

**TAMPA BAY
AQUARIUM
SOCIETY**



**ST. PETE/TAMPA
FLORIDA**

THE FILTER

TBAS . . . Since 1992



Microphis deocata
Rainbow Belly Pipe Fish

**February 2017
Volume 26 Issue 7**

Photo Mike Jacobs . . . 2016

February Meeting
Speaker: Joe Hiduke
5D Tropicals

February Bowl Show
1) Male Betta Splenden (single fish)
2) Open



TAMPA BAY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

"THE FILTER"

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

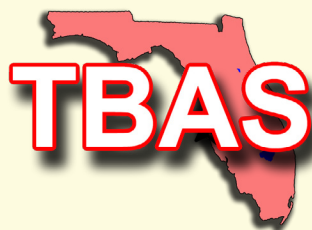
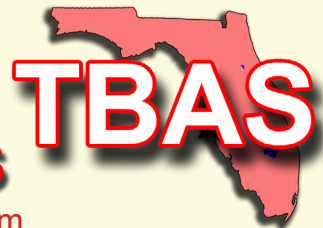


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President's Dharmesh Patel Stuff

Hello Friends,

2017 is in full swing! It's hard to believe that February is here! Hopefully everyone got the plants they wanted at our January plant auction (I know I did!).

Our club will return to our regular format this February. Our speaker is Joe Hiduke. He will be giving a presentation on "Where our fish come from". After his presentation we will have our regular mini auction with fish, plants and the assortment.

The Florida State Fair is here! Make sure and check out the Aquarium Beautiful Competition. Visiting with Bill Shields, viewing the tanks and eating Fried Wisconsin Cheddar are generally the highlights of the Fair for me. Thanks to all the competitors that will take the time to bring and setup their tanks.

February 25 & 26 at the Ramada Lakeland, join many of your club friends from around the state for the First Annual Aquarium Swap of Florida. Info www.aquariumswapfl.com/schedule

See you at our next meeting!



Dharmesh

Dharmesh Patel, President, TBAS

Pseudolaguvia ribeiroi sp.

India Cheetah Catfish

... there are **RED ANGELS** and then there are ... “Czech” **RED ANGELS** by Mike Jacobs

I have been raising angelfish since maybe 1979. I have been through the blacks, black-lace, marbles, silvers, pearscale, albinos, koi . . . but I had never run across an angel like the Czech Red Angel. About 2003 a fellow had an ad in TFH for a pair of Red Angels in Dade City . . . I called. We made a date and I went to see them and ended up buying them. I brought them home and just looked and looked and looked . . . they were really different looking. They were different from the Koi angels I was working with . . . they were a mahogany, pink-red color . . . over the ENTIRE body.

Well, I plopped them in a tank with a pair of Apisto. cacatuoides and feed them for a week or two and I went in to feed them again and there were some eggs on the PVC tube . . . RED EGGS!!!! I truly thought the cacatuoides had put a spawn on the PVC instead of in their pot. So I stood there and watched for 10-15 minutes and sure enough the angels were dutifully tending to the eggs and chasing the cacatuoides from them . . . they were really eggs from the Czech Red Angels. So I pulled them and the rest is history.

Now . . . let's talk red in angelfish first. I heard it with the Czech Reds and I have heard it with the Rybicki Kois . . . the red doesn't last. The people that say this don't understand the red in an angel. Let me give you a quote . . . “If not properly fed, the orange color can and probable will fade. Koi Angelfish have a GENE that allows them to retain carotenoids in their body tissue and scales. Carotenoids are the pigment that make carrots orange. If properly feed, Orange Koi will store this pigment in their tissue and intensify in color as they grow. The color can range from dark gold to dark red-orange. It is important to feed, almost exclusively, with foods that contain carotenoids in some form, especially while the fish are juveniles. After they reach adult size , it's not as critical to feed these

foods all the time. Foods that contain carotenoids are: color flakes, dried krill, dried ocean plankton, frozen brine shrimp & mysis shrimp, and spirulina algae flakes . . . ". I forgot where I got this quote but I saved it for many many years knowing I would want it someday. Steve Rybicki did not make this quote but he says the same thing. Steve is very up front about the use of color food on his Koi angels.

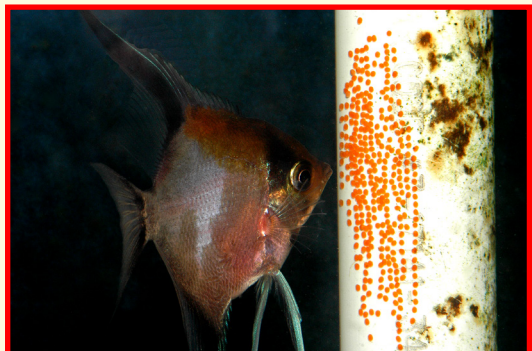
So what I am saying is that when you talk to someone who says that the "red" angels ALWAYS fade and are no good" it's because they don't understand anything about color production in angelfish (tropical fish). Do the colors fade . . . sure if you do not feed them carotenoids or Astaxanthin laced type foods . . . it will happen if you don't do it. However, you can revive the color anytime you wish buy just feeding dome of the correct foods . . . flakes or a paste.

Ok . . . enough of the foods . . . that really for another story . . . this article is about the fish!!!

Meet the Czech Red Angel:



. . . this was a young from the first spawn of my original pair. This is the color they were when feed properly . . . KINDA NIFTY!!!



Obviously this is the pair in spawning mode. See the RED EGGS!!!! In angels I had NEVER seen anything before like that and have never seen anything like that since from an angelfish . . . RED EGGS!!!!



I have never made a big effort to keep them in "RED FORM" with the food I feed them . . . neither do I keep my Koi in top notch "red form" . . . unless I know someone is coming over and then I will feed them some color food a few days before they come. The red is not lost in 1-2 days . . . and it takes maybe it takes 7-8-9 days before the color enhancement really takes over again but an occasional feeding of the color food will make do for me.

The fry . . . they come out with a hint of red coloring in them . . . and of course the live baby brine I feed them will enhance them until it's time for them to be taken off the baby brine:

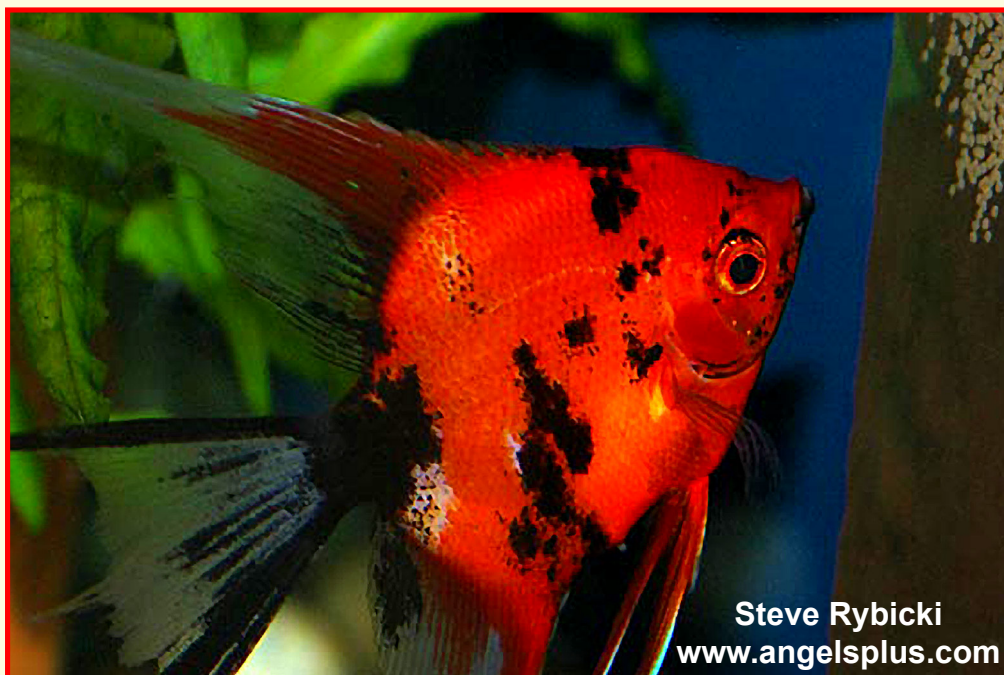


See the red in them . . . that's from live Baby brine . . . now the real food comes!!

Here's the Czech red Angel in all it's form in a normal planted aquarium.



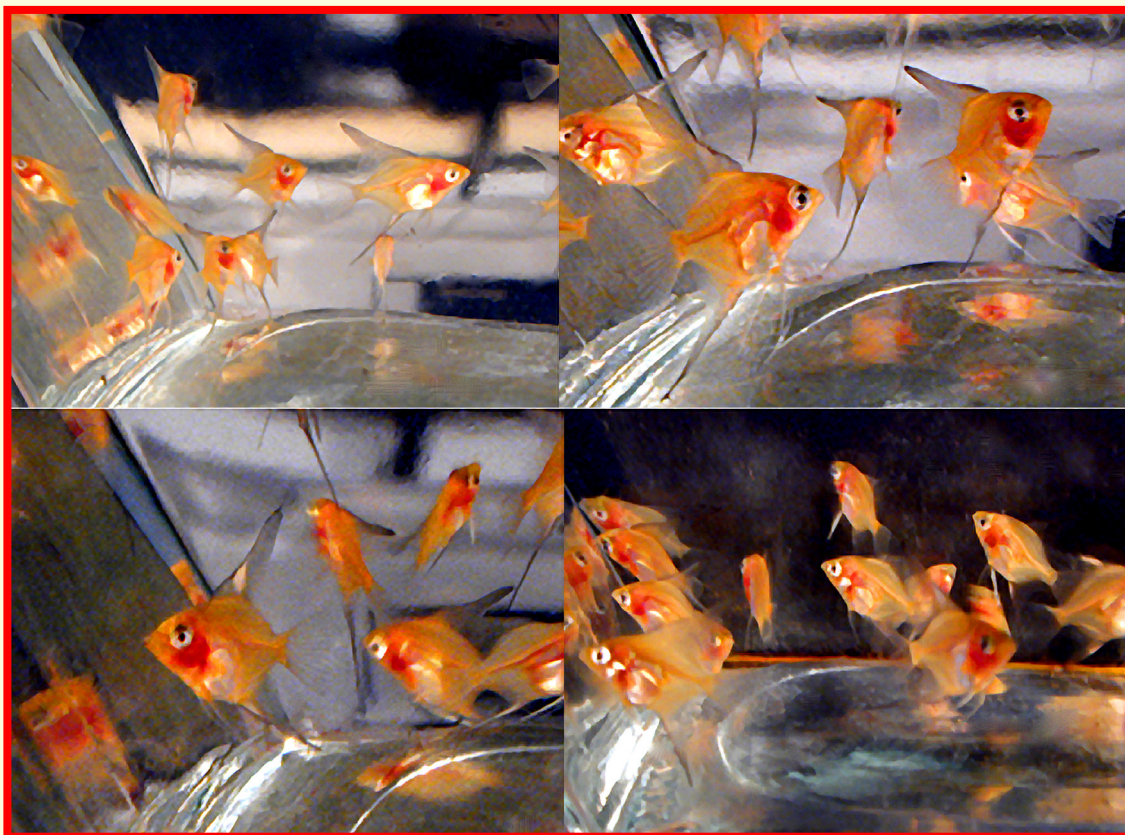
Compare it to a full blown Steve Rybicki Koi angel . . . **THEY ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FISH!!** . . . a VERY different color of red!!



I had them for maybe 2-3 years. So what happened to them? I don't even remember! I was selling fish over the internet then and was selling the heck out of them and all of a sudden I didn't have them any more. It's one of those "fish stories" that always happens . . . they were popping out all over the place and you get complacent and then whoops - they are just GONE!!!

I have now looked and looked and looked for them but I can't find them. Not on Aquabid or anything. My good friend Zdeno Fiala, St. Petersburg, is from the Czechoslovakia Republic and knows some of the farmers that raise them and they still have them but the cost to get only them would but totally prohibitive. Zdeno and I are trying to work something out when he goes back to visit friends to see if he can get 12-15 back in the USA but we will have to see about that.

For the moment I will just have to keep looking and looking for my LONG LOST CZECH RED ANGELFISH!



The above photo was one of my old ads for the Czech Red Angels I was selling (2004-2005 or so). This was after only feeding live baby brine and they were ready for the real color food. These angels had maybe dime-sized bodies.



The afternoon high is a very pleasant 65 degrees with low humidity. We opened our windows to air out the house from the long summer of 24 hours-a-day air conditioning. By late evening, the temperature dropped into the mid 50s . . . great sleeping weather . . . and the windows were closed for the night. What a beautiful day it had been! A couple of days later, we noticed that our fish were covered in little white spots. They have the DREADED ICK! Testing shows that the water quality was good and no new fish were added. How could this have happened? How do we save our fish?

Fish get sick for a reason, so what happened? The temperature in the tank dropped several degrees in less than 24 hours and no doubt severely stressed the fish. The temperature in larger bodies of water is much more stable and usually doesn't drop more than a degree or two a day . . . it that. But in much smaller bodies of water, like our fish tanks, the temperature is not as stable. Unless there is a heater in the tank, the temperature can drop very rapidly. When this happens the fishes' immune systems are depressed and the nasty little ick parasites take hold. If something is not done very quickly, many of the fish will die.

Freshwater ick is characterized by small, white, rounded spots (the size of the period at the end of a sentence) on the body and fins of the fish. The spots visible on the fish are actually a combination of cyst (caused by an immune reaction by the fish (and the parasite). The parasite penetrates the skin and gills of the host. This form of the parasite can not be killed by medication. Later in their life

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cycle, the ick parasite drops off their host (the fish) and matures further in the substrate or on the surface of plants or other structures in the tank. They then reproduce, each ick, parasite releasing up to 1,000 free swimming forms, known as tomites, into the water. These tomites must find a fish host with 48-72 hours at 75-79 degrees F or they will die. This free swimming tomita stage is the for that can be killed by medication.

The first thing to do is put a heater in the tank to maintain a stable water temperature. Any infected fish should be removed to a hospital tank whenever possible. The best course of action is to treat the fish with a formalin-malachite green combination. However, this treatment is also the harshest medication for the fish to tolerate. Formalin alone is the next best treatment and less stressful. These two medications must be used cautiously for fine-scaled or scale-less fish. In every case, be sure to red the directions for dosage. If for some reason, medicating is inappropriate, increasing the salinity of the treatment tank (for fish species that can tolerate the higher levels) often works because the salinity disrupts the ick life cycle.

If you are using a hospital tank, raise the temperature to about 80-84 degrees F. This will cause the parasites to drop off faster and reproduce. Remember, the medication only kills the free swimming tomites. Be sure to do a water change after the first 48 hours to improve water quality and vacuum the gravel to reduce the number of maturing parasites. When the spots are all gone, don't celebrate yet . . . often three to five treatments, every other day are necessary to control and eliminate the disease. When you're pretty sure the disease is gone, bring the temperature down one to two degrees a day until it matches the main tank. Then return the fish to the main tank. Don't forget to keep a heater in the tank to maintain temperature stability.

If a hospital tank can't be used and you must treat the main tank, raise the water temperature to 80-82 degrees F. Be sure to remove all carbon. Add the medication to the tank (follow the dosage instructions!). Unfortunately, your plants and invertebrates may suffer. So, if possible, move them to another tank for at least three to four days. This will also break the life cycle of the parasites living on the plants. Don't forget to do a water change after treatments to prevent water quality problems.

Everyone's tank gets ick sometime, but if we do everything we can to prevent problems like sudden temperature drops and the introduction of un-quarantined fish, then an "ick-disaster" will happen far less often and fewer fish will be lost. Until next month, keep those fish happy and keep those questions coming. Note: The preceding advice was for freshwater fish only. The rules are different with marine tropicals and reef tanks!!



Pethia phutunio - India Dwarf Green Barb

photo: Mike Jacobs 2017

MONTHLY BOWL SHOW

January

- 1)
- 2) **None - Plant Auction**

February

- 1) Male Betta Splenden
(single fish)
- 2) Open

March

- 1) Tetras, Barbs, Rasbora
- 2) Cichlids

April

- 1) Platies
- 2) Guppies

May

No Bowl Show
Swap Meet

June

- 1) Corydoras
- 2) Anabantoids no Bettas

July

- 1) Arts & Crafts (hand made)
- 2) Fish "T" Shirt (must be worn)
- 3) Aquatic Photos
(personally taken)

August

- 1) Mollies
- 2) Rainbows

September

- 1) Swordtails
- 2) Pleco/Sucker type fish

October

- 1) Dwarf Cichlids
- 2) Angelfish

November

- 1) Goldfish & Koi
- 2) Invertebrates (Fresh or Salt)

December

No Bowl Show . . . Christmas
Party and the
2016 Results of the Bowl Show!!!



BOWI Show Results

2016

by AL

NAME	JAN-OCT	NOVEMBER	TOTAL

**IT ALL STARTS OVER FOR
2017 . . .
GET ON BOARD!!!**



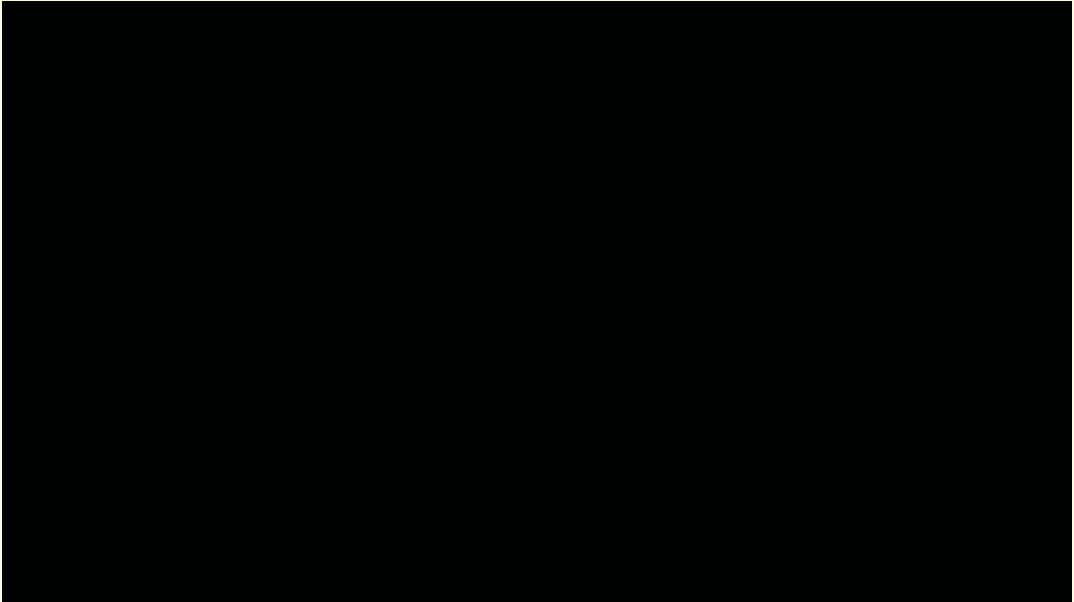
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MEMBERSHIP DUES!!!!



Membership Dues for TBAS are due on the anniversary of your sign-up date every year. Please make sure you check the “sign-in” list on the table at every meeting to check your “Dues-Date” . . . Thanks!!!

USE PAYPAL ON THE TBAS WEBSITE . . . TBAS1.COM . . . !!!!!

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Dharmesh Patel



V. PRESIDENT
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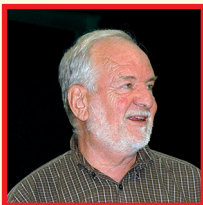


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