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The Angelfish Society



FinTASTic

Newsletter

Nov 2009

Issue 24

How I Became a Fish Show Judge

An Interview with Tony Vaughan

The first time was a little strange. I was part of the committee so some of us were busy doing the finishing touches and helping the traders get ready as much as we could. The first year we judged on the Saturday morning which was the first open day for the public. This had its pros and cons, people were in and around the show area while we were judging but it meant that we as judges had to fully focus on the task at hand and ignore some of the comments that people were making about certain fish. We also had more than 70 tanks so it was excellent experience.

When someone intends to enter a fish to a show, then planning should take place at least weeks if not months in advance for international entries (local entries can be done in days / weeks). All the relevant paperwork needs to be sorted and the fish need to be conditioned. Sometimes when the proper planning has not been done then the fish can suffer. I have seen people enter sick fish into a show and this is a definite no-no. When a fish is brought to a show it should never suffer anything other than slight stress. I have seen people use everything from buckets to suitcases to bring fish to a show.

Read Tony Vaughn's Full Article on page 10.....



What Kind Of Angelfish?

Interview with Eddy Cooper

I recently received two angels from a friend of mine - she's a schoolteacher who keeps a small tank in her classroom and one of her students gave her the fish. Her tank is too crowded to handle the angels so she gave them to me. I have no idea what "type" of angels they are. I looked through your web site, and decided that they were gold marbles ... then I saw more angels that looked a lot like mine under a bunch of different categories. I'm not planning to breed them - I don't even know their sexes - but I'd still like to know what phenotype they are for my own knowledge.

-Continued on Page 1

Check out August & November's
Photo Contest Winners

What Kind of Angelfish? Interview with Eddy Cooper

From an e-mail to the Standards Committee. Study the photos and see if you agree on their phenotype and genotype!

Hello,
I recently received two angels from a friend of mine - she's a schoolteacher who keeps a small tank in her classroom and one of her students gave her the fish. Her tank is too crowded to handle the angels so she gave them to me. I have no idea what "type" of angels they are. I looked through your web site, and decided that they were gold marbles ... then I saw more angels that looked a lot like mine under a bunch of different categories. I'm not planning to breed them - I don't even know their sexes - but I'd still like to know what phenotype they are for my own knowledge.

Any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated. The pictures I've attached are not the best, but they're still exploring the tank and move around a lot. Their primary body color is luminous silver with iridescent rainbow patterns as they move in the light.

Thank you for your help,
Eddy



The left side of the larger angelfish is can be seen in this photo, showing characteristic gold marble markings.



Eddy's two juvenile angelfish exploring their new, more spacious home when he first brought them home. Note the distinct vertical stripe through each eye. The larger angel is on the right side of the photo.

Hi Eddy,

You asked an interesting question, and I can see why you aren't sure what they are. My best guess is that they are silver gold marbles. Here's why.

- *Both of them have a vertical black stripe through each eye, which tells me they each have a wild type allele at the dark locus.*
- *The one that is looking in the lettuce leaf definitely has gold marble markings.*
- *Genes occur in pairs, and different forms of a gene are called alleles. The silver coloration indicates that a gold marble allele is paired with a wild type allele.*

So, I am pretty sure that at least that one is a silver gold marbles with the genotype Gm/+.

It's a little hard to tell from the photos whether the smaller one has broken stripes or gold marble markings on the body. It would help if I could see the other side. But I think there is a good chance they are siblings with the same phenotypes, so they are probably both silver gold marbles.

They are also both veil tails, so that would give them genotypes: Gm/+ - V/+.

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Continued from page 1

What Kind of Angelfish?

Interview with Eddy Cooper

If my guess is correct, then you should sometimes see faint vertical stripes which might brighten or fade depending on the mood of the fish, whereas the gold marble marking will not fade or brighten with mood.

It looks like you have them in a more spacious aquarium, so I hope they do well for you and that you enjoy them. Thanks for writing.

- TAS Standards Committee

Five and a half weeks later we got this update from Eddy with more photos

Hi,

The angels are doing great. They're so much bigger now; at least doubled in body size and fin length. On the larger one the marbled markings have become very pronounced, while on the smaller one they've all but disappeared. I can sometimes see the faint stripes on the larger one - though I can't tell if they change with mood because whenever he sees me his mood is always "hungry!"



The larger angelfish five and a half weeks later, showing considerable growth. The pattern of the black markings, and the black streak through the tail, are characteristic of gold marble.

The stripes are only visible on his left side, which is also the side that has the more pronounced marbling. Both have developed a lot more gold coloration along their dorsal side though this is only really noticeable when they swim at the top of the tank and are lit from above.

Their eyes have also developed more red coloration, though only on the back half.

The smaller one's fins have tripled in length, and he's decided to be a comb tail. My friend is convinced that he's a superveil.

Here is the small one five weeks later, "zooming" across the tank. The irregularity of the few black markings below the dorsal fin are characteristic of gold marble. Notice how long the tail has grown, making this angelfish almost certainly a superveil. The tail also shows the attractive elongated rays of a combtail



Reply:

Hi Eddy,

I'm pleased to see they are doing so well for you. Yes, I agree that the smaller one looks like a superveil. Superveils usually don't grow as large as standard tail or veil tails, presumably because more energy goes into growing the finnages and in swimming with the extra drag resulting from the fins.

When I look at the photo of the small one "zooming" across the tank, those markings near the tail end of the body look like gold marble markings to me. So - I still think they are both silver gold marbles. I'm pretty sure the larger one has the genotype Gm/+ - V/+ and the smaller one, with the superveil tail would be Gm/+ - V/V.

- The Standards Committee

Thank you to Eddy Cooper for permission to print his e-mail and photos of his angelfish.

Message from the President

by Tamar Stephens



Hello TAS Member,

This is an exciting time for The Angelfish Society. We will be holding our first ever TAS sanctioned, judged and awarded angelfish show at the 2010 American Cichlid Association Expo. Why is this important? Well, for several reasons.

TAS was formed to bring order and consistency to angelfish standards, and started out with development of a consistent way of naming the genotypes and phenotypes. TAS has developed a large body of great information about angelfish which is available to all on our website. But...not everyone knows we exist!

When we hold our own show at the ACA Expo, it will give us wide exposure to the community of tropical fish enthusiasts. More people will learn about us and what we have to offer. As a result, this will broaden the use of consistent naming practices.

I know that when some of our top breeders bring their angelfish to the show, many people are going to be startled to see just how spectacularly beautiful angelfish can be. By top breeders, I don't necessarily mean volume breeders, I mean members who rigorously breed for top quality and know how to achieve it.

And this gives all of us a special event to look forward to, where we can show off our fish, compete with each other, admire everyone else's fish, go home with some new varieties of angelfish, and meet many other TAS member for perhaps the first time. This will probably be the biggest gathering of TAS members in the history of our organization!

I have already decided I will fly down from Alaska to participate in this event! I'm saving up my airline miles and my mad money to pay my way. I look forward to the excitement of meeting as many of you as I can, and to the thrill of seeing more beautiful angelfish in one place than I could ever imagine!

So start looking for those truly exceptional fish in your home hatchery, protect them from the various skirmishes that often occur among angelfish so their fins will be perfect, and start doting on them more than usual with extra TLC to prepare them for the show. Look for more information in this edition of *FinTAStic*, on the TAS Official Forum, at upcoming meetings, and in future editions of *FinTAStic*.

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members! 26 new members joined TAS between August 1 and November 3, 2009.

Please welcome:

Howard Alshanski
Chuck Austin
Steve Bell
Dave Carlson
Dennis Cosmatos
Douglas Delong
Jeff Fedyk

Diego Filppeli
Michael Hara
Nataliya Hedrick
Joe Higdon
Robert Hirst
Sally Hollingsworth
Cindi Holmes

Luis Morales
Bev Newcomer
Sridhar Padmanabhan
Robin Parker
Dawn Ponder
David Price
Tom Price

Paul Scarborough
Joan Smith
Robert Steele
Garry Wellman
Marlo White



Fish Auction Runner

An Interview with Robert Wright, by Tamar Stephens

Robert Wright is our new Friday Night Chat Moderator. One Friday evening, after getting home from work late, I dropped into the TAS Chat room to see if anyone was still around from the Friday night session. Robert was still there and before long he was telling me all about what it's like to work a fish auction. Our conversation began something like this.

Robert: I can't wait until Saturday!

Tamar: What happens Saturday?

Robert: I have a fish auction to go to.

Tamar: Sounds like fun! Are you buying or selling?

It turned out that Robert was doing neither – he was going to be a Runner for the Tampa Bay Aquarium Society (TBAS) auction. This is Robert's second time to work this auction.

T: So what does a "runner" do?

R: "I do a lot of things. I do intake as the fish arrive in the morning. I display the fish so people can get a good view of them. During the auction, I help by making sure there are lots of bags of fish on the table. During the bidding, if someone wants a closer look, I will take the bag of fish over to them so they can get a closer look. After the auction, I make sure the bags of fish get distributed correctly to the people who had the winning bids.

T: Have you bought fish at an auction?

R: Yes. Three years ago I bought a bag of fish from the auction but lost most of the fish.

T: What happened?

R: In the bag there were 10 albino channel catfish, 5 blue channel catfish, 3 Texas cichlids, 2 oscars, 5 angelfish, and 1 African cichlid.

T: Geez! That is a lot of fish to put in one bag! And they are not all compatible with each other!

R: Right! So now, even though it isn't part of my official duties, I monitor the condition of all the fish that come in, because I hate to see fish suffer or die. I try to keep an eye on them to make sure they don't suffer stress from lack of oxygen or other water quality related issues. If I see the fish are struggling in the bag I re-bag to help them out. If I see a dead fish I remove it from the bag. I try to find out information about the fish when people bring them in, and I will add oxygen, do

water changes with either tap water or RO water, or whatever is needed to take care of the fish during the day.

T: Are you going to be auctioning any fish?

R: I'm selling 4 kois, 4 marmorkrebs, and 12 young angels total.

T: So what is a marmorkreb?

R: A self-cloning crayfish.

T: I've never heard of a self-cloning crayfish

R: Yep, you only need one and you can end up with hundreds! I started out with one and now I have 12 adults and a lot of babies.

T: Wow!

The TBAS auction was held on October 24. A while after the auction, I followed up with Robert to find out how it went.

T: How did the TBAS auction go? Were there lots of fish auctioned?

R: Lots of fish! So many that not all were sold. We had to be out of the building by 6:00 PM and we still had at least an hour more of fish to sell!

T: Did you auction off any of your fish?

R: I sold 2 bags of koi angels and 2 bags of marmorkrebs, I had two pre-breeders in each of my koi bags. I had 2 more bags that didn't get sold.

T: Did you come home with any new fish?

R: I came home with 5 sunset blushers that are carrying the platinum blue gene and I also got 2 bushy nose plecos.

Tamar: Were there any other angelfish being auctioned off?

R: There was a bag that wasn't telling the truth about the angels that were in it.

T: How so?

R: The tag said "D/D black F1 Wild."

T: Kind of impossible.

R: Unless the wild were black, I would say so.

T: I wonder if you could share some practical advice for people who are new to fish auction. What are the most common mistakes you see people making when they bring fish to sell at an auction? Do you have any pet peeves about how fish are handled or brought in?

R: Okay - first of all don't try to put so many fish in a bag. We had several bags that had over 50 of one type in the bag? How many people want 50 green terrors? Or 50 convicts?

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Fish Auction Runner

An Interview with Robert Wright, by Tamar Stephens

T: I see what you mean! What advice would you give someone about preparing their fish to be sold at an auction? What should they do to make sure their fish stay in good condition and have a good chance of surviving when they get to their new home?

R: Okay.

- Don't feed your fish for at least 12 hours before you bag them. Let them get the food out of their system so they don't pollute the bag.
- Try to watch who buys your fish if you can. That way you can go talk to them and answer any questions that they might have. I gave my phone number to those who I saw bought my fish so that they can call me if they have anymore questions or if they have trouble with the fish.
- Don't let your fish get too hot or cold in the bags while you are getting them to the auction.
- Don't try to sell off your sick and dying fish to someone else. A lot of times there are new people buying that don't know healthy fish from sick ones.
- If you know the scientific name of your fish put it on the bag as well. If you just put the common name some people won't know what they are because common names change from place to place, such as a red minor tetra, or serpae tetra. Some people won't know that they are the same fish
- If you know that your fish have very sharp fins add a few extra bags so that if they spring a leak you have extra to save the fish.
- If you know that you have a proven breeding pair of fish you can write that on the bag. But if they are unknown just write "2 fish" on the bag.

T: Great advice! Thank you!

R: Your welcome.

Editor's note: Be sure to drop into the TAS Chat room Friday nights for more of Robert's conversation and practical advice!

Chat Room Problems?



If you are having problems viewing the chat line in the TAS chat room, there may be a compatibility problem.

But don't panic - Microsoft updated IE recently, and that affects the way AJAX software runs our chat room. To correct the problem, view, and use the chat properly you need to click on the New Compatibility Icon beside your Web Browser Bar. It looks like a page that is torn in half. This will fix the view of the chat entry bar problems. Please visit the chat room any time, day or night, at your convenience and check to make sure you can get into the chat room, and to use the compatibility icon if you have problems viewing the chat line. If you still have problems,

contact webmasters@theangelfishsociety.org. If you have never visited the chat room, check it out at: <http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/chat>.

Angelfish
Phenotype Calculator

Presented by
The Angelfish Society

And a special thanks to:
Stuart Chale, Steve Rybicki,
Tony Minneboo, David Hlasnick
and Michelle Rickets.

For Windows 9x, ME, 2000 and XP
Version 1.0.43 Copyright 2000-2002 W.C.S. Ltd.

Remember....

As a member of TAS, you can download the Phenotype Calculator!

What a neat way to see what kind of offspring your pairs will produce!

August 2009 Photo Contest Winners! Featuring “Best Smokey Angelfish”



*1st Place - Tied
Lori Carr*



*2nd Place
Tony Vaughan*



TAS Photo contest Judging Criteria

- **Body shape:** including head, operculum and body. An operculum is a lid or flap covering the aperture, on the the gill cover. Bodies should be round as possible or slightly higher than long. Head profile should be smooth with no humps, although a predorsal notch is perfectly acceptable. Does the eye look the right size? Are the fins too big?

Continued.... [TAS Photo contest Judging Criteria](#)

- **Finnage:** for example; are they symmetrical , fully formed, not torn. The fins should be straight without kinks or twists. Smooth gradual curves in the ventral (pelvic) fins are fine. A photo of an angelfish without all of its fins showing should be marked down. If it looks like the tiniest portion of the fin tip is hidden, then maybe would be okay, but anything approaching 1/2" or more should be marked down.
- **Pigmentation:** Are the colors / markings a good representation of the phenotype? Does the fish express the trait well?
- **Department:** for example; How the fish is displaying? Fins outstretched and the fish appearing alert and active? Clear eyes, no signs of disease.
- **Picture quality:** for example; crisp focus, clean glass, motion (blur), are the eyes visible (the pupil and iris).
- **Picture composition:** includes artistic issues such as: aquascape, how much the fish fills the image, the angle the fish is viewed (90 degree side view is best, anything else should be marked down), etc..

For additional information, Go to:

<http://theangelfishsociety.org/photojudge.htm>

L x W x H	Tank Size	Full Weight
2" x 6" x 8"	2 1/2 gal	27 lbs
16" x 8" x 10"	5 gal	62 lbs
20" x 10" x 12"	10 gal	111 lbs
24" x 12" x 12"	15 gal	170 lbs
20" x 10" x 18"	15 gal High	170 lbs
24" x 12" x 16"	20 gal High	225 lbs
30" x 12" x 12"	20 gal Long	225 lbs
24" x 12" x 20"	25 gal	282 lbs
30" x 12" x 18"	29 gal	330 lbs
36" x 18" x 12"	30 gal	348 lbs
36" x 18" x 16"	40 gal	458 lbs
48" x 12" x 16"	40 gal Long	455 lbs
36" x 18" x 19"	50 gal	600 lbs
48" x 13" x 21"	55 gal	625 lbs
36" x 18" x 24"	65 gal	772 lbs
48" x 18" x 21"	75 gal	850 lbs
48" x 18" x 24"	90 gal	1050 lbs
72" x 18" x 21"	125 gal	1400 lbs
72" x 18" x 28"	150 gal	1800 lbs

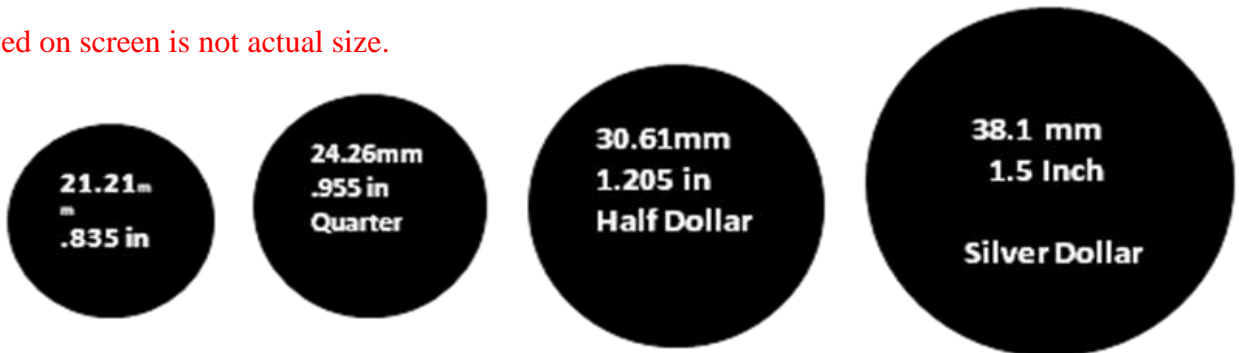
Size & Temperature made easy!

- How many gallons is my tank?
- When someone says the body size of the fish by coins, how big is that?
- What size heater do I need?

Hope this helps...

By Jan Kesler

Size viewed on screen is not actual size.



Room Temperature Difference Verse Tank Temperature

Gallons	5°C/9°F	10°C/18°F	15°C/27°F
5 gallon	25 watt	50 watt	75 watt
10 gallon	50 watt	75 watt	75 watt
20 gallon	50 watt	75 watt	150 watt
25 gallon	75 watt	100 watt	200 watt
40 gallon	100 watt	150 watt	300 watt
50 gallon	150 watt	200 watt	two 200 watt
65 gallon	200 watt	250 watt	two 250 watt
75 gallon	250 watt	300 watt	two 300 watt

My Quarantine Procedure

By Tony Vaughan

I have read many books and forums about quarantine procedures and the only thing that I've found to be true is that there are no hard and fast rules. Here is how I do it and why. To date I have received wild and also domestic angels. The way they come in is varied from 30 fish to a bag to a 2" fish in a 3" bag. The condition on receipt is also varied partly due to the travel time. Ideally the q-tine room should be in a different house but this is not always possible. If they must be kept in the same house as your other fish then in no circumstances must you use any of the same equipment. Never add your wet hands from a tank in q-tine to one that is not or vice versa. Each q-tine tanks should have its own hoses, siphons, buckets, nets etc.

Acclimatise: When some fish arrive into Ireland most of them have travelled half way around the world (unless of course they come from within the European Union). If a fish is shipped in a bag with other fish then the healthiest survive. I mean this in the context that if a fish is dead (or dies) in the bag when shipped then the clock is ticking. The longer those fish are in the bag the worse things will get, after all it is a chain of life. You can receive a bag of fish that are alive but a little worse for wear after a journey that crosses the globe, or else a bag of DOA's.

Take for example jetlag in humans and compare that to a fish stuck in cramped conditions for 20-30 hours, several flights with chills along the way, along with dead fish that makes the water quality deteriorate. When I receive a shipment of angels, I open each bag and add the contents into a 10 liter (approx 2.5 gallon) bucket depending on the size of the fish. Any DOA's are removed and the bucket is topped up immediately with about 10% of tank water (q-tine tank that is warm and low in contaminants). Each bag is opened and put into a separate bucket – this is to avoid cross contamination and to avoid adding water from a particular one that has many DOA's. I add water from the q-tine tank to each bucket at about 10% each 15 minutes. Once the 10 liter bucket is full then I increase the amount so that 20% is added every 10 – 15 minutes. Eventually when the temperature in the bucket matches the temp in the tank water I take the fish (normally by hand) and add them to the tank. Lights are kept off for the first 24 hours.

Nutrition: It is my opinion that newly imported fish that are healthy are hungry and will eat quickly; after all they may have not eaten in 24 – 48 hours before being shipped. The ones that are not hungry are often not in the best condition; staying alive is their top priority. After a few hours in the tank I feed minimally but watch them feed carefully to see which ones feed and to decide which ones may not make it.



About the author –

Tony Vaughan, a member of TAS, lives in Ireland where he keeps discus and angelfish.

A feeding of live foods normally gives the appetite a kick start. I keep them at about 25c (75F) and the reason for this is that bacterial blooms can often occur at higher temps so it's a trade off between winning the battle to get them healthy and keeping bacterial levels down.

Yes, the higher temps get them eating quicker but put a high number of fish in a new tank with high temps and all you do is give the bacteria a place to proliferate.

Water Quality: I change about 50% – 80% on a daily basis in a q-tine set up. This is to dilute any nasties that build up in the system and give the fish some nice fresh water (50% - 50% tap and HMA). My tap water is not too hard but not too soft either and it is treated with Prime. The filtered water I use is called HMA in Ireland and England (HMA stands for Heavy Metal Axe ©Devotedly Discus) and it removes metals and general nasties. The unit is similar to a RO unit without the membrane. Each water change is done with salt added to the water, not a huge amount but something along the lines of 5 tablespoons in a 120 liter (approx. 30 gallon) tank at water change time. I also add a broad spectrum bactericide (BSB) each day and until day 10. If things are not okay at day 10 and I lose some fish I continue to add until day 14 when I re-assess things.

Medications: I try to avoid the use of strong meds when fish are put into a q-tine tank. Initially only salt and a BSB is used. If things do not go well and high losses occur then I recommend the use of stronger meds like antibiotics but I will not go into their use in this article. The issue has far too many variables like different diseases, parasites, meds that are safe, meds that can kill. The use of prescribed medications in an aquarium should only be completed on the advice of a Vet.

End of Quarantine: The fish are over the q-tine period after 6 weeks if no losses have occurred in the previous 4 weeks. Then you can add a fish from your main set up and if they fish shows no ill effects after a few days then your fish can be mixed and matched. No q-tine procedure guarantees success but the better job you do it the more your risks are reduced and never ever take short cuts.

Oct 2009 Photo Contest “Any Blushing” (S/S) type Angelfish



1st Place
Jarmila Bohmanova
Koi Angelfish



2nd Place
Lori Carr
Smokey Blushing Angelfish

Congratulations to Both Winners!

Watch for the Up Coming PHOTO CONTESTS

- December 1-31 submit photos for December photo contest. “Your Best Angel”
- January 3-15 voting for December photo contest entries.
- February 1-28 submit photos for February photo contest. (category tbd)

Have suggestions for Photo Contests Categories?
Let us know!

photocommittee@theangelfishsociety.org

How I Became a Fish Show Judge

An Interview with Tony Vaughan

Q: So when and how did you start judging fish shows? Were you recruited, or did you volunteer?

I started judging in '05. I was a moderator on the UKDA (United Kingdom Discus Association) forum and also a founder member of the UKDC (UK Discus Club). We had our first show in '05 as part of the Federation of British Aquatic Society's in October of the same year. Their show is annual and we slipped under their umbrella. At our first show most of the judges were committee members and we underwent some basic training of what to look out for and how to score a good quality fish. We also had an FBAS judge that was not a Discus Keeper but an expert on judging all kinds of tropical's and he has judged every year to date. I think this is important as he gives an unbiased opinion and is unspoiled to some of the mutated traits of the domestic fish.

Q: I know you judge discus. Do you only judge discus, or do you judge other kinds of fish?

To date I have only judged discus but as I say, once a judge always a judge. When you judge discus as often as I have done this past year then you tend to look at a discus for it's faults rather than enjoying them for what they are. Sometimes it can be a difficult thing to do but you need to be able to switch off and enjoy them for what they are "King of the Aquarium." I would like to be able to judge other types of fish, mostly South Americans.

Q: What was it like the first time you judged a fish show?

The first time was a little strange. I was part of the committee so some of us were busy doing the finishing touches and helping the traders get ready as much as we could. The first year we judged on the Saturday morning which was the first open day for the public. This had it's pro's and cons, people were in and around the show area while we were judging but it meant that we as judges had to fully focus on the task at hand and ignore some of the comments that people were making about certain fish. We also had more than 70 tanks so it was excellent experience.

Q: How did that lead to ultimately becoming a head judge?

It sort of snowballed, each time you judge it adds to your profile. Then you go to huge international shows like the Discus Championship which is held in Duisburg in Germany biennially and meet others.

Over the past 5 – 10 years the number of international discus shows has exploded, with newer national discus clubs like Sweden and Poland having shows, and having invited lots of different countries to show and judge fish.

I was invited to judge at the first Swedish show which took place earlier this year. I have a great relationship with the Swedes; they are a fantastic bunch of people. I was asked to be head judge as I was the only judge that had judged discus previously. The other two judges were experts in their own right and were in no way short of experience. In fact they were probably more experienced with discus than I.

Q: When you are judging, are there any factors (anywhere from the condition of the fish to the behavior of the owners) that either make you angry, or any that especially please you?

Sure, when someone intends to enter a fish to a show, then planning should take place at least weeks if not months in advance for international entries (local entries can be done in days / weeks). All the relevant paperwork needs to be sorted and the fish need to be conditioned. Sometimes when the proper planning has not been done then the fish can suffer. I have seen people enter sick fish into a show and this is a definite no no. When a fish is brought to a show it should never suffer anything other than slight stress. I have seen people use everything from buckets to suitcases to bring fish to a show.

Q: Is there anything as a judge that you wish you could tell people about how to prepare better for showing their fish?

Prepare the fish accordingly; ensure all paperwork in is order. How can you expect a fish to look good in a show tank if you do not take proper steps to ensure a hassle free trip from home tank to show tank?

Q: What do you do when you have two fish that are so good that it is hard to make a decision about the winner? Is there something that will sway you toward one fish over another?

In the beginning the club director devised a spreadsheet with a very intricate scoring system. From a scoring perspective it very quickly highlighted the best two or three fish. It also meant that having two fish with the same scores was a rare event. There are normally 3 – 5 judges and like everything else in life the opinions will differ. If all else fails we discuss it like adults and the majority rules.

Q: Do you ever have any problems with the fish owners? Do you have any interesting stories about fish shows you have attended? The worst person you dealt with, or the funniest thing that happened, or anything like that?

I don't have enough time to discuss the funny things that happen at fish shows. Most people are there to enjoy themselves and share experience, stories, pictures with some food and drink thrown in for good measure. After that there is little that any discus keeper could ask for!

Continued from Page 10

How I Became a Fish Show Judge

An Interview with Tony Vaughan

One short story I will share happened this year in Sweden. An Italian entrant was disappointed with his fishes score so he was giving the show manager a hard time. It was a hard time because the Swede did not speak Italian and the Italian did not speak Swedish and only had a few English words. As I was the only judge left on site I offered to explain the score with the help of a translator. Eventually we worked out why the Italian was agitated; he had thought that the stress bars counted as striations when in fact they are as they are aptly named.....stress bars. His fish was scored as a solid fish but it was in the striated category. The funny thing was that it could have all been avoided.

Q: Do you enter your own fish in fish shows?

Yes, and I have been very lucky on both occasions. At our third show we had no wild fish entered. This annoyed me as this is the origin of discus as we know them today and some of the best fish in the world are wild fish. I promised to enter some wild fish in the fourth show so I travelled to Hustinx in Belgium and hand picked 5 wild fish with the help of a friend. I got them ready for the show and ended up winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the wild section which had a total of 12 wild fish, I also won Grand Champion with a large Heckel Male. I entered the same fish again this year to maintain the wild interest and also satisfy my small competitive streak. By default I won 1st, 2nd and 3rd (to my disappointment no other wild fish were entered again this year) and the same Heckel Male went on to win Grand Champion for the second year in a row. Last year was an honor, but to do it two years in a row with the same fish was a little embarrassing. I had no input as I never judge my own fish. That's the rule and that should always be the case, no-one should ever judge their own fish in any show.

Q: How would you tell someone to prepare a fish for a fish show? I have never entered a show, but I have read of people moving their fish to a small tank in a heavily used part of the house so it will become accustomed to people and activity, and doesn't freak out and get scared at the fish show. What would you recommend?

I would never tell anyone how to prepare for a show, I would only ever suggest as we are all individuals and no-one knows their fish like their owner. Some tips I would give are;

Heavily feed the fish for several weeks before the show (increase water changes to match) but cease feeding at least 48 hours prior to shipping.

For a week before the show move the show fish into small individual tanks but within sight of their friends. I don't normally recommend "a heavily used part of the house" simply because some households have dogs, and we all know how boisterous some dogs can be. A show discus should never encounter a dog as I feel that it might cause a little unnecessary stress. To move a fish from a quiet room or study into a part of the house where it's all happening might be a little too much in a short space of time.

Match your water to the water that will be supplied at the show.

No fish should ever be entered into a show if it is ill or has any meds in its system.

Plan carefully how you will get your fish to the show and always have a "Plan B."

Always select your best fish to show.

Ensure you have the necessary equipment to get the fish home; getting them to the show is only halfway.

About the author - Tony Vaughan, a member of TAS, lives Ireland where he keeps discus and angelfish.

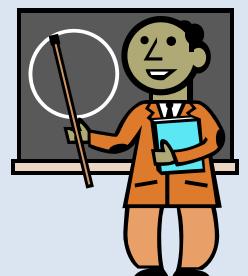
Meeting Presentations –

If you miss a TAS meeting and want to see the presentation, you can view presentations at your convenience on the TAS website presentation page at:

<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/PresentationsTAS.htm>.

Presentations are posted shortly before each meeting.

Presentations are listed in reverse chronological order (most recent one at the top of the page). Presentations cover many topics, from introductory to more advanced, so peruse the list, and view at your leisure



SAVE THE DATE!

OPEN CHAT

- **Every Friday** – Open chat in the TAS Chat room starting at 7:00 PM EST.

<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/chat>



TAS MEMBERS MEETINGS

All meetings to be held in the TAS Chat Room:

- **Sunday December 13** – TAS Annual General Meeting / election of Standards Committee Members 9 PM EDT
- **Sunday January 17, 2010** TAS Members Meeting 7:00 PM EST
- **Sunday February 21, 2010**

Details on Page 13



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:



- **Sunday December 13**, 6:00 PM EST
- **Sunday January 17**, 6:00 PM EST

Details on Page 13

ELECTION FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

- **Sunday December 13**, Nominations accepted at the Members Meeting; voting to follow
- **Sunday December 20**, Voting ends for Standards Committee (midnight)

Details on Page 14

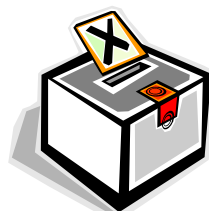


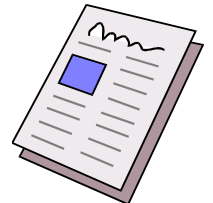
PHOTO CONTEST

- **December 1-31** submit photos for December photo contest. “Your Best Angel”
- **January 3-15** voting for December photo contest entries.
- **February 1-28** submit photos for February photo contest. (category TBD)



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

- **February 1, 2010** Deadline for submitting articles and announcements for publication in the February edition of *FinTASTic*
- **February 15, 2010** – Release of the February edition of *FinTASTic*



Buy / Sell / Trade / Freebies

Submit your ad to:

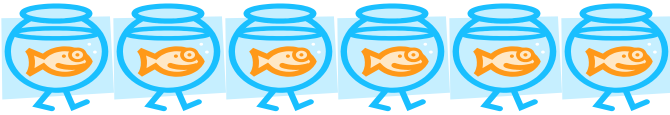
newslettercommittee@theangelfishsociety.org

Rules:

- Any items submitted must be no more than 6 lines text in length, and must contain the TAS member name, a phone number or email address or, you prefer, state your TAS or TAF forum name so you can be PM'ed. Those without contact info will be discarded.
- Please label your ad as “buy” “sell” “trade” or “freebie” so the committee doesn't need to guess at the correct category.
- Do not submit banners. You may submit a photo (no high resolution photos, please) which will be printed if room allows.

Hurry!
Get your ad's in
for the February
Issue

Make sure you come to the annual meeting!



Annual Business Meeting

Mark your calendars! The last TAS meeting for 2009 will be held on December 13!

This is our most important meeting of the year. Why?

First, it is our annual business meeting!

Second, we nominate and elect the members of the Standards Committee for the next 2-year term, to serve from January 2010 through December 2011.

Third, we will nominate and elect two vacant positions to fill on the Board of Directors.

When and where will the meeting be held?

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2009

Time: 9:00 PM Eastern Standard Time / 8:00 PM Central / 7:00 PM Mountain / 6:00 PM Pacific / 5:00 PM Alaska (UTC: Monday, Dec. 14, 2:00 AM)

Where: TAS Chat Room

<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/chat/>

TAS is your organization. It doesn't matter if you are brand new TAS or have been here for years. If you want to have a voice in how TAS is run, then come to the meetings and be heard!

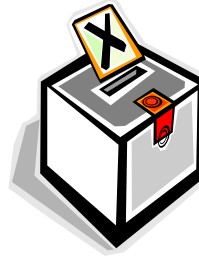
If you have any business items you want on the agenda for this meeting, please send them to the TAS Board of Directors at: tas_bod@theangelfishsociety.org



TAS Angelfish Show at 2010 ACA Expo A new board on the TAS Official Forum!

Have you visited the TAS forum lately? Wow! It has been given a beautiful facelift to go with the new look of our website. It also had a new board that has been added especially for the ACA Expo. Check here regularly for update information, to ask questions, and to volunteer your time and talents to making it a huge success!

TAS December Elections – How do they Work?



We have two elections at our December meeting. The first is to select the Standard Committee members for the next two-year term. The second is to fill two vacancies on the TAS Board of Directors, to serve for the remaining year of a two-year term.

The procedures are the same for both elections.

1. You need to be nominated at the meeting. If you are interested in running, be sure to talk to other TAS members and let them know, so someone will nominate you!
2. You need to be present to accept the nomination.
3. Election polls will be set up on the TAS Official Forum immediately following the meeting.
4. A thread will be posted on the Forum for candidates to post their "campaign speeches" – statements to tell your fellow TAS members why they should vote for you.

The bylaws allow one week for casting votes. At the end of that week, the poll will automatically close, and the results will be shown.

Election to fill Vacancies on the BOD

We have had two vacancies on the Board of Directors this year. The bylaws say that the BOD will select someone to fill those vacancies until the next general election. The BOD selected Bernard Tibbett to fill the first vacancy and Ted Santos to fill the second vacancy. With the general election in December, we now need to elect people to fill those positions. Both positions are for members-at-large, to serve out the remaining year of a two-year term.

If you are interested in running for a position on the BOD, be sure to attend the December 13 business meeting. You need someone to nominate you, and you need to be there to accept the nomination. Voting will take place on the TAS Official Forum during the week following nominations.

To learn more about the role of the BOD, read the bylaws on our website.

Continued from Page 13
TAS Elections

Standards Committee Election

Election of the Standards Committee will take place at the December 3 meeting!

Elections are held every two years, on odd-numbered years, to select the five people who will serve on the Standards Committee.

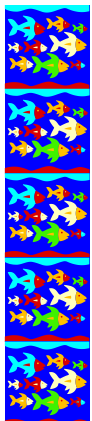
If want to serve on this committee, make sure you come to the December 13 meeting! If you know someone who you believe would make a good committee member, make sure that person comes to the meeting, and be prepared to nominate him/her.

What is the Standards Committee? The founding members considered this to be the most important committee in TAS – so important that it was made a permanent committee. The members are elected, not appointed.

What does the Standards Committee do? As per the bylaws, the core duties are to rule on a proposed new mutation name, and establish official gene notation. The committee also develops resources related to angelfish genetics and standards, such as the phenotype library.

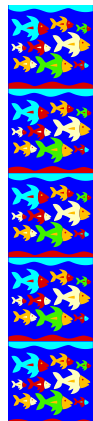
Where can you learn more about the Standards Committee?

- Read the bylaws at:
<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/bylawsNew.html>
- Look at past work by the Standards Committee at:
[http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/standards\(new\).html](http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/standards(new).html)
- View the October and November meeting presentations at:
<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/PresentationsTASNew.html>



Board of Director's List

President: Tamar Stephens
Vice-President: Lori Carr
Secretary: Sarah Smith
Treasurer: Nancy Martens
Members at large (five):
Charles Hawks
Wayne Carlson
Bob Reaves
Bernard Tibbetts
Ted Santos



Thank you to all Members and the Newsletter Team that make the FinTASic Newsletter possible.

The FinTASic Team

Tony Vaughan – Editor in Chief
Tamar Stephens – Assistant Editor & Staff Writer
Jan Kesler – Graphic Layout & Design
Sarah Smith – Staff Writer
Tamar Stephens – Staff Writer
Amanda Wenger – Staff Writer

TAS WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK:

Richard Brice - Our founding President

Raffaele Bufo - for hosting the angelfish society's website and supporting the angelfish community in regards to the original angelfish forum.

Tom Krehel - for the layout and design of the original TAS website and also for his personal contribution that made available the works of Dr. Joanne Norton to TAS members; and also for his effort and support in maintaining the original site and its server.

Michelle Ricketts - for the layout and design of the former TAS website and also for her personal contributions that assisted in making available the works of Dr. Joanne Norton to TAS members.

Mike Weigand - for his support to the angelfish community in regards to the TAFII forum and the work on the genetics calculator.

Sabás Escobar Zayas - for the design of the current website (2009).

Don Mitchell - for his work on the construction, development and continual support of the current TAS Website.