



August 2011
Volume 19 Issue 12

THE FILTER

TBAS ... Since 1992

AUGUST PROGRAM
JOE GARGAS
AUGUST BOWL
SHOW

- 1) Bettas
- 2) Anabantids

Tampa Bay Aquarium Society



“The Filter”

Tampa/St. Pete Florida

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Silver Dollar, *Metynnis argenteus* . . .

Photo by MFJacobs 2011

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Carbon: Filtering Out the Facts First

When I graduated from High School in 1974 my first real job was a lab technician for a company in my hometown of South Holland, IL, a suburb of Chicago. The company was “Commercial Testing and Engineering”, which was a division of a much large company call Peabody Galion (Peabody Coal Company). During the 3 years I worked there I extracted sulphur and ash from coal samples from all over. This would determine what would be safe for burning and what would not, among other things. I was 17 at the time, and this was the beginning of my lab experience. I became quite versed in the science of carbon a number of years before I got into water treatment!!!!

Carbon has a long history of extensive use in municipal, industrial and environmental water treatment. Almost wherever dissolved organic compounds are present activated carbon is employed to remove these compounds. Carbon is formed by heating/burning coal and other carbonaceous material to a very high degree. Here are a few examples of carbon:

Anthracite has a great hardness and does not burn readily thus it is difficult to reach the heating point for carbonization making it unusable for carbon.

Bituminous coal is an organic sedimentary rock formed by the compression of peat bog material. It burns easily and rapidly thus being able to be processed into carbon and is the best choice for water filtration.

Coconut Shell Carbon is not necessarily made from coconuts. It is produced from any carbonaceous material like eucalyptus, saw dust, rice husk, wood and even scrap wood like an old chair. A good example of this is the lump coal you can purchase for grilling at grocery store. This type of carbon is very easy to make, so the profits are GREAT! However Coconut Shell Carbon was never meant to filter water; being micro porous (small pores), it was meant for air filtration only . . . but profits got in the way. Depending on what the coconut shell carbon was made from, using this in an aquarium can cause a high level of phosphates as well as other impurities to leech into the water.

Next month we will look at the forms of carbon for the consumer.

Joe Gargas

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I want to take a second to introduce our speaker for August: Joe Gargas!!!

I met Joe formally 10-12 years ago when he spoke to TBAS at a downtown Tampa hotel we were using for the club meetings. His subject . . . what else . . . water quality . . . hardness and SALT . . . although he did try to take the pH of the Coke he was drinking. He was good then . . . there is no doubt about what I heard that night . . . he knew his stuff and what's more I felt he had more than a "book" knowledge of water quality. I could just hear it in his voice . . . that "I know what I'm talking about" voice!!! Could I do what he does????? Well, probably yes, but it would take an entire breaking down of my system and re-inventing my "wheel" . . . and I thought I was good in the first place . . . and then he disappeared.

Many years later I received an e-mail from Joe that he kinda wanted to get to know the TBAS members and maybe join the club. "THIS CAME TO THAT" and he did join us. He wrote an article that got everyone's attention about water and then proceeded to give a lecture to TBAS and the Coastal Aquarium Society (Sarasota), and everyone was confused . . . but the more we talked amongst ourselves the more we understood that Joe had something very real AND IMPORTANT to say.

I got to know Joe fairly well, and I watched him build his fish room (with Hank). I was totally taken back by his following everything he talked about in our talks . . . I was impressed . . . I was jealous. He not only talked the talk, but in fact, he walked the walk as well!

His fish room is a pleasure to visit with absolute crystal clear water and discus breeding everywhere as a testament to his knowledge. Listen to him . . . learn things and then talk about what he says. It's important to you and it's important to the fish hobby . . . welcome Joe to the TBAS August meeting.

Come Early to Get a Seat . . . Enjoy . . . Ask Questions!

EXCHANGE

BULLETINS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Atlanta Tropical Fish | 5) New England Cichlids |
| 3) Long Island Aquariums | 6) Pacific Coast Cichlids |
| 4) Motor City Tropicals | 7) Youngstown Aquarist |

These are the newest of the Exchange Bulletins that have been sent to TBAS. To view these go to www.tbas1.com and on the left click on EXCHANGE BULLETINS. ENJOY THE EXCHANGE!!!



**Coastal
Aquarium
Society**

Coastal meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month on the campus of New College in Sarasota Florida . . . come and spend an evening with us! <http://coastalaquariumsociety.com> You won't be sorry you came! Directions are on the website.



A photo of a typical Coastal Aquarium Society meeting.

Welcome to My World: AQUARIUM PHOTOS

by Mike Jacobs

Camera: NIKON D300 Flash: NIKON SB800 Lens: NIKON 105mm Micro 1:2.8 D

With a paper bulletin you will not be able to enjoy my photos enlarged. If you are on a computer looking at the PDF version of this bulletin, then click on each photo to see a full sized version. To see a computer version go to: tbas1.com.

Remember . . . Click on the Picture to Enlarge



1)



2)



3)



4)



5)



6)

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PAGE SIX FISH

1) *Microgeophagus ramirezi*
... ELECTRIC BLUE

2) *Pristella maxillaris*
... Albino Pristilla

3) *Pelvicachromis pulcher*
... "Lagos"

4) *Bitodoma cupido*

5) *Microgeophagus ramirezi*
... German Blue

6) *Corydoras aeneus*
... Orange Lazer

PAGE SEVEN FISH

7) *Danio rerio*
... Glowfish

8) *Corydoras sterba*
... Sterbai Cory

9) *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*
... White Black Tetra

10) *Symphysodon* spp.
... Discus

11) *Pterophyllum scalare*
... Koi Angels

7)



8)



9)



10)



11)





The TBAS calendar year is over, and it's time to take stock of what the club has accomplished. In almost every respect I can think of, in 2011 we set the bar way, way up top for TBAS:

1) We had the TBAS Swap Meet . . . it was by all thoughts a bit below what we had hoped for, but it got the ball rolling and there is on-going discussions as to another TBAS Swap Meet in the near future.

2) The TBAS Christmas Party was one for the books. We moved the Xmas party to USF and the food was everywhere . . . the people were good . . . and the Spirit of Christmas was truly with the group. It was really a magical night presented to the TBAS members by Steph & Dre.

3) The wind blew and the time of year was maybe, in hindsight, not the best time of year for the club auction . . . but once again Dre & Steph pulled this TBAS Auction with minor problems but nothing that isn't being worked on and the club made more money on this auction than any other I am aware of. Great job everyone . . . auctioneers, runners, computer operators . . . TBAS!!!!

4) Our attendance of the regular meetings has grown and grown. For the last several years our attendance was in the area of 35-40 people. We are now approaching 65-75 people per meeting. What a wonderful sight to see . . . all of you wonderful people.

Mike



HURRICANES:

Imagine this: there is a hurricane in the gulf and it is headed this way. What can you do to help your fish survive? What if you have to evacuate? First thing you should do is water changes and not just 10 to 15%, but 50%! Trim plants and remove

excess debris. Clean all your filters and check all equipment. Now stock up on hydrogen peroxide, fresh sealed stuff. Use a capful per 50 gallons, and it will boost the oxygen levels during power failures. This can be repeated every hour.

Don't feed during a hurricane even if you have power because you never know when the power will go off again, and you want to keep organic waste at a minimum until the storm is over. It would be best to keep the lights off to keep the fish in a resting state during the storm, lights suddenly going on and off in a power failure can put a lot of stress on your fish. If you have to evacuate you should reduce the water level in the tanks, because oxygen is only at the surface of the water and the fish have to use a lot of energy and oxygen going to the surface to breath. A small battery operated air pump will help the oxygenation level, check local pet stores [also check anywhere fishing supplies are sold]. The lower water level will cut down the likely hood of a fish jumping out. Turn all lights off and hope for the best.

After the storm, be careful when you are refilling the tanks, the water supply could be contaminated. You can add 10 drops of bleach per gallon and then dechlorinate and aerate the water to make it safe before you use it. If you think ahead you could have some buckets filled with water, be sure to keep them covered tightly to keep out unwanted mosquitoes.

If you have a special tank like a saltwater reef or a tall tank that must have continuous water circulation I found that you could get a little 12-volt water pump used for baitfish at any fishing supply store for less the \$20. I put this pump to the test and it ran a wet-dry on my 100 gall tall tank for three days off a car battery, and it was still going strong when I shut it down. Of course you could get a generator to run the whole house during the storm. Back-up power systems used for computers only give you a short time, just enough time to shut down your computer. I hope all this information will help your aquariums survive a hurricane. Until next month, keep your fish healthy and happy.

Patty

MONTHLY BOWL SHOW RESULTS

<u>PERSON</u>	<u>Year Totals</u>	<u>July Results</u>	<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>
Angel Heald-Post	44	9	64
Barbara Kusich	44	6	60
Joe Berberich	36	15	57
Tanja Diederich	26	1	28
Jim Norris	12	0	12
Jim Lombardi	8	0	12
Allen Alvarez	8	0	8
Nan Smith	7	0	8
John Papp	7	0	7
Dre Alvarado	3	0	3

Board Of Directors' Meeting

2010 - 2011

February 2011	Patty Monerief (Fair)
March 2011	Mike Jacobs
April 2011	Gene Linkoski
May 2011	Mike Jacobs
June 2011	Hank Darin
July 2011	Hank Darin
August 2011	Ludo Van Den Bogaert

INTERNET IDEAS

- 1) <http://bettysplendens.com/articles/home.imp>
- 2) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rK0m_awMOWQ
- 3) <http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/content.php?sid=3845>

MONTHLY BOWL SHOW

January

- 1) Livebearers
- 2) Egglayers

February

- 1) Killifish
- 2) Invertebrates

March

- 1) Old World Cichlids
- 2) New World Cichlids

April

- 1) Sucker Catfish
- 2) All Other Cats

May

- 1) Livebearers Spawned & Raised
- 2) Egglayers Spawned & Raised

June

- 1) Open
- 2) Fish Shirt (must be worn)

July

- 1) Barbs & Rasboras
- 2) Danios, White Clouds & Rainbows

August

- 1) Bettas
- 2) Anabantids

September

- 1) Characins
- 2) Sharks, Loaches & Eels

October

- 1) Native Florida Fish
- 2) Any Plants

November

- 1) Goldfish & Koi
- 2) Participant Created Fish Art

December

- No. . . Bowl Show
- . . . Awards!!!!

STAMP

PO Box 27044 Tampa, FL 33623

Tampa Bay Aquarium Society

