

November 2011

Issue 27

# FinTASTic



## The Angelfish Society Newsletter

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## Message from the President



*Tamar Stephens, President of  
The Angelfish Society*

We are almost at the end of 2011. This is a good time for looking back at our accomplishments and a time for looking forward to our future.

Looking back at the year, the highlight of the year was holding our second annual TAS Angelfish Show, in conjunction with the annual American Cichlid Association 2011 conventions.

Also looking back, more and more TAS members are breeding angelfish to express the "pb" gene. Many of our photo contests have displayed angelfish with striking appearances because of this gene.

So what does our future hold? Well, to start with, we are making plans for our third annual TAS Angelfish Show, to be held in conjunction with the ACA Convention, July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This is an odd-numbered year, so we will be electing a new panel for the Standards Committee at our annual meeting in December.

We are actively asking members to submit their counts on crosses with the pb gene so we can get the gene officially verified.

Sadly, a former TAS member and long-time contributor of information for the angelfish enthusiast, Reggie Dawes, has terminal cancer. Many of you are familiar with his Angelfish FAQs at <http://www.angelfish.info/>. He has offered the contents of his website to TAS. We are pleased to accept this offer as a tribute to a man who has helped many angelfish enthusiasts get off to a good start. With our focus on genetics, we don't have a lot of information on the practical aspects of keeping angelfish, so this is a welcome addition to be added to the TAS website in the near future. You will find a sample of his work in this newsletter.

Please plan to come to the TAS annual meeting on December 17 to hear more. Finally, let me wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a wonderful New Year.

## What's Happening with Angelfish in Europe?

By Tony Vaughan, Limerick, Ireland

I'm just back from judging and it has been a busy few weeks. While abroad I was very fortunate to spend some time with Jeffrey and Tony Tan of IP Discus. Both Jeffrey and his brother Tony have farms near Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. Both are renowned in the Discus World as famous discus breeders but Jeffrey also has a likeness for P. Altum. He has worked very hard with this sub species and has been rewarded by being able to breed them. The Altum debate will continue to rage and until someone does some very detailed clinical work then that argument will ride on. But more on Jeffrey's achievements in future editions of this newsletter.

While in Holland I was trying to organise a trip to a famous Dutch Angelfish breeder Jos Hut to get some pictures and have a discussion and of course to learn. What I did learn is that the main strains that are being bred at this time are Red Backs be they from the Santa Isabel or Manacaperu region. The wild fish are very nice but when they arrive in Europe it can often take a lot of hard work to get the fish back to their former glory. The F1's are equally nice fish and are a little easier to work with. From what I have seen on my travels it appears that F1's are still popular in the market as are good coloured fish like Koi's or intense reds (Red Devil's in Germany). What is absent a lot of times are good quality marbled angels; we all know the kind, a nice balanced mix of black and white with a nice colour on the head region.

In Malmo at the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary Malmo Aquarium Show there was a biotope display competition. Competitors in the event were

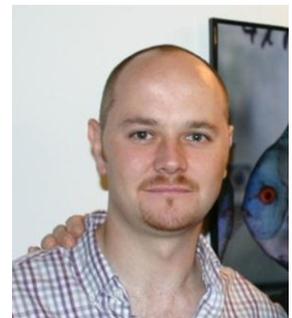
from all over Scandinavia and Heiko Bleher had a nice display of a 150 ltr (40 gal) Green Discus display. During the event there was an unfortunate mishap. Someone was stuck without a cable to get a light or pump (??) working, they borrowed an extension cable from a friend of mine but when he returned to the hall in the morning all of his 12 adult F1 Altums were dead. They failed to plug in the filter when they restored the connections. It's a timely reminder at this time of year to ensure that all heater and filter connections are intact and that no switches have tripped. Also ensure that all hardware is working correctly. These simple checks can prevent a lot of heartache.

Also I am finding it difficult to get a nice stock of good quality Platinums to be able to work with and breed. So that is top of my Christmas list.....so Santa if you're listening..... ;)

Until next time wishing you all Happy Fishies, a Happy Christmas and a very, healthy wealthy New Year ;)

### About the Author:

Tony Vaughan, a TAS member since 2006, started judging discus shows in Western Europe in 2005. He was a moderator on the UKDA (United Kingdom Discus Association) forum and also a founder member of the UKDC (UK Discus Club).



# Welcome New Members

Since this is the first newsletter in 2011, let's extend a warm welcome to all of the people who have joined TAS so far during 2011. Please welcome the following new members who joined between January 1 and October 10, 2011.

Steven Bush  
Judy Velazquez  
Michael Gray  
Donald Lewis  
Deborah Bourgoin  
Eddy Fosnight  
Sandy Walden  
Steve Lowe  
Patrick Kelly  
James Guedel  
Luis Talavera  
David Ray  
Russell Wayland  
Terry Schwartz  
Timothy O'Brien  
Arthur Schick  
Alex Borg  
Anthony Benjamin  
Frank Cowherd  
Christian Moscarell  
Raymond Van Dyke  
Christine Kanada  
Harrison Storm  
Mark Walker  
Paul Rotondi  
Deborah Mahoney  
Stephen Woolley  
Jon Miller

Dale Jones  
Jack Agliata  
Katharine Andreson-Larsen  
Greg Dill  
Cody Siterlet  
Jayson Estrada  
Toni Booth  
John Galo  
Charles Frymark  
Michael Kitchen  
John Teuschler  
Gene Mera  
Robert Sparkman  
Eric Mraz  
Mark Nicklas  
Richard Downs  
Jason Cox  
Francine Bethea  
George Goulart  
David Ramsey  
Tonya Willey  
David Rock  
Thor Bowling  
George Garcia  
Wanda Smith  
Alyssa Meisinger  
Bob van Allmen

Todd Crooks  
Joel Mallare  
Nyle Larsen  
Carl Welti  
Bernard Easton  
Kenneth Hill  
John Hodgson  
David Hickey  
Chad Fulk  
Eric Snyder  
Michael Meyer  
Dan Wright  
John Tencza  
Melanie Metcalf  
Stephen Glasper  
Lora Walters  
Dan Brown  
Margaret Collins  
Michael Moran  
Marj Rosner  
Susan McKeever  
Kristy Drafahl  
Leroy Headlee  
Tom Ardelt  
Bob Laky  
Don Harris  
Bruce Menditch



## Photo Contest Winners for 2011

Congratulation to our 2011 Photo Contest Winners! Thanks to all who entered the photo contests!



**First place – February 2011**

**“Any Standard Tail Angelfish”**

**Michelle Smith**

**First Place – May 2011**

**“Any Veil or Super Veil Angelfish”**

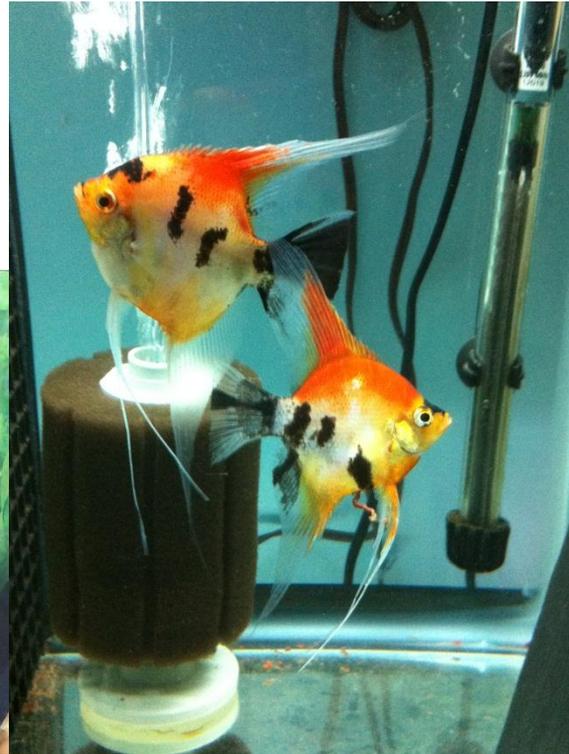
**Arthur Schick**



**July 2011 – First Place (tie)**

**“Your Favorite Pair”**

**Lori Carr (below) and Pete Villanueva (right)**



**September 2011 – First Place**

**“Most Unusual”**

**Mike Troxell**

## News and Announcements

### TAS Annual Meeting: Sunday, December 11, 2011



Please plan to come to the TAS Annual Meeting. What happens at the annual meeting?

- Nomination of candidates for the Standards Committee, followed by on-line elections
- Draft Budget for 2012
- Meeting Schedule for 2012
- Activities planned for 2012

Where: TAS Chat room at [www.theangelfishsociety.org/chat](http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/chat)

When: 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**\*\*\*This is one hour earlier than usual!\*\*\***



### Standards Committee Elections

We will be nominating candidates for the next two year term on the Standards Committee. To be eligible to serve on the Standards Committee you must be a TAS member in good standing.

What is the Standards Committee?  
 According to the bylaws:

**ARTICLE VI:** Standards Committee  
 Section 1. Standards Committee: The Standards Committee will be TAS's most important committee. It will be permanent and may not be terminated by the Board. It will consist of five members who are in good standing with TAS. The Standards committee will be totally responsible for the development of TAS angelfish naming standards. Its proposed standards may be adopted or rejected by TAS's Board of Directors, but may not be modified by the Board.

Voting will occur during the week following the meeting. To be eligible to vote, you must have been a member of TAS in good standing for 45 days prior to the election. You may vote for 5 candidates. The five candidates with the most votes at the end of the voting period will become the new Standards Committee members.

## Reggie Dawes' Angelfish FAQs

We are both pleased and saddened to bring you a sample of Reggie Dawes' Angelfish FAQs. Reggie contacted TAS because he is terminally ill, and offered to let us import his Angelfish FAQs to the TAS website so they aren't lost after his passing. His Angelfish FAQs are full of practical advice based on his many years of keeping angelfish. We hope you enjoy these and find the advice to be helpful. Here is an answer to one of the most commonly asked questions.



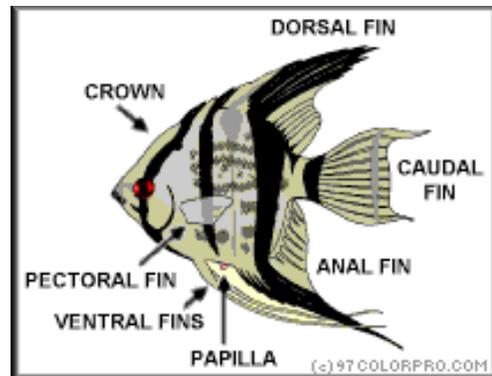
## How Can You Tell the Males from the Females?

By Reggie Dawes

**THE ONLY SURE WAY** is to watch spawning: the female lays eggs and the male fertilizes them. Before spawning, a small pink protrusion or papilla will appear. This pencil point size organ is located between the ventral and anal fins. The papilla on the female is larger than on the male, more blunt. The female will show a distinct bulge in this area when she is gravid. As she makes a spawning pass, she will leave a track of eggs evenly spaced in a line. The male will follow in another pass, touching each egg with his papilla. He many continue making passes for a day or so, for good measure.

Some say that males grow faster, that mature males have a more robust body and a more rounded crown, and that females may have a straighter line from the base of the dorsal fin to their lips. I can't confirm this -- brothers and sisters often seem identical in shape and size.

Males tend to be more territorial. If there are several healthy males in a tank with a gravid female, they'll all show papilla and try to establish territory. Watch them closely and remove the less dominant males and any extra females. Spurned males will want to dash in and eat the eggs... or sneak over in



the early morning for a caviar breakfast. It's a good idea to take pictures or better, a video of the tank before you remove the extras. Make notes on stripe patterns or other distinctive markings to help you select the males after the papilla disappear. Fish that look healthy and didn't develop papilla, and were not aggressive are probably females. If there are no males in the tank, another female may make spawning passes... but all the eggs will turn white within 36 hours.



## TAS Angelfish Show at the 2011 ACA Convention

We held our second annual TAS Angelfish Show at the ACA Convention July 21-24, 2011. This is an excellent partnership for TAS. We can piggyback on the convention and the resources of a larger organization for locating facilities, setting up the show room, and nationwide participation. We can bring value by adding an additional show to the event, allowing angelfish enthusiasts more opportunity to showcase their angelfish, and by bringing guest speakers with expertise about angelfish.

Here is a quick recap of the highlights.

### Show Classes and Winners

Class 1 Wild and Wild Type

1st - Frank Cowherd

2nd - Christian Moscarell

3rd - Frank Cowherd

Class 2 Dark Locus Phenotypes

1st - Frank Cowherd

2nd - Frank Cowherd

3rd - Gene Guido

Class 3 Single Locus Phenotypes other than Dark

1st - Lisa LaFrancis

2nd - Gene Guido

3rd - George Goulart

Class 4 All Other Phenotypes

1st - Lisa LaFrancis

2nd - Lisa LaFrancis

3rd - Gene Guido

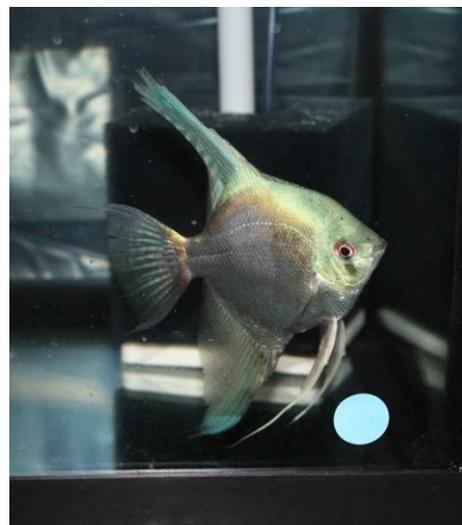
Best in Show - Frank Cowherd



Class 1 First Place – Frank Cowherd



Class 2 First Place – Frank Cowherd



Class 3 First Place – Lisa LaFrancis



Class 4 First Place – Lisa LaFrancis



Best in Show – Frank Cowherd with his black angelfish

## TAS Speaker – Charles Hawks

Charles Hawks talked on How to Distinguish the Different Varieties of Wild Angelfish.



Charles Hawks giving his talk



The audience

## Judges – Steve Rybicki, Dave Hlasnik

Judges were Dave Hlasnik and Steve Rybicki, founding members of TAS. Assisting, and getting training in how to judge angelfish, is Lisa LaFrancis.



Left to right, Dave Hlasnik, Lisa LaFrancis (judge-in-training), Steve Rybicki

## Photographer

Special thanks go to David Ramsey, who took photos of all the winning angelfish.

David is a new TAS member who joined TAS at the ACA convention.

Photographing the fish was especially challenging due to poor lighting and poor backdrop. Try photographing a black angelfish with black plastic under and behind the tank!



David Ramsey, photographer

## Everyone else who helped

Thank you to everyone who helped with planning the show and who helped out at the show.

- Leslie James researched and selected perfect ribbons and the best-in-show trophy.
- Tamar Stephens was general coordinator for the show and manned the TAS Table.
- Thank you to TAS members who entered fish in the show.
- Capital Cichlid Association hosted the 2011 ACA Show and welcomed TAS to participate.

## 2012 TAS Angelfish Show

Start planning now to participate in the TAS Angelfish Show at the 2012 ACA Convention!

How many of you looked at these photos of winning angelfish and thought to yourself, "Hey, I have angels just as beautiful!"

Well, start planning for 2012. Raise up the most spectacular angelfish you can, using all those skills of good angelfish husbandry that you know, and bring your angelfish to the 2012 Third Annual TAS Angelfish Show!

ACA 2012 will be hosted by the Circle City Aquarium Club in Indianapolis, IN, July 11-15.

For more information: [www.aca2012indy.com](http://www.aca2012indy.com)

Please see the TAS Forum to keep posted in current information or to volunteer to help.

<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/members/forums/tas/index.php/board,80.0.html>

# TAS Naming Conventions: Genetic Notation for *Pterophyllum scalare*

By Tamar Stephens

## Introduction

All of us learn how to use the TAS genetic notation, such as “D” for dark, or “S” for stripeless. We learn to show pair of genes such as “Sm/+” for smokey. But where did TAS genetic notation come from?

## What is genetic notation?

Genetic notation is a set of symbols used to represent genes on chromosomes. There are three principal styles of genetic notation in common use among scientists: plant notation, animal notation, and microbial notation.

TAS uses a modification of animal genetic notation. Animal genetic notation is based on the concept of a “wild type” designated with the “+” symbol. In animal genetic notation, “wild type” means the most common phenotype. In TAS, “wild type” refers to the traits found in the most common phenotype in wild angelfish, which we know as a wild silver, or just “wild.”

## Animal Genetic Notation Rules

**Rule 1** - Select a letter (or group of letters) that refers to the non-wild phenotype or the general characteristic. For example, we would select the letter “D” to represent the dark or black phenotype.

**Rule 2** - If the non-wild allele is recessive to the wild type allele, use a lower case letter to symbolize it. If the non-wild trait is dominant (or co-dominant) to the wild type, pick an upper case letter to symbolize it. For example, since the dark allele is co-

dominant to the wild type, we would use upper case “D” instead of lower case “d”.

**Rule 3** - The wild type allele is the same symbol as the non-wild with a + superscript like this: D<sup>+</sup>. In other words, the D<sup>+</sup> represents the wild allele at the dark gene locus.

**Rule 4** - If there are more than two alleles, letter superscripts are lower case if the second allele is recessive to the initial dominant allele, and upper case if it is dominant to it. Since gold is recessive to dark, animal notation would use lower case “g” instead of upper case “G” for gold. A gold allele would be shown as D<sup>g</sup>.

## TAS Genetic Notation

The notation used by The Angelfish Society is a modification of animal notation. The symbols that would normally be superscripts in animal genetic notation become the actual notation for the allele. This modification was developed because it seems more intuitive and easier to remember and work with.

As with animal notation, when the allele is dominant or partially dominant, the symbol uses or begins with an upper case letter. When the allele is recessive, the symbol is in lower case letters. The table below compares animal notation with TAS notation for the dark locus phenotypes. Notice that the animal notation superscript becomes the TAS notation. D<sup>+</sup> becomes simply +; D<sup>M</sup> becomes M, and so on.

The table below compares animal notation with TAS notation.

ANIMAL vs TAS GENETIC NOTATION		
ALLELE (DARK LOCUS)	ANIMAL NOTATION	TAS NOTATION
Dark (black)	D	D
Wild	D <sup>+</sup>	+
Marble	D <sup>M</sup>	M
Gold Marble	D <sup>Gm</sup>	Gm
Gold allele	D <sup>g</sup>	g

Genes come in pairs, so genetic notation shows the symbols for two paired alleles separated by a forward slash like this: D/D. This represents two dark alleles at the dark locus. When showing the notation for more than one gene pair, each pair is separated by a hyphen like this: D/D – S/S.

The next table shows all of the alleles for which TAS has currently adopted symbols. This table shows the gene loci in the order in which the TAS Genetics Calculator displays results. The alleles for the dark locus appear first, followed by the alleles for the smokey locus, and so on.

The genotype of a smokey veil tail could be displayed like this if you want to show every gene locus.

**+/+ - +/+ - Sm/+ - V/+ - +/+ - +/+ - +/+ - +/+**

However, this gives a very cluttered appearance. To simplify matters, the genetics calculator only displays the

genotypes for the alleles where one or both parents have a non-wild allele. In this example, the genotype would be shown like this:

**Sm/+ - V/+**

CURRENT TAS NOTATION		
GENE LOCUS	ALLELE	TAS SYMBOL
<b>Dark Locus</b>	Dark	D
	Marble	M
	Gold Marble	Gm
	Gold	g
<b>Zebra / Stripeless Locus</b>	Zebra	Z
	Stripeless	S
<b>Smokey</b>	Smokey	Sm
<b>Veil</b>	Veil	V
<b>Half-black</b>	Half-black	hb
<b>Pearl-scale</b>	Pearl-scale	p
<b>Albino</b>	Albino	a
<b>Streaked</b>	Streaked	St

When additional genes are verified that influence the phenotype significantly, TAS will assign notation to them, and this table and the genetics calculator will be updated to include the notation for those genes.



## TAS Positions – how you can get involved!

Do you want to take an active role in TAS? Here are some ways you can become involved!



### ► Presentations Committee

2 – 3 people needed.

We try to have a presentation with a topic of interest at most of our membership meetings. We need people to come up with ideas for presentation, to develop presentations, to find guest speakers, etc.



### ► Newsletter

3 – 4 people needed + one-time article submissions.

Have you ever wanted to be a reporter? Here is your chance to start your career as a journalist! We need people to come up with ideas for topics, to research and write articles, to write opinion pieces, to interview people, to take photos, do layout, etc. Do you want to start your very own advice column? This is your chance. We need people to serve on the committee to make sure our newsletters get done on time, and we need contributors.

If you have an idea for an article, but don't want to make a regular commitment to serve on the committee, then write your article and submit it!

Have you done an interesting project, attended a fish who, toured a hatcher? Tell us about it.

### ► TAS Angelfish Show, July 2012



5 – 6 people needed. More welcome.

We can use volunteers to help with everything from early planning up to helping out at the actual show in July. A board has been set up on the TAS Forum to provide information. Visit the forum to see what volunteer opportunities are available. You can post on that board to volunteer, to ask questions, and offer suggestions.

<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/members/forums/tas/index.php/board.80.0.html>

Everybody can enter angelfish!

We want to encourage as many members as possible to enter angelfish in the show so we can wow convention folks with how beautiful our angelfish are.

### ► Offspring Counts with the pb Gene



Are you breeding angelfish with the pb gene? Well, we need you to do offspring counts so we can verify how the gene

works! The Board of Directors is requesting that you submit offspring counts no later than March 31, 2012. At that time, or sooner if information is submitted, the Board will evaluate the information that has been submitted and if there is sufficient information it will be forwarded to the Standards Committee.

Please see the TAS Forum in the Genetics section for details on what information to submit and how to submit it. A spreadsheet will be set up on the TAS website to display all the results that are submitted.

<http://www.theangelfishsociety.org/members/forums/tas/index.php/topic,835.0.html>

## ► Enter the Photo Contests



Everyone may participate!

This is an easy and fun way to participate in TAS. Watch for the photo contests and collect photos of your most beautiful angelfish to submit for the photo contests.

## ► Attend Meetings

Everyone may participate!

Meetings are usually held on the third Sunday of each month. Meetings are moved up or back by one week when appropriate to avoid conflict with holidays or other special days, such as Father's Day..

Come to the monthly meetings and meet your fellow TAS members. Attending meetings gives you a voice in TAS.

## ► Bylaws Committee

Periodically, every organization should review its bylaws to determine whether there are sections that need to be updated. If you are a thoughtful and methodical person, and want to help with this task, we can use you. Winfield Frazier is taking the lead on this project and will be providing periodic updates on the process. In particular we need to examine and improve the election process.

## ► Special Projects

Do you have some particular project you would like to do as a TAS member? Do you want to form an ad hoc committee to accomplish some specific goal? Well, let your imagination run. Maybe you have an idea for a new topic to add to the website, or for a new project you think TAS should undertake. Whatever your idea, bring it up at a meeting or send your idea to the Board of Directors.

## ► How to Get Started

To volunteer for any of these activities you can:

- volunteer at a TAS meeting, or
- contact the Board of Directors at [tas\\_bod@theangelfishsociety.org](mailto:tas_bod@theangelfishsociety.org)



## Miscellaneous Information

### 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](mailto:webmasters@theangelfishsociety.org).

If you have never visited the chat room, check it out at:

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

### How to Submit Articles to FinTAStic

Send your articles to the Newsletter Committee at:

[newslettercommittee@theangelfishsociety.org](mailto:newslettercommittee@theangelfishsociety.org)

The next edition is schedule for February 15, 2012. Submissions should be received by the committee by February 1, 2012.

### Free Ads for TAS Members

TAS members may post ads in FinTAStic. Whether you are looking to sell, buy, or trade, if it is angelfish related, you may submit your add to the newsletter committee to be published in the next issue. Please submit your ad no later than February 1, 2012 for inclusion in the February, 2012 issue of FinTAStic. E-mail your ad to:

[newslettercommittee@theangelfishsociety.org](mailto:newslettercommittee@theangelfishsociety.org)

### FinTAStic Staff for this Issue

Tamar Stephens  
Tony Vaughan

**Happy Holiday – Merry Christmas – A Prosperous New Year to All!**

