

**OVAS "Ask an Expert" Chat Event – Night with a Rebel with Pegasus
January 20th, 2007**

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:05 pm: Welcome to this edition of the OVAS "Ask an Expert" Chat Event!

A few ground rules before we get started.

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:05 pm: To speak in the main chat window, simply type your message into the lower box and press Send.

To speak to a single person, click their name in the list on the right and choose "Private message." A new dialog box will pop up and you can converse with that user without other users seeing your conversation.

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:05 pm: If you would like to ask the Expert a question, type an exclamation point ! and send it to the main chat window.

I will call on each person in order by typing "GA username" in the chat window. To keep the conversation running smoothly, users are not permitted to speak unless called upon. When you are done asking a question, type "GA" to indicate that you are done speaking.

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:06 pm: If you have any questions during the chat event, feel free to send me a personal message.

Please keep all questions related to chat material. Please use respect while participating in this event, it will be moderated.

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:06 pm: Please welcome tonight's resident expert, pegasus! pegasus, if you could start by telling us a little bit about yourself and what you'd like to chat about tonight.... GA

[pegasus] 6:07 pm: **If it wasn't for breeding I would have only one tank so breeding is what is keeping me in the hobby GA**

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:07 pm: okay so let's talk about breeding fishes :) the floor is now open for questions, please type ! if you have one

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:08 pm: okay I will start - what's so great about breeding fish? why do you do it?

[pegasus] 6:08 pm: **Who hasn't bred yet ?**

[sniggir] 6:09 pm: myself

[sniggir] 6:09 pm: I am thinking about it though

[pegasus] 6:10 pm: **The challenge and the new experiences learned, all the knowledge that is acquired is the reward GA**

[pegasus] 6:11 pm: **Every second day or so I come home to a new brood GA**

[sniggir] 6:11 pm: very cool sounds like fun

[kennyman] 6:11 pm: What do you do with all the fry? GA

[pegasus] 6:12 pm: **First I started a breeder's association to get rid of all the fry;) GA**

[pegasus] 6:13 pm: **Seriously I always keep a few to renew my stock , I sell the rest to members, to LFS and to the wholesalers**

[sniggir] 6:13 pm: are your breeders WC?

[pegasus] 6:14 pm: **No I don't, I don't deal much with WC, I'm a bit against**

[sniggir] 6:14 pm: reason for asking is that I am buying some ws and was thinking of breeding them

[pegasus] 6:15 pm: **that's fine my only concern is taking away native fish from their natural breeding grounds**

[pegasus] 6:15 pm: **knowing that many if not 75% will die in the process**

[daniel] 6:16 pm: what's wc?

[sniggir] 6:16 pm: how do you stop the inbreeding of colony so as to stop mutations and such

[pegasus] 6:17 pm: **I would suggest that the countries around the lakes take a better control of the industry**

[sniggir] 6:17 pm: wow 75% that is horrible

[pegasus] 6:17 pm: **WC means Wild Caught**

[kennyman] 6:17 pm: do you feel that the collection site names are important as "species" of fish?

[pegasus] 6:18 pm: **About inbreeding, after every second generation I try to find new blood especially a male or a specimen that you can see the true colors and form**

[sniggir] 6:19 pm: have you had luck breeding frontosa's? as this is one breed I am interested in

[pegasus] 6:19 pm: **The location names are very important that's what I aim for**

[daniel] 6:20 pm: can you buy wc fish at pet stores?

[pegasus] 6:20 pm: **Kennyman has more experience with Frontosa's than I**

[daniel] 6:20 pm: or close to it.

[kennyman] 6:20 pm: no that's Biterman

[pegasus] 6:20 pm: **No I had to sell my Frontosa's as I wasn't sure of their variety**

[kennyman] 6:21 pm: I don't know a frontosa from a backtosa

[pegasus] 6:21 pm: :)

[pegasus] 6:22 pm: **WC can be bought in stores but they are expensive and no guarantees**

[pegasus] 6:22 pm: **From the COAC (SP) you would get a certificate of authenticity**

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:23 pm: pegasus, can you tell us more about this breeder's association?

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:23 pm: when and why you started, how it works, etc?

[sniggir] 6:23 pm: yes please

[pegasus] 6:24 pm: **First we met with Tim Diderich who was starting his business in wholesale**

[pegasus] 6:25 pm: **in Montreal, as we were fed up with getting credits from LFS, we had to find another way of supplying larger quantities of fish**

[pegasus] 6:25 pm: **Some of us got together and agreed to breed for that purpose**

[pegasus] 6:26 pm: **We had a deal with a wholesaler that he would buy our fish between 20% and 25% retail price**

[pegasus] 6:26 pm: **After a year it kind of fell**

[pegasus] 6:27 pm: **There are other venues and that's what we are looking into now**

[pegasus] 6:27 pm: **GA**

[PaleoFishGirl] 6:28 pm: thank you :)

[sniggir] 6:28 pm: thx this has been fun gotta go

[kennyman] 6:28 pm: Do you expect fish from many sources to sell to the wholesaler?
ga

[pegasus] 6:29 pm: **As soon as we can find another wholesaler we would concenter it for sure**

[pegasus] 6:30 pm: **The only thing required is that you can bring in atleast twenty fry or juveniles GA**

[PoisonJello] 6:30 pm: since you have been breeding several different species, is there any species that you found really hard to breed?

[pegasus] 6:30 pm: **Yes the one I have been waiting for years and still hasn't**

[pegasus] 6:31 pm: **Mostly because I haven't put to much emphasis on them**

[pegasus] 6:31 pm: **Most of them are easy as all Africans GA**

[daniel] 6:31 pm: i have a community tank with 6 pairs of 3 diff fish

[daniel] 6:32 pm: type, are they going to mix ga

[pegasus] 6:33 pm: **What are they?**

[pegasus] 6:33 pm: **Aulonocara of any variety will interbreed**

[daniel] 6:34 pm: mollies ,guppies, cory

[PoisonJello] 6:34 pm: well then i might end up with some hybrids

[pegasus] 6:34 pm: **No Daniel, they won't mix GA**

[pegasus] 6:35 pm: **Even an electric blue will interbreed with Peacocks**

[daniel] 6:35 pm: the mollies , and guppies, are pregnant now, another 2 weeks

[pegasus] 6:36 pm: **They were my first and as a kid of ten, it was a thrill to sell them to the LFS for the first time**

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:36 pm: I do guppies, platies and a few other livebearers.

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:36 pm: But when i had my africans..they had their own tank.

[pegasus] 6:37 pm: **Hi Woody, here's another breeder GA**

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:37 pm: hi woody :)

[daniel] 6:37 pm: are their ciclids that can be in a community tank?

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:37 pm: umm..angels

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:37 pm: but they'd snack on your fry.

[pegasus] 6:38 pm: **Depends on size mostly some small Shell dwellers could**

[pegasus] 6:38 pm: **Angels right!**

[pegasus] 6:39 pm: **So would Apistos**

[beowulf] 6:39 pm: evening all

[daniel] 6:39 pm: i have an angel in my community tank

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:39 pm: it'll eat your fry.

[gonna_b_no_1] 6:40 pm: get one of those "fancy mats" for them to hide in :)

[pegasus] 6:40 pm: **I have Frontosa with my Angels and I agree it will eat your fry**

[beowulf] 6:41 pm: Any experience with Apisto Inca 50...GA

[pegasus] 6:42 pm: **None what so ever, they would be my second after africans**

[beowulf] 6:42 pm: k

[pegasus] 6:43 pm: **Why are you asking? any problems with them?**

[PoisonJello] 6:43 pm: Is there any african that you wouldn't recommend to a beginner that wanted to start breeding GA

[PoisonJello] 6:44 pm: might be easier if i said would recommend

[pegasus] 6:44 pm: **The Featherfins, comes to mind, and any WC GA**

[pegasus] 6:45 pm: **I recommend the Zebra, the Yellow Lab, Pseudotropheus and Peacocks**

[beowulf] 6:46 pm: no reason just mine are not breeding yet but still young as a general

rule how do you get your fish "in the mood"? food? water changes? GA

[pegasus] 6:47 pm: **AHH.....that's the fun, finding what each one likes**

[beowulf] 6:48 pm: i am going to give zap's black worms a try

[pegasus] 6:48 pm: **Food is one, but I usually try to find how they prefer to lay their eggs as the substrat the location they prefer and so on**

[beowulf] 6:49 pm: i read the incas like caves so they have a few to chose from.

[pegasus] 6:49 pm: **Water parameters have not been a primary concern for my breeding**

[pegasus] 6:50 pm: **Even in caves you need to know where they will lay, the ceiling, the sides or the bottom**

[beowulf] 6:50 pm: kk good to know ill do more research havent found a lot of info on this species as of yet

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[kennyman] 6:51 pm: Do some africans hold more true to breed standards than others as they become more thank raised? Do they hold the WC heritage better? ga

[pegasus] 6:51 pm: **Brichardi are laying on the side wall Transcriptus on the ceiling GA**

[pegasus] 6:53 pm: **The Aulonocara are those that give me the most headaches, mostly because of unsure origins, as for their true breeding standards it's never been a question of mine.**

[pegasus] 6:54 pm: **To often you will find different variety in a brood meaning that the WC still wasn't as thought**

[pegasus] 6:54 pm: **GA**

[babblefish1960] 6:55 pm: Sorry to arrive so late, but I'm curious as to the work you did with breeding discus

[pegasus] 6:55 pm: **Good story coming up**

[pegasus] 6:56 pm: **Many years ago club memebers went to meet a Discus Breeder in Montreal he had his room at 82° he sold four of us 12 Discus each @ \$3.00, good buy**

[babblefish1960] 6:56 pm: I wonder if you ever bred them in an environment other than a glass box and what sort of things you did that may have been rebellious

[pegasus] 6:56 pm: **At our next meeting one other member and I still had ours**

[pegasus] 6:57 pm: **two months later I'm the only one with all his Discus. Why ?**

[pegasus] 6:57 pm: **I'm the only one that didn't play in his tank**

[babblefish1960] 6:58 pm: So you let things go more naturally then?

[pegasus] 6:58 pm: **I was doing Africans so Discus were a side line. I put them in an hexagonal tank with just an airstone**

[pegasus] 6:59 pm: **I was feeding them beef heart when all experts recommend against it and would they called me crazy to do so .**

[babblefish1960] 6:59 pm: You are crazy, but it seemed to have worked

[pegasus] 7:00 pm: **8 months later I couldn't even see the fish , the tank was so dirty but I still found two pairs**

[pegasus] 7:00 pm: **They were moved to a nice 55 gal. with a pai of Angels and bred every month.GA**

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:01 pm: any more good stories where you've done things a little differently than recommended?

[pegasus] 7:01 pm: **THE worst thing is to make to many water changes or even disturbing the substrate or even the aquascaping**

[pegasus] 7:02 pm: **Mixing Malawi and Tangs, feeding beef heart to so called vegetarian Mbuna GA**

[kennyman] 7:03 pm: Do you have a threshold of Nitrate for changing water? Or go by feel?

[pegasus] 7:03 pm: **Always by feel**

[pegasus] 7:04 pm: **I have a good finger for temperature and a good eye for itch**

[kennyman] 7:04 pm: can you explain how you know?

[pegasus] 7:05 pm: **I know my fish any signs of that things are different will send me on an alert.**

[pegasus] 7:06 pm: **I have two tanks that have not had a water change in 4 years.GA**

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:07 pm: A little off ciclid topic here, but I have a very small fry question. I have inforusia(fed 5x a day), and i'm still losing about 98% of my fry. Parims are pristine, and i wc every 5 days in the fry tanks. Food is plentiful. Any ideas that could help me? (neon blue dwarf gouramis)

[pegasus] 7:09 pm: **Are you bringing in more than just the infusoria as I am careful not to introduce oatmeal or fungus with my Microworms that would kill my fry**

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:09 pm: No..they're in a jar .

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:09 pm: nothing to contaminate them.

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:10 pm: I can't get them to live long enough to be able to eat microworms.

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:10 pm: Getting them to spawn, no problems there.

[pegasus] 7:10 pm: **Small daily water change might help**

[pegasus] 7:11 pm: **Are you sure? my Angel fry eat Micro worms GA**

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:11 pm: the fry are beta fry sized. VERY small.

[pegasus] 7:12 pm: **Check my intro on the intro forum, there's a link to my Beta experiment.**

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:12 pm: Merci :)

[PoisonJello] 7:13 pm: do you find it not nessasary to do water changes often and as many say they change water weekly or do you use carbon and change it monthly? GA

[pegasus] 7:14 pm: **Feeding them brine shrimp and later on even beefheart (seived**

[henry] 7:14 pm: In the tank you have not done water changes in for 4 years... you must replace evaproated water with R/O....yes?

[pegasus] 7:16 pm: **It all depends on the tank and the filtration system , I use an underground filter and there's no plants in the tank I haven't done a WC. The smaller the tank the more wC I would do .**

[PoisonJello] 7:17 pm: just curious because i don't change water very often either and thought maybe that was bad idea, but i do top it off when it needs it, no plants in my tanks as of yet but was concidering undergravel filter

[pegasus] 7:17 pm: **Henry I'M on a well, the evaporated water is just refilled from the tap. Also there is very little evaporation as the tank is very well closed.GA**

[henry] 7:17 pm: ok thanks

[henry] 7:18 pm: just wondering about mineral buildup

[henry] 7:19 pm: thanks that answers it ga

[pegasus] 7:19 pm: **I must admit, it has the least mineral build up and I don't know why.As the other tanks do.**

[PoisonJello] 7:21 pm: the tanks with old water hasn't had any extra minerals added that

is why no build up

[pegasus] 7:22 pm: **It should still have some build up , the substrate could be the involved in the process**

[PoisonJello] 7:23 pm: out of all the fish you have breed, is there any that you wouldn't recommend keeping to breed, as in had a lot of problems with the species

[PoisonJello] 7:24 pm: when you do a lot of water changes you add more minerals each time, that is why the build up happens

[pegasus] 7:25 pm: **Any colony fish (Demasoni, Tropheus) are hard to keep. ANd you really have to ask yourself if you are ready to loose afew.GA**

[babblefish1960] 7:25 pm: Can you offer any advice in encouraging a breeding pair who are no longer breeding to pick up the pace again?

[babblefish1960] 7:26 pm: I'm talking about a pair of angels specifically

[pegasus] 7:27 pm: **Yes , seperate your tank, male on one side female on the other, or maybe a pair on one side and another male on the other, push the jealousy,ol pairs need more privacy.**

[pegasus] 7:28 pm: **White worms have always been my favorite to stimulate breeding.**

[pegasus] 7:29 pm: **By the way I have experienced some fish who will prefer dimmer light.GA**

[henry] 7:30 pm: White worms I have been only feeding once a week , because I have read they can be really fatty....What is your take?

[pegasus] 7:31 pm: **Moderation, I now have two tanks that are spoiled and will only eat white worms**

[henry] 7:32 pm: Ok...no problems then

[mila] 7:32 pm: Any experience breeding Xenos?

[pegasus] 7:32 pm: **Xenos?**

[mila] 7:33 pm: Xenotilapia

[pegasus] 7:33 pm: **Must be Cichlid I don't know about...sorry GA**

[pegasus] 7:34 pm: **Can you tell me more about them ?GA**

[mila] 7:34 pm: Not sure about speling

[PoisonJello] 7:36 pm: Xenotilapia - This is another genus of "Goby Cichlids" From Lake Tanganyika. They are very delicate and sensitive. They are relatively non-aggressive, and stay small, so they should be happy in an aquarium as small as 30 gallons.

However, male can be very aggressive towards each other when courting. They are micro predators

[pegasus] 7:36 pm: **Sorry still doesn't mean anything to me. But again knowing your concern may help. Tilapia are a common name for many kinds of africans, mostly river africans.GA**

[pegasus] 7:38 pm: **Thanks for the info. I would probably treat them as Sheel dwellers such as the Brevis or the ocelatus.GA**

[mila] 7:38 pm: Xenotilapia is from tanganyica , flavipinis, ornatipinis...

[mila] 7:39 pm: Mouth broother

[pegasus] 7:39 pm: **Mila, Were you lucky enough to find any?GA**

[mila] 7:39 pm: Not yet

[mila] 7:40 pm: still looking

[pegasus] 7:40 pm: **Probably as sensitive as the Featherfin, I think I know which fish we are talking about.GA**

[mila] 7:41 pm: but building tank for them already

[PoisonJello] 7:41 pm: they are under Tanganyika Oddities on the cichlid forum maybe that will help <http://www.cichlid-forum.com/profiles/category.php?cat=13>

[pegasus] 7:42 pm: **The fun part about breeding is the exchange part, thanks Mila for the Vittatus.GA**

[mila] 7:43 pm: I thank you for vittatus, they growing really good.

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:43 pm: ok I'm going to open up the floor for a free-for-all until 8pm

[pegasus] 7:44 pm: **This is Pegasus' fingers (his wife), I have been around fish tanks all my life and I can tell you that I have never come across someone with so many tanks, that does so little to them and that gets so much from them. I'm always amazed to find frys everywhere,**

[mila] 7:44 pm: How is L. Meeli doing?

[PoisonJello] 7:45 pm: :D thats a good thing

[pegasus] 7:45 pm: **Just got them from Jen last week, being housed with the Vittalus**

[pegasus] 7:46 pm: **Please support the Ovas BAP program as we are all going to profit from it.GA**

[mila] 7:47 pm: Just be careful, they are like little bulldogs

[pegasus] 7:48 pm: **Again that's the secret, keeping an eye on your tanks and fish.GA**

[PoisonJello] 7:48 pm: do you ever have a problem with fish biting you when cleaning your tanks.....if you clean them

[pegasus] 7:48 pm: **The most vicious are the smaller ones. Ocelatus GA**

[PoisonJello] 7:49 pm: my male Melanochromis auratus bites me every time i put my hand in the tank

[pegasus] 7:50 pm: **ANd he has teeth, that's one reason why I don't keep that many Mbuna.Their agression is more potent.GA**

[PoisonJello] 7:51 pm: ya he leave a little red mark everytime... just waiting till he is bigger then might take a chunk

[pegasus] 7:51 pm: **Don't forget the Ovas meeting Monday.**

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:52 pm: I guess we'll leave it at that, then :)

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:52 pm: please join me in thanking pegasus and his 'fingers' for being our expert tonight!

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:53 pm: thanks to all of you for stopping in and participating (or lurking!)

[PoisonJello] 7:53 pm: I would like to go to a meeting sometime but in Cornwall so hard to take time to get to Ottawa also have plans already on monday

[pegasus] 7:53 pm: **Thanks all,.**

[PoisonJello] 7:53 pm: thanks for the Q & A been interesting

[pegasus] 7:53 pm: **And Keep Breeding!**

[babblefish1960] 7:53 pm: Thanks for the information and especially the stories pegasus, and thanks to your wife' eloquent fingers too

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:54 pm: as always, if you know anyone else who might like to be an 'Expert', please have them contact me!

[pegasus] 7:54 pm: **Babble, still need Microworms?**

[babblefish1960] 7:54 pm: yessirree bib we sure do

[kennyman] 7:54 pm: thanks for all the great advice Pegasus ! :awe:

[mila] 7:54 pm: Thanks Pegasus, will talk to you about BAP

[PoisonJello] 7:55 pm: thanks again Pegasus and later all

[henry] 7:56 pm: Thanks Pegasus

[pegasus] 7:56 pm: **Thanks Chelsea, for this fun evening**

[gonna_b_no_1] 7:56 pm: Merci michel

[PaleoFishGirl] 7:56 pm: thank you for being such a good 'expert' :)