

The Cichlid Chronicles

Volume 1 Issue #4



**Interviews with Mo Devlin and Kevin J Carr
A look at the magic of Cichlids Are Special
Coverage of the NJAS 60th Event**

And now a message from our CCY President



Happy Birthday to you- Happy Birthday to you- Happy Birthday to the CCY- Happy Birthday to you!!!!



That's right gang it's been 1 year already! What a ride it has been up until now and I can't wait for what lies ahead of us. We have really taken off like no other club before us and I have heard nothing but praise and compliments from other clubs and guest speakers about what we have created here in York PA. None of this would be possible without "**YOU**" our members and I owe each and every one of you a great deal of gratitude for your continued support of our club. I also owe my CCY team a huge "**Thank You**" as no one person could ever do this alone. Lonny Langione, Mike

Mull, Shane and Jess Mell, Tonya Kaliling, Jay Stephan, Wayne Smith, Christina Smith and my loving wife Pam McLaughlin who has supported me through this whole endeavor. You guys are amazing!! To help us celebrate our 1 year anniversary on November 16th at 1pm we have none other than the world famous **Discus Hans** doing a presentation! Gang it truly doesn't get any better than this! We will also be having a "cichlid show", cake, ice cream and our always huge auction! **So everyone come out as this is the one meeting nobody should miss!!**

In this issue we have some incredible articles including an interview with **Mo Devlin and Kevin J Carr** on fish shows (for you entering the Nov 16th CCY cichlid show), the making and magic behind the York PA **Jay Stephan** owned **Cichlids Are Special** company, **Orlando Torres** making of a fish room and my coverage of the **NJAS 60th** event in "**Cichlid Circle**" which will explain the picture of me a trophy and huge smile.

Special thanks to **Taushia Jackson** for her amazing photo on our front cover and **Lonny Langione** for his edit work on the Cichlids Are Special Article.

-Scott McLaughlin



**Cichlid Club of York
1 year anniversary
With Discus Hans
November 16th 2013 at 1 pm**

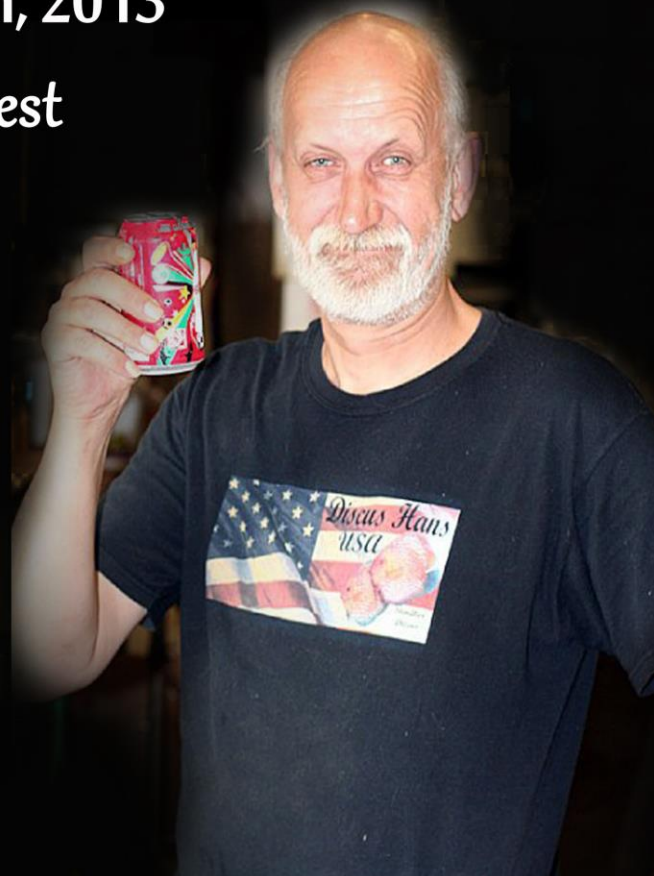


Join us as we celebrate the CCY 1 year anniversary with none other than Discus Hans!!! Discus Hans will be doing a presentation on the fascinating world of Discus as well as bringing some of his world famous Discus to auction off at our meeting!! We will also be having lots of raffles, prizes, fish show and of course our auction to celebrate our 1 year anniversary! **If you have missed the chance to attend a CCY meeting this is the one not to miss!!!!**

Come celebrate Our 1st Birthday

Nov 16th, 2013

**with special guest
Discus Hans!**



The Cichlid Circle

By Scott J McLaughlin



The NJAS 60th Anniversary

October 11th Lonny Langione and I traveled to New Jersey to see our good friends at the **North Jersey Aquarium Society** (AKA the “NJAS”) and to help celebrate their 60th birthday. 60 years of anything is an incredible feat. However 60 years of “greatness” which is what the NJAS has achieved is an extraordinary accomplishment. The NJAS pulled out all the stops for their 60th event which included 17 speakers, 8 auctions and a 30 class fish show!! Having never entered a fish show before I decided to take this opportunity to give it a try. You only live once right?! So with some friendly advice from Lonny I selected 2 of my prized cichlids and carefully packed them for a long road trip. We arrived in New Jersey (soaked in rain) a little after 9pm and I was pleased to find a friendly NJAS crew waiting to receive my entries. Getting my prized cichlids out of their tanks and to the event was a chore in itself, however taking them out of their “travel buckets” and placing them in their show tanks proved to be quite the adventure. My *Veija bifasciatus*- a large but majestic cichlid transferred to his tank without much fuss as we were able to gently pour him from his bucket to his tank. But my *Oreochromis tanganyicae* decided that he wanted to make a real “splash” into the contest. As I tried to pour him into his tank the *Oreochromis* made a mad dash for it and did a swan dive into a completely empty (no water) tank. **Oh No!!!!**

As quickly as I could, I scooped him up and threw him into his assigned show tank. After a few choice cuss words and some laughter from Lonny and the NJAS crew I took a look over my cichlid and was pleased to find no damage done. **"Whew!!"** Lonny than came over (and as only Lonny can) said to me "The new name of your Oreochromis is "Flopper"! **LOL!!** The good times had already begun! Next we headed down to where much of the convention would be held and found NJAS veteran's Kevin J Carr, Russ White, Chuck Davis and many others hard at work getting ready for the following morning. We said our "Hello's" –checked out the vendor room that was still running and made our way to the convention room to catch my personal favorite speaker **Mo Devlin** doing a presentation called "The Fish Room" which included some fantastic stories and pictures of his trip to Seagrest Farms. After Mo's presentation the fun didn't stop. There was a silent auction at 10pm, followed by a super dry goods auction and hospitality get together. Lonny and I enjoyed the festivities and then made our way to get a bite to eat and then called it a night.....



The following morning I was up and ready to go like a kid on Christmas morning. First I wanted to check on my 2 show cichlids and also to see what last minute competition had been added. My 2 cichlids were looking great and my Oreochromis in particular was absolutely giving everyone "attitude" that came to his tank. It was great and it would certainly attract the attention of the judges. Kevin J Carr brought in some stunning cichlids as well and I knew when I saw his entries that I would be in a real battle.

There were some other great cichlids entered as well and I was really impressed with the magnitude of entries and the quality of them. This was surely going to be on heck of a contest and I was glad I wasn't a judge because there were some tough decisions that were going to have to be made! After checking out all the amazing fish entered in the NJAS 30 class fish show I then went to the convention room to see who was speaking.



The NJAS had quite the lineup of speakers for us to enjoy and I had 2 in particular that I was terribly excited about – that being Mo Devlin (who had spoke the night before) and **Juan Miguel Artigas**. Juan Miguel Artigas is one of the pioneers who was instrumental in getting many of the cichlids I enjoy (and keep) into the mainstream market. As a writer for the ACLC's "Tank Tales" I had the opportunity to interview my idol Juan Miguel and to now hear him speak was a huge honor. Lonny was equally excited about one of his early aquatic inspirations that being Rosario LaCorte (< pictured to the left). Lonny considers Rosario "the ultimate aquarist who has inspired many young aquarists over the years including himself".

Although I was not familiar with Rasario (shame on me and my ignorance) I took note of how excited Lonny was and

decided anything that made Lonny this excited deserved my full attention. Rasario didn't disappoint! Even in the midst of a small technical issue with the projector, Rasario captivated the audience with some truly funny jokes and stories. I was truly impressed. At our last CCY meeting Lonny said he could have listened to Rasario for another 8 hrs, and I have to agree with him. Rasario is a real inspiration to get out and do something note worthy in life!

Juan Miguel soon followed and just like Lonny said about Rasario- I could have listened to Juan Miguel for another 8hrs. There is so much information and experience that "all" these speakers have that one presentation simply isn't enough. After his presentation I was able to speak to Juan and thank him for his interview. I was pleased that he remembered who I was and gave me a few minutes of his time to talk about what I was doing including the cichlids I currently have and the growth of our club. He later posted on our Face book CCY forum that it was a pleasure meeting me. To think that he took the time to post that really meant a lot to me and was an honor.

It's people like Rasario, Juan Miguel, Mo Devlin and others who give back to aquarist like me and our members that keep this hobby alive, special and thriving. I would like to say **"thanks"** to all the speakers at the NJAS 60th event as they were all incredibly good but due to the parameters of this newsletter I unfortunately can't speak about each and every great speaker.

Throughout the day there were silent auctions and give -a -ways going on while speakers were doing presentations. The vendor rooms were full of customers and the fish room (that I kept gravitating to) remained busy with interested spectators. Judges were dispatched to look over the fish in the contest sometime after 2pm and my heart pounded with anticipation for much of the day. I never thought I would get so excited about showing my cichlids but I did.

The pizza and sub party began at 6:30 and it was true "Jersey" food- none of that imitation stuff we get here in PA. The food was so good I almost stopped thinking about the fish competition for a minute..... I said "almost" ... LOL!



Let the judging begin!!!!

Three very emotional events happened after the pizza and sub party at the NJAS event. The 1st was a presentation done by the NJAS headed by Alesia Benedict where they presented Laura Mizi with a lifetime NJAS membership award for all her achievements within the NJAS. Laura was unable to be at the event but the NJAS always being ahead of the technology was able to do a live Skype video for all to see presenting her with the award. In that one moment you could see how special this NJAS club is and how important their members are to one another. It was very special to be a part of.



The 2nd was Ray Kingfish Lucas doing a spectacular auction followed by a heart felt goodbye to everyone at the NJAS as Ray moves on to retiring and relaxing after many decades of work in the tropical fish industry. As president of a tropical fish club, it is people like Ray Kingfish Lucas that has help our clubs survive and provide for our members. His goodbye is a moment I will never forget.

The 3rd and last emotional moment would be the announcing of the Grand Champion



NJAS Best of Show Tropical Fish award. Up until this moment I had won 2nd place for Best New World Cichlid 6 inch and above for my Vieja Bifasciatus as well as 1st place for Best Old World Cichlid- Tanganyikan Class for my Oreochromis Tanganicae! Now was the moment we had all been waiting for... The presenter speaks "And now for Grand Champion Best of Show".....the room becomes quite.... The award goes to..... I can hear my heart beating loudly..... "The winner is **Scott McLaughlin** for his Oreochromis Tanganicae !!!!!" Disbelief takes over... applause begins, I jump up and almost kneel like I know I'm not worthy of the award... The crowd cheers, I pump my fist and I can't stop smiling as I walk back to my seat. Already overly emotional Lonny (again as only Lonny can) says "You deserve that buddy! For all your hard work in the club you deserve that!!" Trying to hold back any tears I just shake my head quietly.... This has been a great day... I just can't stop smiling....

Sunday morning would come and again the anticipation of the NJAS auction had me up early in the morning. I packed my bags and then traveled to the show room to pick up my 2 "award winning cichlids". I love being able to call them that now...LOL! Cichlids and bags are in the car, Lonny is up and now its time to enjoy the auction. I have been to many auctions in many different states and I can honestly say that the NJAS auction was one of the better ones I've been to. Packed house and full of different tropical fish

the NJAS auction did not disappoint. Lonny (as Lonny always does) jumped in as a runner and helped the NJAS team keep the auction moving fast.

Somehow in the midst of everything Lonny and I filled up 2 rather large coolers of auction goodies without putting too big a dent in our pockets. I always get a good feeling seeing Lonny purchase fish as I know he is getting more excited about this hobby he truly loves. As 3pm hit the auction was still going on strong but it was time for us to say our "Thank You and Farewells" (that 3 ½ hr trip is no joke). Kevin J Carr shook my hand and asked if I had a good time and I said "Kevin I had the time of my life!" Lonny always knowing just what to say stood up and said to everyone **"There is two types of people in the world, people from North Jersey and those that wish they were"**. A final round of applause and we hit the long road home...

What a great event, what a great weekend. Thanks NJAS and from Lonny and I we wish you another 60 years of success and excellence!



Juan Miguel Artigas speaking at the NJAS 60th event



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**The CCA would like to wish the
Cichlid Club of York
A Very Happy 1st Birthday!!!
CONGRATULATIONS**



Upcoming Events:

CCA Nov meeting (Tony Horos on Collecting in Peru) - Sat, Nov 9 , 2PM (JFK HS Silver Spring, MD)

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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Cichlids Are Special

A Hobby turned into a Business



Jay Stephan - the Owner and Man behind the magic of Cichlids are Special

My wife and I started out as aquarium hobbyists. At first Cichlids Are Special was a part time venture. A year or so later the company that I was working for full time began to have problems. I saw the handwriting on the wall and starting looking for something I could do from home. That something turned out to be going into the fish business full time.

Tony Rizzuto from Tony's Tropical Fish in North York got us interested in African Cichlid's. We bought fish from Tony for about 10 years until his store closed. We also bought African Cichlids from Cichlids Are US, which Darrell Sawyers was running from his basement in Lancaster County. Darrell sold off his business

because he could not handle working full time plus do the fish business at the same time. Shortly after that, Tony closed his store and he was selling off aquariums, racks and equipment.



Aulonocara Hueseri (Midnight Peacock)



Metriaclima Cyneusmarginatus

Realizing it was going to be hard to get the quality African Cichlids we had been used to purchasing, I decided to buy a rack of forty twenty gallon high aquariums and a sump system from Tony and decided to give the fish business a try. I added two ninety gallon pre drilled tanks from That Fish Place to my rack of forty aquariums and Cichlids Are Special was born.

I set up the aquariums from Tony's on the same type drip to drain system Tony used in his store. This was a continuous drip of freshwater into the aquariums with an overflow drain going into a sump. Once the sump reached a certain level, a sump pump kicked on and pumped the waste water away. All of Tony's aquariums were predrilled and his racks were built for this purpose, so it was the logical choice to use the same system.

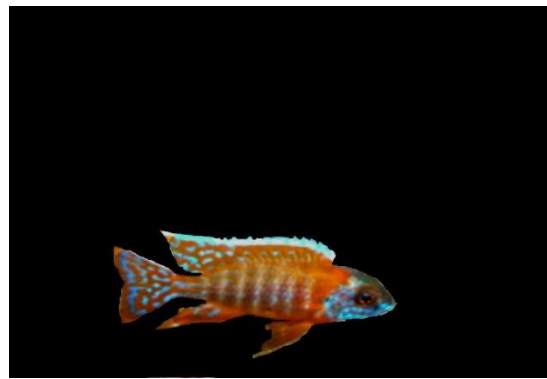
I soon realized I needed more aquariums and I realized the mistake I made by not purchasing more of Tony's used pre-drilled ones. The cost to buy new pre-drilled aquariums was way too expensive. As an alternative, I used some plastic tubs from Lowe's, drilled them with a regular drill bit, added bulk head units from JEHMCO and used them instead of fifteen gallon tanks. This worked well until the manufacture discontinued the tub size I was using and I could not find a replacement for them.

When Darrell liquidated his business, I purchased fifteen gallon aquariums and a few forty gallon breeders. I also bought some twenty-nine gallon tanks from Amazon Basement when they downsizing and thirty-six more fifteen gallon aquariums from Lonny. None of these aquariums were pre-drilled.

I obtained instructions from JEHMCO on how to drill aquariums. I purchased a diamond bit and along with my neighbor's help we drilled about 50 aquariums. I did not have a steady enough hand for the drilling. It takes a constant somewhat slow drill speed. Instead I fed the cold water over the drill bit as my neighbor drilled. By the time we finished, we wore out the fifty dollar drill bit. I added these aquariums to my fish room.



Copadichromis Azureus



Aulonocara German Red

As the business grew I found I needed even more aquariums. Lucky for me another local pet shop was downsizing and I was able to buy most of his fifteen, twenty-nine, and thirty gallon aquariums. These aquariums were predrilled and I was not about to make the mistake of not buying enough like I had with Tony's tanks. I used dividers in some of the fifteen gallon aquariums to create fry nurseries. Over time I had trouble with these dividers and I discovered smaller plastic containers from Lowe's and Home Depot that I could drill with a normal drill bit, add bulk head kits, and use them for fry containers. This helped in two ways, first I had separate fry nurseries and second it opened up more aquarium space for more fish.

I set up my aquariums with a mixture of stones including cichlid stones and crush coral to help keep the PH up. I use sponge filters in each tank and several air pumps from JEHMCO to run the filters. About the time of my first expansion, I began to run into a big problem. All of the sudden, I was getting full tank crashes for no apparent reason. It took some time, but I finally figured out what the problem was. My municipal water company was adding chloramines to the water. Unlike chlorine which is easier to remove, chloramines can accumulate and cause aquarium crashes if not removed properly. This led to a major change in how I do water changes and a whole lot more work. I cannot run my drip to drain system like it was designed. Instead I must stir my aquarium stones, remove at least 50% of the aquarium water with a pump, and add Ultimate Water Conditioner from JEHMCO to the aquarium before I can add fresh water. Only then can I use the water system to refill my aquariums.

Currently I have over two hundred aquariums in my main room to service weekly. When I have fish in quarantine, I have twenty three more. This means three to four mornings a week are set aside just to do water changes. Plus every second week, the sponges need to be cleaned. I clean sponges by removing a large cup of water from the aquarium and putting it in a bucket and then squeezing the sponges in that water. The dirty water is thrown out between each aquarium and the process is repeated until all the tank sponges are serviced. This process takes at least an extra morning every second week.



Xystichromis Kyoga Flameback

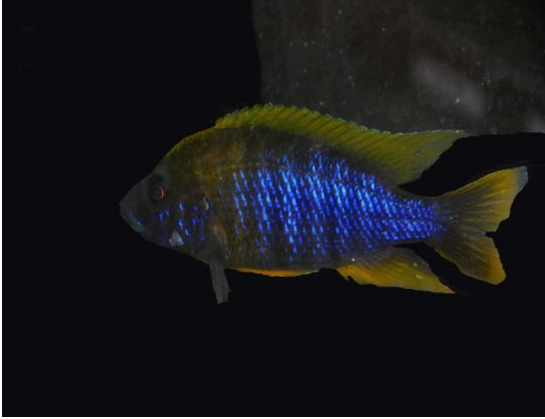


Pundamilia Nyereri Ruti

Quarantine aquariums when in use, have their water changed every five days and one teaspoon of plain table salt added along with Ultimate Water Conditioner. Sponges for these tanks are cleaned at the end of a quarantine cycle. Fish are moved to their regular aquariums and the quarantine aquariums are emptied until the next time they are needed. While these tanks are not in use, their sponges go into a tub of water with a double dose of salt treatment in order to preserve the good bio for their next use. The air to this area and the lights are turned off to conserve electric. Of late, however, this area is rarely down for more than a few days to a week at a time due to being very busy.

Just when I thought I had everything the way it needed to be, two new challenges came up. The first was due to the way I had set up my aquariums on stands that set directly on the floor. This was a bad idea because water often gets on the floor and some of the stand bottoms began to go bad. In August of 2011, I started a project with a friend's help to put cement block under the stands and to rebuild the stands. Our main focus was on the area of aquariums I used most. We decided that it was easier to put the heavy larger aquariums on the bottom rows, the medium size ones in the middle, and the small fry containers on a top row. This change made such a difference, that I decided to go ahead and redo my entire set up into this type of set-up. It took me three weeks of twelve hour days to complete the change. During this time I closed the business. While this wasn't good for cash flow at the time, I began to immediately see an increase in spawning and new born fry after the changes.

Finally I thought I was set but I began to have a new issue. Not enough heat in the bigger tanks near the floor, especially on the tanks in the middle of the room. At first, I had been heating the room with one electric heater, then two after the first expansion. Now I needed four heaters plus a fifth one for when my quarantine area, which has twenty three tanks in an adjacent hallway area, was in use. My electric cost soared. Since then I have been trying to find a better way to heat this area. I currently am working with a plumber to set up a way to heat this area using natural gas rather than electric. Once this is in place, my electric cost should drop way back and my cost to heat with gas will be far less. My hope is that this will be my last major change or unexpected set back. Time will tell.



Aulonocara Lemon Jake



Thoracochromis brauschi (Blood Throat)

On the more positive side, with Lonny Langione's help I was able to add two new suppliers, giving me up to four farms to work with and a much wider variety of fish to stock. After about two years of using one of these suppliers, I received a phone call one day from another supplier. This supplier is the primary source for a lot of other fish farms in Florida. They supply mainly smaller fish so I am still using my other suppliers for the larger fish as well. With the contacts I have made over the years, I am able to offer some of the highest quality fish available. My one source often is able to provide me with F1 fish helping me reach this goal

In addition to getting fish from the farms, I grow out fry from my own spawns. I currently have over fifty small fry containers which are almost always filled with either fry or mothers holding. I have been refining stock to what sells the best and trying to keep as many rare fish, especially those in the C.A.R.E.S. program in my selection as possible. I specialize in African Cichlids and a few Synodontus catfish that are good companion fish for African Cichlids. Most of my fish are from Lake Malawi and the Lake Victoria Basin. I only carry a few fish from Lake Tanganyika.

I feed my fish three to four types of food a week, once a day in the evening. My normal rotation of food for my fish is Spirulina enriched pellet food, Spirulina flake and New Life Spectrum small pellets. On Sundays, I either feed Spirulina enriched food. I feed my fry freshly hatched baby brine shrimp which I hatch daily.

Shipping has been a learning curve. When I first started I was using large bags and bagged more fish per bag. I have since learned that I can bag less fish in a smaller bag, put more bags in a shipping box, and have a better live arrival rate. I rarely lose fish in shipping, however, even with the best preparation it can occasionally happen. I ship mostly one day ground by Fed Ex in either 18 x 18 x 10" fish boxes or occasionally in used 20 x 16 x 10" boxes. Each box has a Styrofoam interior and cardboard outer box. In warm weather I use Second Day Fed EX Air and Second Day ground shipping as well. I chose second day shipping when the temperature goes below 45F. In cool and cold weather I use heat packs and extra newspaper in my boxes for extra insulation. Air cargo shipments are also available.



Cynotilapia Afra Ntekete



Aulonocara Lwanda Orange Variant

My web site, www.cichlidsarespecial.com , offers advice on how to set up tanks for African Cichlids, as well as compatibility and breeding. I do not just sell fish; I try to encourage the hobby. My bags are always marked in order for the customer to properly identify their fish. On my web site there is a place for the customer to request a fish. I check this list when ordering from a farm if I have time enough to add them to an order before it has to be processed.

Everything is done to provide the customer with the highest quality fish for a reasonable price. My customers are what keep my business going. I reward them with discounts for returning to buy more fish. I also give extra discounts for large orders of \$100 or more and offer these discounts on group orders as well. I work with two Cichlid Clubs, the Capital Cichlid Association, and the Cichlid Club of York, delivering fish to members at club meetings.

My mission is to carry, maintain, and sell one of the largest varieties of high-quality African Cichlid's and Synodontis catfish in the Mid-Atlantic Region. I always offer excellent customer service and promotion of the fish keeping hobby so that African Cichlid's, particularly those in the C.A.R.E.S. program, can be enjoyed for generations to come.

-Jay Stephan,
Owner,
Cichlids Are Special





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Is the food you feed your fish
enhanced with **BLUE** flake?



Is the food you feed your fish
enhanced with **BLUE** flake?

My First Fish Room

The ongoing journal on the building of a fish room!

By: Orlando Torres



I've had quite a bit of time on my hands lately due to certain conditions. My love for fish and having more of them around seems to grow day to day. To support this, the space in which I keep my fish needed to grow as well (especially at the rate my wife brings home fish! **"LOL"**). So I decided to build a rack in my basement for some smaller tanks for come and go fish. I'm no carpenter by far, so I enlisted the help of my stepfather. I learned how to use the tools I needed and take proper measurements to complete the task of constructing a three layer rack that would house 10 and 20 gallon tanks. I was able to house 9 tanks on this rack. My system for cleaning is nothing less then a pain in the butt right now, and sometimes I don't even want to go down on cleaning days. I don't have an air blower and sponge filters yet, I have HOB filters and heaters on all the tanks. A blower and sponge filters would eliminate the use of several outlets which mean **MORE TANKS** in the future HA -HA!!!!



Now to get rid of the heaters in EVERY SINGLE TANK; not to mention these HOBS and heaters are ancient. I'm not complaining because the equipment and tanks were all free. Thanks CCY member **Tom Gillooly** for the hook up. To get rid of the heaters in your fish room the room needs to be somewhat enclosed. This way the room can be heated instead. This also eliminates many outlets for later use. At the moment I am running 15 tanks in the basement and 9 tanks upstairs from 125's to 10's. I can tell you that this sucks @\$\$ sometimes, especially under my specific conditions. I heard CCY President **Scott McLaughlin** say that keeping fish/our hobby is hard work. I believe this to an extent, especially first starting out. This is what separates us from those who tear apart tanks just weeks after its up due to illness, water issues, or dead fish. Sure it's discouraging, **but for those who have that real love for these critters, we find a way.** I once cleaned my tanks sick and vomiting all morning. I've lost great fish, and over flowed many a tank to the point where I said "gat dabbit" I quit this sh&%!! It's an acquired taste, like beer or wine, or cow stomach (ewwww!!). The fact of the matter is if you're like me and get frustrated at times and feel like giving up- you probably won't. If your tanks aren't down and sold by now and you've been in this club from the start and reading these stories from day one **you obviously love keeping fish. Stay with us** - thick and thin and we can help each other through any issue. I will get that air pump one day, I will build that wall one day, and I've made great friends here that would help me do it. All I have to do is open my mouth and ask. Remember also should you feel so bad that you miss a day or two of maintenance, don't kill yourself over it your fish will not implode and disappear. Just get back to it when you feel better. Thanks to CCY Guru **Lonny Langione** for giving me some great ideas about draining tanks in a fish room and easing my mind about fish racks and their support system. Don't give up. Your fish will thank you. **Keep at it and the end result will be a breath taking piece of art that came from your heart and is your very own!**





With our 1st CCY cichlid fish show taking place on November 16th, I decided to ask long time veterans **Mo Devlin and Kevin J Carr** their thoughts on how to prepare for a fish show and what judges look for. Based on his jaw dropping photos its obvious Mo's eye for detail is one of the best in the business. Kevin has been showing fish for over 40 years and his cabinet full of trophies and awards speaks for itself. These 2 men have agreed to share some of their knowledge and "tips" on how to prepare your fish for a fish show. So sit back, relax and take notes from two giants in the cichlid business!



1. How important in your opinion are Fish Show contests and why should hobbyist get involved? Kevin- "I think it is a very important aspect of the hobby. I think it gives all hobbyists young and old to learn about the fish they are keeping. Many fish when young especially cichlids don't develop there full range of colors and finnage. This is the chance to see in person what the fish looks like when they mature. There is also the satisfaction of knowing you have competed against fellow hobbyists. If you win you know what you did right, If you lose you can talk

with the judges and find out what you did wrong.”

Mo-“I like the fish shows for one specific reason. It gives hobbyists an opportunity to see a variety of fish in their very best condition. The competition part is a personal experience. And like all competition, it gives a goal to shoot for and work toward.”



2. What is your definition of a stunner or show worthy fish?

Mo-“it’s an adult fish in peak condition. It could be as common as a guppy or as large as a Dovia. Size isn’t an issue as much as condition and appearance.”

Kevin- “There are several things you need to look for. One is how will the fish show? Certain fish look beautiful in your tank but just stress out in transporting and going to new tank. Chocolate Cichlids are a perfect example. They just don't show well. They lose their color and sit in a corner. Green Terrors, most Geos, and Red Devils to name a few just adapt better.

I look for a fish that is about 3/4 grown, great color and finnage and has to have an attitude. Some like Red Devils are EXPECTED to be aggressive.

Age is important as some cichlids tend to "bend" as they get bigger and older. “

3. Once you determined you have a stunner (whether through your own breeding or purchasing it from somewhere else) do you isolate that fish in an effort to promote his growth and coloring?

Kevin- Yes I isolated them in a tank sometimes divided with another potential show fish. I do at least 50% water changes every week. As it gets closer to the show I do 75% water changes. I split the water changes into three 25% water

changes every other day. This gets them use to you moving around in there tank and helps to lessen a little bit the trauma of moving them. about a month prior to the show I start to lower the temp so that the fish gets use to it as most show rooms are a little colder than your average fish room. Besides there normal diet which includes pellets and live food I increase the amount of live food depending on the fish. If they are smaller I get them black worms, larger fish get earth worms. Also depending on the fish I may increase the use of foods like Krill which increase the red coloring of fish. I stop feeding about 2 days prior to the show as you don't want your water to get all fouled up before they get there!

=====

Mo -Depends what you are in to. Most folks who enjoy the competition aspect will agree that in order to preserve the fish's condition, it's almost a prerequisite to keep it isolated. When something as minor as a small fin tear or a missing scale can put you out of the wining circle, it's best to not take any chances.



4. As judges what does your trained eye look for when judging tropical fish that your normal hobbyist might not see?

Mo- Overall condition and deportment says "healthy specimen".

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Kevin -The late and great Mike Sheridan my mentor on showing fish use to say to me when judging a show fish you must ask yourself "What should a good example of the species look and act like?" , base you're judging on that." I think that all judges look for a fish to be as perfect as it can be based on size condition finnage etc. It really helps if the judges have kept the particular fish you are showing. They know what the fish should look and act like. That is important especially for large cichlids. Also all judges are not the same. Some lean towards size some may lean towards condition. I have seen some cichlids that we really maxed out in size but not perfect win while I have seen some 1/2 grown but perfect in all other aspects win. I am lucky and I have been around awhile so I usually know who the clubs will get to judge and base what to bring on that. A good judge is going to know certain things about a particular fish. Take a Green terror for example. I won a best of show once with an Andinocara Stalisbergi. He was not full grown, but he had all the other features. The judge said what I like about that fish is it has a full stomach a feature that is important when you consider some terrors do get a hollow stomach.

5. Any trade secrets you can share concerning transporting and setting up your tropical fish in its show tank at the time of the contest?

Kevin- Lower tank as low as possible when catching the fish. catch fish in bag or bloomer net. Bring as a much of your own water as you can. Water conditions are different where ever you go. Bring a cycled sponge filter. Your fish is stressed enough. You want to make the conditions as close as possible. Use a chunk of poly filter when transporting. This stuff is amazing it takes everything out of the water! It keeps your ammonia level in check. It will turn brown just sitting in the water. Also I use buckets or Tupperware containers to transport. For the recent show I had watertight Tupperware containers. They weren't exactly watertight (LOL!) but they weren't that bad. If you use bags put a trash liner over it. This helps in two ways. One the trash liner is another bag to help prevent leaking and it's dark which cause the fish to mellow out and go to sleep hopefully! Get the thickest trash liners you can get. Also if the show committee will let you I try to change a little bit of water prior to judging. I use warm water that brings the temp up and makes them more active.

Mo- Veteran hobbyist and long tome competitor Ron Georgione used to "practice" moving his fish. Most damage done to a prized show fish is done when packing it up to bring to the show. Most of that because the fish gets spooked when they see the net. Acclimating the fish to being moved can help. Best advice is "take your time in moving".



6. What is the most important element you look for when judging a fish, color, size, attitude ?

Kevin- I look for the one element of these three that are outstanding. If that is the most colorful Managoesne (for example) I have ever seen then I may grade it a little higher for color. How hard it is to transport? Any fish with trailers are tough to move without damaging them. Moving a 16 inch Umbie is not an easy task...If someone moves a fish of that size and it is really good condition I give extra points for that. I see a good size [Acarichthys heckelii](#) or similar fish with a full set of trailers no sign of damage that gets extra points. Also if I see a fish that normally is mellow and it acts like a Pit Bull than that gets extra points also. All in all it really depends on the individual fish....If I see something outstanding I know it by one look LOL!

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Mo- A combination of all of these makes the fish stand out.

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The CCY would like to thank both Mo Devlin and Kevin J Carr for taking the time out of their schedules and answering these questions, educating our readers and further promoting this wonderful hobby of ours!

Sincerely

Scott McLaughlin

CCY President

Congratulations to Karen Hass and Scott McLaughlin for their “Best of Show” wins at the NJAS 60th Anniversary!



Special Thanks to Taushia Jackson for her amazing photo used on our front cover- Here is some more info on Taushia in her own words:

I have always had an interest in aquariums and fish ever since I was very young. My very first aquarium was for a carnival goldfish, which of course didn't fair well, but ever since my interest had grown. I have several tanks running ranging from a 5 gal hospital to a 75. I keep various fresh and saltwater fish. My favorite freshwater fish are my 3 Texas cichlids and my 2 Red Devils.



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 ____ No



The Cichlid Club of York

BAP Rules

The purpose of the Breeders Award Program is to encourage the captive breeding of cichlid species. It is intended as an educational program for members to share their breeding successes and make different species available to CCY members. The BAP also encourages camaraderie among the members.

1. The breeder must be an up to date paid member in good standing of CCY.
2. While we understand that Flower Horns are a viable addition to the hobby, they will not be awarded points. Hybrids, deformed or genetically altered fish will not be awarded points as well. The BAP Chairman will have the last say as to eligibility of any fish. Line bred fish are eligible.
3. At least (6) fry from each species must be raised to at least 60 days of age. Verification of the fry / spawn can be done by bringing the fry to a CCY meeting or by a clear visible picture sent to the BAP Chairman electronically. Some species will require the BAP Chairman to observe the fry with the parents and are marked as such on the list.
4. You must be in possession of the breeders for a period of 30 days to report a spawn from them.
5. Anyone caught buying eggs from a breeder, tumbling them or receiving fry from another breeder and reporting the spawn will be banned from the BAP and CCY.

Point System

- 1) There is a comprehensive list of cichlids and their point values. The sheets are broken down into two lists, Old World and New World.
- 2) Point values are broken down in 10, 20, 30 & 40 points.
- 3) The list will; be updated as changes in taxonomy are published. New species will also be added.
- 4) Full points will only be awarded once per species.
- 5) Fish with different locations of a species should be reported as well and points will be awarded for the different locations at half of the original points. If those locations are found to be a valid species in the future the other half of the points will be added to your list.
- 6) If the fish are on the C.A.R.E.S. list you will receive an additional 5 points for the spawning. This spawn will be assigned to both the Regular B.A.P. list as well as a separate list for C.A.R.E.S. species. For every additional spawning of a C.A.R.E.S. fish you will receive an additional 5 points applied to the C.A.R.E.S. BAP program.
- 7) If you write an article about breeding the species to be printed in the CCY Journal an additional 5 points will be awarded to your Regular BAP list for that species. Article may be submitted with the BAP Report or within 60 days of the BAP Report submission.

- 8) If you donate (6) fry to be auctioned off at a CCY meeting you will receive an additional 5 points for that species. If the species is on the C.A.R.E.S. list, you will receive an additional 5 points towards the yearly C.A.R.E.S. BAP award for every bag you donate.
- 9) It is the individual members' responsibility to be sure their points are up to date and awarded.
- 10) Points will be awarded to individual membership members in their name only. Points for members with a family membership are awarded to the family name, not an individual from that family.

Awards - Yearly

- Regular BAP Highest Points For The Year*
- Regular BAP Highest Points For New World Cichlids*
- Regular BAP Highest Points For Old World Cichlids*
- C.A.R.E.S. BAP Highest Points Total For New World and Old World Cichlids*

An award will be presented to the aquarist who submits the most C.A.R.E.S. points*

*Accumulation of points for the calendar year beginning in January and ending on December 15th of the same year.

Awards – Ongoing – Individual Hobbyist

- Spawning Award – Accumulate 70 Points (5 species minimum)
- Breeder Award – Accumulate 150 Points (10 species minimum)
- Intermediate Award Level 1 – Accumulate 250 Points (15 species minimum)
- Intermediate Award Level 2 – Accumulate 350 Points (20 species minimum)
- Breeder Award – Accumulate 500 Points
- Advanced Breeder Award – Accumulate 1000 Points
- Master Breeder Award – Accumulate 1500 Points
- Grand Master Award – Accumulate 2000 Points
- Supreme Master Award – Accumulate 3000 Points
- Cichlid God Award – Accumulate 4000 Points – Receive Lifetime Membership

Awards - Special

- Anyone Spawning Any 40 Point Fish – Special Award Listing The Species Spawned



The Cichlid Club of York

Auction Sellers Sheet

Your Three Initials

Sellers Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# (____) _____ E-mail _____

Bag #	Species / Item Description	Min Bid Selling Price	
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Page ____ Of ____

\$ _____

Total Selling Price

CCY ____% \$ _____

Amount Due To Seller

\$ _____

I received payment ____ / ____ / ____ X _____



The Cichlid Club of York

Cichlid Club of York Writers and Photography Award Program

I am pleased to present the CCY Writers and Photography Award Program that will allow us to recognize at year's end those gifted individuals who have contributed to the Cichlid Chronicles Newsletter. Through this system we will award contributors who write articles or submit photography for our CCY newsletter. Contributors receive points when their material is used in the CCY newsletter. Material submitted but not used will not receive any award points. ALL MATERIAL MUST BE ORIGINAL! Please submit all material to Editor Scott McLaughlin at johnscottanthony@hotmail.com

Writers Point System

10 pts for full articles
7 pts for BAP reports
5pts for interview articles

Photography Point System

10 pts for any photo used on cover of CCY newsletter
5pts for photos used in articles

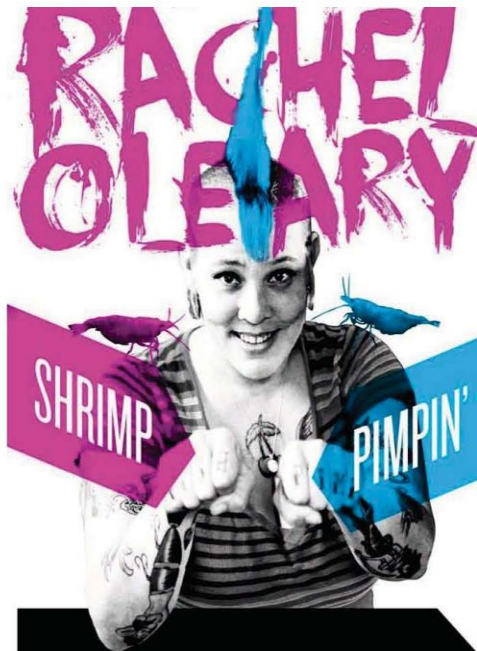
Local Business



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INVERTEBRATES
By MsJunkz