

1911 ~ 2011

Celebrating 100 years of Educating Aquarists

# AQUATICA

THE JOURNAL OF THE BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
VOL XXV SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011 No. 1



1911~2011



Celebrating 100 Years of  
Educating Aquarists  
with

Pictures of the Anniversary Party at  
the New York Aquarium

(starting on page 3)



# 1911~2011 100 Years of Educating Aquarists

## AQUATICA

VOL. XXV SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011•NO. 1

## CONTENTS

- |                                                                                           |                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> Calendar of Events ~ 2011 / 2012                                                 | <b>13</b> Blue Pearl Shrimp                                       |
| <b>3</b> Wet Weather Could Not Dampen The Party Spirit of BAS's 100th Anniversary Dinner. | <b>15</b> Tony Varga's New Book<br><i>The Coral Reef Aquarium</i> |
| <b>9</b> Threadfin Rainbows                                                               | <b>16</b> An interview with Clay Jackson                          |
| <b>11</b> A new Fish in the Hobby; Mekong Rice Killies                                    | <b>18</b> Breeding the Whiptail Catfish                           |
| <b>12</b> The Practical Plant<br><i>Sagittaria Subulata</i>                               | <b>20</b> Patronize Our Sponsors                                  |
|                                                                                           | <b>22</b> Membership Renewal Application                          |

## AQUATICA STAFF

Editor: John Todaro  
Copy Editor: Kay Martin  
Freshwater Shrimp Editor: Dan Hagan  
Marine Editor: Open  
Plant Editor: Izzy Zwerin

Illustrations: J. Todaro, C. Giam  
Exchange Editor: Stuart Hershkowitz  
Contributing Writers: Joe Graffagnino, Dan Hagan, Clay Jackson, John Todaro, Izzy Zwerin.

Note: The Editor takes full responsibility for misspellings and punctuation errors.

*Aquatica* is published bi-monthly (except July / August) by BAS. Original articles may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations, provided proper credit is given to the author and *Aquatica*, and two copies are sent to the Exchange Editor. Transcriptions of lectures may not be reprinted without written permission of both Editor and the Speaker. Distribution of articles on any online electronic service is prohibited without written permission from the Editor and Author. A notice of where approved articles have been posted should be sent to the BAS Exchange Editor.

*Aquatica* 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 will be removed from our mailing list.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS PUBLICATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
• Editor: John Todaro, 247 Middletown Road, S. Londonderry VT, 05155 Home: 1- 802 824-3743 Fax: Same  
Please submit all articles to the Editor by mail, fax, or E-mail JTODDYBAS@AOL.COM.  
• Advertising Manager: Joe Graffagnino, P.O. Box 290610, Bklyn, NY 11229-0111  
• Exchange Editor: Stu Hershkowitz, P.O. Box 290610, Bklyn, NY 11229-0111  
• Membership: Christina Cingari, P.O. Box 290610, Bklyn, NY 11229-0111

### OFFICERS

President:	Joseph Graffagnino
1st Vice President:	Steve Matassa
2nd Vice President:	Marie Licciardello
Treasurer:	Denise Hershkowitz
Corresponding Secretary:	Open
Exchange Editor:	Stu Hershkowitz
Membership Chairperson:	Christina Cingari
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Lita Goldberg
Recording Secretary:	Kay Martin
Web Master:	Bernard Deren
Editor:	John Todaro

### BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Amely	Dr. Robet Price
Intakab Dawood	Mike Roman
Robert DeBonis	Charles Stein
Gennady (Gene) Kogan	

### PAST PRESIDENTS

(In good standing)  
Seth Kolker  
John Todaro  
Al DiSpigna

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. Membership is \$25 per year family / \$20 individual / \$15 for students under 14. Send inquiries or membership checks payable to: Brooklyn Aquarium Society, c/o Membership Chairperson, P.O. Box 290610, Brooklyn, NY 11229-0111.

All articles in *Aquatica* are the opinion and experiences of the author or authors, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editors or staff of *Aquatica* or the Brooklyn Aquarium Society Inc.

On occasion, the Brooklyn Aquarium Society uses its mailing list to send notices of interest other than society business to our members. If you do not wish to have your name used in this manner call the Hotline 718 837- 4455 and leave a message.



## BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010 ~2011

### 100 Years of Educating Aquarists ~ 1911 - 2011

SEPT 9 Joe Caparetter ~ Unique Corals You Can Keep ~ Marine fish, aqua-cultured corals, freshwater fish, plants & dry goods auction • Discount books & sales.

OCT 14 Fall Giant Auction ~ Freshwater fish, plants, marine fish, aqua-cultured corals & dry goods auction including a new 55 gal. tank & stand • Discount books & sales.

NOV 11 Anthony Stissi ~ Lake Tanganyikan Tropheus Species ~ Marine fish, aqua-cultured corals, freshwater fish, plants & dry goods auction • Discount books & sales.

DEC 9 BAS Holiday Party ~ Members, their families and friends, all you can eat sit-down dinner  
• Fish Bingo & Prizes • BAS Awards presentations.

### 2012

JAN 13 TBA (marine)

FEB 10 Peter Warny ~ Visits to Various City & State Aquaria ~ Marine fish, aqua-cultured corals, freshwater fish, plants & dry goods auction

MAR 9 Tony Vargas ~ Successful Reef Aquariums from Around the World and How They Got There ~ Marine fish, aqua-cultured corals, freshwater fish, plants & dry goods auction

APR 13 TBA (freshwater)

MAY 11 Giant Spring Auction ~ Freshwater fish, plants, marine fish, aqua-cultured corals & dry goods, including a 55 gal. tank & stand

JUN 8 TBA (marine)

SEPT 14 Mike Hellwig ~ Fish Breeding Contest with Ted Judy ~ Marine fish, aqua-cultured corals, freshwater fish, plants & dry goods auction

OCT 12 Giant Fall Auction ~ Freshwater fish, plants, marine fish, aqua-cultured corals & dry goods, including a 55 gal. tank & stand

NOV 9 TBA (marine)

DEC 14 Holiday Party ~ Members, their families and friends, all you can eat sit-down dinner  
• Fish Bingo & Prizes • BAS Awards presentations.





## Wet Weather Could Not Dampen The Party Spirit of The BAS's 100th Anniversary Dinner

Lots of people, lots of food, lots of music, lots of dancing, and lots of rain which did not dampen the fun. More than 155 members and friends of the Society braved the downpour to attend our 100th Anniversary gala at the NY Aquarium. 



A tray of steamed corn.



Braving the downpour on left is an unidentified couple. On the right is **Danyale English** and her husband **Dr. Seymour Goldstein**.



**Jack Matassa** digs in to the ribs as his wife looks on. Behind and right above **Bernard Deren** looks on as **Pauline Griffin** serves herself. Behind in the white shirt is **Andrew Todaro** ready to hit the food table.



A double tray of BBQ Chicken. Yum!



**Lita Goldberg** (center) and her boyfriend **Jerry** dig in. Behind Jerry in the black shirt is **Adam Engerow** and his wife. Above Jerry's head is **Bernard Deren**.



**Joe Graffagnino**, our esteemed president, and Board member **Intakob Dawood** and his date for the evening **Lachmi Ramtersaud**.



**Rosanne Matassa**, **Agnes** and **Jack Matassa** stop to pose for the camera. Behind and above, **Denise** and **Stu Hershkowitz**. To the right, former BAS president **Seth Kolker** enjoys his dinner.





Tom Miglio and his wife Carol came down from Ghent NY to attend the party.



Mark Rubanow (Nassau Discus), his wife Anna and his daughter Amanda enjoying their first round of burgers and ribs.



Left top: Bill Amely, below him is Jerome Vitucci. Right front is his wife Susan Vitucci, sitting with an unidentified couple.



L to R: Vinny Kreyling, member of LIAS and Long Island Reefers, with Joe Graffagnino.



BAS's accountant & sponsor Joe Reichman & his wife Marcia having a good time...



L to R: Jackie and Bob DeBonis sitting with Ray Downs.



Tables were set up around the huge open marine tank housing rays, sea turtles and marine fish.



L to R: Former BAS presidents **Al DiSpignia** and **John Todaro** stop their dinner and pose for the camera.



L to R: **Vinny Guiffredo**, owner of the AM Bar, with **Emily Todaro** and **Steve Fadel**, owner of the Salty Dog, and his wife **Stephanie**.



L to R: **Joe Graffagnino**, **Seth Kolker**, **John Todaro**, **Al DiSpignia**, **Tom Miglio** and **Frank Policastro**.





Cheers!!!! **Dan Smith**, former Board member giving one of many toasts for the BAS's 100th anniversary.



Guests and members dancing off their dinners to the DJ's rock n' roll music as **Anna Todaro** urges them on!



Dancing the night away, **Patricia and Vincent Savarese** join the other party goers!



**Christine Policastro** on the left and **Nancy Villars** of South Central Cichlids LLC pose for our camera.



Board member **Mike Roman** and his wife **Kristen Roman** seem to be having a good time.



**Bob DeBonis** and his fan club of "cuties" and future BAS members.





**Denise Hershkowitz** asking **Stu Hershkowitz** to dance. He's thinking about it, and **Tina Cingari** says come on, Stu, you can do it!



Board members **Intakob Dawood** and **Bill Amely** go for seconds.



**Joe G.** listens to Assemblyman **Alec Brook-Krasny**, with the mic and on his right is Councilman **Vincent Gentile**.



**Joe Graffagino** accepts a plaque on behalf of the BAS from Assemblywoman **Lucretia Regina-Potter**.



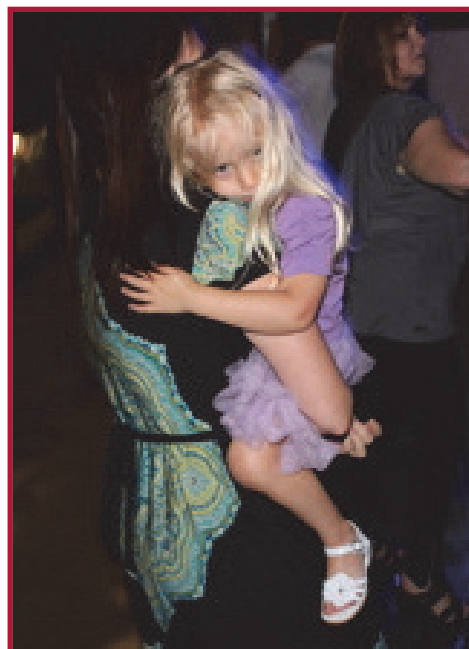
**Joe Graffagino** at the podium and to his right; Councilman **Vincent Gentile**, Assemblyman **Alec Brook-Krasny**, **Igor Oberman** of the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, and Assemblywoman **Lucretia Regina-Potter**.



Gloria Kolker gets with the rhythm and to her left is **Denise Hershkowitz** and **Tina Cingari's** arm.



BAS party goers visit the seals. The whole Aquarium was open to all to enjoy...and they did!

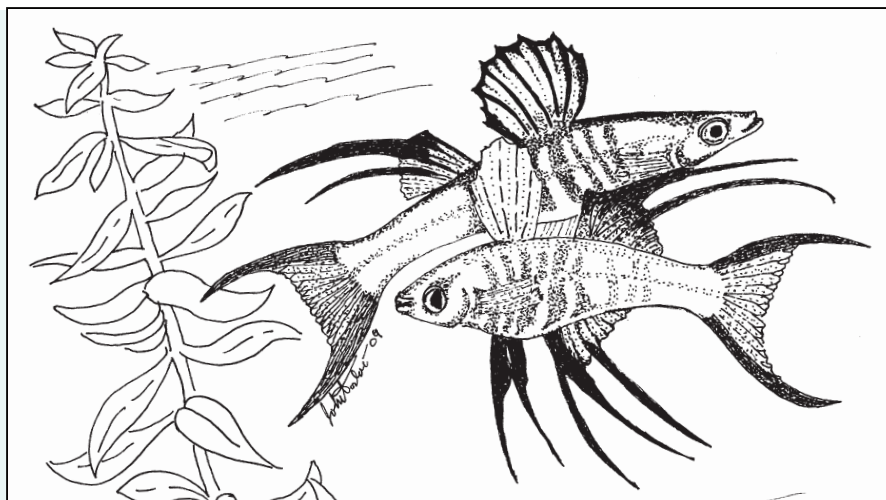


**Joe Graffagnino's** daughter **Maria Breen** and his granddaughter **Katie Breen** all partied out. Beddie-by time!



# Threadfin Rainbows


*Iriatherina weneri*



**T**he Latin name for these beautiful fish from New Guinea and northern Australia is *Iriatherina weneri*. These nervous and sensitive fish thrive in slow moving streams with heavy vegetation. According to the Master Index of Freshwater Fishes, they enjoy a pH of 6.0 – 8.0, with a designated hardness from 5 -12 and a water temperature of 79 – 86 degrees Fahrenheit.

I keep two males and 4 females in a 10-gallon tank, with a corner filter containing charcoal and ammonia chips and one or two artificial yarn spawning mops. They prefer a dark green mop that hangs from a cork or 35mm film canister to almost an inch from the bottom of the tank. I keep no gravel or plants in the tank, only the mop. I have tried either light blue or black yarn mops with little success. With the dark green mop I have been averaging 40 eggs per week. They prefer to lay their eggs between the middle of the mop to the bottom. I pluck the eggs from the mop on a weekly basis moving them to a plastic shoebox where I allow the eggs to hatch with a slight amount of Acriflavine to prevent fungus. In a few days you can see the tiny babies swimming across the top of the plastic box. I then move the fry to a larger plastic box to grow out. These are slow growing fish that need rotifers, artemia or Small Fry Food. After a few weeks, with 3 times a week water changes (only with aged water), they are large enough to take baby brine shrimp.

Water changes are extremely important for this fish to maintain good health. I change the water in a 35 gallon tank next to the Threadfin rainbow fish tank. After the freshwater has been filled in the larger tank, I wait several hours or the next day to take water from that tank to replace water removed during a water change. Using this mixture of new and aged water, there is no stress on the parents or fry. I feed the adults live or frozen brine shrimp and cyclopeeze, because their mouths are small, twice daily and perform weekly water changes of 20%, as outlined above, in the adults' aquarium.

Threadfin rainbows are one of the most beautiful freshwater fish I have ever seen. The females are a silvery color, but the males have long flowing fins of black, red and yellow. The males use a flickering of their fins to attract the females to spawn. If you want to keep an interestingly beautiful fish that will give you hours of enjoyment, then I highly recommend these graceful beauties. 





# Threadfin Rainbowfish

## Species Profile:

**Scientific Name:** *Iriatherina wernerii*

**Common Name:** Threadfin Rainbowfish

**Origin:** New Guinea and Northern Australia

**pH Range:** 6.0 - 8.0

**Temperature Range:** 79° - 86°

**Hardness Range:** -5-12 dkh


**Life Span:** 1 - 2 years

**Size:** 2 inches

**Temperment:** Peaceful

**Diet:** Eats both prepared foods and small live foods



Threadfin Rainbowfish vary slightly across their range, with those from New Guinea being darker than their Australian relatives. 





## A New Fish in the Hobby

# MEKONG RICE KILLIES

### *Oryzias mekongensis*



I was recently at the latest convention of the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies in Connecticut and had no intention of purchasing any new fish, since my aquariums were already very well stocked. As I wandered around, I came to Frank Greco's sales table. Frank has the most interesting and rare fish that you will ever see. I strolled around the table and my eye caught something small flash by. It was a really small fish with a silver body; the male has an orange red coloration on its anal fin. I had to ask, and that, of course, was my undoing.

Frank told me that particular fish was commonly called the Mekong Red Lampeye Rice Killifish. The fish are found in the Mekong River delta in Northern Thailand. The adult of this species doesn't get over ½ inch in size. There are approximately 2 dozen varieties of rice killifish. The nice thing about these fish is they can live and spawn in aquariums as small as 2 gallons. All that is needed is a sponge filter and java moss. Since these fish are really small, frozen baby brine shrimp works well (regular brine shrimp and Daphnia are too large for them). They also thrive on live microworms, vinegar eels and crushed flake food.

When the female is carrying eggs, she carries them on her body. The eggs are slightly adhesive so when the female swims through java moss the egg rubs off the

mother and attaches to the java moss. The male fish follows closely behind and fertilizes the egg. At times I have seen one female carrying several eggs. The eggs are quite large for such a small fish and they resemble clear to opaque killie eggs. As the embryo matures, the egg darkens. Within a week the fry are free swimming. The parents ignore the fry so you don't need another tank to rear the fry to adulthood. You can't ask for better than that in a fish!

The water parameters are basic with the pH 7.0, GH of 3, and the temperature 78 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit. This is a great and unique little fish and quite prolific once they get started. Because of their small size, I would maintain them in a species only tank.

Enjoy them and share them with other hobbyists. 



**EDITORS NOTE:** Members with questions about aquatic plants or setting up a planted tank can contact Isidore (Izzy) Zwerin, our plant editor. You can call him at (718) 449-0031 between 7pm to 10pm, Monday to Friday.

# The Practical Plant

## Propagating: *Sagittaria Subulata*

**S***agittaria Subulata* is a great plant that I feel good about recommending to anyone. It is a relatively undemanding plant suitable for use as a foreground plant in medium to large aquariums. In smaller tanks, it may be used in the mid to background positions.


*S. subulata* is a rosette plant native to the eastern U.S and South America. It is adaptable to most water parameters and will be fine in moderate lighting. Once it is established, it will spread rapidly via runners forming a dense carpet.

My *S. subulata* is being kept in my Discus tank. The Aquarium is a 37 gallon (22" tall x 30" long x 12" wide) and is using a Coralife Compact Fluorescent fixture (130 Watts). The water parameters are 84° temperature, slightly acidic and fairly soft. I am also making use of CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment. A Fluval canister filter (model #303), with the output being directed through a submerged spray bar, is doing my filtration. I use the Estimated Index system of fertilizer dosing. This means that once a week I perform a large water change (50-75%). This is usually done on Saturday. Do not be concerned about the large volume of water that is being replaced; your fish will love it. This large

water change is necessary to reset the system.

Then on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, I dose the macronutrients, and on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, I dose the micronutrients. Friday I take the day off. The lighting is timer-controlled and on for 12 hours a day.

This plant has narrow strap-like leaves and is a bright green color. To a certain degree, it resembles a miniature *Vallisneria*. My understanding is that with enough light the plant will pick up red hues. I have not yet tested this claim. The common name the plant is sold

under is "Dwarf Sag." The plant is easily propagated by separating the plantlets from the runners. The plant is trouble-free and low maintenance. It will occasionally need to be thinned out and older plants may become taller than desired. These older, taller plants may be pruned or simply removed. 







Dan Hagan runs [TheShrimp Farm.com](http://TheShrimpFarm.com). This site sells freshwater shrimp. Dwarf freshwater shrimp are the perfect aquatic inhabitants for your under water planted garden. If you're interested in keeping dwarf freshwater shrimp or have a question about them, go to Dan's blog site and ask your question. It's a great site with reliable and accurate information on dwarf shrimp, [ShrimpFarm.com](http://ShrimpFarm.com).

# Blue Pearl Shrimp



## Blue Pearl Shrimp History

The Blue Pearl Shrimp is one of the newer shrimp to the Dwarf Shrimp hobby. This blue color variant of the *Neocaridina cf. zhangjiajiensis* was originally bred in Germany and has quickly made its way to the American hobby. The Blue Pearl Shrimp was the first true breeding blue Dwarf Shrimp. The Snowball Shrimp is another variant of the *Neocaridina cf. zhangjiajiensis*.

## Blue Pearl Shrimp Care

Blue Pearl Shrimp share similar care requirements with most other *Neocaridina* species, such as the Red Cherry Shrimp. As long as the Blue Pearl Shrimp is kept in a well established aquarium with very stable parameters, the Blue Pearl Shrimp is a rather undemanding Dwarf Shrimp. While the Blue Pearl Shrimp can adapt to a wide verity of water parameters, as with most Dwarf Shrimp, stability is key!

## Blue Pearl Shrimp Diet

Being an omnivore, Blue Pearl Shrimp will eat just about any food found in an aquarium. They will eat algae in small amounts, but will often times require additional feeding. Most foods intended for bottom feeders or aquatic invertebrates make great foods for Blue Pearl Shrimp.

## Blue Pearl Shrimp Breeding

The Blue Pearl Shrimp is very easy to breed in the home aquarium. As long as there is a male shrimp and a female shrimp in a well established, well maintained aquarium, they will breed. Blue Pearl Shrimp are high order shrimp, so the shrimp hatch as miniature versions of the adult. For a more detailed description of breeding Blue Pearl Shrimp, read the detailed article about breeding Red Cherry Shrimp, as they breed in the exact manner.

## Blue Pearl Shrimp Behavior

Blue Pearl Shrimp are non-aggressive, and are quite active. In an aquarium that has no predators, Blue Pearl Shrimp will often be observed grazing on algae on aquarium plants, decorations and on the substrate. When fed, the shrimp will often form large groups that are quite striking in appearance.

## 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. 🐟

**Scientific Name:**

*Neocaridina cf. zhangjiajiensis*

**Other Scientific Names:** N/A

**Common Name:**

Blue Pearl Shrimp

**Other Common Names:** N/A

**Origin:** South East Asia

**Found in the wild:** No

**pH Range:** 6.5 - 7.5

**Ideal pH:** 7.2

**Temperature Range:** 68° - 80°

**Ideal Temperature:** 75°F

**Hardness Range:** -3-10 dkh

**Ideal Hardness:** 7 dkh

**Life Span:** 1 - 2 years

**Size:** 1 - 2 inches

**Gestation Period:** 30 days

**Diet:** Omnivore



**Male Blue Pearl Shrimp**



**Female Blue Pearl Shrimp**



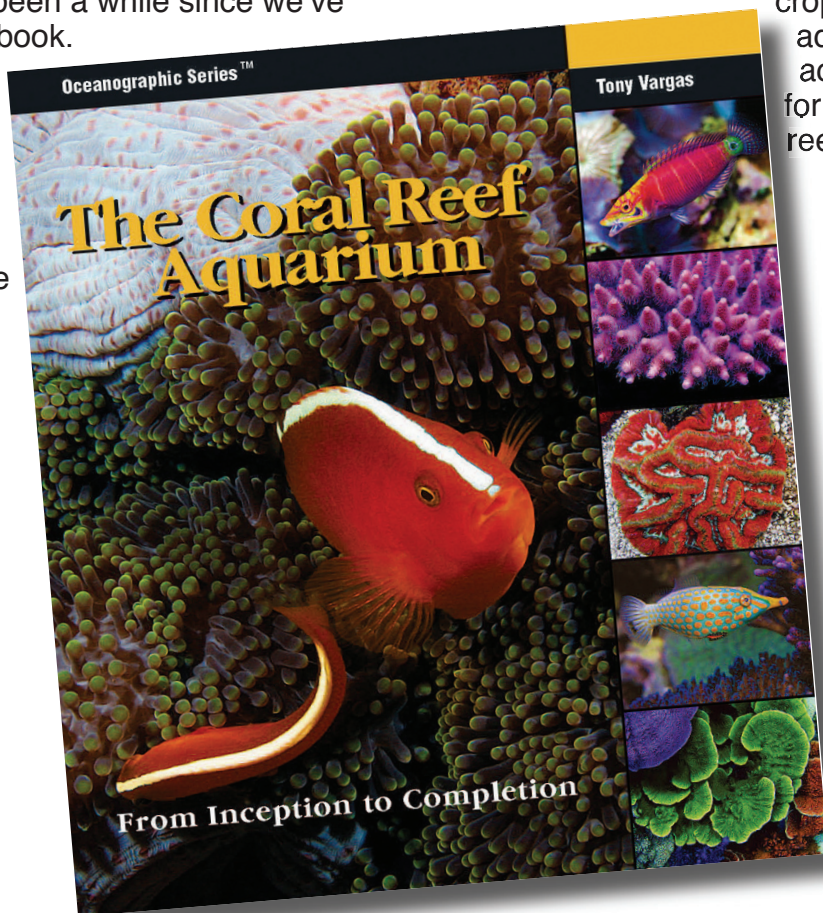
Tony Vargas has written a new must have book  
**“The Coral Reef Aquarium”**  
From Inception to Completion

**O**ur good friend Tony “Tuba Taha” Vargas is putting the finishing touches on his new book *The Coral Reef Aquarium* which will focus on start to finish of how to set up a slammin reef tank. Coral and Fish identification books and guides are published often enough but it’s been a while since we’ve had a great new reef book.

Included in the book are many chapters on modern techniques and designs for how reef tanks are set up in the 21st century. The second half of the

book is a gallery and information section on some of the most amazing reef aquariums from around the world in a vein that is similar to the Nature Aquarium World series. Tony’s book should go on sale within the month and be widely available for educating a whole new

crop of beginner to advanced reef aquarists in time for the winter reefing season.



A comprehensive guide that puts in perspective all the details a beginning or advanced hobbyist needs when planning a small or a giant reef aquarium. Featuring a large collection from all over the world of some of the most spectacular reef aquariums ever created. 272 pages, hardcover.





1911~2011

## Celebrating 100 years of Educating Aquarists

As a feature in the Society's 100th Year Anniversary Journal, that was given to those who attended the gala dinner on July 8th at the NY Aquarium, we asked leaders in the business end of the aquarium trade, how it has changed for them in the past decades.

Here are the answers from Clay Jackson, Editor of  
*Aquarium Fish International*. BAS

## An Interview With

### CLAY JACKSON, EDITOR, *AQUARIUM FISH INTERNATIONAL*

How has the aquarium trade changed  
in the past couple of decades?

**BAS:** How have you witnessed the changes and advancement in the aquarium business since your company started?

**CJ:** In terms of the freshwater hobby, there's been a huge push to captive breed most freshwater fish as well as cultivate aquatic plants. With countries like Brazil cutting off much of their freshwater fish exportation, captive breeding has managed to keep the production of many fishes at a level to supply new hobbyists and resupply existing hobbyists.

We've also seen the emergence of spectacular planted aquariums (thanks to CO<sub>2</sub> injection), which in their own way can rival marine reef systems for the attention of advanced hobbyists.

In the 1970s, marine hobbyist kept fish-only systems, with bleached dead coral for decor as well as all fishes being wild-caught.

Since the late 1990 and into the 2000s, reef systems with cultivated corals have become the rage. There are now several dozen marine fishes that are being captively propagated or raised.

**BAS:** How has your company worked through these changes over the years, both good and bad?

**CJ:** Being a publisher of the most widely read aquarium publication in the world, we have had to keep abreast of the trends as they unfold. Where once AFI was predominately a freshwater publication, it is now nearly evenly split between the time-tested freshwater hobby as well as the dynamic, emerging saltwater hobby.

**BAS:** How has technology changed the way you do business and how has the aquarium buyer reacted to those changes?

**CJ:** The highly technical nature of the marine hobby has seen the debut of many new aquarium products, such as more nutritious foods, protein skimmers, filter media, additives, ro/di units, etc., each and every year. As a publication with its finger on the pulse of the hobby, we've made a concerted effort to report and feature new products and trends in our magazine as these products and trends emerge.

We even introduced a very popular product-review column written by industry insider **David Lass**. Another brand-new column, "*Fresh Fish*," introduces hobbyists to new fishes and invertebrates to look for in the hobby.



**CLAY JACKSON, EDITOR,  
AQUARIUM FISH INTERNATIONAL**

**How has the aquarium trade changed  
in the past couple of decades?**

**BAS:** What do you believe is the best thing that has happened for your business?

**CJ:** Entry into the freshwater hobby has, for the most part, been relatively easy and inexpensive. Conversely, the perception (and the reality) of the marine side of the hobby is that it is difficult to keep animals alive and it is expensive and tech-heavy.


So, one of the best things has been the development of the all-in-one nano tank systems. These systems allow those interested in getting into the marine hobby the ease of a one-technology buy, ease of set up, easy maintenance and one relatively low price.

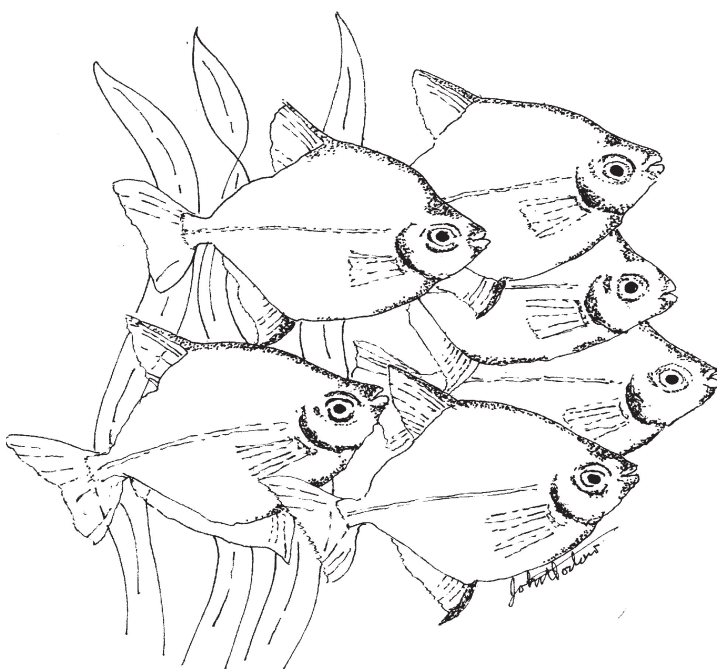
The other aspect has been the growth of cultivated corals (frags) and anemones raised in captive conditions that infuse a hardiness, not to mention a reduction in stress caused from not having to ship these animals long distances. The same is true of captive-propagated or reared marine fishes. These fishes are raised on produced fish foods and are conditioned to live in the aquarium, and as a result, captive-produced

marine fishes and invertebrates are much hardier than are their wild-caught cousins. This maximizes the chances of success for new marine aquarists, reduces failure rates and keeps them enthused about their new hobby.

**BAS:** What do you believe is the worst thing that happened for your business?

**CJ:** That's easy - the Great Recession, at least in the short-term. The economy has had a real chilling effect on both sides of the hobby since 2008. many small aquarium-product companies and local fish stores have been driven out of business. But in the long-term I think the industry will emerge leaner, meaner.

When the dust settles, quality and customer service will improve - giving consumers more bang for their buck. Also, when the economy comes back, those with disposable incomes will look for meaningful ways to invest their time and money, and the aquarium hobby will be the recipient of some great growth in the years ahead. 





# WHIPTAIL CATFISH

*Rineloricara* Sp.



**T**here are several species of Whiptail catfish which are very difficult to distinguish apart.


This catfish species comes from cool, fast moving streams in South America. The species Latin name is *Rineloricara*. This type of catfish gets its common name from its slim, armored, flat, and stiff body that has color variations from gray to brown. They are a slow moving, peaceful fish that has a tail fin that extends to a delicate “whip-like” extension. Whiptail cats get about 6 inches in length.

The only way I can sex them is that the female’s belly is larger than the male’s, as is with most types of catfish. When the female is pregnant, her stomach is huge; she will sit outside the PVC tube and wait for the male to allow her entrance. As she lays her eggs, he is directly behind her fertilizing them. When completed, the male then chases the female from the tube and he cares for the eggs.

I received my group of a dozen small fish from one of Brooklyn Aquarium Society’s expert fish breeders - **Lisa Quilty**. Lisa bred the parents in a small PVC tube and brought the fry in for “Breeder Award Points” and she is one of our clubs leading spawners of difficult fish. I brought them home and set the group up in a 10 gallon tank with riverbed gravel, a corner box filter that contained charcoal and ammonia chips and I placed a couple of wood pieces in the tank to make them comfortable. After a few months, I added some small and narrow clay and PVC tubes. The small fish grew quickly with weekly water changes and high protein flake food. To improve their diet, I gave them frozen food, such as blood worms, cyclopeeze and daphnia a couple

of times a week. I would, on occasion, provide them with a piece of frozen zucchini that they would ignore until it started getting a fungus on it and then the next day the zucchini would be gone. I guess they will only eat it if it’s soft.

Early one evening, my friend and fellow fish breeder **Vinny Babino** came over and, as I was showing him the various fish I had in the aquariums, he looked into the whiptail catfish tank which I kept at the end of a long row of tanks that I rarely paid any attention to, and remarked that there appeared to be a lump inside the PVC tube. I looked and then with a flashlight discovered the male was sitting on a batch of green eggs. With this species the female lays the eggs and the male cares for the eggs, actually gently scraping the eggs to help the fry escape after about 7 days.

An interesting note: Vinny had obtained the parents of the fry and had them in his home aquarium. When he went home that evening his fish had also laid eggs in a PVC tube. Several times afterward both of our groups laid eggs the same day. I must have had my fish for approximately 2 years before they spawned. 






## Species Profile:

# WHIPTAIL CATFISH

## *Rineloricaria fallax*

- **Family Name:** *Loricariidae*
- **Species Type:** *Plecostomus*
- **Scientific Name:** *Rineloricaria fallax*
- **Common Name(s):** Whiptail Pleco, Whip Tail Pleco, Whiptail Catfish, Whiptail Plecostomus
- **Geo. Origin:** South American Rivers
- **Habitat:** Bottom
- **Diet:** Herbivorous - fresh green vegetables such as zucchini slices, cucumber slices and romaine lettuce. This species also will take sinking algae wafers.
- **Gender Differences:** Males tend to have a more pronounced brush around their mouth.
- **Breeding:** Difficult. Perfect water conditions are required, along with plenty of food. Make sure the food is eaten though, as any left to waste will degrade the water quality. A long, shallow (15-25cm deep) breeding tank should be set up, with very fine gravel. Some hollow

logs/tubing are essential as the eggs are laid in these and then guarded by the male. The fry are hard to raise, and in their first few weeks should be fed young brine shrimp.

- **Temperament:** Peaceful and shy.
- **Life Span:** 14 years
- **Maximum Size:** 6"
- **Temperature:** 64° - 78°F
- **pH:** 5.8 - 7.8
- **Water Hardness:** 10° - 20°
- **Description:** The whiptail comes from shallow, fast flowing streams, so some water movement is required. Broad leaved plants are recommended and are rarely damaged. Some driftwood is also recommended, but not essential. As with most catfish, the Whiptail is nocturnal. This fish has very strict water requirements so it is not recommended for beginners. 

© Aquahobby.com



Photo Credit: Jossy Vallazza



## **SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS. THEY SUPPORT US. WE MUST SUPPORT THEM!**

**Absolutely Fish's** staff is knowledgeable and can help you solve your aquatic problems. They offer a **15% discount on select fish, marine life & supplies with current BAS membership card.** A really great aquatic shop. Well worth the trip.

**Absolutely Fish** 1080 Route 46 W. Clifton, NJ 07013  
Ph: 1 (973) 365-0200  
Open 7 days a week: Mon-Fri 12-9 Sat 12-8 Sun 12-5

**Aquatic Wildlife**, features 11,000 gal. of freshwater fish, plants & marine life. **Discount with current membership card.**

**Aquatic Wildlife**, 179D Demming St., Manchester, CT 06040 (In Panera Plaza) Ph: 1 (860) 648-1166  
[www.aquaticwildlifecompany.com](http://www.aquaticwildlifecompany.com)

**Brooklyn Zoo & Aquarium Inc.** A classic pet shop with a full line of aquarium supplies, freshwater, marine fish and corals. **BAS members get a 10% discount with a current membership card.** Some restrictions apply.

**Brooklyn Zoo & Aquarium Inc.**  
2377 Ralph, Ave., Bklyn, NY • Ph: 1 (718) 251-7389  
Hrs: Sat - Sun 10am - 6pm & Mon - Fri 10am - 8pm

**"C" The Jungle Pet Store** In the heart of Brooklyn carries a full line of pet supplies, tropical fish, birds, and small animals. They offer a **10% discount to BAS members with a current membership card.**

**"C" The Jungle Pet Store**  
247 New Lots Ave., Bklyn NY 11207  
Ph: 1 (718) 649-2536  
Hrs: Tue -Sat 10am-8pm • Sun 10am-6pm

**Petland Discounts**, the complete pet store, carries a full line of pet supplies for fish, dogs, cats, birds, reptiles and small animals. Also a variety of fish, birds, small animals and reptiles. Open 7 days a week. Locations in New York, New Jersey & Connecticut. Over 15 stores in Brooklyn. Shop on line at: See the white pages, or their ad on page 44 for a store near you.

[www.petlanddiscounts.com](http://www.petlanddiscounts.com).

**Pet Shanty.** Family owned & operated; 3 rooms of freshwater fish & 1 of marine fish & corals. They stock a vast list of fish which is posted on line at <http://petshanty.com>. They also carry other pets and pet supplies. Check them out; they probably have the fish or corals you want. **Members get a 10% discount.**

**Pet Shanty**  
2507 U.S. Hwy 22, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
Ph: 1 (908) 889-8262 • Fax: 1 (908) 889-0803  
Mon-Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 10am-7pm • Sun 10am-5pm

**Fauna** is Manhattan's largest exotic pet boutique and a new sponsor of the BAS. **Dan, the owner, offers a 10% discount to members.** They keep over 2,300 gallons stocked with freshwater, marine fish and corals. They also carry small animals, birds and reptiles. Make a point to visit and tell them you saw their ad in the *BAS Bulletin* and *Aquatica*. This store will blow you away!

**FAUNA 265 West 87th St.**  
**between Bway & West End Ave., NY NY**  
Ph: 212-877-2473  
Hrs: M-W-T-F 11am- 7pm • Closed Tues.  
Sat 11am-7pm • Sun 11am-6pm

**Mark's Discus** over 4,000 gallons of hormone free Brooklyn bred discus & angelfish. Mark stands behind his quality fish with a live delivery guarantee. Feel free to contact him with your questions. **10% discount for BAS members with current membership card.**

**MARKSDISCUS.COM**  
You're welcome to visit their hatchery by appointment only. Call for directions.  
Ph: 917-202-7699  
Open 7 days and all Holidays • 9am -11pm

**Nassau Discus** has many different varieties of Discus available at various times. All fish are quarantined & conditioned before they are sold. **BAS members get a 10% discount with a current membership card.** To learn what's in stock, email Nassau Discus at [morgansfin@aol.com](mailto:morgansfin@aol.com) or [NassauDiscus@aol.com](mailto:NassauDiscus@aol.com) To make an appointment

**Call Mark Rubanow Ph: 516 939-0257**  
**205 8th Street, Hicksville, NY 11801**

**Royal Aqua World Inc.** Over 100 tanks of marine fish, hard & soft corals, freshwater fish, goldfish & koi imported from Japan, plus plants and pond supplies. **BAS members get a 10% discount on all purchases with a current membership card.**

Open 7 days a week.  
**Royal Aqua World Inc.**, 815 65th St., Bklyn, NY 11220  
Ph: 1 (718) 238-0918 •  
Hrs: 7 days a week 10:30am-8pm

**Pacific Aquarium & Pet Inc.**, in Manhattan's Chinatown, carries ornamental goldfish, koi, freshwater fish, & aquatic plants. **BAS members get 10% discount with current card** (Discounts not to be combined with other specials). They have a full line of aquarium supplies. You can order custom size tanks.

**Pacific Aquarium & Pet Inc.**  
46 Delancy St., NY, NY 10002 • Ph: 1 (212) 995-5895  
Open 7 days a week and all holidays  
10am to 7:30pm

## Membership & Renewal Application Brooklyn Aquarium Society

Mail This Form Or A Copy And Your Check Payable to Brooklyn Aquarium Society to  
**BROOKLYN AQUARIUM SOCIETY, ATT: Mr. Vinny Babino, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**  
**P.O. BOX 290610, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11229-0011**



Please check your address label to see when your membership expires

Meetings are held at the NY Aquarium Education Hall on the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30pm. Knowledgeable speakers on fish care and culture, door prizes, raffles, and fish auctions. All meetings are free to members. Visit us on line:

**BROOKLYNAQUARIUMSOCIETY.ORG**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVE) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAX) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE & LENGTH of MEMBERSHIP: (CHECK ONE)

INDIVIDUAL

FAMILY

[ ] \$15 STUDENT 1 YEAR

1yr.  
\$20

2yr.  
\$36

3yr.  
\$51

4yr.  
\$68

1yr.  
\$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 \_\_\_\_\_