The Cichlid Chronicles



THE 1ST ANNUAL CCY CICHLID CLUB SHOW!!



Cichlid Club of York Membership

Join CCY

Your membership includes:

Discount on livestock at participating local stores
Contact with local breeders and importers
Great raffles at the meetings
Online information in the members only forum & facebook page

Links to information outside the club Large group of cichlid and catfish enthusiast to buy/sell/trade with Guest speakers/road trips/cookouts/holiday party

What your membership dues are used for:

To pay for our meeting space
To assist in acquiring guest speakers
To pay for refreshments at the meetings
To help expand club activities
To acquire items for raffle not donated to the club

If you still have questions e-mail Cichlidclubofyork@gmail.com

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 CCU President

Hello CCY Fans and welcome to a brand new year! I could never have imagined a year ago when we started this journey that we would be where we are so quickly. 400 plus Face Book members later and we have yet to slow down. Our January meeting capped off a vision I had to put together our 1st CCY cichlid show. It was a tremendous amount of hard work for the CCY Board to pull this vision off, but we did it and our club is stronger because of it. There are defining moments in life where you can separate yourself from the "pack". The CCY continues to welcome those opportunities to raise the bar and our expectations ever higher. You can learn more about the behind the scene work that went into our successful CCY cichlid show in this month's article of Cichlid Circle. We have quite a bit planned for the CCY members to enjoy in 2014, and if you thought 2013 was action packed than 2014 will knock your CCY socks off! So buckle up my friends and get ready for the CCY sonic boom! Our CCY Board member and appointed Cheerleader **Kerry Dilks** has more details below!

Scott McLaughlin-

The CCY BOOM!!!





The Cichlid Club of York

And A Word from Kerry D-



Welcome back Cichlid Club of York to an exciting new year filled with exciting events. The club has continued to grow welcoming new members monthly. With this said we now have a bigger meeting location. We thank board member, **Wayne Smith**, for finding us this wonderful facility.

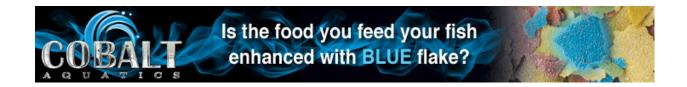
With a new year brings new change. Due to growth and costs CCY will now have annual memberships. Starting in March you will have the opportunity to receive an official membership. This will include yearly bidder card for auction, CCY t-shirt, membership handbook, and CCY badge. Yearly membership will cost \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Children under age 14 are free of cost.

Small changes will be made to our monthly auctions starting in March. Members will be charged \$1.00 for every item they auction. Non-members will be charged \$2.00 for every item they auction. If any item sells for less than \$5.00 there will be no fee charged.

There will be no meeting in February due to many of us attending Aqua mania. But in March we will welcome CCY member Jay Stephan as our guest speaker! As stated above memberships and auction changes will start in this meeting. Money raised will go towards guest speakers, supplies for club, etc to help keep our club expanding and educating.

Stay tuned for a fun filled year of fish and friendship. Please do not forget to register on our official CCY website at *cichlidclubofyork.com* and as always continue visiting us on Face book. Thank you for all the support. Cheers to an even bigger and better year for Cichlid Club of York.

Kerry Dilks -



The Cichlid Club of York



Aulonocara Peacocks

JAY STEPHAN

CICHLIDS ARE SPECIAL

Saturday March 22, 2014 @ 1pm

50 North East St.,

Spring Grove, Pennsylvania 17362



DON'T LOOK NOW -YOU COULD BE NEXT!!!!



MEET THE CICHLID CLUB OF YORK TEAM:



CCY -President Scott McLaughlin



CCY Promotions Manager Mike Mull



CCY Vice President



CCY Security Shane Mell



CCY Auction BAP Manager Lonnie Langoine



CCY Treasurer Pam McLaughlin



CCY Project Manager Wayne Smith



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





The Cichlid Circle

By Scott Mclaughlin/ Photos by Christina Smith



Behind the scenes of the 1st Annual CCY Cichlid Show

The summer of 2011 I was in Washington DC at my first ACA convention (hosted by the wonderful CCA aka The Capital Cichlid Association) when I experienced my first "tropical fish show". I was like a kid in a candy store as my fascination for cichlids quickly became an addiction thanks to the variety of cichlids I got to see up-close and personal at that ACA cichlid show. Last year at the 60th year anniversary of the NJAS (North Jersey Aquarium Society) I actually got up enough nerve to enter 2 of my beloved cichlids into their Tropical Fish Show. What an incredible experience that was, not just because I won the Grand Champion Best of show award (which was an incredible honor) but because of the experience of entering my cichlids, seeing them judged, understanding what the judges looked for and seeing an incredible diversity of tropical fish. The NJAS (as they always do with everything) did a wonderful job of putting the show together and opening it up to the public so they could get a taste of our wonderful hobby.

I left Jersey feeling very inspired!

One of the things I promised when a created the Cichlid Club of York PA was to push the boundaries of what is expected and to never let a "challenge" stop me for trying to do something different or special for our club and members.

I remember chatting with a friend of mine online (who had been president of a well known club) and I asked him his advice on running a cichlid show at our next CCY meeting. His answer-"Don't do it!" LOL! I asked why and he went over a long list of negatives and reasons why pulling off a show like this is so very difficult. I didn't falter.... Growing up I was one of those kids who would do anything just on a dare. If you told me I couldn't do something you could bet minutes later I would be trying to do it. Even the creation of the CCY was a bit of a personal "dare" initially where I challenged myself to create something nobody thought had a following in our area. 400 Face book members later and here we are! Don't applaud me for this bravado of mine because there were many times where my drive to prove others wrong nearly cost me an arm or a leg (the show Jackass has nothing on me...LOL). But back to our story I felt strongly the positives of putting a show together far outweighed the negatives my friend warned me of.

And so the show was on!

I still remember the look Lonny Langione gave me when I presented my idea to the CCY Board. Anyone who is a friend of Lonny's knows he will go down to the fires of Hell for a friend, but this day he gave me a look like "Buddy, if you only knew what you were getting us into." But as always, Lonny stood by me and this crazy dream I had. The other great thing about Lonny is he is a "reality checker".

I think the success for any club is that there needs to be a "dreamer" insert myself, and then a reality checker aka Lonny and then a team of people willing to get it done. The CCY is blessed to have all these ingredients. Originally my idea was to do the cichlid show in November with our 1 year celebration which included the great speaker and hobby icon Discus Hans. Lonny quickly made it apparent that a cichlid show (of the magnitude I wanted) in our old clubhouse simply wouldn't be possible largely due to lack of space. Luckily for me our CCY project manager Wayne Smith was already ahead of the game looking for a better meeting place due to the CCY's rapid growth.

He had located an incredible room in the Spring Grove Township that we now call home. Thanks to Wayne the dream was now becoming a reality. The CCY Board then began to list the equipment needed to pull off such a show. Obviously we were going to need tanks and some sort of air system. We would also need sponge filters to give our cichlids a safe display tank to show off in. Again Wayne came to the rescue and was able to locate everything we needed from a local pet store that was unfortunately closing down. He was able to purchase 30 plus tanks, an air compressor and sponge filters all for one very reasonable price.

The dream didn't seem that far away now! With the location and all the equipment in place, it was time to promote.

One of the things I love personally doing is creating an event and promoting it. I figured getting people to bring their cichlids out to display would be easy....



Boy was I wrong!!!

One of the many promos created by Christina Smith

The drive to getting people to register their cichlids for the show started slow and I internally began to panic as I was fearful that there would be too little participation in our 1st Cichlid Show. So I began to do what I did when I wanted to build my membership at the CCY. "I hounded people" LOL! This was also about the same time our talented and former CCY Vice President Christina Smith emerged like a bolt of lightning. Christina who had dealt with a difficult 2013 with the loss of her loving Mother was now (after some needed time) ready to plunge back into hobby and our club. Talk about perfect timing! Christina was able to breathe some much needed energy into our upcoming cichlid show. And she quickly became my right hand "gal" and cichlid show manager as she openly welcomed all the responsibilities of running the show.

With Christina now by my side we began to bombard the internet with promos, flyers, blogs and even videos. Anything to spark people's interest or curiosity we did. We even created a separate Face book page just for the show, inviting members, non-members and famous hobby greats to become a part of the discussion and excitement.

And it worked!! Within 2 weeks we had over 20 entries and they continued to come in at a steadily rate. At one point we had more entries than tanks and had to put a cutoff date for entering the cichlids just to insure we could round up enough tanks. We were now well on our way!



-The cleaning team with Shane, Tonya, Kerry, Scott, Wayne and Christina and Eric not shown-

Next we called a CCY board meeting code named "Project Clean Tanks". Project clean tanks was a well-orchestrated assembly line of board members bringing in tanks to the central cleaning area, other board members scrubbing and soaking the tanks, while another group rinsed and wiped them clean.



Clean 10 gallon tanks set to be filled with water and awesome cichlids

The cleanup went well and never felt too much like work thanks largely to Kerry Dilks whose jokes and laughs were plentiful but not printable for this publication LOL!



Shane filling the tanks up with water the night before the show

With everything about done it was time to go down the checklist.-

Tanks- check! Air system- Check! Sponge filters- Check! Trophies and ribbons- Check! Cichlid classes, divisions and rules and a judge- Check! Plenty of cichlid entries- double Check! Guess what guys we have ourselves a show!!!

With Christina managing the entries, divisions, classes and all other aspects of the cichlid show, I could rest easy knowing it was all under control. Christina also had some fantastic CCY signs made up showing the tank locations for each division. Our deadline came and we officially ended up with 37 entries all together. Pretty impressive for our first show. We posted a list of all the show entries on various online forums to generate a buzz and then began counting down the days till the show.

The night before the show the team got together again to fill the tanks up with water and sponge filters. Thanks to Shane Mell (who had stored our sponge filters in one of his active tanks) the sponge filters were cycled and ready to go into our 10 gallon tanks. Mike Mull then joined the party that night putting all the air compressor, PVC tubing and air lines together which connected to our sponge filters. Mike who is the owner of the successful company **Reliable Plumbing** was a great asset to the team with his plumbing knowledge and years of experience with cichlids in general. Half way through filling the tanks we ran out of hot water which threw a monkey wrench into our plans as we had no intentions of having to use heaters. But we continued to fill tanks with the hope that the water would reach room temperature by morning.

We turned the air system on and much like a miracle everything worked and not a single tank had a leak! Before leaving we jacked the room temperature up to help speed up the process of heating the tanks and left with fingers crossed. The following morning we all came in around 10am to prepare for the show. I arrived right at 10am and was pleased to see Wayne, Christina, Eric, Shane and CCY member Dwayne Walker (who volunteered to help) already hard at work.



CCY President Scott Mclaughlin and CCY member Dwayne Walker checking water temperatures

Shane and I began checking the tank temperatures and found that the tanks closer to the floor were not as warm as the tanks on the top. Luckily I was prepared as I brought 3 heaters and placed them in the bottom tanks. As each tank would get to an acceptable temperature (between 73-76 degrees), I would than move one of the 3 heaters to the next tank and so on until they were all safe and ready for the cichlid entries. It was a good thing we got there 3 hours before the show because it did take some time to get the tanks heated properly. We opened the doors at 11am for people to start bringing in their cichlids giving them sufficient time to acclimate their cichlids into the 10 gallon tanks. Christina was well prepared with tanks already assigned, numbered with the scientific and common cichlid names on each tank. Thanks to her and the rest of the team the arrival and departure of all cichlid contestants went extremely well with no casualties.

As the room began to fill with CCY members and the meeting was about to start I took a personal moment just to look around and really enjoy what we had accomplished. What our team created looked first class and very well done. An extreme sense of pride came over me as I watched the excitement on people's faces looking at the show cichlids.

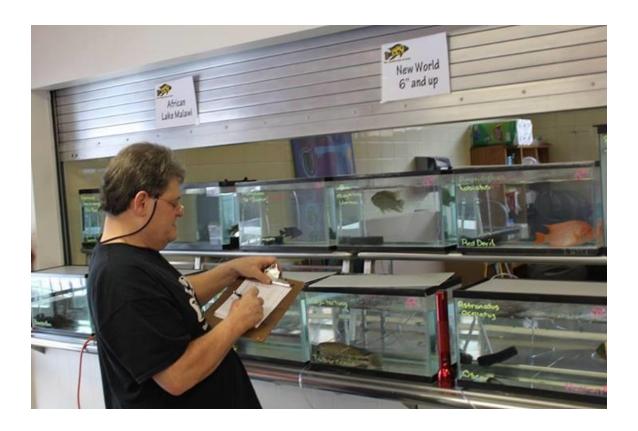
We've done it!!



Lonny Speaks about judging the cichlid show

Lonny Langione was gracious enough to accept the role of cichlid show judge. His years of experience working with cichlids and all tropical fish more than qualified him for this role. Jay Stephan was an assistant judge and helped Lonny. Jay stated in his own words that he learned more watching Lonny judge than he did in helping him. Still we were very appreciative of Jay's expertise and help. As the meeting began I said a few words, followed by CCY board members Kerry Dilks and Christina Smith. Lonny than talked to everyone and went over how he would be judging the cichlids and what he was looking for. I thought this was very helpful for those who had never been to a show before and it would certainly be beneficial to them in preparation for our next show when selecting a potential winner from their own tanks. The meeting continued with our great guest speaker Joshua Wiegert and Lonny went to work. Now let me tell you another thing about Lonny Langione. Whenever Lonny does something- he does it with intent. There will be no shortcuts; it will be done fairly, and just. No stone will be unturned and attention to detail will be of his highest concern. This combined with his great knowledge of cichlids made him the perfect judge for our 1st show. Lonny didn't disappoint!

As Joshua presentation came to an end, Lonny was still hard at work. We took a break and enjoyed with some awesome food and great conversations with old and new friends.



We then started our auction thanks to ACLC Hall of Famer Joel Antkowiak who stepped in to run the auction as Lonny and Christina tallied up the points of each cichlids and prepared ribbons and trophies. The suspense and excitement was high as it appeared more people were paying attention to the cichlid show than the auction. A mistake I will not make twice at our show next year. Finally the results were in – Drum roll please!



Grand Champion Best of Show

Christina Smith-Pseudotropheus crabo

Reserve Best of Show

Liz Bonvillain- Aequidens pulcher





And the winners are!!!!!!!

Hybrid class

1st Christina Smith- OB Peacock cichlid 2nd Sarah Lockard 3rd Brandin Curren

Malawi class

1st Christina smith - Pseudotropheus crabo 2nd Sharon Gearhart 3rd Liz Bonvillian

New world 6+

1st Scott McLaughlin- Paratheraps Bifaaciatus 2nd Shane Mell 3rd Shawn Pangle

New world under 6

1st Liz Bonvillain - Aequidens pulcher 2nd Kristina Bryson 3rd Joel Antkowiak

Victorian/Tang/West African

1st Christina Smith- Xystichromis Phytophangus 2nd Mike Mull 3rd Karen Haas

I would like to thank everyone who made this crazy dream of mine a reality. We truly had a wonderful time and although there were areas that need improvement overall we had a very successful show. My hope is that this show becomes an annual event that we all look forward to like the Super Bowl! Cheers!



THE ART OF FISH PHOTOGRAPHY



By Christina Smith

If you are like me, you find that photographing your aquarium is just as enjoyable as watching them. Catching the most interesting and natural habits of these amazing animals is the best part of owning them. Aquariums give you that inside experience and view into the normally hidden underwater mysteries in which we are still learning about today.

I have been asked on many occasions what did I do to get this shot, or that shot when it comes to Fish Photography. I'd like to say "oh that's easy," but to be honesty, it is a lot more than that. There are some basic things you need to understand and review before you pick up that camera of yours and start shooting. This is why I am writing this article.

I am far from a 'Professional Fish Photographer', and in my own opinion Mo Devin is the real Master of this amazing subject. But from another lower level photographer I will give you some tips and hints to help you capture your own underwater experience.

At this time, I am currently shooting a Nikon D3000. Shots like I have taken can be accomplished even with the most intermediate cameras. But, I personally prefer working with the larger DSLR's or digital sir camera. One of the most common problems with photographing fish is the camera's flash. In this line of work I have been told one of two things on more than one occasion. One, never use the flash, or two, use the flash. Helpful words of wisdom, aren't they? So your wondering which you should do. Well, first I am going to address if you use the flash.

Using a flash is not a horrible decision. It adds light in a low light situation in which you would

otherwise not be able to capture the image. But in turn many run into the problem of the flash bouncing off the glass of the aquarium and ruining the picture.



This is a simple fix, if you are using a on board flash, angle your camera a little back when shooting, this moves where your flash will reflect back to the lens, thus capturing a clear image. If you are using a detachable flash, but still have it on the camera, just angle the flash as you would have angled the on board camera flash. I personally have my flash angled to the left and up.

If you opt to snap a shot without the use of a flash, you'll need to ensure sufficient lighting; otherwise your photo will come out too dark. One way to do this is to turn on the hood lights, and add some extra light with lamps that can conveniently be placed on top of, or over the tank. Many mistake additional lights as just using the lights in the room (ceiling lights). The problem that arises with this is you then will capture your own reflection as well as what is in the room in the glass. Turn off all the lights in the room besides the ones placed over the tank to highlight your subjects.

Use color correction bulbs when possible as these will help to show off your fish's true color. Regular (incandescent) bulbs emit white light, and aquarium lamps emit purple/blue light. So you see, by using just these two lights you miss a lot of the color spectrum. Color correction bulbs will make sure the fish's true color comes out. Also, you may consider adjusting your camera setting for the ambient lighting to fluorescent. Experiment with this setting and find what you like best. Note, this is not necessary when using a flash.

Another question I am asked is what lens to use? There are many things you need to take into consideration when choosing a lens. How thick is the aquarium glass you are shooting through, where are the fish swimming that you are trying to capture? Are the in the rear of the tank, or

the front? What lighting do you have? Are you going to be using a flash or not? I personally find that my best lens for capturing fish is my Nikon 50mm AF-S 1:1.8G. This lens allows me to set my aperture to work with the low light settings in my aquarium as well as renders a beautiful, natural background blur at its wider aperture settings.

Like I said, this is my preference, however. I fully encourage you to test out your camera, lenses, and settings. Play around and see what you get. It is the best way to learn not only the in's and out's of your own cameras capabilities but it also will help you learn what makes the best photo with your camera.

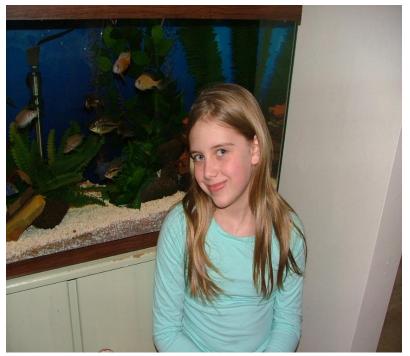
The last piece of advice that I can give is that it takes many, many shots to get a one good one. Don't give up after two shots. You have to remember, the best photographers, even the National Geographic photographers take hundreds of shots, hoping for just one to be the perfect image. They do this for many reasons; fish are unpredictable, which can blur your image, even if you are not expecting it.

By using a digital camera, you can take hundreds of pictures and edit the good ones, cropping, cutting, and pasting them so that they are arranged the way you like them. I have taken way too many photographs to count with my Nikon over the past two years. Now, I can honestly say 1/3 of those shots were deleted almost instantaneously. And of those remaining, another third get dropped after previewing them on the computer. Of the remaining 1/3, only half are really worth sharing or editing.

"Let your words be few, and your exposures be many."- Christina Smith 2014







The Great Calvus

By Sharon Gearhart **CCY Youth Movement**

Have you ever seen a fish with a grumpy face? Or a fish with spots and lines? Well, if you saw it, you just met a Calvus! There are all kinds of these amazing fish. There is the Yellow Calvus, Black Calvus, White Calvus, and the Zebra Calvus. At home I have 3 Yellow Calvus'. One is male, and two are female.

Tips for Tank mates

The Calvus is an African Cichlid, so you don't want to keep them with peaceful fish.

For example, you don't want to keep them with tetras, bettas, danios, and many more peaceful fish The Calvus will sometimes eat fish that can fit in its mouth. So be careful with your choosing!



Aging Up

Calvus' grow up to be 120-138 mm, but males will grow larger and will have longer fins than females. Calvus' will grow slowly. They will have a pattern that looks like a tic-tac-toe board. The colors will depend on your type of fish. I wonder what type you'll choose.

Calvus' in the Wild

The Calvus lives in Lake Tanganyika. In Lake Tanganyika Calvus' love rocky areas to breed and to live in. Calvus' are near

threatened which make them rare. It will be hard to find these in the wild.

Fun Fishv Facts

- 1. The Calvus' family is Cichlidae
- 2. Black Calvus is most popular
- 3. Calvus means "bald" in Latin
- 4. Scientific name is Altolamprologus Calvus

So, the Calvus is an amazing fish with a great life, and a gorgeous pattern. We all love this fish, and you know it!

Sharon Gearhart 💝



The

February 2014 Meeting



Saturday February 15, 2014 @ 1:00 PM Program, Raffle, Auction & Refreshments

Meetings held at That Fish Place, 237 Centerville Road, Lancaster PA



Joel Antkowiak

The CARES Preservation Program, Goodeids and More

Born on the Southside of Pittsburgh in 1962, Joel's first brush with the organized hobby came in 1976 when he found an ad for the American Killifish Association in an old aquarium hobby magazine. Having always appreciated the beauty of these fishes from the color plates in the old "Innes book", he joined in order to acquire some. A few years later Joel found the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, where he was a member for a few years before graduating from the University of Pittsburgh and moving out of the area. Joel has maintained anywhere from a few to about 60 tanks at any one time throughout his adult life and has kept many different species of fish. He is often amazed at how some species were once very common and now seem to be non-existent despite their ease of care and husbandry. This program will discuss the CARES Preservation Society and focus on the family Goodeidae, a group of fishes where nearly all species are addressed in the CARES program. Joel will also share some insight into some of the other species of CARES fish that he has kept over the last 35 years, many of which were not considered in need of any protection at the time they were kept but certainly are now.

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME

For more information about the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, or directions to a meeting, please visit our website at http://www.aclcpa.org

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contact Kurt Johnston - kaj41354@comcast.net or 717-965-7763

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

NEW & RARE
SPECIES SHIPMENT
FOR AUCTION!





Please join

The Aquarium Club of Lancaster County for a great day of Fishy Fun at our

GIANT FALL AUCTION

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Witmer Fire Hall

455 Mt. Sidney Road, Witmer PA 17585

Less than 2 miles off US Rt. 30

For some GPS units, you may need to use Lancaster as the city.

Registration 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON Auction Starts at 11:00 AM

For all registered auction lots, 70% seller - 30% ACLC. All lots registered after 12:00 NOON will be black tagged and auctioned last. All lots that sell for \$2 or less will be considered donations to the ACLC.

Directions: From US Rt. 30, go north on Witmer Rd (left from Rt 30 eastbound, right from Rt. 30 westbound). There is a Target and a PetSmart on the corner. Go to light at Rt. 340, turn right. At the next light (about 100 ft.) turn left on Mt. Sidney Rd. Fire Hall is about 3/4 mile on the right. There is plenty parking in the rear.



Visit us at www.aclcpa.org for complete auction rules!



Presented by The Aquarium Club of Lancaster County

Meetings held at That Fish Place, 237 Centerville Road, Lancaster PA - 1:00 PM





Greg **Steeves**

"Lake Victoria Haplochromine Cichlids"

Long time cichlid enthusiast Greg Steeves is perhaps best known for his writings on the haplochromine species of Africa. His interest in aquatics began early, living on the east coast of Canada along the Atlantic Ocean. His attention to Lake Victoria began in the early 90's when Idi Amin was terrorizing the citizens of Uganda. At this time he fell into a collection of cichlids from Lake Victoria thus finding a focal point in aquatics.

by Greg Steeves

In 2002 Greg moved to Texas where he resides with his wife Lee Ann, and children Karli, Stuart and Erin. He maintains a small breeding operation focused on haplochromine cichlids. Fish produced in his breeding room can be seen at public aquariums and hobbyists fish rooms around the world. He has written many articles on a variety of topics generally centered on the fauna of Lake Victoria. He has initiated the LVP (Lake Victoria Project) in his home club (www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com), and is Lake Victoria species coordinator in the CARES program. Greg is a fellow and contributor to the Cichlid Room Companion.



Together with his friends Anton Lamboj and Dave Hansen, Greg has written the first in a series of books exploring the various African cichlid clads entitled "The Cichlids of Africa". The second in the series "Haplochromines" is due out in 2014.

When not playing in his fishroom, you can find Greg and Lee Ann attending cichlid shows and conventions or snorkeling, fish collecting and shooting video footage in some waterway. Cichlids have become a big part of Greg's life.

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contact Kurt Johnston - president@aclcpa.org or 717-965-7763



FINDING ROMANCE IN THE HOBBY

By Blake Stevens

When I first starting dating my girlfriend (and even when we were just friends) she had this 30 gallon tank with one single goldfish in it. It wasn't very appealing. She decided she wanted a frog, so we tore down the goldfish tank, put her goldfish into a 10 gallon, and set up the 30 gallon as a frog tank. About a month or two later, the frog unfortunately died and she decided she wanted fish again. She knew that I was in the CCY and had connections to a lot of very nice fish. So

we sat down and I helped her make a list of fish and plants that she would like for a planted community tank. We used <u>agadvisor.com</u> as our guide and I am pleased with what information they offered. I got a bunch of pea gravel from my uncle because we are doing a big turtle tank for her too, so i just used a bag of that for her substrate. Next, we purchased an Aquaclear 70 from Jen and filled the tank so we could start the cycling process. Unfortunately, within the next couple days, she and her family had plans to go to Wisconsin for two weeks for vacation. I will honestly say I was very upset about this. To help keep my mind off of her being gone, I figured I would do something to surprise her for when she got back. The original plan was to fix her leaking slate bottom turtle tank and have it set up for her, but that failed due to not being able to stop the leaking. I promised her we would work on the fish tank as soon as she got home. I thought to myself, "By the time she gets back, I could have this done" and so I started my

search for everything. I posted on our club page for materials, hoping she wouldn't see it. I told her that I was doing something for her, but I couldn't tell her what it was.

She also promised not to look at any of my posts from certain days, and I knew she would keep that promise. The first thing I did was go out to Petsmart and get a heater so I would have ideal water temperature for when I got fish. Out of curiosity, I checked her water parameters, and the tank had cycled in a matter of days! At that moment, I was nonstop talking to different people within our club about the fish I was looking for. I first talked to Liz about it when my girlfriend (Tara) and I went to pick up the filter we bought from Jen days before. She had told us to check with Rachel for the fish and Jose for the plants. It occurred to me that I needed a new lid for her tank because she only had a screen lid. I immediately called my good friend, Kerry, who is also the first member of the CCY I actually met and is also the one who really got me involved in the club. She told me to grab some plexiglass and have her dad cut it into a lid. For those who don't know, plexiglass can be pretty pricey, and I didn't want to spend too much on a lid, so I talked to Jen who was selling a 30 gallon with a screen lid which she told me could easily be cut. I picked up the lid, cut the screen, and what do you know! It worked perfectly! Next, I got in contact with Rachel about nearly all of the fish on the list. I got the cardinal tetras, cherry barbs, bristle nose pleco, Oto cat, zebra nerite snails, honey gourami, and Amano shrimp from her. It was a pretty decent drive from my house to hers, but it was well worth it! Her fish room just completely blew me away! From there, I headed back to Tara's to get these fish acclimated and introduce them to their new home. After they were put in, I was disappointed because of how empty the tank looked, but I remembered that I still had more fish to get and also plants and some driftwood. I contacted Josh from batfish for some Kuhli loaches which were one of the few fish I couldn't find within the club. I saw he had pea puffers which is a fish that Tara always wanted and was disappointed when she learned that pea puffers aren't a good community fish, so I set her up a 10 gallon tank to house a puffer. I got the puffer from Josh and I picked up some Java Fern and snails from Rachel. I also couldn't find German Blue Rams, Marbled Hatchetfish, and Sterbai Cories. I still had time though, so I was hoping some would pop up. In the meantime, I went over to Wayne's house to get some driftwood picked out and mounted. Unfortunately, I couldn't get them in the tank before this article was written because I need an extra plate to keep it submerged, but I assure you, the driftwood looks great! At our January meeting, I purchase some beautiful plants from Jose. I got jungle grass, star grass, higro, and this gorgeous plant called flame sword. He assured me that that plant could be a beautiful centerpiece to the tank, and he was right! After acquiring so many bags at the meeting, I realized that I needed something to carry them all with. I talked to Zach who I had bought some Mbuna from just a short while earlier, and asked if he could sell me a box. Granted he needed the boxes for his own personal use, he agreed that if he could get rid of some more bags of fish, he could sell me a box. So I bought some angel fish and some green Cories from him to get a box. After the meeting, I get back to my house so I can load up my fish and plants into my cousins car, who was taking care of Tara and her family's dog while they were away, so I could get them all into the tank. This was also the day they were to get home from Wisconsin, so I was hoping to get the tank set up and be there to surprise her when she got home. I get an unfortunate call saying that they would be staying the night in Ohio due to very bad weather on the way back. I was upset that I couldn't surprise her that night, but I was happy that they didn't try to push through the dangerous conditions. So I made the trip to her house, finished the tank, and just sat on the couch in awe at how nice it looked with everything in it. I could not wait to show her. The next morning, she tells me that she should be home around 11-12. I, being too

excited had my mom drop me off at 9 am with chocolate, flowers, and supernatural season 2 (great show if you haven't seen it). I kept going from tank to tank to make sure everything was perfect. 12 o'clock rolls around and I hear their truck pulling in. She opens the door and there I am with the flowers waiting for. I tell her there's a surprise waiting for her upstairs, and there sat her chocolate, DVD, and her puffer tank. I swear we sat there for at least 20 minutes just watching the puffer swim around. She was mesmerized by his little fins because of how fast they were moving. I told her that the bigger surprise was down stairs. We made our way to the living room and I made her close her eyes. I stood her in front of the tank and told her to open her eyes. She just stood there in awe. Out of nowhere, she was ecstatic! She couldn't get over the tank. I sat there with her for at least an hour just watching the fish. It was a lot of hard work getting everything together and at some points it was stressful, but seeing the smile on her face made it all worth it. I want to thank Wayne Smith, Jen Althouse, Zach Duke, Josh Wiegert, Jose Fadhel, and Rachel O'Leary for all of the items in this tank! I would also like to thank the entire CCY board for making this club the way it is, a friendly and helpful club. Without you guys, this tank would not have been done and I wouldn't have had a good surprise for my girlfriend for her return home. Thank you all for making me a proud member of the CCY!



C.A.R.E.S PROGRAM AND ENDANGERED FISH

By Jay Stephan

C.A.R.E.S. stands for Conservation, Awareness, Recognition and Responsibility, Encouragement, Sharing and Support) The C.A.R.E.S. program main goal is for the hobbyist to aid in worldwide aquatic conservation efforts. Many fish face extinction in the wild due to deforestation, pollution, agrochemical run-off, overfishing, and political unrest in their native habitats. C.A.R.E.S. was founded in 2004 and seeks to have the hobbyist share fish and data, playing a vital role in ensuring a positive future for species-at-risk. "The purpose of the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program is to encourage hobbyists worldwide to devote tank space to one or more species-at-risk, while forming an informational network between aquarists, scientists, and conservationists."

It is very important for the hobbyist to keep and spread these fish. Without our help they may disappear and go extinct. Kenya Gold, which I wrote an article about previously, may be one of these fish

that future generations may never have the chance to enjoy because the hobbyist failed to keep

them. Do not let this happen. Clear a tank and keep, spawn, and spread these and other endangered fish.

I personally keep and sell a large number of African Cichlids from Lake Malawi and Lake Victoria. These fish are mouth brooders and one male will generally spawn with several females producing large numbers of fry to spread to other hobbyists. One way to spread these fry is through your club's B.A.P. program. This helps both the fish and your club.

Registering these fish is extremely important. By doing so, you help the C.A.R.E.S. program to keep track of where these fish are still available. It is also important to register these fish so you and your fish club can receive awards for keeping them. Once a year certificates of achievement and seals are given out through participating fish clubs for keeping these fish. Each certificate has a place for four seals. The gold seal is received for registering your fish through your club C.A.R.E.S. program coordinator. For CCY members, that person is me. The green seal is given out for "compiling the notes that you have entered into your C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species Journal and sharing the knowledge that you have gained regarding your C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species-at-Risk through the submission of an article to KAS Newsletter and the subsequent publication of that article." "The blue seal is awarded for sharing fry of your registered C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species-at-Risk with a member of your society, and having those fry be registered into your society's C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program, or for donating fry of your registered C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species-at-Risk to a Species Maintenance Program." It is therefore; very important to register any C.A.R.E.S. program fry received from a fish Club Auction in order that the person donating these fry gets credit for them and receives this seal. "A red seal is awarded for sharing fry of your registered C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program Species-at-Risk with a hobbyist or school from another society or educational organization who has instituted the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program and having those fry be registered into that organization's C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program. An example of how you can do this is by donating fry to a sister club such as the ACLC in Lancaster, or the CCA in Silver Spring. In addition for each year you continue to keep these fish, you will receive a small longevity seal to add to your certificate.

There are a large number of fish in the C.A.R.E.S Program. For a complete list go to http://www.carespreservation.com/priority_list.html For purposes of this article I will focus on some of the fish that I personally keep to give you an idea of the colorful fish in this program. I primarily keep African Cichlid Lake fish which prefer harder water with a PH around 7.8 to 8.0.



Example # 1: Male Aulonocara Baenschi (Benga) (pictured below) is a bright yellow fish from the Aulonocara peacock family of fish in Lake Malawi. These fish come from Nkhomo Reef near Benga and are a peaceful cichlid. They grow up to five inches, and are a mouth brooder that is easy to spawn in mix sex groups. One male will spawn with many other females. These fish often breed for me in a twenty gallon high tank when they reach around 2 and ½ inches. The amount of blue on face can vary from just the bottom to the entire face area.



Example # 2: Placidochromis sp. Phenochilus Tanzania (Star Sapphire) males (pictured below) turn blue with white patches. When small both sexes show blue with darker blue stripes. As the male grows it begins to show bluer color and then eventually the stripes are replaced by white blotches. Females become darker and retain their stripes. These fish come from the northern shoreline of Lake Malawi and are part of the Lake Malawi Haplochromis group of fish. Males grow up to 10 inches while females only reach about six inches. They are a peaceful mouth brooder in which one male may spawn with several females. However, they are a shy fish and can be difficult to spawn. I am told the best way to spawn these fish is to place a trio or more in a 90 gallon tank that is away from any traffic. I have personally not been able to spawn this species.



Example # 3 Pseudotropheus Saulosi (pair pictured below) is a popular aggressive mbuna type fish. They come from the Taiwan Reef area of Lake Malawi. Females and juveniles are yellow. Males turn blue with darker blue stripes. These fish only grow up to four inches; but are highly territorial. Females carrying eggs may also take on male color. A larger tank is need for spawning a group of these fish. The most likely sex mix for spawning these mouth brooders is two males with six or more females.



Example #4 Xystichromis Kyoga Flame Back males (Pictured Below) are bright red and yellow. Females lack the red and are more yellow green in color. These fish are peaceful to mildly aggressive and very easy to spawn in mixed sex groups. My mixed sex group of approximately 2 and ½ inches spawn regularly in twenty gallon high tank. In the wild they eat plants so they should not be kept in a tank with live plants. They come from Lake Kyoga and Lake Nawampasa in the Lake Victoria Basin area. They are just one example of the many Lake Victorian Basin fish in the C.A.R.E.S. The main feature of fish from this region is the color red. Aggression levels vary between species.



These are just four examples of colorful endangered fish that can be found in the hobby that come from Africa. There are many more including some from Lake Tanganyika. Most of the fish from Lake Tanganyika are substance breeders rather than mouth brooders. These type fish lay eggs and guard them. Most spawn in pairs; but, some will spawn in groups as well.

Beyond Africa there are many more endangered C.A.R.E.S fish to consider. A large number of fish that prefer soft water conditions come from Central and South America. Some of these fish come from other parts of the world as well. This gives the hobbyist many fish to choose from when considering which endangered fish to keep.

The most important thing to remember about keep these fish is that **by spawning and spreading them**, **you are helping the species to survive**. The hobbyist is their last line of defense. If hobbyists do not keep them and their wild habitats are no longer available, they will go extinct and be lost forever. I fear this may of already happened to Haplochromis Sp. Kenya Gold which I previous wrote an article about. Some of the fish in the C.A.R.E.S. program are already considered extinct in the wild. I currently am working with one of them: Copadichromis ilesi.

In conclusion, the hobbyist should try to make these fish a priority when choosing which type fish to keep. Fortunately, there are still a large number of these fish to choose from. But, if we the hobbyist do not keep them, those choices will become less and less for future generations. Once a fish like this is gone, it is gone forever. Do not let that happen. Get involved and help save a species.

Quotes in this article are from C.A.R.E.S. Program Literature.

Jay Stephan

Cichlids Are Special



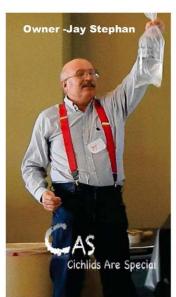
We are proud to announce the formation of the American Labyrinth Fish Association (ALFA). We are starting out as a Yahoo Group with plans for a website and magazine. Please join us as we endeavor to learn more about these fascinating

fish. http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/AmericanLabyrinthFishAssociation/

Or check us out on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/40440880296







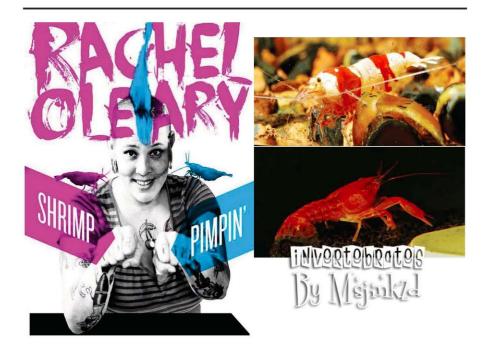


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Breeder's Award Program Report Form

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.SYes No BAP Points Awarded C.A.R.E.S. Points Awarded
6 Fry Donated Yes No Auction Date / / Article Submitted Yes



Auction Sellers Sheet

Your Three Initials

City State		Zip Code	
Phone# (E-n	ail		
Bag # Species / Item Description		Min Bid Selling Price	
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