The Cichlid Chronicles





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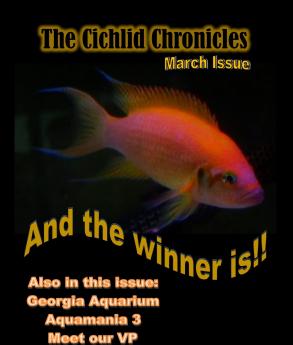


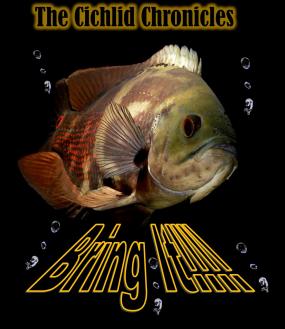
2015 The Cichica Chronicles

The Cichlid Chronicles



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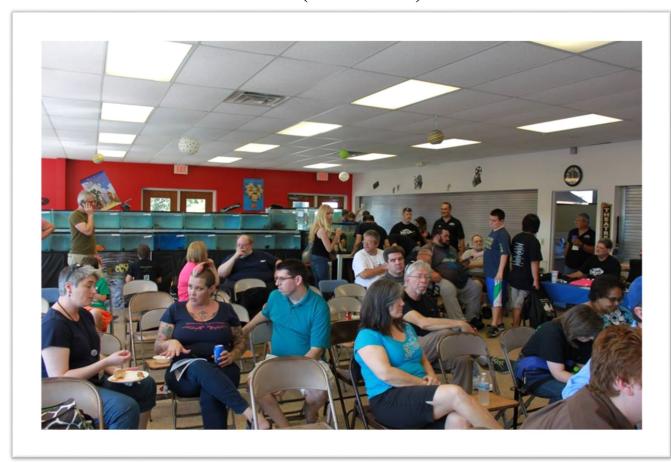


Cichlid Club of York Membership

Dues

Annual dues:

Individual membership: \$20 Couples (underone roof): \$30 Family membership (under one roof): \$40 Junior/Student (18 & under): \$10



And now a message from our CCY President





The Cichlid Club of York

It was so fun to get back in the swing of things this past March with our first CCY meeting since January. Mark Deharo was the perfect speaker to get the excitement flowing again and his talk on "Rare Fish" was outstanding. The meeting was well attended with over 50 attendees,6 new members and several members renewing their membership. If you have not renewed your membership please do so as we want everyone to enjoy some of the great benefits we are about to unveil to our paid members. For those who have attended CCY meetings this year you have seen that we continue to make improvements. From a larger menu of food to a new projection screen and projector we are doing everything possible to make each CCY meeting a great experience for all. Continue to support us CCY fans and we will make every effort to improve and impress you like no other club.

Lastly fans our "CC3" Clash of the Cichlids 3 CCY Cichlid show is just a few months away. "NOW" is the time to start separating the cichlids you want to enter to prepare them to compete against the very best in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland region. We have a website built at clashofthecichlids.com where you can read the rules, register early and get the latest info on judging, sponsorship opportunities and more. One of my greatest memories was winning the 2013 NJAS Best of Show award and I want to give others a forum at the CCY to feel the same. Last year we had over 60 entries, this year we are hoping to get 100. So sign up today and get ready for a great event. Again thanks everyone for your continued support of the CCY. Congratulations to Rachel O'Leary—awesome cover photo!

As I always say there is no "us" without "U". Think about it.....

Scott J Mclaughlin

LONG LIVE THE KING!

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For more information about the 2015 Convention and Convention registration:

Convention Website: http://alaconvention2015.com

If you have any question or need assistance contact Kurt Johnston at ConventionChair@alaconvention2015.com



Interview conducted by Scott Mclaughlin

It was the Saturday after Christmas and the CCY was having its annual "Holiday party". I remember hanging outside the building just before the fun was to begin and seeing Karen Haas pulling in with a passenger in her car. Karen came over and said "Hi Scott I'd like to introduce you to my friend Alan Rollings!" "Alan Rollings???" I thought...... "The" Alan Rollings???? We walked inside, the party started and thus began my friendship with Alan. One of the coolest things about creating a club like the Cichlid Club of York PA is that it has allowed me to meet some the industry/hobby greats of the tropical fish world. I knew of Alan due to his work with the American Cichlid Association and also because of various articles he wrote about cichlids I enjoy. We both have an affinity for the same types of cichlids and its common (in the fish world) that hobbyist who keep the same cichlids become familiar with one another. We can also thank YouTube, Facebook, Tweeter and ultimately the internet for making the cichlid world smaller where cichlid discoveries and a wealth of cichlid information is at our finger tips. Now with all of this said not everyone is a cichlid & computer geek like myself and I understand (especially with Alan living in the UK) that

some of my CCY family may not be familiar with him. Alan is scheduled to speak at our 3rd year CCY celebration in November and he is also now engaged to Karen Haas (thanks courtesy of a beautiful Aquamania night) and will be moving "stateside" very soon. So I have asked Alan to sit down for a cup of tea and to answer some questions about himself, his experiences and his plans as he begins to pack his backs and invade America. So have a seat gang, grab some cookies (called biscuits in the UK), take that water off of boil and just let that tea bag simmer in your cup.... It's time to talk cichlids!

MMMMMMM That tastes good!

1. <u>First things first Alan. Please tell us a little bit about yourself</u>. <u>Tell us about life in the UK, what the tropical fish hobby is like there especially the popularity of cichlids</u>.

I am a proud Englishman. I have been blessed with the gift of keeping fish for more than 50 years (Yes, I know that is difficult to believe. LOL). My life in the UK was to a degree privileged in that I had an excellent paid job with 35 days a year Annual Leave — which was how so many people over here in the USA know me.. The hobby in the UK is fracturing between those that believe everything added to the Internet is the gospel — and that ALL books are historic and wrong! And, those old timers that have a circle of fellow keepers that they can turn to for help in an instance. There are very few Fish Shows — the most active that I am aware of are the British Livebearers and the British Killifish Associations. There are no cichlid only shows in the UK.. As for Conventions there are 2 main ones that last 3 days — the British Livebearers and the Catfish Study Group — all the others.

including their auctions, take less than a day to do and these often include 2 talks from guest speakers.

2. <u>Do you have a specific memory when you knew keeping cichlids would be a lifelong hobby/</u> occupation?

At the age of 15 I had discovered the knack of breeding Discus and Angels. And although I was not aware that they fell in to the family genus of Cichlidae, I was making enough money to salt away funds ready for college/university. I was blissfully unaware that I was keeping cichlids until my early 20s when someone bought me a book on how to keep Discus.

3. So talk to us about some of the more interesting cichlids you have kept, what you are keeping right now and your top 3 favorite cichlids of all time.

At present it is easier to cover what I am keeping at Karen's during this 3 montgh vacation. I have brought over with me a group of F1 *Theraps lentiginosum* – I was lucky enough to catch the parents on my collecting trip to south and east Mexico last year. There are 10 of them, and I have identified 2 definite males and 2 definite females. They are between 2.5 and 3 inches SL., and housed in one of Karen's tanks. I also have in different tanks a breeding group of *Melanochromis chipokae*, a quartet of *Dicrosus maculatus*, and 6 *Julidochromis marlieri* Burundi.

During a long fish keeping experience like mine I have tried all the usual regions that cichlids appear in. I have kept many of the Lake Tanganyika species, a wide assortment of Lake Malawi, and as everyone has at some time kept "Kribs of one type or another" then West Africans. Obviously many species from South America including Discus, Angels, apistogramma, pikes, and Uruguyan species – especially those that I have collected. And, the cichlid region that always pulls me back to it are the Central Americans.

Limiting myself to my favorite 3 species of all time is very difficult. It is even difficult trimming

#1 is a genus rather than one particular species and that is *Thorichthys*. I have kept all of the species in this group, and the most interesting experience is witnessing the interaction between *Th. Meeki* and *Th.pasionis*. If the tank is deep enough and large enough they very closely mimic their natural behavior.

#2 is from West Africa and again I had a hard time choosing *Limbochromis robertsi* over *Chromidotilapia guentheri*. The *Limbochromis robertsi* wins because it of its scarcity in the hobby – and this is a real shame – it is a dwarf cichlid and it taught me to be observant and about managing water chemistry. A must have on my wish list if I ever see it available again.

#3 has to be from a species that I collected in Uruguay, and is *Gymnogeophagus balzani*. It is a temperate climate and so truly is not a tropical species. The temperate zone that it hails from means that the fish need to have 2-3 months at cooler temperatures and also makes it an ideal candidate for keeping outside in ponds or tubs during summer. They should then be brought in to the fish house to allow them to rest at the cooler temperatures in the fish house.

4. Now that we know what you have kept, give us your thoughts (or picks) on cichlids you would recommend for the beginner, the intermediate and the advanced hobbyist.

For the beginner the immediate one to jump at is either Convict cichlid or a Krib species, however, Gymnogeophagus balzani is very forgiving, and as a mouth brooder would perhaps interest a novice a little deeper.

For the intermediate, and I include myself in this grouping, there are so many to choose from depending on preference of African Rift Lakes over South American dwarfs or pikes over Central American tank busters. Then again the smaller Central American cichlids can give such insight in to social order and parental care. For the Advanced Hobbyist: the region that immediately comes to mind is Madagascar. All these species need exacting care and patience. Or, something from South America such as Hoplarchus psittacus needing soft and acidic water.

5. What are your keys to successfully keeping cichlids of the Americas? Water changes? Foods? Filtration? Personal secrets?

Interesting question. Frequent water changes is a must in order to stay on top of the detritus, with additional filtration. I have tended to use a combination of internal sponge filter(s) and external filters. The absolute largest tank you can get away with, but one with a large surface area.

As with all fish it is important to feed a wide range of foods suitable to the species type. Remember not all cichlids are insectivores many are herbivores and some even enjoy crushing snails so these tweaks need to be considered within the feeding regime.

A personal secret: to help condition some species it is beneficial to kick starting the spawning cycle by lowering the water levels as in a water change, but delay topping up for 2 or 3 days and then use cooler cold water.

6. You have been involved in various tropical fish clubs. Give us your thoughts of why these clubs are important and what it takes to keep them growing, active and successful.

Whoever comes up with this solution to keeping clubs growing and vibrant will have all the answers. Fish Clubs are important in so many ways. They provide us with a chance to compare and exchange experiences with other hobbyists, and provide us with a social avenue as well. The clubs allow the new to mix with the old and each learn from one another. Fish clubs are the live blood of the continuance f the hobby despite the reliance of many on the Internet.



7. I was truly honored to be present the night you proposed to the lovely Karen Haas. Now that you two are engaged has there been any talk about a "his" and "hers" fish room or will you both be sharing a fish room together? On a serious note how special is it to find a

<u>lady who is into tropical fish as much as you are? When did you realize Karen was the one?</u>



I had realized that Karen kept catching my eye and that whenever I was in her vicinity at fish events over the past couple of years I was always tongue-tied — something of a rare occurrence for me. Then at NJAS 60th Convention I made some enquiries of some the club's leading lights about Karen. I came over the pond again in the spring of last year and again we were in the same circle of fish club events. However, it was not until the Catfish Convention that I summoned up some "Dutch courage" to speak with her, and on my return to the UK we communicated a lot over the internet, and things have steadily grown on from there.

As to fish room(s) Karen is such a great aquarist that I see we will have a joint extended area encompassing many new tanks and species.

8. Ok Alan my tea is a touch cold and the cookies are all gone so last question. Matt Quinn, Mike Mull and I are going to Uruguay in December. Having been there 4 or 5 times yourself give me some pointers of what to pack, what to bring for a successful collecting trip and what to watch out for.

The great thing about collecting in Uruguay is being with Felipe Cantera of Aqva Terra Eco Tours. He builds the tour based on your preferences, so the permits to fish private property, even exports permits, and the overnight stays are all pre-arranged for you. You need 2 cameras, a video camera, anti-bug repellent — no mosquitos but the horse flies give you a nasty nip — footwear you don't mind ruining and leaving there. You need a wish list of species — not just cichlids, I would like some livebearers you can bring back. A notebook, but most importantly do your own daily water changes every day write the location of the fish on the container so that Mondays fish do not get mixed with Tuesdays etc. If they mix then it has been a very expensive trip because you cannot guarantee the gymnogenys are from the same water shed as an example.

It was a pleasure having tea with you Alan. We look forward to you coming to the States be becoming an important part of the CCY family.

By the way, when you drink tea you should have your little finger raised and separated from the rest. This is the uppercrust way of taking tea.— Alan Rollings

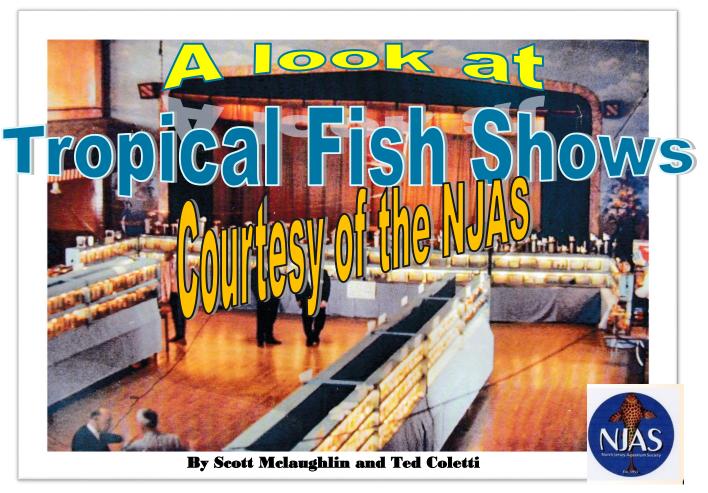
LOL! Thanks Alan!!



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I had the pleasure of having dinner with Kevin Carr and Mark Denaro the other night. As it is with all conversations that Kevin is involved in the conversation quickly became a "classic" **Kevin Carr story**.

On this night the story recounted the old days of the NJAS tropical fish shows when the competition was intense and the winners hailed as champions. We're talking about back in the "hey day" where the likes of Paul Loiselle, Kevin Carr, Dore Carlo, George Fear, Mike Sheridan, and Chuck Davis were entering some of the best tropical fish ever seen. According to Kevin the phrase "Rumble in the Jungle" wasn't coined by Don King but rather it was proclaimed by Chuck Davis one year when he announced to everyone to go home the champ and champion fish were here! This was during the so called "Bad Boy Era" (the 1970's –80's) where they would travel the Northeast and Midwest entering shows, winning trophies and spreading the NJAS name far and wide. Larry Jinks, along with Rick Bolger, Chris & Jack Borgese would continue down this same road in the 90's again raising the NJAS flag at every stop.

Now I was introduced to my first tropical fish show at the 2011 ACA in Washington DC. 2 years later I got enough courage up to enter 2 of my best cichlids into the NJAS 60 year celebration. I walked away the Grand Champion much to Kevin's dismay who finished reserved best of show. 6 months later I created our first CCY cichlid show entitled **Clash of the Cichlids** all influenced by my incredible experience at the NJAS 60th. Today we are about to embark on our 3rd installment of our CCY cichlid show after 2 years of modest success. However it truly wasn't until I heard Kevin Carr speak about the history of the NJAS and tropical fish shows in general that I began to realize how special an honor it was for me to win the Grand Champion award. Maybe looking back that was the year the CCY made its mark and raised our own flag.

Now the purpose of my article today is simple. Everything of worth and value has a background or a story and I would like to briefly talk about the reason I created the CCY event Clash of the Cichlids and why it's important to the hobby in general. I would also like to thank Ted Coletti for his guidance and help in my search to learn more about tropical fish shows. **So let's begin!- SM**



It is my hope and dream that the CCY cichlid shows will continue the competition, comradery and spirit that the NJAS has exhibited since 1953. It is my hope and dream that **champions** are born within the CCY family and that we will compete not only in our own events but in events around the country carrying the CCY torch. It is my hope and dream this event-"Clash of the Cichlids" will forever be a staple in the CCY calendar... - Scott Mclaughlin

I want our cichlid shows to be an event that:

#1 promotes our hobby

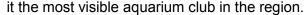
#2 is a forum where hobbyist can display their tropical fish keeping excellence.

When I was at the NJAS 60th event they gave out a great pamphlet written by Ted Coletti on the history of the NJAS and much of that was about their tropical fish shows. After dinner with Kevin and Mark I went home and dug this pamphlet out and reread it. I was inspired after reading Ted's great article and found it extremely important to share his article and history to our CCY readers and future contestants. So I appreciate Ted for letting me share his material. - To help with clarity any info from Ted is in black and any commentary from me is in blue followed by my initials-SM

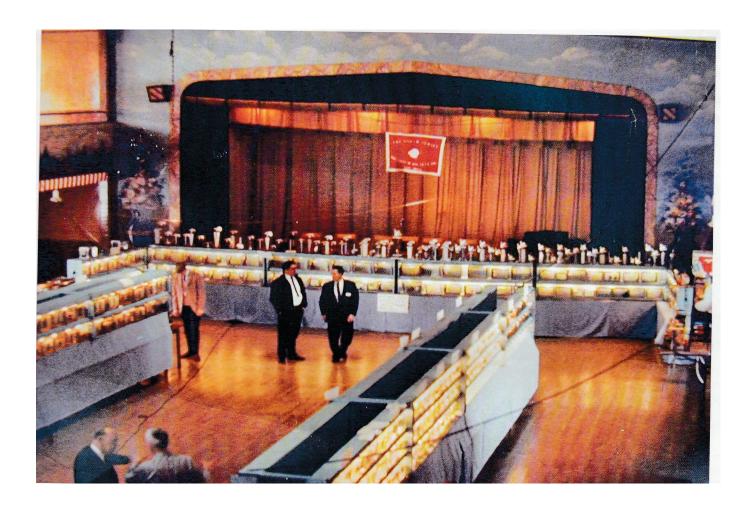
-Ted Coletti-

There have been fish shows since the start of the hobby with Goldfish back in the mid-1800's. Indeed during the "Toy Fish Craze" between WWI and WWII, shows in the NY-NJ-Philly (the great tri-city birthplace of the *tropical* fish hobby) shows would make the cover the NY Times, last for a week, and attract tens of thousands of visitors!

The NJAS made its mark on the local hobby scene in 1957 with its First Annual Tropical Fish Show at the VFW Hall on Union Ave. in Rutherford. This began a 17-year run of annual Shows, which were always the first of the season (March). The focus of the first 3 Shows reflected the club's guppy and betta interests. The club switched their monthly meetings to this Rutherford location sometime between 1955-1958, and then to the back room of Widow's Tavern off Route 3 in Totowa for 1959 (the proprietor was a member and rent was free). At this time, founding President, Joe Epper, strangely disappeared from the club. But NJAS had its sights on bigger and better things that would bring it national recognition in the next decade, and make

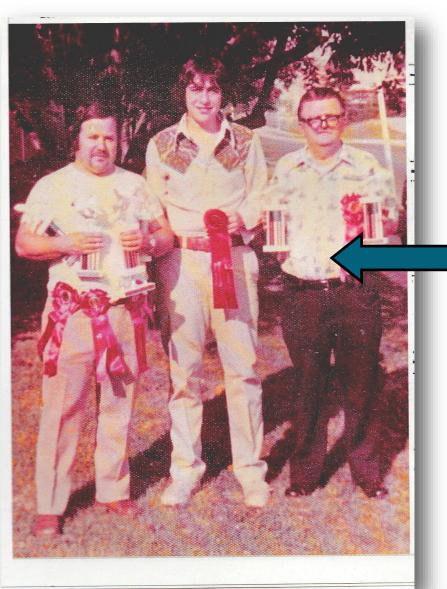






The new decade was a key turning point for NJAS. A victim of their own success, the Rutherford VFW was becoming too small for their popular Show. So for their 1960 event, the club moved to the cavernous White Eagle Lodge banquet hall in Bloomfield. (Essex). This was a radical departure from the "back-of-the -bar" Shows that were standard for the day. The planning of the event took an entire year and included a national marketing and PR campaign under the creativity and rallying of Show Chair, Sam Pierson. It would be their first true All-Species Show, and include vendor booths for manufacturers and members. With a membership that included printers, professional breeders, shop owners, and media men, the 1960 Show was produced in grand style. On the morning of the big gamble, March 5th, fate intervened with a record snowstorm. Fears of financial ruin were belayed when 5,000 people and 500 entries (albeit less than expected) braved the weather, including hobbyists from five states and Show entries from as far away as Hawaii (see news article on right). Most hobbyists had never seen anything like it. NJAS had produced the biggest and classiest show in the region (perhaps the entire country) since the 1930's.

For the 1961 Show, full lighted hoods were constructed for each tank (see 1965 Show photo above). The NJAS Shows of the '60's were arguably the best this side of the Mississippi, possibly the whole country. Chuck Davis recalled "my father taking me as a kid on multiple buses from Hudson County to the White Eagle Lodge just so I could enter my pet guppy...I came back with Rexford, Young, and Alger guppies in that jar from these legends!" NJAS impact in the State may have contributed to more clubs being formed. Between 1950-1965, 21 aquarium societies formed in the Garden State.



A young Chuck Davis, Kevin J Carr and Frank Dowling displaying awards they had won.

"The Bad Boys!"



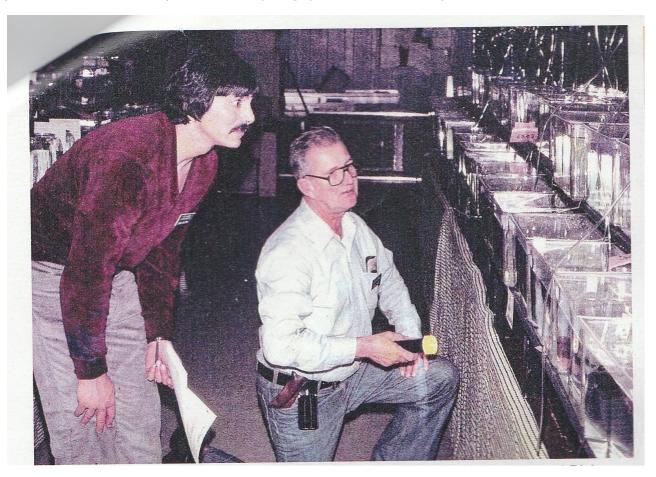
After a hugely profitable 1973 event which would financially support the club for years, NJAS decided not to have a show in 1974. A spunky young member by the name of Bob Larsen (who had apprenticed under Guppy Legend, Arnold Sweeney), persuaded the Board to let him and his wife Pat produce a Show for 1975. The Board, amusingly, appointed Bob as Show Chairman. That half-hearted decision became the first step in the revitalization of NJAS. The 1975 show was held at the Knights of Columbus hall in Rochelle Park. It was ill-fated due to the inexperience of the new blood, and lack of guidance from the oldtimers. The star of the Show was a multi-tiered 32-tank rack that did not get fastened to the wall. It is reported that either the antics of some nearby children, or the accidental leaning-against by a member's wife, began a swaying motion that ended in disaster. The resulting tidal wave of fish, broken glass, lawsuits, insurance claims, tears, and hundreds of gallons of water was not nearly as memorable as the site of a walking catfish, quite at home under these conditions, feasting on goldfish fry from a crashed Family Tank. The water filtered through the floor to the Bar one level below, where patrons continued their lubrication, umbrellas in hand! The '75 fiasco proved fortuitous, however, as it brought the entire club together and even recruited a few new members. One attendee who took pity on the club that day would become North Jersey's most famous and colorful leader: Chuck Davis. Some of the old guard were skeptical of these young bloods, but with vocal support from veteran Sal Grillo, a new generation of hobbyists took the reigns of NJAS. Larsen became president in 1976, with Davis as his first lieutenant.

In 1983 NJAS moved its location to the Jersey City Sewerage Authority where Davis and several other key members were employed or lived nearby. The emphasis in the 100+ member club had now tilted decidedly towards **cichlids** (Bob Larsen wrote a lament on this in 1985). The 1983 Show, for example, was cichlids-only.

NJAS in the 1980's was not only a "Show Club", but a "Showing Club" with great success. Championship guppies, bettas, killies, cichlids, catfish, livebearers, goldfish and many other classes of fish brought numerous trophies and recognition. More and more members began showing fish, joined by the likes of Nini Schultz, Nora Ferrara, Paul Harvey, the Young brothers, and Dr. Joe Jagust. NJAS members won **Best Cichlid Hobbyist of the Year** more than once (George Fear, Dore Carlo, Kevin Carr, and Rich Kulek). NJAS All-Species Shows often broke the 500 entry mark with sister societies joining in the competition (including a legendary "Whiskers & Warriors Greater City vs NJAS Challenge").

This idea is very similar to what we are doing today at the CCY with Clash of the Cichlids. We invite sister clubs such as Capital Cichlids Association, Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Bucks County and obviously the NJAS into our contest. Last year the CCA stole our trophy and took bragging rights as Christine Keys won Best of Show. - SM

This presence built an NJAS support group of some of the most famous hobbyists in the country, including Ginny Eckstein, Wayne Leibel, and Lee Finley. NJAS reputation in the 80's was built not only on their events and trophies, but also by their presence at sister Shows around the country. The "NJAS Travelin' Caravan" visited shows as far west as Denver; north to Niagara Falls; and south to Orlando. "We would drive 400 miles with 60-70 entries, looking—almost expecting—to win all the gold," recounts Chuck Davis. "We were the first to support a Show, first to donate, first to the bar, first to the dance floor, first to find controversy, and loved it all...as long as we were first!" This enthusiastic style got them the label, "Bad Boys of the Aquarium Hobby." " *Remind you guys of the CCY at Aquamania LOL! -SM*



"I still had to deal with that reputation into the late 90's when I was Marketing Chair for the club," recalls member Ted Coletti. "It took a lot of convincing to get some veteran hobbyists to travel to New Jersey for events, even though our leadership had turned over by then." The decade got off to a difficult start for NJAS with the departure of its heart and soul, Chuck Davis, in 1993 for personal reasons. Davis' exit left the club without a newsletter editor nor meeting place. The existing leadership and some key members exited the club for a bit too. The recession and corporate downsizing of the early 90's did not help matters. NJAS could have faded into oblivion, but was held together with returning veterans Kevin Carr and Dore Carlo, aided by Anthony Metta, Roy Gambino, Dean Majorino, Hoot Gibson, Rick Geis, George Savapoulas, and Roy Allen among others. NJAS found a new home at the American Legion Hall in Nutley in 1994, a traditional-style meeting place for the club.

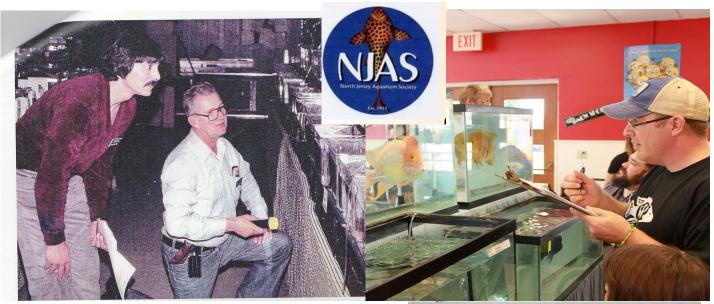
All these revamps and expertise culminated in one of NJAS' greatest achievements. It had been 15 years since an ACA Convention had been held in the Northeast / Mid-Atlantic. In 1999, The Borgeses, Larry Jinks, and Mike Newman rallied the Board to take up the gauntlet. The ACA accepted, and NJAS did a "practice run" with their 1999 Weekend Extravaganza. Promoted as the "Last Great Aquarium Event of the 20th Century," it featured the club's first marketing campaign utilizing nationwide email, internet, postings, and club mailings via Ted Coletti. It was held at the luxurious Parsippany Hilton and drew hobbyists from as far away as Florida and California. The Show room had to be expanded with unexpected entries, and the Sunday auction went 12 hours. In 2000, to lighten the load, NJAS combined efforts with its good friends at the Jersey Shore Aquarium Society (which shared members and a few officers) to produce a successful and widely attended Weekend Extravaganza in central New Jersey. With this experience under their belt, the new NJAS under Convention Chair Chris Borgese produced ACA 2001: A Cichlid Odyssey at the Parsippany Hilton. The ACA's host club pick of was fortuitous as it provided attendees with a pre 9-11 tour of New York City. It was extremely well attended from around the world and included local television coverage. Interestingly, NJAS experienced another memorable "rack crash" in the Show room when a table leg collapsed on the Discus section! The NJAS of 1997-2001 produced outstanding megaevents and conventions, and monthly meetings that kept adding new features. As former President Larry Jinks says, "We had just the right people, in just the right jobs, at just the right time."

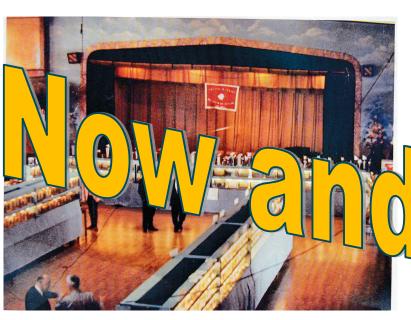


The new Millennium also saw the demise of the neighborhood Mom & Pop pet shop. The Big Box retail pet concept of the 90's had now consolidated into two players, PetCo and PetsMart). Local shops (and their wholesalers) began to suffer and close. Wholesale pricing, once only known among hardcore hobbyists via mail order ads, became pervasive with e-commerce. When the housing bubble burst, and the resulting "Great Recession" came on in 2007, only the shops with a niche market or distance from a Superstore survived (and struggle to this day). One of those owners who closed up shop was former NJAS Prez, Bob Larsen. But these few remaining shops were now more receptive to partnering with a fish club, and NJAS wisely created a firm policy of only promoting to its members those independent dealers. In return, these partnering shops promoted NJAS to their customers, and provided gift certificates, donations, and member discounts. This in turn helped NJAS maintain good attendance at their meetings and events, and keep their membership rolls high. Sadly, not all clubs tried to reinvent themselves for this new Age, and suffered accordingly. Sister societies around the Northeast Council reported declining memberships. Some clubs merged. Blame was placed on the rise of the world wide web and other technological distractions. Some mentioned how old-timers were moving away in retirement. And of course, the decades-old excuse of "kids are not interested in fish anymore" made the rounds. But NJAS, with its new space, new blood, and new programs, continued to grow.

Interestingly this would be around the same time period the CCY was being formed. So while other clubs were folding due to a new time and age, the NJAS and CCY had found ways to build, grow and reach an audience. So there you have a historic look back in time through the eyes of Ted Coletti and the NJAS. As I have told Ted, the NJAS is a blue print of what the Cichlid Club of York PA would like to be and I find the parallels between the 2 clubs to be fascinating. As previously said I would like to continue to promote and grow our CCY Clash of the Cichlids event until it is a world wide event and plastered on the cover of "Time" magazine and "Tropical Fish Hobbyist" just like it was in the old days. Hey—I can dream right?? In closing I ask you my readers to look at the pictures "Then" and "Now" the NJAS and the CCY and see if history is repeating itself.— Enjoy! SM











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CICHLID NEWS BACK ISSUES





Lake Victorians Cichlids



There is a common misconception that all Lake Victorian Basin Cichlids are aggressive. That is not true. Lake Victorian Basin fish vary greatly in their aggression level from peaceful to extremely aggressive. Aggression level even can vary with-in specific family groups as well. Astatotilapia is one of those family (scientific) groups with great variation in aggression levels, which I will explain more later in this article.

Some of the misconception that all Victorians are aggressive has been caused by people that had bad experiences with sp. 35 tomato and sp. 45 thick skin, which are found frequently in the hobby. These two fish sport tremendous color; but they do not mix well with peaceful to mildly aggressive Lake Malawi Peacocks and Haplochromis. Both are higher end Mildly Aggressive and mix best with Mbuna fish or when kept in a species only tank. Occasionally a single male will work in a Peacock and Haplochromis all male show tank if the tank is at least 120 gallons. Both of sp. 35 tomato and sp. 45 thick skin have similar looking females, and should not be mixed together, even as single males.

Another commonly found aggressive Lake Victorian Fish group in the hobby is the Pundamilia nyererei group. These fish come from several collection points including Anchor Island, Igombe Island, Luanza, Makobe Island, Mwanza Island, Python Island and Ruti Island. The main theme with this group of fish is their bright red color. However, they are a fish that need to be keep in species only tanks or with aggressive mubuna. They cannot be kept with any other fish with red in their color. This goes for most of the Pundamila group as well. Exceptions are igneopinnis and sp. red flank (Nansio Bay) which are not as aggressive as other Pundamila. Single male igneopinnis and sp. red flank will often not be a problem when kept with other Africans including most peacocks and haplochromis types. Igneopinnis will not mix well with other black fish and they may occasionally chase orange color peacocks.

Other groups of aggressive Lake Victorians include the Mbipia, Neochromis and Oreochromis groups which are similar in aggression to Tropheus and should be kept in a similar manner to Tropheus. Lipochomis are not only aggressive; but the are egg stealers. Lipochromis will attack mothers that are holding eggs, often killing the mother to get her eggs. This group of Victorians should be kept in a species only for that reason.

The Astatotilapia group of Victorians vary in aggression. Aeneocolor is a mildly aggressive Victorian Cichlid that mixes well with many other peaceful to mildly aggressive African Cichlids from Lake Malawi and with other Victorians not with a similar color. Their females look similar to many other Lake Victorian cichlids and they, therefore, should not be put in mixed sex groups with Victorians that have similar looking females to prevent cross breeding. Aeneocolor breeds very easily in mixed sex groups and usually at a very young age. They are part of the C.A.R.E.S. Program and will bring you bonus points in most fish club BAP programs, including the Cichlid Club of York. Latitasicata is mildly aggressive as well; but, it often does not mix well with peaceful peacocks. It will mix well in all male tanks with a number of other African Rift Lake cichlids. Zebra obliquidens females are similar to the male only without the red. This makes cross breeding with other fish including other Victorians in a mixed sex tank unlikely as long as latifasicata females are present. Sp.44 thick skin recently has been added to the Astatotilapia group and there is



some thought that sp. 35 tomato should be part of this group. Astatotilapia nubila is an aggressive cichlid with similar behavior to that of the Mbipia, Neochromis and Oreochromis groups and should be kept accordingly. It looks similar to Igneopinnis except that it has red on the tail and dorsal fin rather than orange, and is far more aggressive.

Enterochromis types vary in aggression level by species; but, are nearly extinct and rarely found in the hobby. Paropius is the more desirable fish in this group because it is peaceful.

Haplochromis (also known as Haplochromines in these fish) is a catch all group for most of these fish. Many Lake Victoria fish that were in this group have been moved to other scientific groups. A few still remain under the Haplochromis name. Haplochromis sp. All Red from Lake Edward is a peaceful to mildly aggressive cichlid. It, however will eat plants and is not often found in the hobby. Unfortunately, the name "All Red is also associated with Xystichromis Kyoga Fameback as well and this sometimes causes confusion. Haplochromis Kenya Gold is a mildly aggressive fish that will mix will almost any other African Rift Lake fish. I like to call them the Yellow Lab of Lake Victoria because there temperament is very similar to a Labidochromis Yellow Lab. There color, however, is not nearly a bright as a yellow lab. Limax is a bright red color cichlid that also is mildly aggressive and mixes well with a lot of other African Cichlids, other than those with a similar color. Its females are similar to many other Victorian Cichlids. Sadly, it is rarely found in the hobby. Haplochromis sp. "fine bar scrapper" is a dark color mildly aggressive cichlid that mixes well with others as long as they do not look similar. This fish should not be confused with Haplochromis sp. red back scraper which sometimes is sold under the Enterochromis name and is a very aggressive fish. Haplochromis sp. ruby, also know as ruby green, are peaceful to mildly aggressive. Males sometimes can be mixed with other peaceful to mildly aggressive African Rift Lake cichlids that do not look similar. However, they can be shy and it may take some time before they will show full color in an all male mixed tank. On the other hand, if kept in a species only tank, males are aggressive to each other. Therefore, the best combination to breed these fish in is one male with six or more females. Haplochromis Golden Duck is a large, peaceful to mildly aggressive cichlid that behaves similar to Lake Malawi Haplochromis, and should be kept in a similar manner.

Most of the Paralabidochromis group are mildly aggressive which makes them a good candidate for an all male mixed tank. Chilotes from Ruti Island are a darker large version of Chilotes. Chilotes from Zue Island are much more light in color. Chromogynos is one of the most poplar fish from Lake Victoria in the hobby today. Males show blue, yellow green an piebald black spots on the body. There dorsal fin, tail, and anal fin have a red edge as well. Females are sliver with black piebald spots. This fish is mildly aggressive and mixes well with Peacocks, Haplochromis, milder mbuna, and milder Victorians. Their



females are distinctive from most other Victorians due to the piebald look and therefore, the even can be mixed with milder Victorians that are not piebald in a mixed sex group. Paralabidochromis sp. Fire (Fire Uganda) is another mildly aggressive cichlid that mixes well with Peacocks, Haps, and milder mbuna. Male Fire Uganda show black and Red on the body. Females are similar to other Victorians. Red fin piebald is also mildly aggressive. Its males can be difficult to get to show color, however. Most red fin piebald males are silver with some red and piebald black, better ones are red with piebald black spots, and a very few show blue. Females are peach color and can sometimes be more attractive than the

males of this species. Sauvagei come in three versions: (rock kribensis, yellow rock kribensis, and blue rock kribensis). Rock kribensis are yellow with black cross bar stripes. Males show red on the lower front part of their belly. Yellow rock kribensis males show more red than regular rock kribensis. Blue rock kribensis males are blue with a red tail and faint black cross bars. All three versions are mildly aggressive. Males sometimes are shy and may hide color in a mixed male show tank.

Platytaeniodus (formerly Haplochromis) sp. red tail sheller males are very similar in color to blue sauvagei, except they lack the cross bars. Females are sliver. This fish is peaceful to mildly aggressive. Males rarely show full color in a mixed tank; but can be very aggressive to other males in a species only tank. When shy or afraid the male will show a more turquoise body color. Breeding is best with one male and six or more females.

Ptyochrimis sp. salmon males look like the photo above. Females are silver with some black. This fish is a snail eater in the wild and will clean a tank of all snails in a very short time. They are the most efficient way to rid a tank of nonsense snails. In the aquarium, they are not picky about food and will eat almost any flake or pellet foods. Hippo Salmon are mildly aggressive and their males will mix with many other peaceful to mildly aggressive African cichlids except for Victorians that look similar. Most of the xystichromis group of Victorians are mildly aggressive cichlids that mix well in a male only tank many other peaceful to mildly aggressive African cichlids except for Victorians that look similar. Some males may hide color at first in a mixed male tank. Females are yellow green and look like many other Victorian cichlid females. Cross breeding is a problem if you keep these fish in mixed sex groups with other mixed sex group Victorians. This group includes all red kyoga flameback (pictured above). Day Glow are unique fish from this group. Male Day Glow look similar to sp. Salmon. When in full breeding dress they turn more red. But, for some unknown reason, males can turn dark blue as well on a whim. The dark blue color is only occasionally displayed; but, it makes this fish very special. Xystichtomis sp. Flameback is the more aggressive of this group. It is still mildly aggressive; but, it can get aggressive toward peacocks and other more peaceful African Cichlids in an all male mix. Males have red on the upper body and turquoise on the lower body. Christmas fulu can be difficult to get to show full color. Show quality males have blue lips, red on the shoulder and the edge of their tail and dorsal fin, with a yellow green body. Females look like many other Victorians. Males often will appear to be similar in color to the female or like a female with more red.

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"Why should we keep these fish?" You may ask. Well for one thing, they generally are easy to keep. Victorian Lake Cichlids can handle a larger range of pH (7.4 to 8.6) than other African rift lake cichlids. They also can handle a lower temperature range (74 F to 78 F). And they are more forgiving, as Greeg Stevees like to say, which means they can handle small amounts of ammonia or nitrate should their keeper mess up and fail to do a weekly water change. But the most important reason to keep these fish is that most of them are endangered in the wild and part of the C.A.R.E.S. Conservation Program (http://www.carespreservation.com/). It is up to the hobbyist to keep and spreed these fish, otherwise they may be not be around for future generations to enjoy.

My personal favorites are Astatotilapia sp. 44 Thick Skin despite their aggressive level, Astatotilapia aeneocolor (Vulnerable, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term), Haplochromis Kenya Gold (endangered facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future), Haplochromis sp. Ruby (Ruby Green) (Vulnerable, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term), Paralabidochromis Chromogynos (Vulnerable, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term), Paralabidochromis sauvagei (Vulnerable, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term), Ptyochromis sp. salmon (Vulnerable, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term), Xystichromis sp. day glow (near threatened), and Xystichromis sp. kyoga flameback (Critically endangered, facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.

Two good references for more information on these fish are: 1) http://www.cichlid-forum.com/profiles/category.php?cat=16 which lists profiles for Lake Victorian Basin Cichlids, including river dwellers which are not discussed in this article, and 2) "Cichlids of Africa-Volume 1 Haplochromines" by Greg Steeves, Dave Hansen, and Anton Lamboj.







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Tom Gillooly- Lampnologus dimilis 30 pts Nerlampnologus polder daffodil 20 pts Pelvicachomis pulcher 20 pts total=70 pts

<u>Dwayne Walker</u>- Cynotilpopia Sp. Hara 10 pts Pelyicachromis pulcher 20 pts Cryptohero sajica 10pts Archocentrus multispinosus 10 pts— total= 50 pts

Blake Stevens- Pterophyllum scalare 20 pts Rocio octofasciata 10 pts Herichthys cyanoguttatus 10 pts total= 40 pts

Karen Haas- Amatitlana nigrofasiata 10 pts

Micheal Mull- Labidochromis caeruleus 10 pts

Jay Stephan- Aulonocara jacobfreibergi 10 pts

Paul Brickenell- Cynotilpopia Afra 10 pts



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.

The breeder must be an up to date paid member in good standing of CCY.

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.

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. With specific rare cichlids who don't produce large amount of fry the BAP manager may deem a picture efficient evidence to garner BAP points.

You must be in possession of the breeders for a period of 30 days to report a spawn from them. 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

There is a comprehensive list of cichlids and their point values. The sheets are broken down into two lists, Old World and New World.

Point values are broken down in 10, 20, 30 & 40 points.

The list will; be updated as changes in taxonomy are published. New species will also be added.

Full points will only be awarded once per species.

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.

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.

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.

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.

It is the individual members responsibility to be sure their points are up to date and awarded.

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.



Cichlid Club of York BAP Rules (cont'd)

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



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: XtremeKristinaX@aim.com
Size of parents M" F" Size Tank	Type Lighting
Any Plants In The Tank Yes No / Description	on of plants
Spawning medium	
Water parameters pH/ dH/ kH	/ TDS/ RO Water Yes No / TempF
Type Of Filtration	Special Additives
Other fish in the tank	-
Mouthbrooder Substrate Arti	ificial Hatch Leave With Parents
Foods fed to parents	
Foods fed to fry	
Additional Information	



WORLD TURTLE DAY LESSON PACKET

Update April 7, 2015: We are now accepted requests for 2015 Turtle Day Lesson Packets!

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Kerry Dilks- The final ingredient to the CCY Puzzle



Go to any CCY meeting and follow the sound of noise, chatter and laughter and you will find one "Kerry Dilks"! Always the life of the party, Kerry was the missing link, the last ingredient needed to make the CCY "official" yet "fun". Kerry's outgoing personality makes everyone feel welcomed and special within the CCY family which is an important factor to the CCY's success. A year after joining the CCY Kerry decided to open her own tropical fish business called "Fins and Scales". At Fins and Scales Kerry sells everything from tropical fish, plants and other aquatic goods. Her business has done well and continues to grow.

Today we take a moment to speak to Kerry and find out what's going on in her "fish world" and life in general. So without further ado here is Kerry Dilks!

Welcome to Cichlid Chronicles Kerry we appreciate you taking the time to tell our readers alittle more about yourself the CCY and Fins and Scales.

Tell us about your first experience with the CCY. How did you find out about the club and who spoke at the first meeting you attended?

About two years ago a mutual friend invited me to Rachel O'Learys for a barbeque and to check out her fish room. Sharon, my eldest daughter, and I were surprised how welcoming all the guests at the cookout were. I remember meeting Zach Duke and Shane Mell who informed me of the club. I also met club president, Sir Scott McLaughlin as well. I found the club on facebook and began exchanging fish information and conversating with several members. I figured "What the heck" and checked out my first meeting the following month. I believe my first meeting had Mo Devlin as speaker. Everyone was friendly and I saw many amazing fish. I decieded I must come back again.....so I did and they have been stuck with me since.

To date what has been your favorite CCY meeting?

Honestly I have enjoyed almost all meetings in many different ways. A few come to mind when I recollect that stand out whether the speaker was amazing, the auction was outstanding, or new memories were made with new friends. The Discus Hans meeting comes to mind. It was the one year CCY anniversary meeting. My back was throbbing that day from a prior injury but I toughed it out and showed up. The old clubhouse was packed from back to front. Several tables of beautiful fish for the auction. Discus Hans put on an amazing talk and shared many photos of his Discus. Many CCY members were there amongst members from other clubs around. I also remember receiving Member of the Month at this meeting and was honored. I had to be nudged to get up as I still can not believe my name was called. Scott had some very kind words to say about my presence in the club. I felt wanted. I was grateful. The other meeting that comes to mind is the first cichlid show the CCY put on. The set up was a complete blast. From the fumes of vinegar and bleach many of us hit levels of delirium inhaling the putrid fumes. Laughs were shared but we all pulled together to put on our very first show. Both of my daughters showed there first cichlids. Sharon took home third in the Malawi category. Unfortanetly the father of her cichlid showing right above so she stood no chance against Scott's bifi beast. The first show was a great time and we brought in a lot of nice cichlids to compete. It was also a great learning experience and proved that with teamwork anything could be done.

At what point did you begin to start thinking about creating your business "Fins and Scales"? Also tell us what it took to get the business started and running. What were your keys to success?



Working outside of my home was no longer an option for me at the time. I had taken a fall down the steps and destroyed three discs in my back. I had good days and bad days. There were days I could not bend over or get out of bed. A normal full time job was no longer an option for me as those bad days would be a call off and then a termination. Doctors wanted me to apply for SSI but I had no notion on

giving up on working and making a living for myself. I always loved keeping busy and working with my hands. I knew I would go stir crazy without a project or a sense of accomplishment. Lorelei's father had a heavy work schedule which also made it difficult for me to work outside of the home. I had supplemented for several years with side projects such as interior design and running a craft vendor. Making the crafts and sewing became difficult as I sat and widdled items out for many hours hunched over only causing my back issues to become worse. I enjoyed the hobby of keeping fish and found much enjoyment in it. Instead of reading my usual novels I found myself reading about fishkeeping and learning the ins and outs about each species. I went to my father one day and mentioned building a rack for me and start selling fish locally. The need was there as many local folks were beginning to call me with issues on stock they purchased from our local corporate shops. My local pet shop who did not carry fish directed folks to me when they called them with issues. Two days after mentioning the rack to my father he was in my home building away. I changed my tax ID from a once craft vendor to a fish vendor. Being a family who lived week to week we used our income taxes to purchase all my supplies and my first round of stock. I remember the first shipment clearly. I did not sleep that night and questioned whether all of this would sink my family. Was it a mistake to invest in all these fish related things? Would I fail myself and my children? Was I in over my head? My father was a huge help thru the process as he was a former hobbyist and helped me each step on the way. Things did not start off easy and I learned from many mistakes along the way. There were many days when I contemplated throwing the towel in and giving up. I did not. Instead I lit the fire and fought. I was happy doing what I was doing and helping others. I refused to fail or give up. In the beginning you really go in blind not knowing what the public is wanting to purchase so therefore keeping track of all the sales was a necessity. When running a business you have to give the public what they want even if it is not your top choice of what you want to work with. Customer service is also a huge thing as people wont come back if the experience is not a positive one. My work in the customer service industry made things easy for me to run my own business. Your service is just as important as your product. Along the way you have to always remember to never bite off more than you can chew. In my opinion a mistake many make in business is diving in too fast and borrowing money. If a business is meant to succeed it will build itself up naturally. The money you make can be slowly re invested to increase your stock or needs .

Tell us about your fish room. How many tanks do you have and what fish are in each tank? Also what is your favorite tank in your house?

I am currently running around fifty tanks in my fish room housing several different species. My main focus at this time is catfishes and African Cichlids. My highest sales locally are African cichlids. Most catfishes specifically plecos are high dollar items which help supplement your overhead cost to keep things running. Running thru all your prior sales helps to notion you what to bring in for stock that will sell. Of course being a single mom I always look for a bargain. Instead of sticking with general price margins I try to offer my fish at a reasonable price. People want a bargain and good service. The larger tanks in my fish room house most of the African Cichlids. They always do better mixed in a community environment and overstocked. I find it



keeps the aggression down and putting them in larger tanks increases there growth. I do not increase my fish price as the cichlids grow or begin to show color. Everything I offer is based upon what I originally pay. If something sits and grows obviously demand is not there so raising the price could cost me more than keeping the same and moving that batch of stock out. I keep my plecos and catfishes by species in ten gallons or twenty gallons heavily stocked with driftwood to keep the ph down and give the plecos something to munch on. Any community fish and cichlids such as apistos also receive Indian almond leaves and driftwood to soften water as well.

I have had many show tanks. One of my favorite things about the hobby is the intial set up of a tank. The aquascaping. I enjoy keeping all kinds of cichlids and freshwater fish. Hands down my favorite tank is my current 110 gallon stocked with Discus, schooling tetras, corydoras, and plecos. I enjoy the fact that there is something to look at each angle and variation on size and species. It is very peaceful to watch and something to view for everyone. I enjoy the larger aggressive cichlids but the thing that disappoints with them is your limited on what stock can join them. Aquascaping is also tricky with your larger cichlids as the majority of the time they enjoy rearranging your tank. When I set up a tank I want it too look as if you are peeking inside there natural habitat.



As we look to the future what ideas do you have in store for both the CCY and Fins and Scales?

I would like to see the CCY increase and see new young faces come out to enjoy the meetings. Without the next generation the club can not thrive forward as the older step down. I keep my eldest daughter interested in the hobby with hope that it will give her something to enjoy and sense of accomplishment. Those young faces are what will keep the hobby going in the future. Technology has hurt many hands on hobbies throughout the years. I want to see the next generation work with there hands and keep this hobby going. Most children today can not even tell you how fruit and vegetables grow. Some of these fish species in time may only be seen in a fish tank and not in the wild due to pollution and other factors. Without the hands of the future the hobby will fall off. It is my goal to keep bringing fresh young faces to the club to keep the CCY alive and thrive. Not only is the CCY a club for fish education but a family of friends. It gives adults something to anticipate and look forward too outside of the daily monotony. I hope to see the hobby and club grow throughout each year. Give the next generation something to look forward too and build upon.

Fins and Scales as been slowly building up on it's own locally. Each week sales increase and tanks empty at a faster pace. The need for expansion is there but unfortunately being a single mother I can not risk any investment that is more than I can afford. Since I have two kids that depend on me, risks are not something I am willing to take. I do find lately that I do not have time to even list auctions anymore online as local sales have kept me busy enough. I would love to one day have a shop with more work space which of course will increase foot traffic. In the near future I plan to add some exotic smaller reptiles to the stock list specifically lizards. My need to expand is slowly getting there but will have to wait until the youngest daughter starts school in the fall. Until then I will continue chugging along in my basement. I have hope for the future and the need for this is there in my local town. The places one can buy fish in Hanover is extremely limited and Adams county area literally has nothing.

Again we thank you Kerry for taking the time out to let us know a little more about you and your company Fish and Scales!

chanks to our sponsor









Specializing in Cichlids

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Don't Miss a Meeting III

CCY 2015 Dates



2015 the CCY will have the Mount Rushmore of great speakers!!

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Alan Rollings - CCY Birthday

2015

CCY Holiday Party



CCY Elections