



The View...

... From The Other Side Of The Tank

By Margaret Peterson

Minimum bids. Some of you may recall that during last month's meeting, I asked Arie for a moment to speak to the members in reference to Minimum Bids. You may be wondering (and naturally so) why this is a topic of such importance to me as I'm sure all of you are aware that I am not the actual hobbyist in the family of the Peterson household. Well, it's precisely because of the family that I married into that I am an advocate of a "minimum bid." I truly feel that it is offensive to our members when a fish is brought in to be auctioned off and it is sold for much less than its value. This is especially true for those fish that have been raised by our very own members, cared for with the experience that only comes from being a hobbyist of many years; only to be auctioned off for far less than its wholesale value. The fish that have been raised by our members are in good health and have been found to be quite hearty (at least that has been our experience). Just an aside..... but I think attendance at auctions can be considered among Jim's hobbies as he enjoys it so much.

Until I met and began to know the Peterson family, I had no idea what was involved with fish keeping and/or breeding. While I find it very interesting, it is time-consuming, it can be costly, and involves a great deal of knowledge and ongoing education to be successful as a hobbyist. Jim has raised various types of fish such as Paradise fish, Siamese fighting fish, guppies, angel fish, swordtails, mollies, variatus, platys, gouramis and many varieties of African Rift Lake Cichlids to name some from memory. Very often, people only see the end result of breeding fish; namely the fish they want to purchase or bid on.

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They don't usually appreciate the time and effort that was involved for a fish to get to the point where it can be entered in a bowl show and place or be sold at a fish club auction, where the profits can benefit both the breeder and the club or be a complete donation on the part of the breeder. In an attempt to respect the "work" involved within the hobby, I would recommend that everything entered in the auction come into the auction with a "minimum bid" on it. We are recognizing the efforts of the breeder and according the breeder the credit he/she is due for their results.

As you may recall for last month's Paradise Press article, Jim brought home a seahorse for me and quickly set up a marine tank so that this latest acquisition could have a comfortable home. I'm happy to tell you that my sea horse is alive and well and enjoying his new home, although his two friends are no longer with us (the p. j. cardinal and the maroon clown). We can't wait for our latest addition to grow up so that we can be definite about the sex and purchase a mate so that we can attempt to breed our sea horses. I am so excited about it and am anxiously awaiting the time. I've seen pregnant male sea horses and the entire phenomenon is very interesting to both of us. Sad to say, though, if we are successful, I would not encourage Jim to bring any young sea horses that we raised to our auction if we did not set a "minimum bid." 🐠