

The Cichlid Chronicles

CICHLID CLUB OF YORK PA PUBLICATION Vol.1 Issue #2



In this issue:
Native Fish Collecting in Pennsylvania
The CCY invades New Jersey
Got Aggression- and much more!

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



As summer comes to an end and we wrap up the last of our vacation, I have one question for you... **Did you make the most of your time or did you remain in the stands watching others get into the game?** Since our last newsletter we have had 2 events where you could jump in and get involved. One of them was our CCY native fish collecting event and the other was the Jersey Shop Hop. With both events we partnered with our friends and local club organizations the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County (ACLC) and the New Jersey Aquarium Society (NJAS). Both of these great clubs have been around for over 40 years with the NJAS celebrating their 60th anniversary in October (details found inside) with a huge convention and celebration. Many of us from the CCY will be attending this event and we will have carpooling available for all CCY members wanting to tag along. If you have never been to a tropical fish convention this is definitely the one to go to!! But back to my point- to have these established and proven clubs invite us to joint events and support us in our events- #1 is an honor and #2 speaks volumes to the potential and future the CCY has before us. I am most appreciative to these clubs who have paved the way for us with their success and it is my hope to continue in their footsteps. One of the many things I love about our club is although we may not be the largest club (yet) we “ARE” a very tight family. We have a core group of people who love and support this club with hard work and dedication. To you I say **“Thanks!”** For those of you who were unable to be a part of some of these past great events you have the opportunity today to read about it in our newsletter with the promise that “tomorrow” you will get out of the stands and get into the game!! August 31st we have our 1st CCY picnic and September 28th we get back to business with our monthly CCY meetings. See you there!!!

-Scott McLaughlin

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CCY Member of the Month Tom Gillooly

It's with great honor that we award Tom Gillooly as our CCY member of the month! Get to know Tom better through our 1 on 1 interview with him.

1. **How did you get into the hobby and how many tanks are you currently running?** I have been in the hobby for at least 45 years. I remember bringing fish and invertebrates home from Long Island beaches and trying to keep them alive in buckets. My dad noticed my interest in nature in general and fish in particular so he brought me over to a friend's house. That person bred fancy guppies and that's how I started with fish tanks. Of course, all we had back then were the metaframe stainless tanks. I recall that my first larger tank was a metaframe 55g. We used green glass as a substrate and the filters were all air driven by piston pumps.

I currently operate 19 tanks ranging from 2g to 75g. I am keeping African cichlids (west and east), SA cichlids, wild type livebearers, plecos, Synodontis, Corydoras, rainbow fish, tetras, goldfish and marine fish.



A picture of Tom's amazing fish room

2. **What one cichlid is your favorite out of all your tanks and why? What is your jewel??** Tough to say. I really like the looks and rarity of the *Cyprichromis microlepidotus kilila*. But the behavior and parental care of the dwarf pike *Crenicichla compressiceps* (image below) is really interesting.



3. **You are known for keeping and breeding beautiful African cichlids. What about African cichlids caught your eye and made you fall in love with them?**

The invasion of the African cichlids in the 1970's piqued my interest. The LFS near my house brought in *M. auratus*, blue/red *P. zebra*, *J. marlieri* and *N. brichardi*. The colors were amazing as was the gracefulness of the *N. brichardi*. Then came the first of the peacocks and I was hooked. Other species started flowing in and I would drag my father to various stores in Queens and Brooklyn to check out the newest imports. Back in the day, stores would advertize in the back pages of the NY Post listing the new species and prices. That was certainly the heyday of the African cichlid hobby.



4. **What tips would you give someone wanting to start his first African cichlid tank?** Do not rush in. Do your research and ask questions of the more experienced hobbyists. There are a lot of us willing to put in the time and effort to help people new to the cichlid hobby. Know what fish are compatible with each other from both behavioral and water parameter standpoints. Be careful where you buy fish whether on line or in a store. Most of my fish come from a trusted fish store owner,

other hobbyists or Aquarium club auctions. Beware of hucksters claiming their fish are the best.

Join a not for profit **club** such as The Cichlid Club of York, North Jersey Aquarium Society, Bucks County Aquarium Society, etc. The hobbyists and breeders with these societies are immensely helpful in answering questions. Joining other clubs that do not specifically focus on cichlids will also help with your cichlid hobby.



The sign leading into Tom's fish room

5. **You are a member of many clubs and known throughout the clubs for your constant support and immense generosity. What tips would you give anyone who is a member of a club such as the CCY to help them grow?**

Get involved and volunteer with the club in some capacity. There is always something to do.

One doesn't have to be a board member to help. Be a runner at an auction, post information on social media, set up tables, help with the refreshments, and drive during road trips. These are all important activities that keep the club going.

Donate fish, plants or extra dry goods, if you can, especially to new clubs like the CCY that need the money to expand and do more for the membership.

Keep the kids involved. One great thing about clubs that have afternoon meetings on weekends is the amount of young people that are involved. I wish other clubs would take the CCY lead and switch to weekend meetings!



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The CCY Native Fish Collecting Trip



*Interview with CCY Member
and Native Fish Collector
Chris Cornell.*

1. When did you and Jose Fadel start native fish collecting?

Jose and I have been collecting for three years together...but have been in the water with nets on our own for decades. I know Jose has collected extensively in the Florida Everglades for 30 or 40 years and I, having grown up on a lake in New England, can't remember a time when I was not in the water with a net or a margarine tub hauling some sort of creature out of the muck. Probably 1970 or so if I had to put a

date on it.

I was introduced to the Swatty by a biologist friend of mine about 8 years ago and it was not long after that when Glenn Davies and I began scouting locations on our own. Steve Arnott and Jose Fadel joined us not long after and the four of us have gotten into a fairly steady habit.

2. What are some of the species you are able to catch in our PA waters?

<http://fishandboat.com/fishpub/summary/inland.html>

Please see the above link regarding what is legal to catch and keep and keep in mind we are all up to date with our PA state fishing license as well. Some of the species we had to release, but some we can keep and have found they make excellent, long term pets that adapt fully to aquarium life:

<http://fishandboat.com/pafish/fishhtms/chapindx.htm>

Tessellated Darters
Greenside Darters
Mottled Sculpins



Redbreast Sunfish
Rock Bass
Smallmouth Bass
Largemouth Bass

Brown Bullhead
Yellow Bullhead
Margined Madtom

Long Nose Dace
Black Nose Dace

- 3. Do you have a native fish tank established and if so what fish are in it? What size tank would you recommend for others who want to start a native fish tank?**

Mostly what we have kept has been the darter family. I keep some larger tanks outside all year round and found them all to do quite well. It's a bit unnerving at first to find the



right time to stop feeding and cover up the tank for winter but after your first year you will get a feel for it. No sage advice. No date carved in stone. Just do what you think is right based on observation. The larger the tank the better of course, even for the tiny darters. I use a four ft 110 gallon as my main outdoor tank. Sandy bottom with lots of rocks and lots of water flow. Seems to work well with the dace as well but they can become very aggressive towards food and will out compete and starve out the darters if you are not careful. Sunfish and rock bass are very aggressive feeders with loads of personality. They will recognize you and food very quickly. They will enjoy the fruits of your 'baitfish' collecting trips too. No need to ask twice!

4. For those interested in going on your next collecting trip, what do they need to bring in order to have a successful and enjoyable experience?



If you plan to tag along on the next trip, please, above all bring good footwear. I use old running type shoes for good traction on the rocky bottom. Not a fan of open toed shoes or going barefoot. Fishing license of course and the

ubiquitous five gallon bucket with lid. A seine is a good idea as well as any fine mesh nets you might have. Even standard aquarium nets work great as little fish like to hide in little nooks and caves. Also great for sorting. I often bring clear specimen containers and even a 2.5 gallon tank for viewing and photographing what we catch. Water, towels, dry clothes. Wet wipes are great for so many things including wiping down areas exposed to itch weed or poison ivy. If you feel you have been exposed, scrub away! It works.

Once again the CCY would like to thank you Chris and Jose for including our members on your native fish collecting trips. It is a wonderful educational experience that has made a lasting impression on our members. We look forward to many more trips in the near future!

Got Aggression?

By Orlando Torres

If you've been keeping cichlids for any amount of time, then the answer to the title of this article is yes. Whether it be the tank busters of South America, or the precious aquatic gems of the old world, you will find that these wonderful fish are also fantastic !##holes. There are a few ways and methods to help with this issue, but at times its best to just remove, retank, or rehome certain fish. Failure to do this will ultimately result in a dead or hurt fish.



*These fish establish territories, and are very defensive of them. Depending on the amount of fish in the tank two fish may claim the same territory peacefully. At first it may seem as if they were pairing but this is not the case. They will also defend this space together as well. An example of this in one of my tanks is my Mayan Cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*), and my Jack Dempsey cichlid (*Rocio octofasciata*). They both migrated to one side of the tank and were pecking and circling each other the same way I've seen other fish do when they were about to pair. They were digging at a rock together and making a bed in the sand. This was after adding a new fish to the tank which should have told me that this was not pairing but territorial behavior. Until this day, these two fish still protect this area. So if you've added a new fish to the tank, and you experience aggression, this may be why. Do not immediately remove the fish unless the behavior is very violent. Chasing, light pecking, and even lip locking is normal. This may continue from an hour up to two days. The important thing to remember is to keep an eye on the activity and the behavior of both fish, and make sure that both fish are able and willing to*

defend themselves. If a fish stays passive for too long while being attacked it may end up getting hurt or killed. If a fish is getting rammed or bit constantly without acting back, it may be a sign that this fish may need to come out of that tank. I've lost a few fish this way at first but over time you learn to develop an eye or a sense as to what's going to happen. Don't let anyone tell you that there so good that they've never lost a fish. That's like owning a computer and never getting a virus or having slowness issues. Below is a short list of some things you could try to help prevent some aggression. Keep in mind this may vary from species to species, such as mbunas. One method for them is to overcrowd them. This may not work so well for a mixed species tank of south/central American cichlids. This isn't the be all, say all to aggression issues, but it may help.

- *Rearrange the tank and allow the fish to reestablish new territories*
- *Add dither or target fish such as giant danios. This may seem cruel but this is the cycle of life, sorry..*
- *Provide plenty of hiding spots in the tank. Out of sight, out of mind.*
- *Limit the amount of live food you introduce to the tank. This may reduce some of the competitive nature these fish have to survive. Also feed less but more often.*
- *Research your fish and make sure it has a similar temperament as its tank mates, or that gorgeous fish you scored may turn into a fish story.*
- *Fish tend to be a little more aggressive with high tank temperatures. Try reducing the temperature in your tank a bit. Just don't keep going lower and lower if conditions do not improve. I would not go lower than 74 degrees, but according to some may slow growth and prevent breeding.*

Take some time to research other methods, as there are mountains of information out there to be had. If all else fails, come join CCY and we'll take care of ya. These methods are just from my own experiences, and by all means not to be taken as the only methods or even correct methods according to other's opinions. Were an opinionated race, but at some point or another we have to choose a route to follow whether right or wrong. Eventually you will find the correct path to follow.

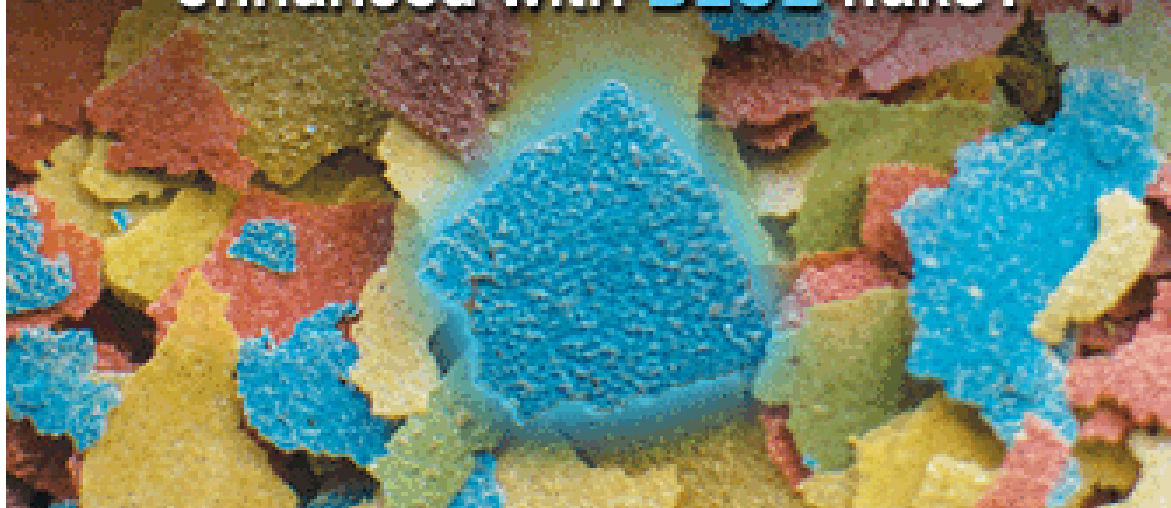


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The

Cichlid Circle

The Jersey Shop Hop

By Scott McLaughlin

Home sweet home!!! The smell of pizza in the air, the sounds of the “descriptive” jersey slang, the place where hand gestures say so much more than words.. Ahhhhhh I’m finally back home! Many of you may not know but I spent much of my childhood in Teaneck New Jersey. I was born in New York City (Manhattan) as a toddler but we moved to Jersey before I was 1 years old. There I spent many happy childhood years of Jersey culture. My parents had a 55 gallon tank with the old black cast iron stand full of gold fish. I remember enjoying the tank for years which is probably what spurred my current love for tropical fish today. On July 27th I returned home with a band of 20 “plus” CCY, ACLC and NJAS members and friends. We hit the road before sunrise and didn’t get home until long after the sunset.

On our travels we visited 6 amazing stores that were extremely friendly and very generous (each store gave our group a 15% to 25 % discount) but more importantly



they were highly supportive of our respected clubs and our pursuit to support their business. With Kevin J Carr of the NJAS (New Jersey Aquarium Society) and Kurt Johnston of the ACLC (Aquarium Club Of Lancaster County) as “tour guides”, our pack of 20 plus kept a tight group and stayed on schedule for most of the trip.... “Oh”... There was that one occasion where we “mistakenly” left CCY members Orlando and Elizabeth behind at our first stop.....LOL

Speaking of our first stop; we hit the doors of “**That Fish Hut**” a little after 10 am. We were greeted by a very friendly crew ready to assist us with any questions we had. I was impressed with their layout which provided customers with plenty of room to view their large stock of fish. I was also pleased to see a well-balanced inventory of African and Central/South American cichlids all priced reasonably. As I mentioned in last month’s Cichlid Chronicle I come to each event (where I’m purchasing cichlids) with a list and agenda. This trip was no different as I had 5 cichlids listed that I wanted to purchase and none other. I passed this list on to Kevin J Carr who through his connections was able to land 3 of the 5 I needed. **Fish Hut** had the #1 cichlid from my list, the beautifully stunning P. Bleekeri. At 3 to 4 inches long this Bleekeri will be a show stopper once I start him on a good diet of foods and grow him out. I left The Fish Hut very pleased and on to our next stop at **Aquarium at Route 4**.



← **Aquarium at Route 4**

is a pretty impressive shop just from their display tanks alone. You walk in and there is a huge tank that has some of the largest fresh water fish I’ve ever seen. Peacock Bass, Red tailed Catfish, and Black Pacu

were just a few of the fish featured in its largest tank. We all took turns taking photos in front of these large tanks (there was a salt water tank too with the



largest Group I had ever seen). The store itself had a good mix of everything including outdoor pond setups. As far as cichlids, there was a decent range of all areas of the cichlid world represented. Nothing that would knock your socks off but the cichlids they did have had some good size to them and were



very healthy looking. It was obvious that the owners and staff took good care of their fish. This store is also where I began to see the “New Jersey Flowerhorn” phenomenon taking shape.

(Image of a beautiful Flowerhorn found in Aquarium at Route 4)



Next stop-
Absolutely Fish!!
 Absolutely Fish was a real treat for me personally. It was the one store that I walked into and thought "This is the store of the future." Everything appeared to be brand new in this store including the tanks. In fact the store looks like it could be the home of a high class

restaurant. The layout was well thought out, spacious and clean! Each tank was decorated just enough to show off the cichlids yet sparsely enough that it didn't detract from catching them. For the larger more aggressive cichlids they had smaller tanks (shown below) to keep them separate and safe. I do have to mention that there was one tank that housed a magnificent flowerhorn for the modest price of 999.99!!! That was easily the highest priced fish I saw on the entire trip and although he was handsome I could not see anyone paying that much for a cichlid let alone a flowerhorn! But with that aside, I was really impressed with all the various cichlids they had from Umbee cichlids to beautiful African cichlids I had never seen before. They also had the best "saltwater selection" I had ever seen. From reefs to a wide assortment of cichlids Absolutely Fish was my favorite store of the entire trip!



^ Image of some spectacular cichlids found at Absolutely Fish



^ Julie Lovell all smiles in front of a stunning reef tank at **Absolutely Fish**

Next stop- **Aquarium Shark!!**



^ Display tanks with some stunning cichlids at **Shark Aquarium**

Where Absolutely Fish felt new and cutting edge- **Aquarium Shark** felt very “old school” but in a great way. The store is basically broken down into 3 areas with the front section housing all the dry goods and aquarium supplies. The middle section as you cut back to your left has a nice sized room with display tanks showing off some really spectacular cichlids. There was a Red Severum there that was simply jaw dropping, not to mention the now reoccurring theme of flowerhorns.



^ One beautiful Red Severum at Aquarium Shark

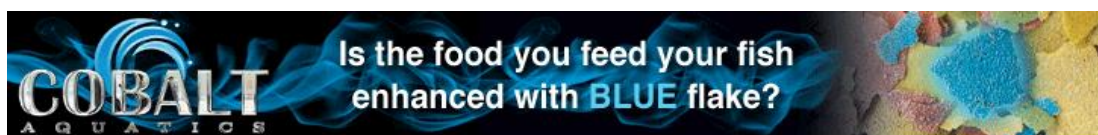
In the back section was a good sized room with tanks full of tropical fish highlighted with some great cichlids!! In this store I would mark off 2 more cichlids from my list as I picked up a young and handsome male Red Terror cichlid and an equally handsome Cuban cichlid. In all honesty I could have had 4 of the 5 cichlids off my want list (again thanks again to the efforts of one Kevin J Carr) had I not taken too much time debating on if I wanted the Umbee cichlid I found at Absolutely Fish. But when you snooze you lose and as they say "All is fair in love, war and cichlids". A moment of hesitation on my part led to my friend and CCY brother Shawn Paggie purchasing the umbee as I silently pondered what to do at a distance. Shawn still may be walking the highways of Jersey trying to get home from his actions.....LOL! Extremely happy with my purchases from Aquarium Shark we made our way to our final two stops- Pet Shanty and Adam's Pet Safari.

I group these 2 stores together because they both felt very similar in size and feel. Both stores had a solid selection of cichlids but nothing of great rarity, however many members did live with numerous bags of fish. Adam's Pet Safari in particular had a very nice selection of African cichlids. In fact Adam's Pet Safari had the "deal of the decade" with 4-5 inch Arowanas for only 19.99 a piece! Later that night a group of us visited That Fish Place on the way back home to York and found Arowanas half that size priced at 49.99. Ouch!!!



So as the sun began to set on our long journey we all decided to gather outside of Adam's Pet Safari and say our farewells. We decided to take a group picture which unfortunately didn't include Karen Haas and family who were still inside purchasing fish. Image above. I would like to thank the NJAS and the ACLC for inviting us to join them on their July Jersey Shop Hop. We certainly had a blast and look forward to a return trip next year with even more CCY members. CHEERS!!

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The Truth about Algae

By Christina Smith

So you buy a new cichlid and you go to add him to your tank and realize it is full of algae. Panic sets in as you think of all the horror stories you have heard over the years from aquarium lovers. But before you run to your local pet store looking for a miracle cure for algae I'll share some info with you.

ALGAE IS GOOD!

That's right, I said it. Dun dun dun..... No I am not crazy. Think about it. All the fish we keep come from the wild at one point or another, and what's in the wild? Algae. Believe it or not fish are not kept in the sanitary pampered aquariums that they live in now when they are wild. There is Algae everywhere! In rivers & streams, on

rocks & driftwood, even on the plants. If you go to large public Aquariums or even the local Bass Pro Shop you will notice the algae in every tank, and lots of it. Somewhere along the lines, aquarium hobbyists have raced to have the cleanest and most sterile aquariums in their homes, giving algae a bad rep.

Believe it or not, algae is not dirt as most people think it is, but it is a microscopic plant. And plants are good for aquariums, right? So, to make things clear we want algae in our tanks. I know, you're still thinking I'm nuts and my train ran off the tracks...I'll give you a second to catch up to me.

So the next question you'd probably ask would be why is algae beneficial to my tank? Well, because it turns your byproducts of fish waste into oxygen using photosynthesis. (Feel like your back in biology class yet?) Photosynthesis is the process plants use to convert light energy into oxygen.

Fish hate waste and love oxygen so this is a win/win, situation! Plus many fish benefit from adding algae into their diets. African cichlids are one of those fish who thrive on having algae in their environment. And lastly algae looks good in a aquarium, for those trying to aqua-scape their aquarium into looking like a

Cichlids natural environment what better to have then algae. This may sounds weird and some people may argue on if algae really looks good in a tank, but keep in mind this is natural to the fish, they have algae everywhere in the wild.

There are many different types of algae that can be grown in a aquarium, some more beneficial than others.

1. Blue-Green Algae

This is actually not algae. It is now believed to be a type of bacteria that uses light. It is seen as a bluish slime or web coating your plants and rocks. Usually this type of algae is an indicator of poor water quality in an aquarium. So step up on those water changes, and this algae will disappear itself.

2. Brown Algae

This algae is usually seen in either brand new aquariums or aquariums with really old fluorescent lamps. As a fluorescent lamp ages, the light output falls (50% after the first 6 months) and the spectrum of the light itself changes. This is why hobbyists who grow aquatic plants replace their lamps twice a year. A new light bulb will benefit the green algae more than the brown, and allow the green to "take over". Another way to grow an incredible amount of brown algae is to use a "cool white" or "shop-light" bulb instead of a bulb made for aquariums. The spectrum of these hardware store bulbs favors brown algae and can make quite a difference in just a few days.

3. Hair Algae

This can be grown in both long and short forms. It usually anchors itself to rocks and wood and can sometimes grow in clumps over 12 inches long. African cichlids love to dine on this stuff. Some hobbyists go as far as to transfer rocks from outdoor "kiddy pools" to their aquariums covered with this algae. To start a culture of hair algae, attach a clump to a piece of wood or rock with a rubber band somewhere near the top of the aquarium. In a few weeks, after it "takes root" you can remove the rubber band. If you find at first that your fish are eating it all before it can spread, you may have to start it in another aquarium, window sill or kiddy pool. Once you grow enough to reach critical mass, you will have a great source of constant nutrition for your fish.

4. Disc Algae

This found in aquariums with lots of light and calcium. It is a green, hard type of algae usually found on the glass, although in a really well lit tank it can be found actually growing on plants. Not many fish eat this algae, so you usually end up scraping it off the front sheets of glass with a single edge razor blade.

5. Beard Algae

A short, all one length, algae that looks like a fur coat. It comes in a few different colors like black, green/gray, and red. It requires fast moving water, so it is often found around the outlet of filters, power heads, anywhere there is plenty of water flow. A flat piece of slate covered with this algae looks incredible with water flowing over it. Common Plecos seem to not have a taste for Beard Algae, but it is enjoyed by African cichlids and the Siamese algae eater (*Crossocheilus siamensis*).

6. Green Water Algae

This a free-floating type of algae, which if left unchecked, will turn your aquarium into "pea soup". The most common occurrence of this algae is when somebody leaves their aquarium light on 24 hours a day, or when an outdoor pond is first set up. These tiny one-celled algae are so small that they pass right through a regular filter cartridge. Hobbyists raising their own Rotifers (Water Fleas) or Brine Shrimp use Green Water Algae as a prized food source. Control of this algae is as simple as only leaving the light on 8-12 hours a day. If you are in a hurry, a diatom filter (Magnum350 or Vortex) can filter down to 1 micron, thus easily capturing these tiny plants in about 3 hours. In an outdoor pond, the only realistic method of control is to use an Ultraviolet Filter to kill these free-floating algae with radiation.

There are however, some instances where you do not want algae. The front of your glass for instance. This is where Pleco's come in handy. Plecos are lazy and would rather clean algae from the easy to clean glass surface than the rough surface of rocks. This works out rather well for us. Now some Pleco's are better than others for this job. Take the Bushy Nose Pleco, they are a family that does a great job! Then you have the soon to be extinct Zebra Pleco, who would favor rotting woods over algae so would be a poor choice for algae control.

Another instance of not wanting algae is in a planted aquarium. But that is a whole other article.

So, to sum things up. Algae is good, and not the mean green monster set out to destroy your tank like the Petco employee made him out to be. And two, I'm not as crazy as some people think.

BAP REPORT

Aulonocara heuseri



By Tom Gillooly

Lake Malawi in east Africa is home to a group of cichlids known as peacocks. They are placed into the genus *Aulonocara* and are found in various locations throughout the lake. The males of the group are very colorful (hence the peacock reference) and depending on the species will show various shades of red, orange, blue and yellow.

The *Aulonocara* are benthic insectivores in nature, searching the lake bottom for various aquatic insects. In the aquarium they will take live foods, flake, pellets and various frozen foods such as bloodworms, brine shrimp, and mysis. I tend to stay away from bloodworms for this genus as that food has caused gastrointestinal problems for fish that I have kept over the years.

They have a fairly peaceful disposition for the most part when comparing them to other Malawi cichlids, especially the more territorial mbuna. Tank mates can include haplochromines from the *Placidochromis* and *Copadichromis* genera and the more non-aggressive mbuna such as *Labidochromis caeruleus* and *Pseudotropheus acei*. These cichlids are maternal mouthbrooders. Males will display in either an open area of the tank or near a rock formation. The eggs are laid, fertilized and taken into the female's buccal cavity to carry for about three weeks. The young will exit her mouth and in nature be guarded for a period of time by the female as they search for food. If released into the aquarium they might become a snack fairly quickly. *Aulonocara heuseri* (aka the night peacock)

can be found at Likoma Island located off the eastern shore of Lake Malawi . In nature they will grow to 4-4.5 inches.

I obtained a group of six adults from Adam's Pet Safari in Chester NJ in January of 2012.

I had asked for two males and four females but the wholesaler sent three pair, still not a bad ratio. They were approximately 3 inches in total length and the males were not in full color yet.

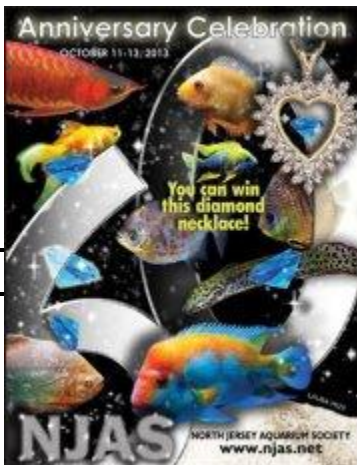
The group was placed in an Oceanic 60g flat back hexagon tank with crushed coral as a substrate. Rocks and a few caves were distributed in the tank in addition to a large ceramic pot and an eight inch ceramic tube. The latter two were used for hiding spaces for a pair of *Synodontis granulatus* that inhabited the tank. I also added a group of four common Australian rainbowfish as dithers. Filtration was provided by a Whisper HOB filter. Tank temperature was set to 78 degrees F.

They were fed Hikari frozen brine shrimp and mysis, Hikari cichlid gold pellets, various flake foods and an occasional treat of live brine shrimp. After a few months, one of the males started to grow a bit faster and show adult coloration - dark blue around the head and back with a bit of muted yellow on the remaining part of the body and a white stripe along the dorsal fin. He started to bully the remaining males a bit but not enough to cause any harm. The dominant male then started to display for the females. Within a week, two of the females were holding eggs. I did not witness the actual spawning but I'm guessing they spawned on the substrate or on a flat rock. No pits were dug out.

The females were kept in the breeding tank as there were adequate hiding places. I stripped them of their young after 16-17 days. (Check out my article on *C. afra* Jalo Reef to reference the procedure that I use to remove young.) One female held a dozen young another had fourteen. Not too bad for smaller first time breeders.

The young were placed in a 10g holding tank and fed pulverized flake food and moistened mashed pellets. After several weeks they were transferred to a 37g grow out tank. Upon reaching 1-1.25" the young were brought to various North Jersey Aquarium Society and Bucks County Aquarium Society auctions. I also brought along a few bags (from other spawns) to a Cichlid Club of York meeting earlier this year. I eventually sold the group to an acquaintance.

The peacock that I am currently working with is *Aulonocara* sp. Chitande type North. I hope to have young sometime next year as they are still juveniles.





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**

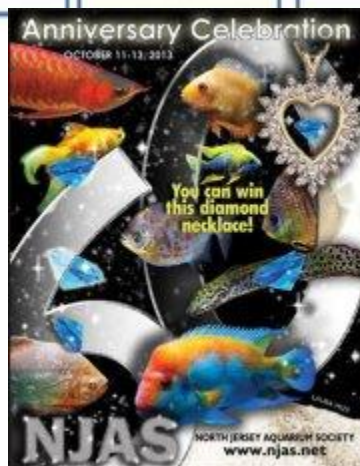
**ALL SPECIES
 TROPICAL FISH
 SHOW
 CASH & TROPHY
 FOR 1st, 2nd, 3rd
 BEST OF SHOW
 RESERVE OF SHOW
 ANYONE CAN
 ENTER
 30 CLASSES**

**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:

**TROPIQUARIUM, FISH HUT, ROUTE 4, KAZIMIRS
 ABSOLUTELY FISH, ELYS, PET SHANTY, ADAMS
 PET SAFARI, SHARK AQUARIUM, BROOKDALE**



THE SEPTEMBER MEETING



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

Saturday June 15, 2013 @ 1:00 PM
Program, Raffle, Auction & Refreshments



Joshua Wiegert

***An Introduction to
Native Fish***

Joshua Wiegert has been involved in the aquarium hobby for more years than his youthful good looks imply. He initially started in the hobby near the age of six, in charge of a small tank that served as a nightlight, when the fish weren't "sleeping." He is no longer afraid of the dark, but still maintains aquariums. He has written extensively on aquariums and fishkeeping for a variety of magazines, including TFH and the late AFM and FAMA, where he penned the "Conservation Corner." Recently, he opened Batfish Aquatics, an online retailer of aquarium fishes as unusual as Joshua himself. Much to his surprise, Joshua is currently serving a sentence as President of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society. His eventual plan is to use this Presidency to leapboard to Emperor of the Known Galaxy.

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>

or

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

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NEW & RARE
SPECIES
SHIPMENT FOR
AUCTION!**



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With your
Bidder Card

Please join

The Aquarium Club of Lancaster County
for a great day of Aquatic Fun at our
GIANT FALL AUCTION

Sunday, November 3, 2013

Witmer Fire Hall

455 Mt. Sidney Road, Witmer PA 17585

Less than 2 miles off US Rt. 30

Registration 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Auction Starts at 11:00 AM

For all auction lots, the first \$1 goes to ACLC, then 70% seller - 30% ACLC for lots registered before 11:00 AM. For lots registered between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, the seller split will be 60%. Lots registered after 1:00 PM will be black tagged and auctioned last, with the seller split 50% after the first \$1.

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!

BAP REPORT

Metriaclima cyneusmarnates,

A much misunderstood Zebra Cichlid



**By Jay Stephan Photo by Bill Vallari
(Fish Bought from Cichlids Are Special)**

These fish are rare to the hobby. I bought mine wild caught from Laif Demasion in late 2008 when he first imported them. To the best of my knowledge, this may have been the only time these fish were imported into the U.S. by a FL Fish Farmer. Since then I have sold off the wild caught adults; but have F1 adults and many of their fry. Males can reach up to 4.5 inches. Females max out about 4 Inches.

Males display a purple blue body with darker bars and gold fin highlights. Females are duller in color and may not show darker bars. They are

similar to the Chilumba Zebra. See

<http://www.cichlidnews.com/issues/2008apr/whatsnew.html>

These fish live in rocky environments along the coast. See <http://www.onzemalawicichliden.eu/Bestanden%20vissendatabase%20eng/Metriaclima%20cyneusmarginatus%20Nkhomo%20eng.html> Like most mbuna, they do not tolerate other mbuna that look similar in their tank. Because they are a zebra type African Cichlid, they are perceived to be aggressive which is incorrect. They are mildly aggressive and do not become more aggressive with age like some other zebras. In fact, Metriaclima cyneusmarginatus are generally tolerant of other tank mates. It is my experience with this fish that they will get along with almost all other African cichlids. I have mixed them with Aulonocara, Malawi Haps, Malawi Mbuna not similar in color, Julidochromis, Burchardi, Leleupi, and Lake Victoria Cichlids of varying aggression levels. They have done well with all, but, one fish I have tried to mix them with. The lone exception was a male Astatotilapia Sp. 44 Thick Skin.

I had a group of cyneusmarginatus in a 29 gallon tank along with a group of Thick Skin. They got along fine until one day when the large male Thick Skin decided that he wanted to take over and claim the Metriaclima's spawning spot as a home for himself. The Metriaclima chewed his tail until he gave up. A few days later he tried once again to take over this spot. This time the cyneusmarginatus ganged up on him and killed him off. They did not bother the remaining thick skins in their tank.

Metriaclima cyneusmarginatus are mouth brooders and are very easy to breed. A group of two males and four females is probably the ideal set up for breeding. However, almost any mixture of males and females will result in breeding. Because these fish come from a rocky area, rocky caves are the best place for them to breed.

They prefer hard water with a PH around 7.8 to 8.0 and a temperature of 78 to 80 F. A crushed coral or African Cichlid stone substrate works best with this fish.

If you have not tried this fish, I strongly suggest trying them. They are probably one of the best options available to keep in the Zebra family.

Jay Stephan
Cichlids Are Special
York, PA

Join the fun of our CCY Breeders Award Program by filling out the report and turning them in at our monthly meetings or online at cichlidclubofyork.com



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 ____



BAP Rules

The Cichlid Club of York

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

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

Point System

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

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

Awards - Yearly

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

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

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

Awards – Ongoing – Individual Hobbyist

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

Awards - Special

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



**The Cichlid Club of York
COOK OUT!!**

August 31st at 1pm

Farmers Field Park

3070 Church Rd

Thomasville PA 17364

MONSTERFISHKEEPERS AND EASTCOASTCICHLIDS PRESENTS:

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RICHARD ROSS

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

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SPENCER JACK

WINNIPEG, CANADA

LAKE MALAWI CICHLIDS

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EM 35 L S 1 3 0 8 3 1



A happy CCY member Luis Hernandez with a Mo Devlin autographed photo after our June 22nd CCY meeting. Stay tuned to see who our September guest speaker will be!!

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

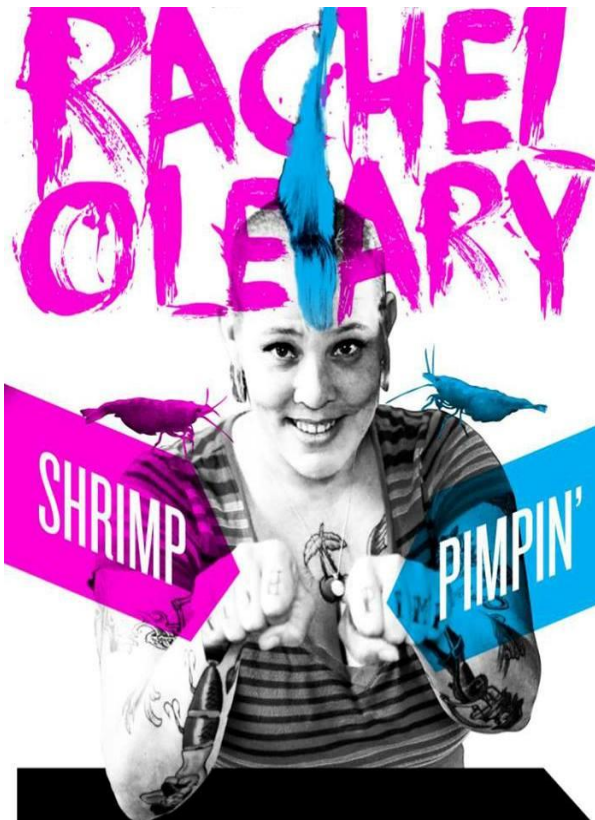


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invertebrates
By Mjmkzd