommended not to medicate an aquarium with Dwarf Shrimp in it. Many shrimp are labeled Ghost Shrimp that are not American Glass Shrimp. These are often clear shrimp that look similar, but are not the same shrimp.

Palaemonetes paludosus

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Palaemonetes paludosus.

COMMON NAME: Ghost Shrimp, Glass Shrimp, American Freshwater Glass Shrimp.

ORIGIN: North America.

FOUND IN THE WILD: Yes.

PH RANGE: 7.02 - 7.8.

IDEAL PH: 7.2.

TEMPERATURE RANGE: 70° - 78°F.

IDEAL TEMPERATURE: 75°F.

HARDNESS RANGE: 3 - 15 dkh.

IDEAL HARDNESS: 8 dkh.

LIFE SPAN: 1 - 2 Years.

SIZE: 1/2" inch.

GESTATION PERIOD: 30 Days.

DIET: Omnivore.



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To honor Editor John Todaro and encourage original writing about the aquarium hobby.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

The writing program is on a fiscal year basis (July 1 – June 30).

There is no limit on the number of articles submitted by an author. However, only three (3) articles will be evaluated by the committee for the writing awards. Judged by the committee and if a tie the Chairperson's decision is final.

Articles on breeding fish will have a dual submission in both the writing program and the Breeders Award Program. The writing program is open to members and non-members of any age.

The committee will evaluate and vote on each article based on the following criteria:

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- Clarity of species and subject matter.
- Depth of research – research articles to include citations and footnotes to sources if any.
- Use of scientific names for fish, plants and corals.
- Spelling
- Artwork &/or photos submitted with the article will receive extra points if related to the article or deduct points if incorrect or unrelated to the article.
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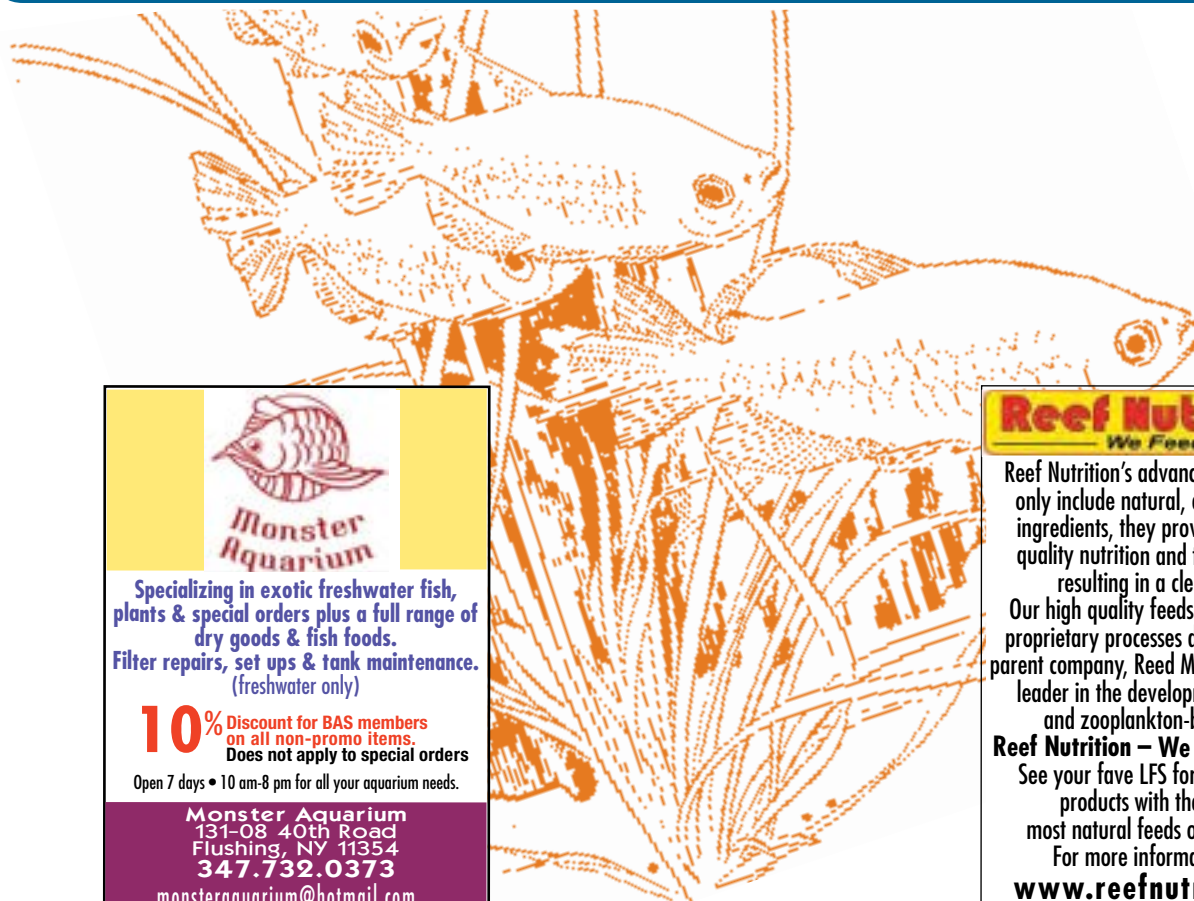
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BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Your Membership Card is your Passport to Becoming an *"Educated Aquarist."* Don't lose it. Put it in your wallet or purse. You'll need it to attend Monthly Events and get discounts at participating pet stores.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Free Admission to all general meetings, held on the 2nd Friday of the month (except July & August) at 7:30 pm at the Education hall of the New York Aquarium, at Coney Island, Surf Avenue at West 8th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. The Society presents expert speakers on all aspects of the hobby, from freshwater fish to marine aquatic life. Door prizes and raffles at every meeting. Breeder Awards Program (BAP) – Certificates and trophies awarded. General meetings are open to the public (\$5 donation is requested for non-members). Free parking and free refreshments.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) hold meetings, free at members' homes, for members only. Here's your chance to network with members with the same interests. Discuss, ask questions, learn, teach and develop your expertise in freshwater and/or marine aquarium keeping.

AquaticNews The Journal of the Brooklyn Aquarium Society, our tri-monthly (4 issues except July & August) award winning publication is on our website. Each issue is filled with articles on both marine and freshwater aquaria keeping. Articles can be downloaded.

Meeting reminder! All members receive flyers announcing speakers via email, keeping members up to date.

Calling all writers, artists and photographers! All members will have the opportunity to submit articles, photography and illustrations for publication in the **AquaticNews!**

BAS is on-line at BASNY.ORG. You'll find up-to-date information about our monthly events, links to other aquarium societies in the US and stores, manufacturers and related aquarium sites. We have an on-line library with downloadable articles. We have our own BAS forum, where you can interact with other freshwater, marine or reef members and post free hobby-related classifieds where members sell and trade fish, corals, plants and equipment.

BAS Hotline: For the latest information call the BAS 24 hour Hotline 718 837-4455 for event and inclement weather information. If you need advice on fish keeping, breeding or where you can find rare or hard to find fish, you can often get help calling the Hotline. Help from the Hotline is always free.

Volunteer: The Brooklyn Aquarium Society is an organization run by volunteers. Without them there would be no BAS. Volunteers help set up events, write articles, coordinate projects, assist and work on committees, help at auctions and meetings. Join in, help, learn and have fun doing it. Call Steven Matassa, President (347) 277-4793.

Video Tape Library: We have a video tape library on different aspects of fish care and breeding plus past BAS Speaker Events. These video tapes are available via our BAS Forum. You must be a member of our Forum. Membership is free.

Discounts for Members at many BAS participating pet stores when you present your current BAS membership card.

Welcome and we hope you take advantage of the many benefits BAS has to offer.

Educating Aquarists Since 1911

Become an educated aquarist



NAME	OCCUPATION
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ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
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PHONE (DAY) (EVE) (FAX)

E-mail Address

TYPE & LENGTH of MEMBERSHIP: (CHECK ONE)

INDIVIDUAL

FAMILY

[1 \$15 STUDENT 1 YEAR

1 yr.	\$20
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2yr.
\$36

3yr.	\$51
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4yr.
\$68

1 yr.
\$25

2yr.
\$45

3yr.
\$63

4yr.
\$85

(UNDER 18 YEARS)

* If family membership, please list all family members. **Only first two listed will have voting rights.**

1 **2** **3**

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Number of tanks [] marine [] freshwater [] Do you breed fish?
[yes] [no]

If yes, what types do you breed: _____

Special interest (if any)_____

How did you hear about BAS [friend] [dealer] [flyer] [*Aquatica*] [mag ad] [online]
other

To volunteer check [yes] [no] A board member will contact you if you check yes.

On occasion, the Brooklyn Aquarium Society uses its mailing list to send notices of interest to our members.

If you **DO NOT** wish to receive these mailings please check here []

Official use

Member number: _____ Type of membership [F] [I] [S] Date _____
 paid: _____ Board approved date _____
 Amount paid: _____ Renewal/member since _____