

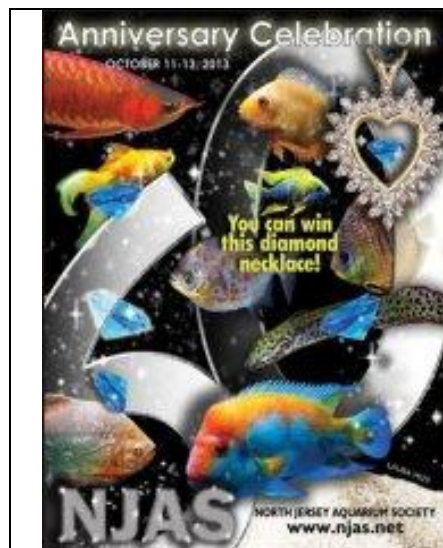
The Cichlid Chronicles



A Look at African Cichlids



How to Aquascape your cichlid tanks



NJAS- The Greatest Show On Earth



And now a message from our CCY President.....

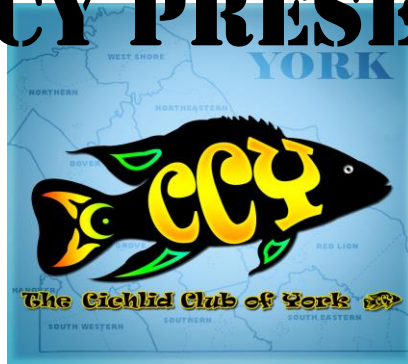


Well it's all but official CCY fans- summer is coming to an end- Boo! Boo!! Boo!!! The CCY celebrated the end of summer and the restart of our monthly CCY meetings with our 1st annual Cichlid Club of York PA Picnic. With well over 40 CCY members, friends and family the picnic was a great success. As President I felt it was my duty to be "Grill master" for our first CCY picnic and boy was that a mistake! The first batch of burgers and hot dogs were cooked to a perfection that only one Kevin J Carr could love (if you know Kevin you know nothing is cooked unless it's burnt...LOL). But after some time I got familiar with the gas grill controls and began to serve burgers that didn't resemble hockey pucks. One thing that I'm finding that "I" am good at is assembling and decorating cichlid display (or show) tanks. As the club has taken off- more and more people have visited my fish room after our monthly meetings as I only live 3 houses down from our meeting spot. The expression on people faces when they get a tour of my fish room is priceless and actually makes me feel very proud of what I've created. In my monthly column "The Cichlid Circle" I will be talking about my tanks, how I decorate them and how inexpensive it is to decorate these tanks following my outline. This month also begins our monthly photo contest where CCY members get to send in photos of their tanks or cichlids and each month one photo will be selected to be showcased on the front cover of "this" very newsletter The Cichlid Chronicle. It also includes a 10.00 gift card from our friends at Petco. Not to be out done we are doing the same for writers who submit their articles as well with the grand prize being a featured article and another 10.00 Petco gift card! As if that wasn't enough I will be selecting the best of the best articles and photos to be entered into the FAAS or Federation of American Aquarium Societies award program where we compete against clubs from around the country for best article and photo honors. Our neighbors and friend the ACLC aka the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County have won many FAAS awards including "Best monthly newsletter" and "Best editor" which are huge awards and honors. It is my hope that one day our newsletter will be considered for the same awards.

Ok folks well its back to our monthly meetings and it is with great honor that this month we have CCA Capital Cichlid Associations own Matt Quinn speaking. Matt seemed like the perfect follow up to Mo Devlin who spoke at our last meeting in July. So come join us on September 28th at 11am to hear Matt speak as well as enjoy a light lunch and then heavy auction to follow. We are scheduled to meet on the 4th Saturday of every month in an effort to work with our neighboring clubs. Hope to see you there!

-Scott McLaughlin

THE CCY PRESENTS:



SEPTEMBER 28TH AT 1 PM THE CICHLID CLUB OF YORK PA MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER **MATT QUINN**



Matt Quinn has been keeping fish and a member of aquarium clubs since he was in grade school. He currently maintains a fish room of around 50 tanks of mostly new world cichlids and livebearers.

Matt is a board member of the Capital Cichlid Association (CCA), former board member of the American Cichlid Association (ACA) and was chair of AquaMania 2013. He's planning his third collecting trip to Uruguay for February 2014.

When he's not changing water, Matt works as Director of Healthcare Initiatives for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), rides Metro or is busy chasing around his three kids.



CCY Member of the Month



Wayne Smith

I met Wayne Smith this summer at a CCY board meeting that he had been invited to by Lonny Langione. We shook hands and Wayne said “You really have a great club and I would like to help.” Talk about music to a Presidents ear! Since that encounter Wayne has been to every CCY meeting and found a way to help. Whether through bringing food and drinks for the CCY members to enjoy or donating something to our CCY auction that generates much needed funds for our club- Wayne Smith has been a man of his word. Wayne was also the individual responsible for finding the picnic grounds where we had our first CCY Cook Out. He handled all the costs of renting the picnic ground as well as getting up early to clean and rope off the area just for the CCY family. I think it’s important for everyone to know just how instrumental Wayne was in making our CCY Cook Out such a huge success as sometimes the behind the scene work can go unappreciated and unnoticed. Lastly Wayne is currently working on finding a new meeting area for our ever growing club. He has already located and negotiated a few areas that we may be utilizing very soon. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Wayne Smith as this month CCY Member of the Month. He is a shining example of the kind of CCY member who have made this club and family so special. Congratulations Wayne!!

"Signals"

☞ ① ๒๓ ③ ④ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๐

Why you shouldn't mix cichlids of various locations

by Lonny Langione- photos by Scott McLaughlin



A tank such as the one above mixed with African and South/Central American cichlids can be a recipe for trouble

I cringe every time I see a picture of a Geophagus in the same tank as a Haplochromis. And I will quickly try to explain why. It isn't so much that they require different water conditions, which they do. It isn't so much that they both get big for the most part. It is they send different signals with their coloration to their tank mates. Fish can't talk, but they can send signals to each other. Central American, South American, Asian and African Riverine fish show these color

changes more so than African Lake fish.



I can walk by one of my Central American tanks and see a female and tell you before looking with a flashlight that there are eggs in the tank somewhere, just by her coloration. The same goes for most of the African Riverine fish, the females color really intensifies. Those females are sending a signal to the other fish that she has eggs or fry in

the tank. The males will show lots of color as well. If you take the time to watch a pair of Central American cichlids while they have fry in the tank you can pick up on these signals. The male may be out swimming in the tank, out of the corner of his eye he will see a slight change in the females color that means to him, "come watch the kids, I want to swim around for a while". He will swim over to her usually in a jerking motion and she will swim away while he watches the kids.

These signals are also picked up by other Central American fish in the tank, and they know to stay away.

This "signaling" is only done mostly by substrate spawning fish. Most mouth brooders you will not see the drastic changes in color. You will see it when they are courting. A male Malawi mbuna and a male African Riverine cichlid will turn on the colors to attract the female. A female may also become more colorful. They will pick a spot to breed in and they will drive all the other fish away. When they show those colors it is a signal to the other fish in the tank to stay away as well as attracting their mate.

Another way fish send signals is "posturing". A lot of Tanganyikan cichlids do this. When they have eggs or fry in their tank they will tend to swim at different angles, thus letting their tank mates know what is going on. Apistogrammas do this as well. Tangs will swim at this angle towards a tank mate. Usually the tank mate will retreat, if they don't they will get a swift ram or bite from the dominate / breeding fish.

This signaling is also a reason not to mix cichlids from different locations. When a male Mbuna is showing his dominance in an aquarium he will turn on the colors, especially the bars in his coloration. If you have Mbuna you know what I mean. You may have 3 Mbuna males and one shows the barred pattern while the other two will show a washed out coloration representing sub-dominance. The same goes for Haplochromine species as well. If they don't have a barred pattern, the dominant males will show their adult coloration while sub-dominant male of the same species will show some coloration of the juvenile pattern or the colors are not as bright. So when African Lake fish show dominance the turn on the colors.



We're pleased to offer you a Store Coupon.
You can redeem this coupon during checkout. Just enter the code in the box provided, and click on the redeem button.
The coupon code is **SAMPLECOUPON**
The coupon is valid between 11/07/2012 and 11/07/2013
- Coupon for first time food users to try our food at little to no cost
Don't lose the coupon code, make sure to keep the code safe so you can benefit from this special offer.
Visit us at [Cobalt Aquatics](http://Cobalt-Aquatics)



When a lot of American cichlids show a subdominant coloration they will go into a fright pattern and depending on the species this fright pattern means showing a barred pattern. When an American cichlid shows dominance they will lose the barred pattern. I hope you see where this is going. This is why so many times African Lake fish get a reputation of being extra mean when kept in a mixed community.

A male Mbuna showing his dominant barred coloration sees an American cichlid's barred fright pattern and thinks the fish is challenging them for dominance. So the American cichlid gets the crap beat out of it. African Riverine cichlids tend to carry the same signaling that American cichlids do. So their fate is also sealed when mixed with species on African Lake fish.

If you are not sure of the origin of the cichlids you keep, here are some websites to use to find out more information on them.

www.fishbase.com

www.eol.com

<http://research.calacademy.org/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>

The third website is known in the hobby as "Eschmeyers List". You will need the taxonomic name of the fish, another reason I preach that you need to learn the taxonomic names. You will not need locations, just the taxonomic name. If the name is outdated it will still come up showing you the most accepted name at the time of the search.

This isn't an in-depth article on this subject. It would take me a month to write that article. I haven't covered all locations of cichlids, but tried to concentrate on the most popular. We have a lot of new hobbyists in the CCY and I wanted to write an article on this subject that a new hobbyist could understand. Hopefully this article will encourage you to learn more about the fish you keep.

In closing, take the time to watch your fish. To me it is the most amazing part of this hobby when you learn your fishes "signals".



Put in the correct conditions and with the right tank mates your cichlids will thrive!





The Cichlid Club of York

CICHLID CLUB OF YORK WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD PROGRAM

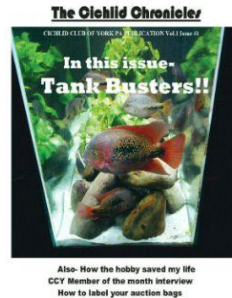
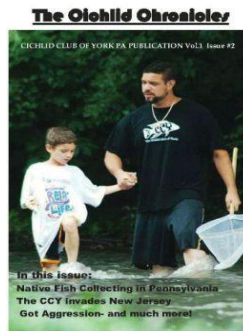
I am pleased to present the CCY Writers and Photography Award Program that will allow us to recognize at year's end those gifted individuals who have contributed to the Cichlid Chronicles Newsletter. Through this system we will award contributors who write articles or submit photography for our CCY newsletter. 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



THE CCY WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHY POINTS

STANDING:

WRITER AWARD STANDING:

10 points full article- 7pts BAP articles 5- interview article

Scott McLaughlin- 30 pts

Orlando Torres- 20 pts

Tom Gillooly- 19 pts

Lonny Langione - 10 pts

Kerry Dilks - 10 pts

Christina Smith -10 pts

Chris Cornell - 10 pts

Jay Stephan - 7 pts

Photography Award Standings

Cover photo - 10 pts Article photos 5 pts

Scott McLaughlin - 45 pts (*front cover issue 1)

Chris Cornell - 30 pts. (*front cover issue 2)

Tom Gillooly - 25pts

Orlando Torres - 15 pts

Luis Hernandez - 5 pts

Christina Smith - 5 pts

CCY The Cichlid Chronicle Article of the month (winners receive 10.00 Petco gift card)

Issue 1- Orlando Torres- How keeping fish saved my life

Issue 2- Christina Smith - The truth algae

CCY the Cichlid Chronicle Photo Contest (Winner receives 10.00 Petco gift card)

Issue 1- Scott McLaughlin

Issue 2- Chris Cornell



Photo of my 90 gallon Cichlid Display Tank

How I make Cichlid Display Tanks

BY SCOTT MCLAUGHLIN

In everything I do I try to do it well and also add a bit of “myself” into it. From the way I wear my clothes; to the way I swing a golf club, down to how I decorate my fish tanks. **It’s all my unique style.** I don’t know if it’s the Pisces in me but I take great comfort in aquatic scenery. I love ocean views, rolling streams and water falls. They all give me a sense of peace and Zen and it’s that “tranquility” that I try to recreate with my fish tanks. My problem is I love “cichlids” and not the cute dwarf cichlids that come in magical colors- “No”! I like the ones that can raise Hell in a tank just to show off. You know the kind that can grow as big as 20 inches long and don’t play nice with others. “Yeah” those are the kind of cichlids I like!



-Photo of my 75 gallon African cichlid Display tank- everything in the tank was purchased (except for cichlid and driftwood) at Lowes or AC Moore-

Accommodating my cichlids with an adequate reproduction of their home is an aspect of the hobby that I enjoy. I have no problem with hobbyist who want to decorate their tanks with sunken ships, skull heads or any other type of decoration. In fact the show "Tanked" has proven that you can decorate fish tanks with many different enjoyable themes and make it work. So I am certainly **"not"** telling anyone to do it my way. What I am saying is that (in my opinion) nothing shows off a beautiful cichlid more than housing him/her in a tank that looks like it was cut straight out of the river or lake that the cichlid originated from. Each of my tanks normally has a theme and a specific species. The fun for me begins in researching where my "cichlid of choice" originated from and finding images of that location and body of water. The images I find will be my "subject matter" as I decorate and recreate my cichlids natural habitat.



-A photo of my 125 South/Central American Cichlid tank- Again all decorations supplied by Lowes or AC Moore except for driftwood and cichlids-

Once I have a good idea of what cichlids I want to keep and the environment from which they came from, **the next step is to get a tank.** The size of the tank plays a big part in your ability to decorate. For me the general rule is the bigger the tank the better- not only for decorating purposes but for the health and longevity of the cichlid as well. However I have seen some amazing nano tanks with Electric Blue Rams and other dwarf cichlids that look simply incredible. Since this article is generally towards my readers interested in collecting and keeping tanks similar to my own; I would stick with the rule of the bigger the better and try (if space allows at home) to start with nothing smaller than a 55 gallon tank. With the tank chosen it is now time to get the supplies needed to decorate the tank. Supplying your tank with the necessary components can be a very expensive process however I will share with you the less expensive alternatives that are available outside of your local "pet stores" **Substrate-** Many people don't understand the importance of getting a good substrate. Just the color of the substrate alone makes a huge impact on how your cichlid will look. Again with the mentality that you are recreating your cichlids natural environment I would suggest using medium to light colored substrate. I like to use sand and gravel mix to decorate my

tanks with. The sand you can get from any Lowes or Home Depot. Just ask for pool filter sand as that is the most inexpensive yet aquarium friendly sand you can find. Avoid all playground sand as it usually is the equivalent of mud once water hits it. The pool filter sand is reasonable priced and you can get a bag of about 50lbs for 10-15.00.



You can also find bags of gravel and sand stone at Lowes or Home Depot. Aside from some buckets I purchased from Lonny Langione, all the rocks you see in my tank were purchased from Lowes. One side note I would like to caution you about is the bags of gravel and sand stone you get at Lowes are much dirtier than what you would purchase at a pet store designed specifically for tropical fish. For the cheaper price you are going to have to take extra time to really clean the stone and gravel before you put it in your tank. None of this material is pre cleaned as other aquarium products so please heed my words and clean all gravel and rocks well before putting them into your tank.

Now it's time for some plants!

You would think that a purist like me would only want live plants in my tank and quite frankly that is the truth. However due to the nature of the cichlids I keep and their appetite for live plants and destruction, I have been unable to keep live plants even after multiple attempts. So plastic plants have been my option and after some trial and error on what looks the best underwater, "silk plants" seem to be the best option. Silk plants have the flexibility to sway and move underwater with the water current in a similar manner like live plants. Plastic plants remain too stiff and I find they look too glossy or shiny underwater. Silk plants have much more of a natural look to them. A company called "Sea Garden" makes some pretty impressive silk plants and they have a large inventory of just about every aquatic plant you could think of available to purchase. Some of their Amazon sword plants are simply spectacular. Once I stumbled onto silk plants, Sea Garden became my manufacture of choice as I spent many dollars buying my artificial aqua garden. One day I found myself admiring some photos taken by Mo Devlin which including some of his display tanks. I decided to drop Mo an email and find out what he was using for aquatic plants. I was very surprised to find out he was buying silk plants found in art shops such as AC Moore. He told me he found them to be aquarium safe and more reasonably priced than some of the products found at your local pet store. I took Mo's advice and stopped by my local AC Moore and was surprised to find some wonderful silk plants at a fraction of the cost I was paying. Now these silk plants aren't replicas of aquatic plant life found in our cichlids native waters, but for the price they are a great alternative. Most of the plants you see in the photos provided in this article are from silk plants I purchased from AC Moore. Not bad right?

Last little tip for you and aquatic plants. Anchor the plants between rocks, sand and driftwood, and then place a small rock behind the leaves of the silk plant on top of the plastic stem to conceal the fact that the plants are indeed fake. This will also help in stopping your cichlids from uprooting the silk plants and rearranging your aquascape.



Final touch to our aquatic garden will be the driftwood.

Driftwood is the perfect accent to really breathe life into your aquatic garden. It adds depth, contrast and the *aesthetics* needed to create your natural environment. Many times I use a piece of driftwood as the central focal point in my tanks. Then I build the remaining environment around that piece of driftwood. Any of you guys keeping Central and South American cichlids should really try to add some driftwood to your tanks and see your cichlids and tank come to life. African cichlid owners can do the same but they need to monitor their PH as driftwood can alter you PH and soften your water. Now all the driftwood seen in these photos were purchased at various stores, auctions and fish conventions. All of the wood had been previously treated so that no leaching could take place and cause the tanning of my aquarium water. Prices of driftwood can vary but it can be quite costly to purchase larger pieces of driftwood. I do have friends who venture into nearby creeks, ponds and lakes to find driftwood to use in their aquariums which is obviously the cheapest way to put driftwood in your tank. But due to the amount of money some of my cichlids cost, I have steered clear of driftwood found in local waters for fear of the possibilities of pollutants that could contaminate my water and kill my cichlids. I have given you some cheaper alternatives to decorate your tanks but when it comes to the driftwood I would stress to you to pay the extra money and get already treated driftwood. The driftwood that has the slate attached to the bottom to prevent it from floating is a plus too as many pieces of driftwood floats until it is fully saturated with water. Boiling the driftwood prior to putting it in your tank will help with this process.

So there you have it cichlid fans, the secret to how I decorate my tanks. Feel free to use any ideas I have given you or to create your own. The fun is in the process of finding what works best for you and what creation speaks most to you.

African Cichlids- The Saltwater Alternative

By Christina Smith



So, you are starting a new aquarium and you can't decide what to put in it. You like the look of salt water fish but they are too much work and are very expensive. Then you think about freshwater, yeah ok, you have some tropical that are colorful, but you keep looking at the salt water fish in awe and wish you could find a freshwater fish that colorful.

Well, your wish has come true. They are not new, but many people don't even know about them. African cichlids, that is. Sure they have a few "cichlids" in Petco & Petsmart, but that is your first mistake. Petco & Petsmart are only allowed to carry certain cichlids and they are usually not the colorful more interesting cichlids you would want for a colorful tank.

African cichlids are considered to be one of the most colorful freshwater fish in the hobby. Their wide range of body shapes and colors make this diverse fish one of the largest vertebrate families.

Typically there are three main groups of African cichlids. Tanganyika, Victoria, and Malawi cichlids. But we will take a closer look into the Malawi cichlids. Malawi cichlids break down into three groups, Haplochromis, Mbuna, and Aulonocara cichlids.

The Mbuna, a large group of African haplochromine cichlids from Lake Malawi. Mbuna, which mean "rockfish" in the language of the Tonga people of Malawi and live among the piles of rocks and along the rocky shores of Lake Malawi. Some species of Mbuna are highly sexually dimorphic, although many are not. They are considered some of the most unusual fresh water fish in the world. Their wonderful colors, intriguing behavioral characteristics and relative hardiness make them very popular despite their unique demands for the home aquarist. Out of all the African cichlids they are considered to be the most aggressive of the three groups.



The Haplochromis, are also popular aquarium fishes; like similar Haplochromini they are known as "haplos", "happies" or "haps" among aquarium enthusiasts. Their wide variety of colors and sizes draw enthusiasts in, fooling some into thinking they are saltwater fish. Haplochromis cichlids tend to be more of a non aggressive cichlid. They can do well with certain Mbuna but tend to be happier with other "haps" or "Peacocks." Where as Mbuna tend to like the rocky environment, "haps" like to swim in free open water, personally I think they just like to show off their beautiful colors.

Last but not least you have the Aulonocara cichlids. Due to their beautiful coloring, much like their sister group, they are usually mistaken for "haps." Aulonocara cichlids, or "peacock" cichlids are generally much less aggressive than Mbuna cichlids, and are sometimes even more docile then "haps." Male Aulonocara is typically remarkably colorful, while the female Aulonocara is silvery or brownish. This makes keeping them a bit more difficult as you can not put different species Aulonocara male and females together. This would result in a fry fest of hybrid fish. However, with the right planning Aulonocara cichlids can make some beautiful breed specific tanks or even paired with Haps can make an amazing show tank.

Now that you know a little more about cichlids, let's fill that new tank up and make the African cichlid tank of your dreams!



The Cichlid Photography of Christina Smith



I started the fish hobby when I was 16 with a 40 gallon tropical tank. I could never keep any fish alive due to the well water we had at my parents. I was only in this shortly as I then starting working on cars and built my show car which I then spent the next 5 years traveling up and down the east coast showing at multiple car shows (HIN, NOPI etc) After being named Best Female Auto Builder in the area and taking a national championship I hung up the auto thing and moved on to doing airbrushing, photography and art.



I then met my now hubby, and well after having Raelee decided to start a Cichlid tank for her. Well that was all it took and soon one tank turned to two, two turned to eight.... lol Now I am down to 4 again and I think my addiction is under control at the moment. I have a 75 gal mbuna only tank, a 125 (or 120... somewhere around there lol) Peacock/Hap Male only show tank, a 75 gal new word tank (well its hubby's but I do all the dirty work), and a 10 gallon fry tank. I also have another 10 gallon tank but that is my picture taking tank . My favorite cichlid is the star sapphire hap, just acquired 7 of them, they are only 1.5" so I can't wait for them to grow out!

OMEGA ONE PRESENTS

The 3rd Annual **PHOTO CONTEST**



Take some photos.
Whether it is your favorite fish or your most brilliant coral, we want to see your best aquatic shots.



Submit your entries.
Email up to 3 photos in high resolution JPEG format to: customercare@omegasea.net



Win Omega One!
13 participants will win THE BEST FISH FOOD IN THE WORLD for a whole year (\$250 value) and be featured in our annual calendar!

For more information visit www.omegasea.net







The Sad Situation of Keyna Gold

By Jay Stephan



Haplochromis sp. Kenya Gold is a rare fish from the Lake Victoria Basin that is endangered, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild, and a C.A.R.E.S. Program Fish. In the wild they live in shallow rocky areas of the northern shores of Lake Edward at Katwe Bay. They are an omnivore that will accept and do well on many types of food in the aquarium environment. Spirulina Flake is a good food to make a large part of their diet. It will help to bring out more of the male's gold color. A smaller cichlid, growing to a maximum of three and one half inches in the aquarium and only 1.5 inches in the wild, it is possible to keep a group of them in 30 gallon or smaller tanks. When I had mine, I kept them in a 20 gallon high tank, they spawned and were happy.

Kenya gold is mildly aggressive. So much so, that I like to call them the Yellow Lab of Lake Victoria. By this I mean, they have a temperament much like Yellow Labs, allowing them to be mixed with a wide range of other African Cichlids. Give them a rocky home or cave area to call their own and this fish will likely flourish in most Aquarium environments. They are hearty despite their size and are easy to keep. Preferred pH is between 7.6 and 8.4 with a temperature between 76 and 82F.

This fish is a mouth brooder which has smaller broods of ten to fourteen fish at one time. It takes about twenty days for a brood to hatch which is about ten days shorter than most other African Cichlids. Breeding is best accomplished in groups of two males with four to eight females. The dominate male in a group is likely to breed with up to four females regularly.

Given all these positives, one has to wonder why is this fish not kept very often in the hobby? Maybe it is because there are more colorful fish available. Or is it because there is little information about this fish available. One way or another it has lost favor in the hobby and become a victim of the business side of ornamental fish keeping.

Because retailers are in the business to make money, they will only carry fish that are popular and sell regularly. When a fish fails to sell it gets discontinued. As retailers discontinue these fish, the wholesale fish farms no longer have a venue to sell their stock and they in turn will discontinue that fish as well. Once this happens, private collectors and breeders are the last chance a fish has to survive in the hobby. Sadly Kenya Gold has become one of those fish.

Unfortunately, I lost my stock of Kenya Gold to a sudden tank crash a few years ago which I now know to have been caused by chlorine in my public water system. I have taken measures to prevent this problem from ever happening again; but I have not been able to find this fish anywhere. I would really like to get them back in stock and hopefully spread them through-out the hobby again, if it is not too late.

Kenya gold is a prime example of the importance of keeping endangered C.A.R.E.S. program fish. We as hobbyists are these fish last chance for survival when their habits in the wild are compromised or destroyed. If you have this fish, please try to spread them throughout the hobby. Donate some fry to a fish club near you. Sell their fry on Aqua Bid or other on-line auction sites. Or contact me at cichlidsarespecial1@gmail.com and I will try to work out a deal to purchase some Kenya gold from you.

If you are interested in keeping this wonderful little fish, request it from your local fish retailer or online dealer. If we can create enough demand, the wholesale fish farms may begin to stock this fish again and we may yet be able to save it from extinction. Fail to act and it is likely to be gone forever.

Jay Stephan
Hobbyist
Owner & Operator of Cichlids Are Special





The Cichlid Club of York

CCY- BAP Report

Pseudotropheus demasoni



by Tom Gillooly

Pseudotropheus demasoni, named for Laif DeMason, a famous Florida fish importer, exporter and breeder, is one of the mbuna or rock dwelling African cichlids from Lake Malawi. This species is found in the Pombo Rocks section of the lake off Tanzania. There is a *P. demasoni* Mozambique in the hobby but it is not yet determined if this is a true variant or another species. The fish is usually found in the upper 10-15 feet of its habitat. It is a very colorful cichlid, having dark blue bars over a lighter blue background. Males, females and juveniles share the same color scheme. It is a herbivore and feeds on algae found attached to the rocks along its habitat.

I purchased 2 dozen juveniles (3/4-1") from Wayne Wilson of Valley Forge Cichlids (PA) many years ago when this was "the" hot fish. Wayne had a breeding colony set in a tank where the bottom was completely covered with rocks and unfortunately, the fish were nowhere to be seen. Wayne told me that this setup was needed as the breeders were aggressive and would constantly chase and attack each other; therefore, a lot of shelter was required. I soon found out the truth in this scenario.

The juveniles were placed in a 55 gallon tank with a substrate of crushed coral and extensive rockwork. Upon introduction to the tank, the fish immediately dove for cover. They are an extremely skittish fish. Whenever they did come out of hiding, they would shoot back into the rocks as soon as I walked by. Even at feeding time (Tetra flakes, Hikari pellets), they would dart out of the rocks and dash right back in after grabbing a morsel. Although I always enjoyed watching fish feed, with this species, I would just add the food and leave. Even adding three rainbowfish as dithers didn't help.

The colony started showing breeding activity when they were about 1.25"-1.5" in total length. The tank parameters were set at 80°F temperature and a pH of ~8.0. The

male would show typical mbuna breeding behavior as he would shake his body and flash his fins before the gravid female. I never did witness the actual egg laying and would constantly search the rockwork for any mouthbrooding females. The worst part was trying to catch the holding female. I would have to take apart the rockwork completely or shut off all of the lights, wait a couple of hours, and search around with a flashlight. Great fun!! Any brooding females were placed in a 10 gallon tank with rock caves and allowed to hold their young for 17-19 days. The fry were then spit out by the female or removed from her buccal cavity. The largest amount of fry from any individual female in this group was eight, probably due to their small size when breeding. The young were grown out in a 30 gallon tank while being fed a diet of crushed flake food. At about $\frac{3}{4}$ ", most were either brought in to the NJAS auction or were traded to Adam's Pet Safari in Chester (nice plug, right Adam?!) for supplies and other fish.

Unfortunately, even with the rockwork in the tank, the fish were fighting and killing each other to the point where I was left with only 8 of the original 24. I brought these 8 to a NJAS auction.

About a year later I decided to try *P. demasoni* again, but with a different strategy. I purchased six juveniles from Adam and got another six at a monthly NJAS auction. I cleared out a 33 gallon long tank and added only a half inch layer of crushed coral. No rockwork-a bare tank with no territory to defend. The fish were still skittish, staying around a sponge filter for most of the time. They also remained aggressive, but not to the point of killing each other. In the few months that I had this setup, the *P. demasoni* spawned regularly and it was easy to catch any brooding females!! Good luck to anyone working with this fish. They can be a challenge.

Shameless plug – Laif DeMason will be in attendance at the NJAS 60th Anniversary Convention in October, 2013.



We're pleased to offer you a Store Coupon

You can redeem this coupon during checkout. Just enter the code in the box provided, and click on the redeem button.

The coupon code is **SAMPLECOUPON**

The coupon is valid between 11/07/2012 and 11/07/2013

- Coupon for first time food users to try our food at little to no cost

Don't lose the coupon code, make sure to keep the code safe so you can benefit from this special offer.

Visit us at CobaltAquatics



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 ____

UNBEATABLE

**BEST DEAL EVER IN TROPICAL FISH
N.J.A.S. 60th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 10,11,12,13, 2013**

\$65.00

**PER NIGHT
DAYS HOTEL &
CONFERENCE
CENTER
EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ
732-828-6900
FREE BREAKFAST**

**FRIDAY
SHOP TOUR**

\$30.00

**TRANSPORTATION
GAS - TOLLS
& LUNCH
PROVIDED**

**FACEBOOK or
www.njas.net**

**\$60.00 REGISTRATION
includes**

**8 AUCTIONS
17 SPEAKERS
30 CLASS FISH
SHOW**

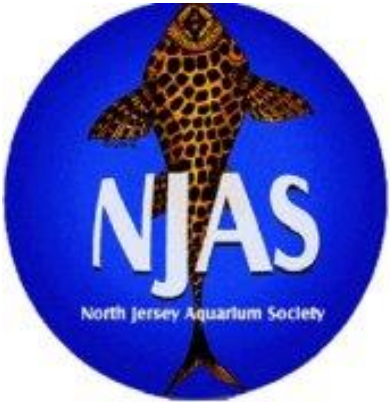
**Cash & Trophy Awards
FRIDAY WING PARTY**

**SATURDAY
PIZZA & SUB
PARTY**

**VENDOR ROOM
FREE BIDDER CARD**

NJAS 60th The Greatest Show On Earth!!!!

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages! Welcome to the greatest show on earth! The NJAS 60th Anniversary celebration!!! Prepare to be amazed as the greatest selection of speakers ever assembled will meet, speak and astound you! Want



more? How about a full blown Tropical Fish Show with cash prizes! Anyone can enter the various categories from Best of Show, Reserve of Show and Best of Division, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class. Still want more? How about a huge auction with rare tropical fish at your fingertips? Oh! And did I mention the chance to win a beautiful diamond necklace. That's right guys you can come to this once in a life time event, buy all the fish you want and have the chance of returning home with a diamond necklace in your hand to please that lovely lady of yours! The NJAS has thought of everything so what more could you ask for!!?! How about a few words from the ever lovely NJAS mermaid herself:

-Blonde Fish Gal-



Fish, Friends, Fun! What's awesome about North Jersey Aquarium Society (NJAS) turning 60, is that we're throwing a big party...and all hobbyists are invited!

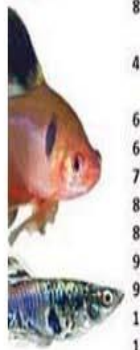
With an unbeatable speaker lineup and 17 talks - Ted Judy (2 talks), Gary Lange, Dean Majorino, Pat Donston, Chuck Davis, Mo Devlin, Dr. Ted Coletti, Frank Zillitto, Rosario LaCorte, Larry Jinks, Juan-Miguel Artigas-Azas Mike Soda, Dr. Paul Loiselle, Bob Larsen, Tony Orso, Laif Demason and Randy Carey, 8 auctions, a full 30-class fish show (cash and trophy prizes), \$3,500 diamond heart necklace raffle, lots of give aways and prizes, and a \$65 per night hotel rate, this is the event to meet and hear world class hobbyists while having fun!

People still talk about our 50th celebration...and we're pulling out all the stops to make this event bigger and better. This is the type of event that every hobbyist can enjoy, from the serious breeder...to those who love to show their fish...to people who want to mingle with top names...to those looking to get rare fish...to those that want to see good

friends and make new ones. We invite you all to come have a FIN-tastic time and participate in this legendary event that will be talked about for the next ten years!



THURSDAY 10/10/13
 7:30 PM REGULAR NJAS MEETING
 TED JUDY (WEST AFRICAN CICHLIDS)
 SPECIAL BAP AUCTION
 POST MEETING WINGFEST PARTY



FRIDAY 10/11/13
 8:30/9:00 AM PET SHOP TOURS
 \$30 FEE TRANS/LUNCH/DISCOUNT
 4:00 REGISTRATION
 VENDOR & SHOW ROOM
 6:00 PM SILENT AUCTION STARTS
 6:30 ICE BREAKER PARTY
 7:00 GARY LANGE (RAINBOWS)
 8:00 DEAN MAJORINO (LIVE FOODS)
 8:15 PAT DONSTON (DISEASES)
 9:15 CHUCK DAVIS (ANABANTIDS)
 9:30 MO DEVLIN (THE FISH ROOM)
 10:00 CLOSE SILENT AUCTION
 10:30 SUPER DRY GOODS AUCTION
 HOSPITALITY GET-TOGETHER



SATURDAY 10/12/13
 9:00 AM REGISTRATION
 9:30 TED COLETTI (LIVEBEARERS)
 10:00 SILENT AUCTION STARTS
 10:30 FRANK ZILLITTO (PLANTS)
 10:45 ROSARIO LaCORTE (TETRAS)
 11:45 LARRY JINKS (BREEDING)
 12:00 SILENT AUCTION CLOSES
 1:30 PM JUAN MIGUEL ARTIGAS
 (MEXICAN CICHLIDS)
 2:00 SILENT AUCTION STARTS
 2:30 MIKE SODA (GUPPIES)
 2:45 PAUL LOISELLE (MINI FISH)
 3:45 BOB LARSEN (HOMEMADE FOOD)
 4:00 TED JUDY (CORYDORAS CATS)
 5:00 TONY ORSO (WHAT'S NEW)
 CLOSE SILENT AUCTION
 5:15 LAIF DeMASON (MALAWI CICHLIDS)
 6:30 PIZZA & SUB PARTY
 7:30 KINGFISH SUPER AUCTION
 8:30 RANDY CAREY (EGG SCATTERERS)
 9:30 PRIMO RARE FISH AUCTION
 PARTY BAR & SNACKS

SUNDAY 10/13/13
 9:30 AM AUCTION REGISTRATION
 11:00 GUPPY ONLY AUCTION
 12 NOON ALL SPECIES
 GIANT AUCTION
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



\$60 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
 ALL 17 SPEAKERS
 THURSDAY WINGFEST
 FRIDAY ICE BREAKER PARTY
 SATURDAY PIZZA/SUB PARTY
 ALL 8 AUCTIONS
 VENDOR ROOM
 FISH SHOW ROOM
 ALL BIDDER CARDS
 GOODIE BAG
 HOSPITALITY PARTIES

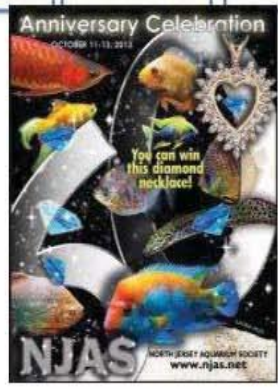


**WE HAVE A
 SPECIAL RAFFLE
 \$3500**
 DIAMOND
 HEART PENDANT
 \$10 PER TICKET
 TO BE DRAWN
 ON SATURDAY
 NIGHT

**ALL SPECIES
 TROPICAL FISH
 SHOW**
 CASH & TROPHY
 FOR 1st, 2nd, 3rd
 BEST OF SHOW
 RESERVE OF SHOW
 ANYONE CAN
 ENTER
 30 CLASSES

REGISTER ON LINE AT
njas.net/register60
 PAYPAL
 HOTEL BY PHONE
 THUR - WINGFEST
 FRI - ICE BREAKER
 SAT - PIZZA/SUB PARTY
 INCLUDED IN
 REGISTRATION

**PET SHOP TOUR IS \$30 PER PERSON ON
 A FIRST COME BASIS AND INCLUDES
 TRANSPORTATION, BOX LUNCH, GAS,
 TOLLS & SHOP DISCOUNTS.**
SOME OR ALL OF THESE SHOPS:
 TROPICARIUM, FISH HUT, ROUTE 4, KAZIMIRS
 ABSOLUTELY FISH, ELYS, PET SHANTY, ADAMS
 PET SAFARI, SHARK AQUARIUM, BROOKDALE



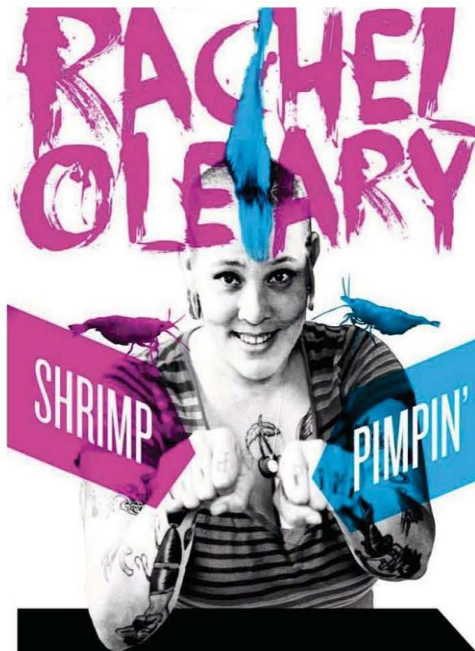


Local Business

CICHLIDS ARE SPECIAL



www.cichlidsarespecial.com



INVERTEBRATES
By MsJinkz