

FISH TALES

ISSUE 131

MAY 2006

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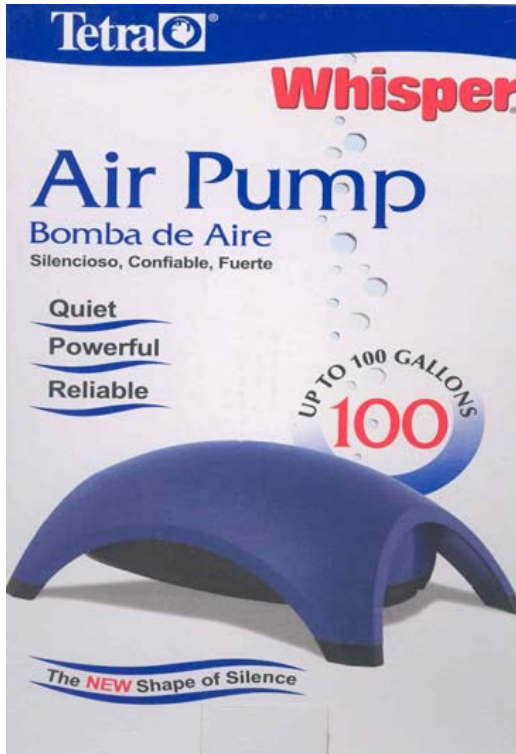


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See page 8 for details

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BERMUDA FRY-ANGLE AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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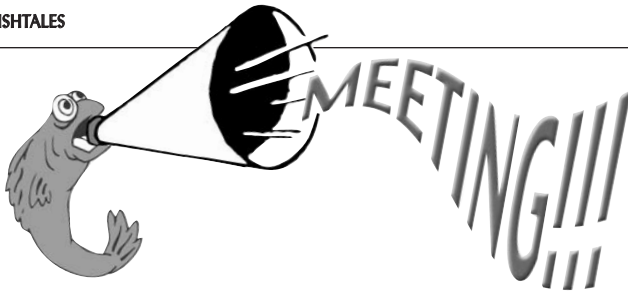
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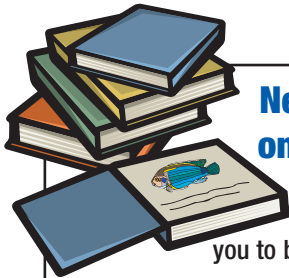
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**MAY**

April 26th, 2006 Wendy Corrado's house at 8pm on Friday 26th. Wendy will provide some bbq food to start out the evening. Members should provide drinks. We will then have a consignment auction with 75% going to the seller and 25% going to the club. Members should take unwanted items with them for the auction.

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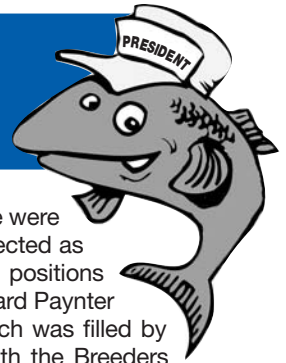
Your
2006/2007
Membership
Dues
ARE DUE!

**Bermuda Fry-Angle Society**

If you are interested in joining the Bermuda Fry-Angle Society, just come along to our next meeting to see what we are about. Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month either at the Police Recreation Club or the Lecture Rooms, behind the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo, or contact Walter Welch., Membership Coordinator at 292-3828(w) or email: wally_da_kid@hotmail.com. He will be happy to provide any further information or just sign you up. Application forms are also available at Noah's Ark (just ask at cashier's desk.) You can also download an application form from our website: www.fryangle.com

Membership fees are \$20 for the year, and payable to Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society.

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



I'm pleased to say that, after last month's aborted attempt, we were able to hold our Annual General Meeting in April. I was re-elected as President and most of those holding executive and elected positions were returned to office. There were a couple of changes. Howard Paynter stood down from the Membership Coordinator's position, which was filled by Walter Welch. Ryan Terceira also stepped forward to assist with the Breeders Award Programme. A full listing of the Executive and the elected positions can be found in this issue. My annual report will be posted in full on the society web-site for those who are interested.

Once again, Nyon presented a comprehensive Treasurer's Report. The report revealed that we had a deficit of \$4,710 for the year. However, it should be noted that we spent \$2,000 on an LCD projector for the club and we also donated \$1,000 to assist with DNA research into Bermuda's killifish. These two items account for a sizeable chunk of our deficit. We also made a charitable donation of \$3,000 to the Paul Loiselle Conservation Fund during the year. Also contributing to the deficit was the fact that we had fewer fish auctions than usual during the year. The auction income keeps the Society running so we hope to hold a few more auctions this year. This year's deficit follows several good years that helped us to build up financial reserves so, despite a loss this year, the club is still financially stable.

The AGM is also the time to vote for our annual Member of the Year. This year's nominees and winner are listed on page 7.

We were scheduled to have Spencer Jack as the visiting speaker in May, together with a fish auction. Unfortunately, the exorbitant cost of air-travel from Winnipeg (over \$1,000) prevented us from bringing Spencer here. We are hopeful that we can find better airfares later in the year. We are therefore planning to hold a consignment auction at the May meeting where members can purchase items that are no longer wanted by fellow members.

The tentative schedule for the coming year is as follows:

May	Consignment Auction
June	Guest speaker Rusty Wessel – Annual Charity Auction
July	Social meeting (ACA month)
August	Guest speaker Joe Ferdenzi (and auction)
September	Annual Sailboat Cruise
October	Guest speaker Dave Schlessner (and auction)
November	Annual Fish Show – judge/speaker Mark Soberman (and auction)
December	Christmas Party
January	Guest speaker Spencer Jack (and auction)
February	To be determined
March	AGM

I hope that all current members will renew their membership and that those of you who read this and are not members will come out and join in the fun.

President's Report presented at
Annual General Meeting
Friday, April 21, 2006

A YEAR IN REVIEW

by Craig Morfitt, President BFAS

As is my custom, I would like to report on the activities of the past year:

March 2005

At the last AGM, we initiated the annual award for Member of the Year. Peter Marsh was the first winner of the Richard J. Card Memorial Trophy. Eric Hirschberg won the Breeder of the Year award.

April 2005

The meeting was a social gathering at David Terceira's pool-room. It provided us with an opportunity to socialize with each other and enjoy a few drinks.

Also in April, Howard Paynter won the trophy for Best Freshwater Aquarium by an Adult at the Annual Exhibition. In the same competition, Howard's daughter, Shuntelle, won the trophy for Best Freshwater Aquarium by a Junior.

May 2005

In May, we enjoyed a visit from David and Janine Banks. David gave a presentation on African Cichlids and suitable tank-mates. He also donated fish for auction, which helped to cover the cost of his stay. David and Janine had an extended stay that ran through Bermuda Day, so they got to visit a few places and watched the Bermuda Day Parade.

June 2005

Rusty Wessel was once again a guest speaker and he donated a variety of fish for the Annual Charity Auction. The auction raised approximately \$2,300, clearly sending us way past the \$10,000 mark in total donations to the Paul Loiselle Conservation Fund that is operated by

the American Cichlid Association (ACA). As always, we owe a lot to our good friend Rusty for generously donating fish for this worthy cause.

July 2005

In July, we held another social gathering at David's home but this time it included a consignment auction that allowed members to auction off an assortment of unwanted equipment and fish. The auction raised an additional \$700 for the Dr. Paul Loiselle Conservation Fund. Between the June and July auctions, we were able to raise \$3,000 for the charity, taking us to \$11,150 in total donations. Well done! This event also served as a farewell party for David who has moved to Tennessee. David was a valued member of the club and I'm sure that I speak for many when I say that we miss him.

As is usually the case, we had members attend the ACA convention in July. This time it was in Texas and the attendees were Howard, Nyon and myself. We represented the club well and held a couple of Dark & Stormy parties whilst we were there.

August 2005

The August meeting was held at my home and was a casual affair. It allowed us to discuss future speakers and to plan the Annual Fish Show.

September 2005

In September we held our annual sailboat cruise onboard the Sally Bum Bum with Captain Leon. After three meetings without a speaker, I'm sure that the members were looking forward to the next one.

October 2005

The Annual Tropical Fish Show was initially scheduled for October but other bookings at the Bermuda Aquarium caused us to put it back one month. October seems to be a busy month for the Aquarium classrooms so I think we will have to schedule the show for November again this year.

The October meeting featured Karen Randall as the visiting speaker. Karen gave an interesting presentation on planted aquariums.

November 2005

November saw us host our 15th Annual Tropical Fish Show at the Bermuda Aquarium. Nyon and Howard put in a lot of work to get the show room set up and we had a bumper number of entries at 78.

Of those, 41 entries were cichlids, which continue to dominate the show. Ric Perez visited us from Ohio and did a great job as the show judge. Ric also gave a presentation at the show banquet on an assortment of cichlids that he has kept. Nyon won Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

December 2005

As usual, the December meeting was a Christmas party. This year it was held at my home.

January 2006

In January we had a local speaker. Mark Outerbridge is currently studying the local killifish and gave a very interesting presentation on their populations in local ponds. We presented Mark with a cheque for \$1,000 to assist with the cost of DNA testing to determine exactly how many species of killifish we have in Bermuda.

February 2006

For the February meeting, we brought Ken Davis back to Bermuda for his second visit. Ken gave a presentation on a collecting trip to Honduras and also brought a box full of donated fish for the auction. Despite early indications of a poor turn-out, members arrived later and we were able to raise more than enough to cover the cost of flying Ken to Bermuda.

Ken also judged our Annual Home Show whilst he was here. Only five members entered a decorated aquarium into the show but the quality of the displays was excellent. Jeffrey Porter came out as the winner and gets a trophy.

Also in February, we spent \$2,000 to purchase our own LCD projector. I think it was the right time for such a purchase as the one that we have been borrowing is no longer producing a good image and more of our speakers are using Powerpoint rather than photographic slides.

Wrap-Up

So, in the past year, we have had five visiting speakers and one local speaker. We held four auctions, three including fish donated by speakers and one utilizing locally supplied items.

The income from auctions is what allows us to do the things we do as a club. The income from two of this year's four auctions was donated to charity, so the entire year's activities had to be funded by the membership fees and the two remaining auctions. Particularly with the purchase of the projector, I'm sure that we will have realized a deficit this year and dipped into our reserves. That's fine. The money is there to be spent appropriately to address our needs. We'll just have to ensure that we have more auctions this year to ensure a more balanced financial year.

Plans are already underway for the coming year. We are working on Spencer Jack for May. Rusty Wessel will attend in June for the Annual Charity Auction. Joe Ferdenzi will visit in August. Dave Schlessler can attend sometime after September and I am trying to find a suitable spot for him (when air-fares from Texas aren't too expensive). Mark Soberman can attend after October and is being considered as the show judge for November. Dan Woodland is also interested in making a return trip. Providing we can accommodate them, chances are good that we can have six speakers for the year with each bringing fish for auction.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members for making it another successful year. I'm looking forward to another good year and hope that you all stick around to enjoy it!



Member of the Year Award 2005-2006

By Craig Morfitt

In 2005, Kathryn Garcia donated a trophy to the club in memory of her brother. The Richard J. Card Trophy is awarded annually to the Member of the Year. Members nominate candidates and cast votes at the Annual General Meeting. This year, the following members were nominated for the award:

- **Peter Marsh:** Peter edits and produces our newsletter, Fish Tales, and does an outstanding job. Ours is one of very few full-colour monthly newsletters in the North American region. In addition, Peter is our web-master and keeps the site updated throughout the year. As if that were not enough, Peter is also the Recording Secretary. He attends every meeting and records the minutes.
- **Craig Morfitt:** For continued dedication to the club in the role of President.
- **Nyon Steede:** Nyon serves as both the Vice President and the Treasurer. In the latter role, he is required to maintain accurate records of all society financial transactions, including the auctions, and does an excellent job. Nyon has provided assistance throughout the year and was particularly busy setting up the Annual Fish Show and organizing the catering for the Show Banquet. He also enjoyed success at the Annual Show, winning Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.
- **Howard Paynter:** Howard is one of those members that we look forward to being present at meetings and events. He is a great guy who is fun to have around but he is also committed to the club and works hard to see it succeed. Howard does a lot of work behind the scenes and was particularly helpful in setting up the Annual Fish Show. He served as the Membership Coordinator for the past year and also won awards for Best Adult Aquarium at the Annual Exhibition in April 2005 and April 2006.

Following the voting process, **Peter Marsh** was awarded the trophy for the second successive year. Congratulations Peter – you deserve it and we are very fortunate to have you!

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN
Hill County Club Newsletter The Lateral Line
 June 2005

Species Profile:

Lamprologus signatus

by Robert De Leon

After not having a shell dweller in a while, I got an itch for them again. Something about how they change their environment by digging and/or burying their shells makes them extremely amusing and addictive. For such little fish, they pack a ton of personality. The question was which shell dweller to go with. In the past I had kept *Lamprologus multifasciatus* and *Lamprologus ocellatus* "gold". I like the *multifasciatus*' colony behavior but their constant spawning can soon become overwhelming. For those Star Trek fans, they are similar to the Borg. I decided I wanted to try something different for a newly vacant 29gal tank.

A little research (actually a lot of it) led me to consider various species. I wanted something with a little color but also with some distinctive markings. I considered some *brevis*, but had heard that they weren't always active or even visible. I settled on a species that is not very common in the hobby. It took me a while to track them down but I was finally able to obtain a group of *Lamprologus signatus*. At first I was very disappointed as the group consisted of 4 males and 2 females. Fortunately each of the females picked out a male of their own. The two extra males were removed.

The tank was set up with a sand substrate and was divided into 3 separate areas by 2

pieces of holey rock. Each of the three areas had an abundant amount of shells. The pairs took up residence on opposite sides of the tank, leaving the middle area as a no-mans land. I hope that as fry get larger, they may migrate to the "undeveloped" section of the tank. What

attracted me to *L. signatus* was their more elongated shape compared to other shell dwellers. Another factor which attracted me to them was that the male and female have their own distinct pattern/coloration. This is something unusual in shell dwellers as most of them only have a size difference to distinguish the sexes. Male *signatus* have a distinctive vertical barring. The females on the other hand lack the barring but have a brightly colored area around the abdomen.

I can't quite make out the color as it seems to change depending on lighting. It is however mostly yellow with some blue, pink and green mixed in. Both males and females have yellow and blue on the top of their heads. They don't do a much digging as other species, but they do move/ reposition shells to suit their needs. The females seem to be more active than the males. The two females often meet each other over no-



Photos Robert De Leon



mans land for a little lip-locking. I've kept both pairs well fed with a combination of flake and Cyclop-eeze. Within a few weeks of this diet, one of the pairs managed to successfully spawn.

I've been able to count 6 pinhead sized fry at one time. They are extremely fast and very brazen. Despite their small size and short life, they venture very far away from the parents. I

am not sure if this has something to do with the parent's parenting skills. I just don't know how protective the parents will be or how long they will be tolerated by the parents. I haven't been able to find any information of the parent-fry relationship if there fish.

I hope to continue learning more about these little guys. BAP fry available in the near future.

Inbreeding Tropical Fish, Good or Bad?

by Bill Forrest, Calgary Aquarium Society
originally published in The Calquarium Volume 38, Number 6, February 1996

According to some aquarists inbreeding is an evil thing while other hobbyists seem to believe that an inbreeding philosophy is a neutral thing which is neither good nor bad. To me it depends upon the application in which line breeding, a form of inbreeding, is being applied and the reasons for inbreeding the species. Generally, the idea of selective inbreeding is to reproduce purebred strains of a species by preserving hereditary characteristics that are desirable, and getting rid of undesirable traits. Also by selective inbreeding, a species' hidden genetic characteristics will appear in the offspring. Many of these traits are generally desired and bred for by aquarists. This form of selective breeding is used by tropical fish breeders because they often hope to build up strains of fish with superior qualities. Usually these traits are caused by an unnatural mutation or a recessive form of a gene(s) which effects the size, coloration and/or finnage of the species.

The body size of a fish is a characteristic that breeders often try to inbreed into a strain of fish. Usually, the intent is to increase the body size, but if the breeding stock are not carefully chosen the opposite result can occur. Some breeders have suggested that inbreeding can lead to dwarfism of a species.

The coloration of a fish species is determined by the presence or absence of pigment containing cells called chromatophores. These are categorized into the color pigments that they represent: melanophores, brown, black or both;

erythrophores, red; leucophores, white; xanthophores, yellow; and irridophores, reflective pigment cells. Consequently, color mutations can occur through the presence, absence or blending of these chromatophores. An example of a color mutation that was unnaturally bred into a strain through inbreeding is the pink convict cichlid. It lacks the original melanophores of the wild caught convict. The pink convict represents a condition known as leucomorphism, (white coloration).

Another desirable mutation that is often bred for is albinism. Albinism is a total absence of pigment. Albinism usually does not occur naturally, or if it occurs the fish usually does not survive for long. In this case chromatophores are absent.

Mutation of finnage is also another trait that breeders try to manipulate. Breeding stock needs to be selected very carefully for the desirable gene that represents the traits being bred for.

However, with all the desirable characteristics being bred for, the breeder needs to be aware that undesirable traits will be included in the genotype as well. These undesirable genes may cause weakened body metabolisms, hereditary diseases, and congenital abnormalities such as spinal problems and loss of finnage. These situations generally occur because of the breeder's inexperience and the lack of culling undesirable breeding stock and fry. If culling does not occur, and line breeding of these undesirable fish con-

tinues, these undesirable traits will occur more frequently in the fry thus severely weakening successive generations. This brings up cross breeding within a species. Cross breeding is when several similarly related strains are bred together to create greater genetic diversity. However, these other strains can have genetic problems that the breeder should be aware of. As with all forms of breeding, the breeder needs to be very selective when choosing breeding stock. One difficulty may be the difficulty in obtaining closely related strains.

Even with desirable purebred strains of a species that show no signs of genetic weakness I still question whether the traits being bred for are beneficial to the species. I also question if these mutations would occur naturally within a population? Although a variety of mutations occur within a species very few of these survive. Even fewer of these natural mutations are caught by humans. I was lucky to observe an albino form of a killer whale at Sealand in Victoria in 1969. Other natural mutations that I am aware of were recently caught and put on display at the Sydney Aquarium in Australia. These included a Port Jackson shark and several long-finned eels that showed a condition known as xanthomorphism (yellow coloration). Ichthyologists at the aquarium are amazed how these conspicuously colored fish have managed to survive their hostile and highly competitive environments. However, all of the above conditions are rare.

Most mutations occur due to selection for recessive forms of genes. In captive strains these recessive traits can be consistently bred for but in the wild the consistent occurrence of recessive traits is unlikely. Therefore, one question that needs to be asked is would these captive bred, recessive form fish survive if introduced back into the wild? I believe that survival would be difficult for most human manipulated strains of a species in the wild. However, if these manipulated strains did survive they would likely revert back to the wild form of the species through introduction to new populations of the same species.

This brings me to Darwin's theory of natural selection that explains the occurrence of mutations within a species. The process of natural

selection selects individuals that have beneficial traits, which help them survive in their natural environment, while allowing those individuals with less beneficial traits to be lost over time. Eventually, through several generations, all individuals of the species will retain the beneficial genes. Through Darwin's theory of evolution, natural selection continually works to determine the genetic traits that help a species ensure its continued survival.

Even though line breeding of a species does have its problems, inbreeding a species will not pollute the gene pool of that species as no new fish are introduced. Cross breeding strains of the same species will also not pollute the gene pool since cross breeding occurs within the same species. Gene pool pollution occurs when two species hybridize. Hybridization should be discouraged by hobbyists because unnatural genes are introduced into each species' gene pool, a generally undesirable occurrence. However, there are studies and theories which suggest that Mother Nature has been involved in natural hybridization. While this may occur naturally, humans should leave creating these new hybrids to Mother Nature.

In closing I wish to tell you how I feel about the subject of tropical fish breeding. First of all, I believe in the hobbyist's responsibility to breed a species as close as possible to its wild form. Therefore, I disagree with line breeding most species. However, if I bred line bred strains of a species I would endeavor to crossbreed that species back to a similar existing purebred strain before I would continue inbreeding. I do believe it is very important to properly select the breeding stock (related or not) and also to properly cull the fry. I do not agree with hybridizing species because if hybrids were intended to exist we would already find them in nature. However, a guppy is still a guppy, long fins, albinism or not.

REFERENCES

Dr. Axelrod's Mini-Atlas (1987)
Tropical Fish Hobbyist, Vol. XLIV, 4
World Book Encyclopedia, (1965)

See also: The Trouble with Hybrids, by Andrew Boyd

Flowerhorns, alias Nightmares, by Madhu Sudhanan

BERMUDA FRY-ANGLE AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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Webmaster:Peter Marsh
Membership Coordinator:Walter Welch

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Membership to the Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society is open to any resident of Bermuda who has an interest in tropical fish. The annual membership fee is \$20. The Society's financial year runs from April 1st to March 31st.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month. Meeting place is either the Police Recreation Club or the Lecture Rooms, behind the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo. Occasionally meetings are held elsewhere. Check the "meeting" column in this newsletter for details of upcoming meetings.

If you would like further information please contact Walter Welch., Membership Coordinator at 292-3828(w) or email: wally_da_kid@hotmail.com.

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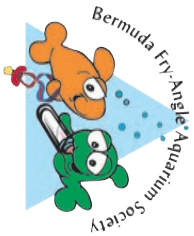
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Any contributions should be sent to

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FISH TALES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE BERMUDA FRY-ANGLE
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT, CRAIG MORFITT

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NEXT MEETING

Friday May, 26th, 8:00 p.m.

Windy Corrado's House

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION AND BBQ