

THE CICHLID CHRONICLES

Volume 1 Issue #5



Articles and spotlight on our CCY younger members



THE CICHLID CLUB OF YORK PA

There was a need, a calling for something new, something groundbreaking. Cichlids are not your ordinary tropical fish. They are large, loud, colorful, in your face and full of personality. To be the owner and collector of cichlids says something about you, of who you are and what you stand

for.... There are many of us in the York PA area and surrounding cities that have a love for cichlids. These same people are looking for a home, a common ground, a house of our own.

THE CICHLID CLUB OF YORK PA IS IT!

Created out of the need to represent the cichlid community here in Pennsylvania. The Cichlid Club of York is LIVE! It is a *movement*, its Rock and Roll and Hip Hop combined with a touch of Frank Sinatra's class. It's the one place where men with shirts and ties and men with low pants and slanted caps can all unite and show off their favorite cichlids. But this is not a club just for men... No! Like the saying goes "behind every good man is a better woman" and folks we have some of the baddest women cichlid hobbyist in the PA area.

The Cichlid Club of York will not leave you in a stuffy room with hard chairs and long meetings. "No!" We will embrace the elements, getting our hands wet and our minds fed with interactive projects, field trips (collecting fish in our native area and beyond), shop hops, and much more. So come join us. Come join the club that dares to be different.

- Scott McLaughlin

CCY President



The Cichlid Club Of York PA Board of Directors

MEET THE CICHLID CLUB OF YORK TEAM:



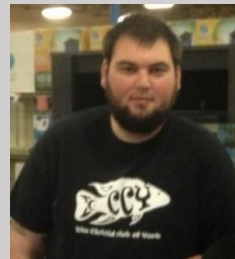
CCY –President
Scott McLaughlin



CCY Promotions Manager
Mike Mull



CCY Vice President
Tonya Kailing



CCY Security
Shane Mell



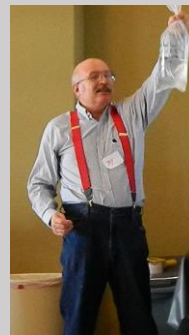
CCY Auction
BAP Manager
Lonnie Langoine



CCY Treasurer
Pam McLaughlin



CCY Project Manager
Wayne Smith



CCY C.A.R.E.S Manager
Jay Stephan

And now a message from our CCY President



We did it! November 16th marked our 1 year anniversary and the celebration of the Cichlid Club of York PA! What was once just a dream has now materialized into a great club and even better - a wonderful family. I never in my wildest dreams thought that the CCY would be what it is today. In the beginning I only envisioned 10-15 people getting together on a monthly basis and swapping cichlids, but look at us now! We capped off our 1 year celebration with the hugely successful (and always generous) *Discus Hans* as our guest speaker. Discus Hans not only put on one great presentation but he also donated many of his world class Discus that raised more money for our club than all our meetings put together ! Think about that for a second or two... This leads us to my next point. Clubs such as ours need funding. It costs more money than many members realize to run this great club of ours and keep it growing. I made a promise 1 year ago to cover the expenses of our club largely because I wanted to make sure we had a solid foundation. It is clear to me that we have that and "more". I have extended my promise to cover all club costs until January 1st 2014 until which at that time we will unveil our CCY membership enrollment program. We will talk more about this next month but I want to plant the seed in everyone's mind that we need our member's financial support to continue what we have started. I'm hoping every member will look upon all they gained from the CCY last year and be committed to supporting us in the years to come.

With that said let's jump into our newest issue of The Cichlid Chronicles. This month we are focusing on the younger generation of CCY members and their roles and future in our club. So the CCY will stand for Cichlid Club Youth this month as we get a closer look at some of our younger members. I hope you enjoy!!

- Scott McLaughlin

THE CICHLID CLUB OF YORK PA



PROUDLY PRESENTS:



Joshua Wiegert

January 25th 2014 at 1pm

Joshua Wiegert has been involved in the aquarium hobby for more years than his youthful good looks imply. He initially started in the hobby near the age of six, in charge of a small tank that served as a nightlight, when the fish weren't "sleeping." He is no longer afraid of the dark, but still maintains aquariums. He has written extensively on aquariums and fish-keeping for a variety of magazines, including TFH and the late AFM and FAMA, where he penned the "Conservation Corner." Recently, he opened Batfish Aquatics, an online retailer of aquarium fishes as unusual as Joshua himself.

Talk Summary:

For many non-aquarists, the idea that the aquarium hobby and conservation can work hand and hand is anathema. Many of us have the perception that the aquarium hobby is razing the wild, destroying habitats, and does very little "good" in the world. This talk goes over some of the positive effects of the aquarium hobby on our natural world, and how aquarists can, and do, help endangered species. It also looks at some of the negative impacts of the aquarium hobby, and how they can be minimized or ameliorated.



CCY YOUTH MOVEMENT ARTICLE

The Story of how I began keeping cichlids and how the CCY is there for me:



By- Sarah Elizabeth Lockard

The first time I saw a tank was when I was around 5 years old. The tank was my Mom's boyfriend and I remember putting baby fish in a pickle jar. They eventually got married and soon one tank became 2 and 2 tanks became more. At 6 years old I started helping with water changes and cleaning tanks. I was probably 10 years old when I got my first fish tank in my room. It was a Betta fish that was mine to take care of, I was so happy! Fish as a hobby has been a big part of my childhood. When I got older I cared less about keeping fish and more about school and friends but the basic love for the hobby never left me. The desire to keep fish again didn't hit me until my 3 year old daughter "**Ava**" asked for a fish tank. I was pretty shocked so I slowly started piecing a fish tank together. We started with a basic 20 gallon high tank, plastic hood, filter and guppies. Everything was good for a short time and then suddenly everything died! I knew something was wrong so we cleaned the tank and let it run without

fish for a month. After a month we tested the water and found our PH was very high and wondered if that had anything to do with our guppies dying. We did some testing and found out our tap water had a very high PH, we also did some research and found that our tap water was the perfect PH for African cichlids. I really liked the colors of the African cichlids so the search was on to buy some. We found CCY member Zach on craigslist and got some really cool Mbuna African cichlids. Our tank looked great and the cichlids were thriving! Before long I was more into the fish tank than my 3 year old! My husband CCY member Norman and I went from a 20 high to a 20 long tank and slowly started adding more cichlids. I got to the point where the 20 gallon long just wasn't big enough anymore so we purchased my "dream tank" a 55 gallon tank.

If it wasn't for meeting Zach and him telling us about the CCY I don't know if we would have 4 tanks at this point. I have to say I was pretty scared about joining the CCY. We knew no one and although I know the basics of fish keeping I didn't know much more. The CCY accepted us with open arms and are always there to help. No one is judging anyone on what they know or what kind of fish you keep. I have to say it didn't take long to feel at home. The CCY is like having another family!

Thanks CCY for being such an open and caring group. If it wasn't for the group I wouldn't have more fish than I do shoes! LOL!



Sarah with her husband Norman Lockard and beautiful daughter "Ava"



CCY Youth movement article



Meet CCY member: KEEGAN ELLIS

At our 1 year CCY anniversary I had the pleasure of meeting CCY member "Keegan Ellis". As President of the CCY one of the things I enjoy most is getting to meet our members (especially our "young guns") and getting to know just a little bit more about them. I was instantly impressed with the young man especially his level of maturity. We became fast friends largely due to we like much of the same cichlids. Our talk quickly became a field trip to my fish room (luckily just a few houses from the meeting) as I invited young Keegan to take a look at some of the cichlids I was keeping. I became even more impressed with Keegan as he pointed out each of my cichlids with their correct scientific name!! That's right guys at the age of 15 Keegan knew all the scientific names of my cichlids and I house over 30 different species! With this month being our CCY youth month I thought who better to speak to than Keegan? I hope everyone enjoys my interview with Keegan while at the same time saying hello to our CCY future. You see Keegan holds it firmly in the middle of his hand. And the Bible says "And a child shall lead them"- Look for Keegan to be our new CCY President in the next 5-10 years

1. How did you get into this wonderful hobby of ours? And how did you become so knowledgeable about cichlids?

My parents had a 20g tall tank with simple schooling fish like danios, tetras and a single upside down catfish. I would fall asleep leaning against the tank when i was young (like 3). About 1yr 6 months ago i set up that same 20g tank and got some of the same fish they had. 6 neon tetras, 3 snakeskin male guppies, 4 corries, and a single bn pleco. Then around 4 months later i got a complete Aqueon 55g setup for \$120 from Petco. Got the tank and cycled it and got my first cichlid a **red Oscar!** Turned to be more gold then red though. After a couple trial and errors i ended up with the tanks i have today two 55g and a 150. Around January- February time i started researching big new world cichlids. I probably did 2-3 hours of research a day for 3 months.

2. What is it about cichlids that you enjoy?

I enjoy a lot of things about cichlids but almost exclusively SA/CA cichlids. I love how intelligent they are. They are extremely personable too. All the fish i have are or will become very colorful and big. And I love color.

3. What is your favorite cichlid?



By far my favorite cichlid is the exCichlasoma festae (red terror) i have wanted them since i first started researching cichlids. I finally found a guy that had some for sale and picked up two of them. One 2.5" the other 2". Now i have one of them left. A 5.5" male named "Thor". And just last week picked up two wild caught females at 7-8".

4. How many tanks do you have and what cichlids do you have in them?

I have three tanks set up at the moment. Two 55g tanks and a 150 gallon tank. I have the 55g tanks on a double-decker stand. The top one has a single 5-6" red devil. The bottom 55 has three f1 gorillas blue umbee between 3.5"-4.5" and a 4" grammode. The 150g tank has my male festse "Thor" and two wild female festae.

5. How did you hear about the CCY?

I actually heard of CCY from a very nice person on PA cichlids Face book page

6. What are some suggestions you would give to the CCY to attract more hobbyist your age?

Well, most kids my age like the aggressiveness and colorfulness of cichlids. I really think that if the kid likes nature (like i do) they would like to have a part of it in there house. You could try teaching them about some of the easier to care for cichlids to start off.

7. Finish this statement: "In ten years I see myself doing _____."

In ten years i see myself running a fish store with my friend like we have been planning after we go to college for various things that will help us get to that point.

8. Who or what inspired you to start keeping fish?

One day i just went into my basement and thought "i want to set up this 20g fish tank" and it all started right there. It's a major stress reducer and helps calm me down after a long day of school and sports.

9. What would be your dream tank and what would you have in it?



O boy, my dream tank. It would probable be a 10'x5'x3' tank with 1- festae pair 1- umbee pair 1- dovii pair 1- red tiger mota 1- trimac And a couple of others. Although i know those fish would not be able to get along unless it was a very very large tank. I wouldn't put them together in anything smaller than 20'x10'.

10. What are your personal tips to keeping a healthy and successful tank?

My personal tips for keeping a healthy, successful tank are good filtration and lots of water changes. That's about all you need to do. Keep up maintenance and a compatible stock and you will have a successful tank. Simple as that!



Keeping a Mbuna Tank



By Kerry Dilks

Some of us may already be aware of the must's for mbuna ...some may not. There are crucial things one must understand about this beautiful yet feisty species before owning. I was blessed to have a voice instructing in my ear as I was a beginner in the hobby.

My father kept mbuna back in the 1970's. He owned thirty pairs wedged into a 90 gallon tank. When he gave me my first tank and it was a no brainer to make a decision. Dad was not going to be happy if I stocked it with some "junk" fish (that is how he refers to common tropical fish). He told me three things to remember.....lots of rock, overcrowd them, and one individual will be the bully of them all.

These three things are important when setting up and managing your tank.

When setting up the tank purchase some slate to stack and build caves. You want as many hiding spots as you have fish. If everyone has a home everyone will be happy....well somewhat. Of course you are going to have that one lost soul who fights for everyone else's space.

When stocking the tank you want to attempt to get pairs to keep male aggression down and prevent hybrid breeding. Also always add more than one fish at a time when introducing mbuna. Adding one new addition can result in the poor fellow's death. They tend to target new additions kind of like an initiation.

Adding more than one will distract them from targeting one lone fish. I also don't recommend, personally, adding any other species in with them. These guys do not play well with others when they become adults.

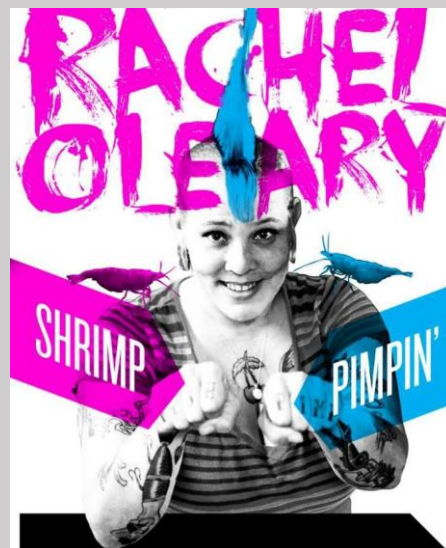
Through time I recommend also overcrowding the tank to prevent bullying. Read into each species before making a selection on who you will add.

Keep your PH at least at 7.0 with these guys. You can purchase African Cichlid salt buffer to achieve the proper PH. When the fish has the appropriate environment and tank parameters you will have a much more successful environment.

Keep up with your weekly water changes of 25% and the occasional cleaning of tank décor especially when disease is present. Please note that when you rearrange, everyone will have to reclaim territory which can cause result in some chaos yet entertaining for the owner. Mbuna love to dig in the sand and burrow out areas under rock. This is part of what makes them fun to keep. Later may come the enjoyment of constant spawning and mouth brooding mamas everywhere. Future tip....if you have to strip your female a bread twisty tie made into a mini lasso works wonders to hold mouth open.

If you follow these few simple rules of thumb then you should have success in keeping this colorful species. Just remember....overcrowd, stack those rocks, and of course sit back and enjoy!!!!!!

invertebrates
By Msjinkz





CCY Youth movement article



ZACH DUKE TALKS ABOUT HIS BUSINESS “WEST YORK FISH ROOM”

This month we are celebrating Cichlid Club Youth so it is with pleasure that we spotlight Zach Duke. Zach is a young business man who owns and operates West York Fish Room from his home in York PA. Let's find out how this CCY member made his passion a profit.

1. At what age did you begin keeping Tropical fish and how old are you now?

I began keeping fish at the young age of about 8 when I got my first goldfish bowl. A few months later I upgraded to a 10 gallon and got some mollies, guppies, platys ect . It went on from there. I am currently 22 years old turning 23 in March.

2. Who or what first got you into keeping tropical fish?

A few months after I had upgraded to my 10 gallon community tank my guppies ended up having some babies so I upgraded once again to a 29 gallon tank. At that time I also added a couple more types of fish to it and kept the 10 gallon tank running for the babies. A very short while later I started running out of room for the babies so I upgraded the 10 gallon to a 20 gallon high which was the biggest size that fit on the bottom shelf of the stand. I continued breeding my livebearers.

3. What inspired the creation of the West York Fish Room?

After being way to overrun with livebearers someone told me to try to sell some of them on craigslist so I posted an ad and sure enough later that day I started getting emails about my baby fish for .50¢ each. I sold a couple hundred in a matter of 2-3 weeks when I ran out. I was out of fish to sell and had all this extra money so I went out and bought my first Cichlids. They were a breeding pair of silver angelfish which the first spawn offered about 230 babies! Wow so many fish, I better try craigslist again. Sure enough I sold all of them and got another tank and another type of fish to breed. I couldn't believe how much money I was making off of these fish tanks that I enjoyed sitting around and watching all the time. One day I was with a friend and started talking to him about what I

was doing and he said jokingly to me "your making a lot of money off this fish thing, you should do that for a living" and started laughing. That's when the gears in my head started turning and the idea of West York Fish Room was created.

4. How many tanks do you currently run at WYFR and how many different types of tropical fish do you have?

A few years go by as I continue to add more tanks and different types of fish I'm breeding and keep selling on craigslist. It got to the point where I was out of room for tank stands and had to design a way to have as many tanks as I could with the 6'x9' room I had available. I started by building a stand that was 9 foot long and 8 foot high that holds 18 tanks of various sizes. The second stand I built was 5 foot long and 8 foot high that holds 20 ten gallon tanks and 2 custom made "short" tanks. The third stand I built is 3 foot long and 6 foot high which holds three 20 gallon long tanks and a 30 gallon on top. I'm now out of room to add anymore stands but wanted one more tank so I sat a 20 gallon extra high on the floor. That's 45 tanks that I stuffed in a 6'x9' room! I never believed all that would have happened because of a dam goldfish bowl! Haha. I also have my three "display" tanks in the living room. A 75 gallon planted tank, a 55 gallon cichlid tank and a 33 gallon saltwater tank. I now I try to have a different type of fish for every tank in my fish room so I can appeal to every type of fish enthusiast.



5. What type of filtration and heaters do you use?

Due to the large amount of tanks I have in such a small area, electrical outlets, and electricity, is in short supply. I run all my tanks with one massive 95 watt vortex blower (like an air pump) and sponge filters in each tank. Heating each tank with individual heaters was also an issue. Well I solved that problem. I closed off the room by adding another door and I was able to heat the whole room with a small 1500 watt space heater.

6. Is cichlids your main seller or another type of tropical fish?

Most of my repeat customers and some new people I encounter tend to like the more active, colorful fish, like cichlids, over a slower paced, less colorful planted community

tank. However i do offer community fish and live plants for the people that prefer it over cichlids.



7. When did you first hear about the Cichlid Club of York PA?

I have been around the Cichlid Club of York since the very beginning, before it even had a name lol. I still remember the day that Scott first mentioned wanting to start a local club for all of us fish enthusiasts to gather and discuss our fish as well as buy/sell/trade our fish with each other. I told him it would be a great idea and would be honored to be part of it.

8. You have run a vendor table at most of the CCY meetings, how has that gone and what has been your biggest seller?

The privilege I have of running a vendor table at the amazing CCY meetings has been great for my business. It allows me to offer my fish to a lot of people at the same place at the same time. I sell them at a discounted price to the club members as well as offer pre-orders so you are guaranteed to get your fish from me on meeting day! Some of my best sellers at the meeting include my bigger (3"+) cichlids as well as some corydora, loaches and plecos.

9. Will we ever see WYFR in its own store?

I hope to someday have my own store but I would need to raise my prices slightly and offer a wide range of supplies to help pay for the overhead. I also need to have a name for myself first so I can get in with a bigger supplier and offer more of a selection of fish. Or if I hit the Powerball I wouldn't even care if I was making profit I would just do it for the love of the hobby lol.

10. What upcoming plans do you have for WYFR?

Some of the plans I have for West York Fish Room is moving to a new location with more room in order to expand the number of tanks and species of fish I carry. The addition of new suppliers to offer a wider range of species is hopefully in the near future as well. I also hope to upgrade the fish room with a continuous water change system and LED lights, when I chance location, to help with the health of the fish and to lower the maintenance and electric bill a little.



Tri-parental care in jewel cichlids By Karen Haas

This past spring I brought home 5 bright red, adult jewel cichlids from the Aquarium Club of Lancaster monthly auction. 4 of them appeared to pair up with a pair defending a territory at each end of the tank. The odd man out was stuck in the middle. After re-homing one of the pairs, the remaining pair spawned every couple of weeks. I never saw any fry. I figured the other fish in the tank ate them. Then I brought home another jewel cichlid labeled as a male *Hemichromis moanda*. Into the community tank he went. This male is similar looking to the regular aquarium strain of jewel cichlids but it has a yellow belly. The new male took a liking to the lonely jewel and spawned several times with her. I never saw any fry.

In May I wasn't paying much attention to the tank and had neglected it. In June I noticed that three jewels were spending time together on the left side of the tank. I thought that maybe one had died, and I just didn't find the body. I finally got around to doing a water change and noticed a huge cloud of fry swarming around the jewel trio. The *H. moanda* male decided to switch sides and spawn with the pair on the left. The trio defended their fry for the next month from the convicts and other fish in the tank. They were successfully defending the entire left half of the tank. The trio would congregate the fry to the upper half of the tank at night and encourage them to graze along the gravel during the day. The fry were light in color with a black horizontal stripe running the length of the body. As they grew bigger, the stripe gradually disappeared leaving the traditional two spots on the flanks. When the fry started to develop their more recognizable pattern they also seemed to enter a teenager like stage in their personalities. They weren't listening to their parents' body language and it was difficult for the adults to keep the group together. By the time all the fry gained their traditional jewel cichlid coloration, the trio bond broke down and reverted to the traditional pair bond with the *H. moanda* male and one of the original jewel cichlids.

I still have more questions than answers right now. Did I originally have two females spawning together and that's why I never saw fry? I can't tell the difference between the *H. bimaculatus* that I originally brought home. They are all bright red all the time. Or, were they a male female pair and the male was sterile? Or, did it just take three parents to successfully defend the eggs and fry from the other Cichlids in the tank? Why did the *H. moanda* switch sides? Could

he have been frustrated with the lack of fry with the first female? Or did he realize the left side of the tank was more defensible position than his original spawning spot in the middle of the tank?



About “Karen”- Karen Haas is the successful keeper and breeder of many tropical fish from killifish to cichlids. She is also a loyal member of many clubs including our club the Cichlid Club of York PA. A true enthusiast of the hobby, Karen travels hours each week to show support to the various clubs she is a member of. We are proud to have Karen Haas as part of our CCY family and we support her as she continues to promote and grow this wonderful hobby. We look forward to many more articles from this very talented hobbyist!



The Cichlid Circle

By Scott McLaughlin



A look at Sciqaurium –Teaching the Young

I traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina this weekend to celebrate Thanksgiving and to spend some much needed time with my family. I don't know what it is exactly, but there is no better feeling than coming home to the ones you love and who love you. I had 4 free days with nothing to do but to spend time with friends and family and to eat until my stomach couldn't take anymore. I succeeded in all aspects! While in North Carolina there was a 2 hour period on Saturday where everyone was doing something and I was basically left to my own resources to find something to do. This is where our story begins. When I was young my family and I moved from Teaneck NJ to Greensboro NC. Our new home was within walking distance of a building called "The Natural Science Center". The Natural Science Center was a facility built with young people in mind to help teach and stimulate their brains and senses about the world around them. Many of my summer years as a youth was spent at this center in classes learning everything from building a rocket and blasting it off, to creating a volcano and making it erupt! Fun times for me and I learned so much without even knowing it. Fast forward some 30 years later to the present and I find myself on a Saturday in North Carolina with 2 hrs to fill wondering what to do..... "I got it! Let's check out what's new at the Natural Science Center!!" I arrive at the Natural Science Center minutes later and was amazed at how large the facility had become.



On the main building were large photos of fish and a moray eel. I was truly excited now!! I purchased a ticket for just 11.50 (what a steal) and walked inside to what looked like the **future**. The SciQuarium is a building dedicated to exhibiting life underwater and the animals that co exists with them. I was truly impressed! I have never seen an exhibit that included animals, reptiles, fish all in one cohesive environment, all together just like you would find in the wild. It is truly something to behold. – Pictures below:





There were 4 to 5 of these exhibits that ranged from areas in Africa (including the rare African penguins) to the Amazon that included a 20 foot long python. It was really nice seeing all the children (that included toddlers to teens) running around pointing at various wonders and verbally showing their excitement. The sound of kids “ewwwwing and awwwwwing” is music to my ears because it proves to me our next generation cares and have interests outside of video games, cell phones or Facebook. We as parents have to take the time with them and put their video games and phones down and show them our world. I get asked all the time how do we have so many young members in our club. The answer is simple – **Our CCY board and our members** are passionate about our hobby and talk (with excitement) with people of all ages about it. Our board tries



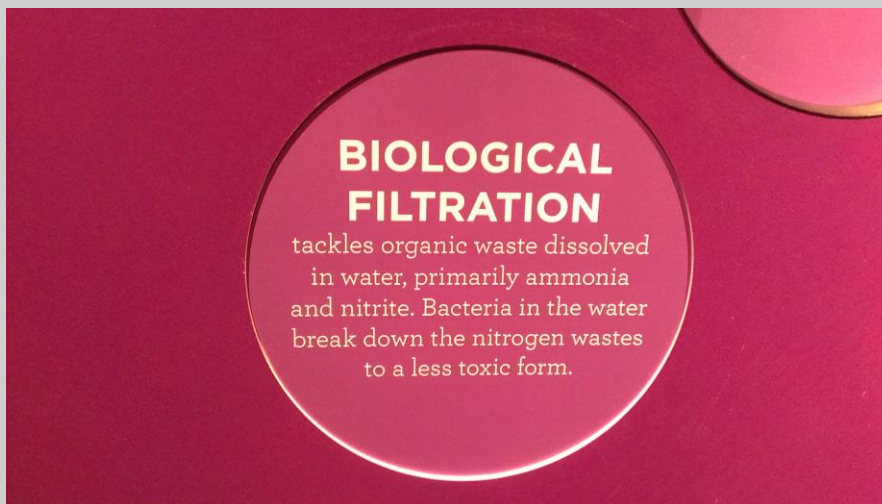
very hard to bring in speakers who are interactive with the audience and we also plan as many activities as we can that involve getting out and interacting with nature or others (you have to make it fun and exciting). *Now back to the Sciquarium....*

Sciquarium's saltwater exhibit is off the charts!

The tank holds many thousands of gallons of saltwater and is stocked to the brim with some amazing fish including “sharks” (my personal favorite) I was truly impressed!

Always focused on education and teaching ways to replicate what you see at their facility into your own home. Sciqarium actually has touch pad computer centers that gave full illustration of how they maintain their fish successfully with a detailed description of what each machine does including a break down of how the filtration cycle works from “chemical”, “mechanical” to “biological”. If that wasn’t enough they even compare each machine to what you would find in a home aquarium!

-See the pictures below:



-One of the computer centers explaining how their complex filtration system works-

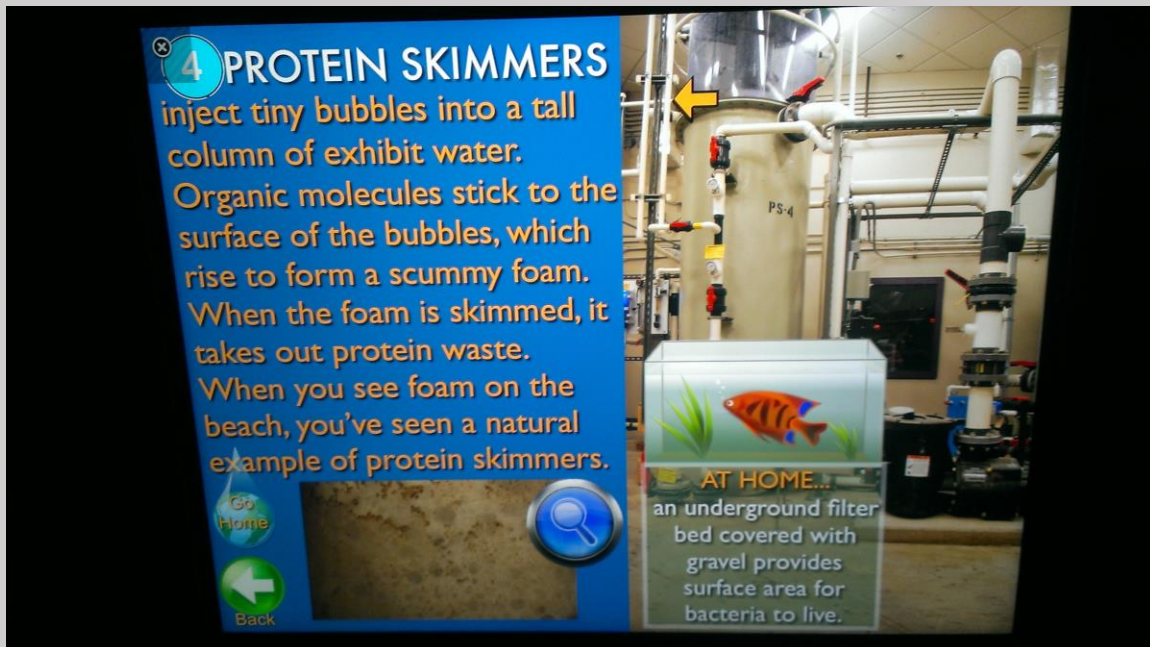
Here are examples of the teaching tools used at Sciqarium to help visitors understand how they maintain the aquatic animals they have on display, as well as teaching you ways

to replicate it (on a much smaller scale) at home. Many museums and public aquariums around the world show you aquatic life; but very few of them encourage you to try to replicate it at home and give you the knowledge to do it. Sciqarium aggressively promotes the hobby /practice of keeping tropical fish introducing thousands of visitors a

year into the wonderful world of tropical fish keeping! It is my hope more public aquariums will begin doing this.



-Computer screen shot of the equipment used at Sciqarium and what can be used at home



Another computer screen shot teaching the viewer options to be used in home aquariums

Pretty impressive right? But Sciqarium doesn't stop there; they also have an underwater petting zoo where you can touch sting rays as they swim by as well as other underwater creatures. They have made this place an incredible learning center for all but its main focus is squarely on the young.



2 hours shoots by like a falling star in the night and I hadn't even left the Sciqarium section to see the rest of the Natural Science Center that is all seamless connected together into one awesome package. I have spoken here specific to my aquatic readers about the exhibits I thought would bring them the most excitement and won't go into further detail about the rest of the exhibits. But I will say that they also have a section devoted to dinosaurs, meteorology, astronomy, a full outside zoo including lions, tigers, wolves, monkeys and much much more! 6 hrs later and I was finally leaving the center excited and invigorated about new ideas I wanted to try when I got home. If you are ever in the North Carolina area I would strongly urge you to take your family to Sciqarium /The Natural Science Center. For 11.50 you will get a full day of unparalleled fun, excitement and real education. Try to find that in a video game. Until next time gang keep breathing the excitement of our hobby into others and never stop feeling young. Your home aquarium just may be your fountain of youth! -----





CCY BAP ARTICLE

Cyprichromis microlepidotus Kilila

By Tom Gillooly



The Cyprichromis genus are a group of cichlids, commonly referred to as sardine cichlids, that inhabit the mid -water column in Lake Tanganyika. There are several species such as microlepidotus, leptosoma, pavo, zonatus along with several undescribed types such as those that are referred to as Jumbo Cyprichromis. In addition, many of these species have geographical variants throughout the Lake.

The Cyprichromis shoal in large schools in the water column feeding on microplankton. They are also known as a prey fish of the larger offshore cichlids and of Cyphotilapia frontosa.

Males of the species are more colorful than the females as is the case with many east African mouthbrooding cichlids. Spawning usually occurs in mid water where the

females will catch her eggs before they touch the substrate. She may incubate the eggs in excess of 21 days. Few young are produced when compared to the mbuna or haps of Lake Malawi but they are of a fairly large size and will begin feeding right away.

In the aquarium, the Cyps are a fairly peaceful fish, only showing a bit of aggression among breeding males. They would be a good Tanganyikan community fish for a tank with *Altolamprologus* and *Julidochromis*. If you would like to try spawning them a group of 8-10 fish is a good start. A taller aquarium such as a 75g, 90g or 110g would be best.

The Kilila variant is a very uncommon *microlepidotus* type. I obtained a group of eight from a friend who was moving out of the area. He obtained juveniles from Reserve Stock Cichlids (now out of business) several years ago. They was 3-4" in size at the time and he kept them in a 110g tank.. The group consisted of 4 males and 4 females. Not the ideal combination of boys and girls but it has worked out well thus far.

As you can see from the photo this is a beautiful fish. The male at the bottom of the picture is the dominant breeding male.

The group was placed in a 75g tank along with nine *Julidochromis marlieri* Gombe and a single male *Cyathopharynx furcifer* Magara. By the way, two breeding pairs of the Julies have formed in the tank and have young. More about them in a future article.

The tank has a sand substrate and water temperature is kept in the 78-80F range. A Whisper HOB is used for filtration and water is changed (~40%) every other week. They are fed frozen mysis, blood worms and brine shrimp along with different types of flake.

A dominant male emerged from the group and started flashing/dancing around the females and driving off the sub-dominant males. After a 50% water change the male's color intensified and he started flashing more frequently. By the next day one female was holding and within a week he spawned with a second female.

Both holding females were left in the breeding tank as they were not being harassed. After 20 days, the first female's buccal cavity was bulging greatly and the young were gently stripped from her mouth. She released 8 young.

The second female was stripped a week later and gave 7 fry.

As mentioned previously they do not throw a lot of young but they are of a good size and eat immediately. They are currently in a 20g tank and growing slowly.

A group will be brought in for a meeting auction in early 2014.

I usually pass fish on after BAP points are obtained but I intend to keep this fish going and start another colony with the young if they continue to spawn. -



Tom Gillooly is an avid keeper of African Cichlids with an emphasis on cichlids from Lake Tanganyika. Tom's contributions to this newsletter and the CCY club itself has paved the way for members to learn more about rare cichlids in Africa with the possibility of obtaining and keeping some through his BAP donations to the CCY. We commend Tom for his work at the CCY!



Breeder's Award Program Report Form

Members Name _____ Date Of Spawn ____
/ ____ / ____

Taxonomic Name _____ Location

Common Name _____ How Long Have You Owned Breeders

Have You Written An Article ____ Yes ____ No If yes attach copy to this report or e-mail to
ccybap@yahoo.com

Size of parents M ____" F ____" Size Tank _____ Type Lighting

Any Plants In The Tank ____ Yes ____ No / Description of plants

Spawning medium

Water parameters pH ____ / dH ____ / kH ____ / TDS ____ / RO Water ____ Yes ____ No
/ Temp ____ F

Type Of Filtration _____ Special Additives

Other fish in the tank

Mouthbrooder ____ Substrate ____ Artificial Hatch ____ Leave With Parents ____

Foods fed to parents

Foods fed to fry

Additional Information

BAP Chairman Will Fill In This Part

C.A.R.E.S. ____ Yes ____ No BAP Points Awarded _____ C.A.R.E.S. Points Awarded

6 Fry Donated ____ Yes ____ No Auction Date ____ / ____ / ____ Article Submitted ____ Yes ____

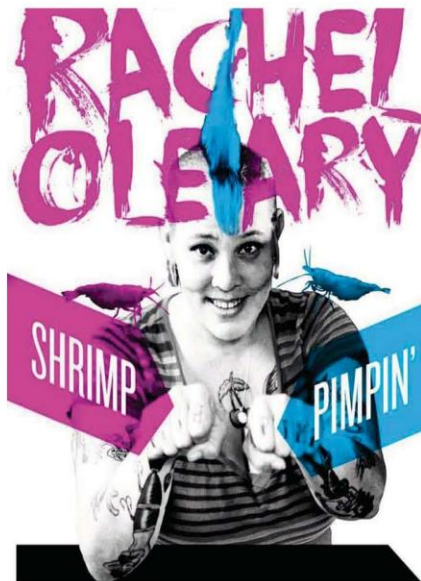
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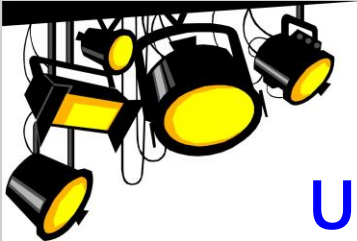
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invertebrates
By Msjmkz



Upcoming Events:

**CCA's Jan Meeting - Sat, Jan 11, 2 PM (JFK HS
Silver Spring, MD)**

**CCA Presents AquaMania 2014 (The Big Fish
Deal) - Feb 28 - Mar 2, Hilton, Gaithersburg , MD**

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4pm - 8pm

Saturday, Dec. 21

11am - 4pm

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