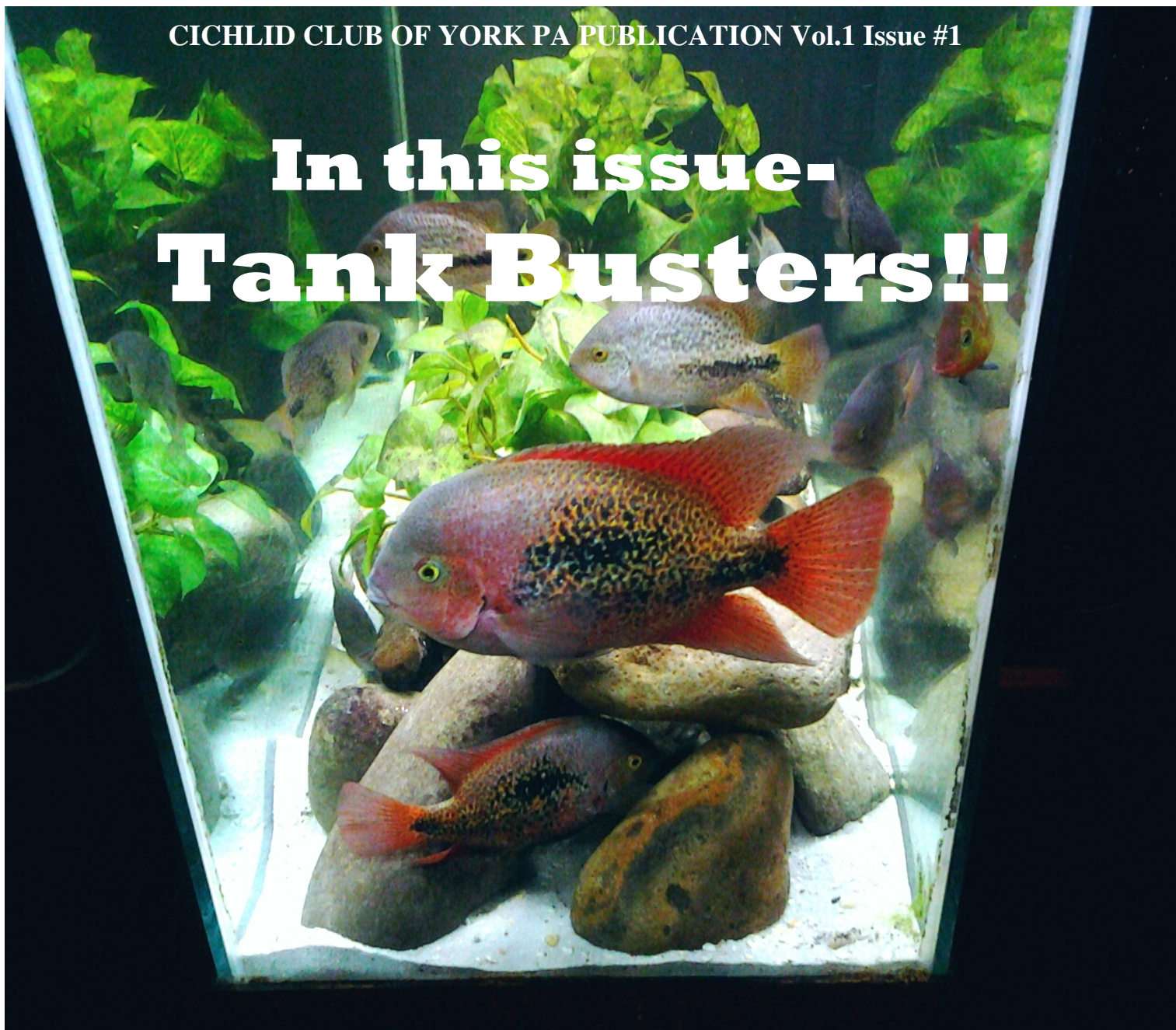


The Cichlid Chronicles

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

**In this issue-
Tank Busters!!**



Also- How the hobby saved my life
CCY Member of the month interview
How to label your auction bags



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



“You say you want a revolution- well you know..... We all want to change the world!”
— The Beatles

Did you say a revolution? “Oh Boy!” have we ever had a revolution here in York PA. The CCY was created on a cold November night in 2012. I had spent over a year giving myself every reason “NOT” to start a local tropical fish club in our area. But when frustration set in from not having a local cichlid “only” focused forum, and after a long talk and a hefty push by friend Aaron Angiorlis, I decided to take the leap. 8 months later the Cichlid Club of York PA isn’t just a club, it’s a movement. We have taken the hobby by storm and put everyone on notice that the CCY is “alive” and here to stay. I owe each and every one of our members a huge “Thank You!” for joining our revolution and supporting the CCY through its growing pains. We grew much quicker than I ever expected and because of that I know I have made some mistakes along the way. The great thing about mistakes is “if you’re smart” you learn from them. I am so lucky to have a CCY Board of Directors team that push and strive for perfection. They want every meeting to be better than the last and they want every possible improvement to be made for the benefit of our CCY members. I have been truly blessed to be surrounded with such a talented team and this team *“without question”* is the reason we are so successful.

To date we have had numerous great speakers including the always entertaining Mo Devlin that visited our club in June. We had a great cookout and aqua sale at Rachel O’leary’s house where we ate some good food and got to see Rachel’s amazing fish room and setup. We traveled to the Cichlid Club Associations “Aquamania” and came in 2nd place at their aquascape contest. We celebrated That Fish Place’s 40th Anniversary by having a table and promoting our young but growing club. Coming July 13th we have a native fish collecting trip planned directed by CCY members Chris and Jose where we will catch and collect fish from our very own backyard. And lastly on July 27th we have the Jersey Shop Hop where we travel with our friends from the NJAS and ACLC to visit some of the best fish stores in the New Jersey area!!!

Sound like fun??? Then click your heels and stomp your feet! Join us as we attempt to go where no other club has gone before and do what no other club has done. It’s a revolution gang come be a part of it!!!

-Scott McLaughlin

CCY Member of the Month Aaron Angiorlis



Aaron has been selected as July's CCY member of the month!! Through his activity online, his help at our June meeting and his desire to help others who are in need of guidance. It is my pleasure to award Aaron Angiorlis with this recognition! Aaron will receive a 10.00 gift certificate to Petco. Please learn more about Aaron through our short interview with him.

1. How did you get into the hobby and how many tanks do you currently run?

After several months of my friend Scott McLaughlin (the president of the CCY) trying to get me to try tanks I finally gave in. Scott gave me my first tank (20 gallon high) with a Cobalt Blue Zebra cichlid and a Jack Dempsey. I was hooked. I currently have 6 tanks now.

2. How many years have you been keeping cichlids?

I have been keeping cichlids for about 1 ½ years now.

3. If you had to pick one cichlid in all of your aquariums which would be your favorite?

My favorite cichlid would be my Pike. I purchased him when he was around 1 ½ inches long and a year later he is a astounding 14 inches long. I love him but at times he can be very temperamental with other cichlids.

4. You are well known within the cichlid community for your beautiful tanks. How did you become so good at aquascaping? What are some tips you

could give other members wanting to create a natural environment for their cichlids?

I honestly just start putting rocks in stacks and as I'm doing it and if I don't like it I tear it down and start over. I end up doing it several times until I'm happy with it. The only thing I can really think to say is just get rocks and start stacking them until you are satisfied with the outcome.

5. The Jersey Shop Hop is coming July 27 where members from the NJAS, ACLC and CCY come together and visit several fish shops in Jersey. Is there a particular cichlid you want that you are hoping to find?

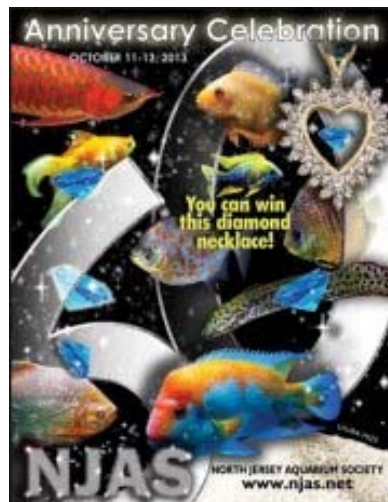
I'm hoping I can go but might not be able to. I would be looking for the blue Zaire Frontosa.

6. What is your dream tank (size and gallons) and what type of cichlids would you keep in it?

I would love to have a 250 gallon tank. I would put all my Viejas together in one big tank.

7. How did you hear about the CCY and when did you become a member?

Scott and I were talking about having a tropical fish club closer to home as we were both members of the ACLC and traveling to Lancaster. Scott took the initiative and created what we now enjoy as the Cichlid Club Of York PA. It's amazing how quickly it grew. I have been a member since day #1!



How Keeping fish saved my life

By Orlando Torres



Photo of Orlando in his aqua magic kingdom

A good friend once jokingly told me “You need an intervention from keeping fish and fish tanks....” I laughed and responded keeping fish “*is* my intervention brother!”. You see I’m getting ready to marry my best friend, but life wasn’t always such a fairy tale for me. Four years ago I was getting out of a very bad marriage in which the last two years of that marriage I let alcohol take control of my life. 8 years of living with an alcoholic took its toll on me. When I came home my best friend of 12 years (fiancé now) was waiting for me with open and supporting arms. There are things that I have been through that would stop a normal person from breathing. I am extremely lucky to be sitting here writing this today. I came home one day to a 30 gallon tall tank with a submersible Fluval filter and a big old blood parrot. I couldn’t pull myself away from this tank and fish.

The water, the movement, the fish, and the overall fluidity of it all just amazed me. Over the next four years my obsession took over and little by little my less healthy fish began to die. You see it didn’t start out so well, as I just started throwing fish together in an undersized tank of various species and temperaments. “Hey” I thought fish were fish and they belong together. Needless to say, I lost many fish during this period. I didn’t know the difference between a nitrite and a hardboiled egg. I decided to write about something a little personal because since I’ve joined CCY I haven’t met one person from the club that has judged me negatively for who I am, what I’ve done, or what mistakes I’ve made, life or aquarium wise., That has made me feel comfortable enough to share my story. So when somebody asks me why I keep so many tanks and fish, I respond, because I wouldn’t be standing here if I didn’t! I managed to channel a very bad energy into

something beautiful and I will never look back. Thank you to my fiancé, Elizabeth for bringing home a tank on that special day and always supporting me. Also thank you to the CCY for allowing me to meet others with the same interest. I'm honored to have met and befriend who I have thus far, and I'm a better person for being part of something so awesome! So here I am 14 tanks later, and growing, and not one regret for letting this addiction into my life. So here's to happy, healthy fish and their owners- Blessing to all! Thank you.



Sincerely,
Orlando Torres
AKA – The Magic Man
AKA – The Craigslist Bandit





The Cichlid Circle

By Scott McLaughlin

8" inches or larger, full of attitude and color. -Tank Buster

Splashing water out of a tank, never allowing another fish to cross his path- Tank Buster

Devouring pellets from your hand, uprooting plants and Driftwood from the sand- Tank Buster

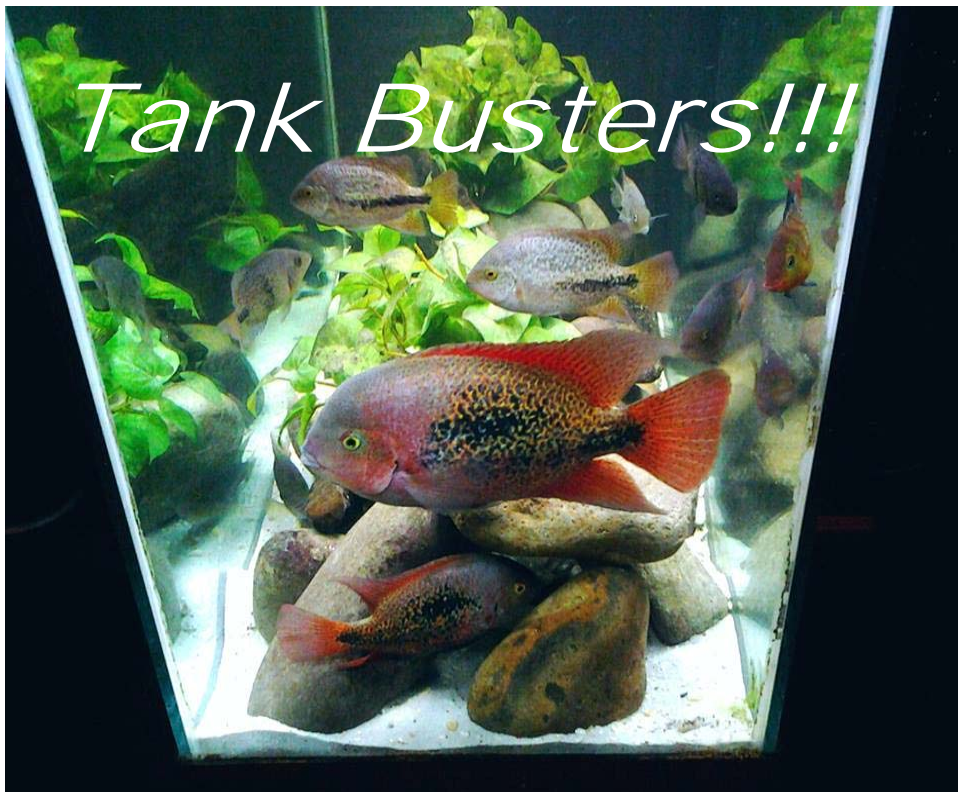


image of my 11 inch Vieja bifasciatus in all his glory

There is something very cool about keeping large cichlids or "tank busters" as I like to call them. Walking into a room with a mammoth 11" inch Vieja Bifasciatus full of color- happily splashing water out of his tank at the sight of seeing you..... Is very cool. I'm happy to have pen and paper back in hand and an audience to share my cichlid thoughts and moments with. It has been some time since I last wrote an article. I authored the FAAS award winning "Cichlid Corner" for 2 years before creating the Cichlid Club of York PA.

The experience of creating the club and making new friends has been an enjoyable experience but being able to write a monthly column again puts the cherry on top. My column will be fun, colorful, bold and at times humorous (kind of like the cichlids I keep). I will try to throw in some pointers or tips along the way but if you are looking for the best possible cichlid information I would refer you to the *Lonny Langione, Mo Devlin, Kevin J Carr, Rusty Wessel, Jeff Rapps and Kevin Davis's* of the world. These gentlemen are a powerhouse of experience and a wealth of knowledge that can be tapped into for all the benefit of the hobby. "I" on the other hand am just a lover and fan of Central and South American cichlids that enjoys jotting down some words that will hopefully make you smile and appreciate the wonderful and crazy world of cichlids. So let's get started!!!!

my 10" inch *Oreochromis tanganicae*



Now before a line of African cichlid lovers begins to form in protest over my column, let me say that I enjoy African cichlids too. I have a large 10" inch *Oreochromis tanganicae* from the lakes of Tanganyika that pound for pound can hold his own against any of my SA/CA "big boys". In fact he is so big and bad he now swims proudly in his own "private" 90 gallon tank.... Now that's one bad ----- "shut your mouth" cichlid. However the myth of African cichlids being the most colorful of cichlids simply isn't true. Check out "Aquamajo.com" anytime you want to debate on which cichlids are more colorful African cichlids or South and Central American cichlids. Mo Devlin photos of South and Central American cichlids will amaze you. In fact Mo Devlin and his amazing photography has been my inspiration for keeping tank busting cichlids. Any shyness I had of being considered a "fish geek" was quickly dismissed once I was introduced to the world of Mo's "bad ass" (sorry kids) tank busting cichlids. Mo has made it cool to keep cichlids. Mo has brought rock and hip hop into the world of collecting cichlids and I love it! Do you want to join????

So if I have sparked your interest at all about keeping tank busting cichlids; here is a list of some essentials you will need:

1. **A Large Tank-** I would suggest nothing smaller than a 55 gallon tank. I know that 2" inch Green Terror, 3" inch Jaguar Cichlid and 2" Oscar, look small in that 55 gallon tank. But trust me when I say it won't be long before each one of them will need their own 55 gallon tank or larger.
2. **Superb Filtration-** Cichlids are messy eaters and "tank busting" cichlids are even worse. So it's very important for their survival to keep your water clean through good filtration. Kevin J Carr suggests using canister filters when keeping these "big boys". I tend to agree with Kevin and I have slowly started converting all my tanks to either canister or wet/dry filters. However it "IS" possible to maintain a healthy environment with hang on the back (HOB) filters and routine water changes. No matter what filter you get I would recommend doing 50% percent water changes every week.
3. **Variety Of Foods-** The myth that tank busters will eat anything is simply untrue. Just like any other cichlid or tropical fish, tank busters like variety. You can love steak all you want to "fellow hobbyist", but you're not going to want to eat it every day. Don't do the same to your cichlids! My cichlids enjoy eating Hikari pellets, carnivore sticks, Seachem flakes and San Francisco Bay frozen brine shrimp and blood worms. At one time I would feed my tank busters "rosies" and "feeder gold fish". But after losing my prized 9" Green Terror to a batch of sick feeders I swore to never feed my cichlids feeder fish again. Don't you make the same mistake!! There are plenty of great foods available to feed our tank busters, find a few that your cichlid likes and watch the payback in amazing color and rapid growth.
4. **Love and attention-** The final ingredients may just be the most important and that's "love" and "attention". Tank busters are not community fish, they don't school with other fish and they don't have many friends. Even if they pair up to breed they will spend most of their time beating their spouse up, so all that really leaves to love them is "YOU". Tank busters need love and attention. They relish it. I spend hours in my fish room interacting with my tank busters; petting them and at times hand feeding them. They are highly intelligent and clearly recognize their true owner and keeper. I tell you cichlid fans it's similar to owning a dog or cat. They are that smart and that interactive to the point I find myself talking to them (now I know why I collected all those Aquaman comic books...LOL!). Tank busters like any other pet needs attention. They like to play and do tricks and yearn for your approval. They have a wide range of emotions too and will let you know when you aren't spending enough time with them. I've found gravel and rocks on my floor from cichlids trying to get my attention!

So in the end readers I push you all to do some research and select a potential tank buster of our own. I think you will enjoy the experience and you may even make a new friend! Until then keep your hands wet and your cichlids happy!!



In loving memory of my Red Devil "Bob"- Chasing guppies in the sky

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:
customer@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



Top 10 Reasons For Labeling Fish Auction Bags

By Lonny Langione

After last months CCY auction, I am writing this article to address the problem of fish bags not being labeled properly. This is extremely important for many reasons.

#1) It helps you get your correct amount of auction money at the end of the auction.



#2) It keeps the auction flowing and eliminates awkward lulls, which really sets me off.

#3) It helps the auction people keep track of what is going on.

#4) It tells us and the prospective buyer what is in the bag.

#5) It gives the person buying the bag the opportunity to contact you with questions after the meeting.

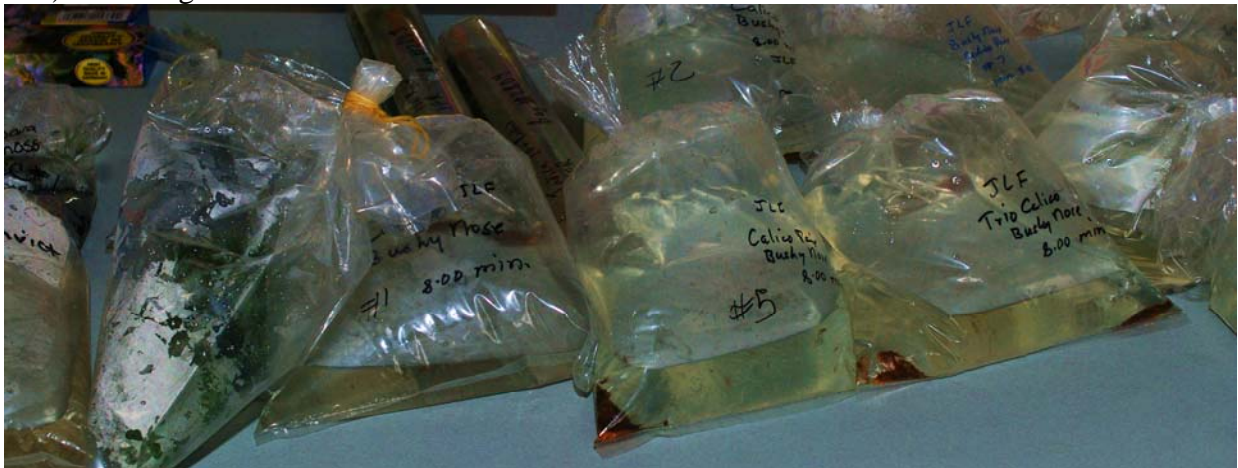
#6) If you have a minimum bid, write it on the bag AND the auction form

#7). It lets people know who you are and what you are breeding.

#8) If you go to another club meeting they all require it

#9) It will be a mandatory requirement for all bags from here on out in the CCY.

#10) See #9 again.



The auction system CCY is using is pretty much the way most monthly fish auctions are done. It is so simple to do. On the auction form there's a space for your three initials. My initials are LDL and that is what I would use. Next the form has numbered lines, #1, #2 and so on. So if I bring in a pair of Super Convicts they would get labeled LDL #1 and the description is entered on line #1. Next it is good to write the name of the fish on the bag. It is also a great idea to write your phone number or e-mail address or both see #5. If you have a website put it on the bag, as long as it is a *fish related* site. I would also encourage you to write your name on the bag as well.

We will have the auction form available for download off the CCY website so that you can fill in the form and mark your bags before you come to the meeting. Use a black sharpie or permanent marker to write on your bags. You can use white labels on your bags as well. If you computer generate the label you will need to use clear sealing tape over the label so that if water gets on the label the ink will not run.

It would be great if you had the form and bags done before you get to the meeting. If you need help with fish names etc, see us at the meeting we will help you. I have a master plan to set up the lobby in September to help eliminate the congestion in this area. Your anticipated co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you are looking for fish bags go to www.kensfish.com or www.jehmco.com I don't recommend buying any bag under 2 mil for cichlids. They also sell rubber bands as well. I am working on an article about bagging fish for the auction and it should be available soon.

Any questions please e-mail me at lonlangione@comcast.net.



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



CCY BAP Report

Cynotilapia afra Jalo Reef



The *Cynotilapia afra* complex are African cichlids belonging to a group of Lake Malawi cichlids generally known as mbuna (“rockfish” in the Malawi Tonga language). The mbuna habitat consists of rocky shores and outcrops that surround the lake. Other examples of mbuna can be found in the *Melanochromis*, *Pseudotropheus*, *Metriaclima* and *Ladidochromis* genera.

There are many different color variations of *afra* distributed throughout Lake Malawi. The Malawi cichlid book by Ad Konings (**Malawi Cichlids in their Natural Habitat**, 4th Edition, Cichlid Press) provides a map and photos of various *afra* locations and color variations throughout the lake. The Jalo Reef variant inhabits the western part of the lake along the shore near the town of Nkhotakota, Malawi.

See this website for a more detailed location.

http://www.cichlid-forum.com/articles/lake_malawi_map.php

C. afra feed on the algae and micro-fauna found on the rocks as well as plankton found in the water column.

These are typical mbuna maternal mouthbrooders. The male establishes a territory and coaxes the female into his area. Eggs are then laid, fertilized and incubated in the female’s buccal cavity.

I purchased 6 wild Jalo Reef afra from Adam's Pet Safari in January of 2012. The group consisted of two males and four smaller females. They were placed in a 55g tank employing crushed coral as a substrate. Other structure such as rocks and flower pots were added for use as extra cover and for breeding locations. There was a 200w heater for temperature control (~78F) and a Whisper 5 for filtration. Water changes were 40-50% weekly.

The only tank mates were 4 *Synodontis multipunctatus*.

A dominant male eventually took his place as malevolent dictator of the tank. His coloration was that of the photo above. The subordinate male did exhibit a bit of color but was much more muted than the dominant male. Females were smaller and have very little color – mostly brownish with darker stripes.

They were fed flake food along with Hikari cichlid pellets.

Approximately one month after bringing the fish home, one of the females was found carrying eggs. The male had dug out a pit under a rock and spawned with her while chasing away the catfish (The multi cats are a cuckoo spawner – that is they will lay eggs alongside a mouth brooding cichlid while that cichlid is spawning. The female will take the catfish fertilized eggs into her buccal cavity along with her own. The catfish will hatch earlier than the cichlid's eggs and feed on them).

I left the female afra in the tank for 16 days and then stripped her of the developed fry. Typically I will simply catch the female and while holding her in a net, pry open her mouth with a soft nylon padded swab and allow the developed fry to exit the buccal cavity. If there is too much rockwork in a tank I will do this procedure in the evening after the fish have been sleeping for an hour or so. It's easier to catch the holding female in her sleepy state.

The 8 young were placed in a 10g tank, again with crushed coral substrate. They were fed pulverized flake and softened pellets. A 50% water change was performed weekly and the young were eventually transferred to a 37gallon tank to grow out.

All of the females eventually spawned and produced over 200 young.

I have since given away the group to a friend but have about thirty young left. I have brought several bags to the Cichlid Club of York meetings and will bring more to future meetings. Good luck to those that purchased them!

Addendum – many of the afra types have been reclassified as *Cynotilapia zebroides*.



Breeder's Award Program Report Form

Members Name _____ Date Of Spawn ____ / ____ / ____

Taxonomic Name _____ Location _____

Common Name _____ How Long Have You Owned Breeders _____

Have You Written An Article ____ Yes ____ No If yes attach copy to this report or e-mail to ccybap@yahoo.com

Size of parents M ____" F ____" Size Tank _____ Type Lighting _____

Any Plants In The Tank ____ Yes ____ No / Description of plants _____

Spawning medium _____

Water parameters pH ____ / dH ____ / kH ____ / TDS ____ / RO Water ____ Yes ____ No / Temp ____ F

Type Of Filtration _____ Special Additives _____

Other fish in the tank _____

Mouthbrooder ____ Substrate ____ Artificial Hatch ____ Leave With Parents ____

Foods fed to parents _____

Foods fed to fry _____

Additional Information _____

BAP Chairman Will Fill In This Part

C.A.R.E.S. ____ Yes ____ No BAP Points Awarded _____ C.A.R.E.S. Points Awarded _____

6 Fry Donated ____ Yes ____ No Auction Date ____ / ____ / ____ Article Submitted ____ Yes ____ No

Verified Date ____ / ____ / ____ Verified By _____ Article Sub Date ____ / ____ / ____

MY BIG SPLASH INTO THE HOBBY

-By Kerry Diks

Eight months and several days ago my father wanted to pass down a 55 gallon tank to me. I looked at it wondering...hmmm...how do I get this item up and running? Being a designer I immediately knew how to jazz up the tarnished wooden tank stand. I even knew what color to paint the stand and knobs.

Wearing an invisible blindfold and having zero knowledge



about keeping fish I went to the local Petco and bought numerous bags of cheap tropical fish. My dad laughed and said "What a waste of a tank for

"junk" fish". I had no clue why he was telling me this but then the light bulb went off and I remembered. Prior to my birth they kept and bred many species of fish.

My unexciting "junk fish tank" began to bore me until I stumbled upon a tire track eel at my local pet shop. Watching him glide through the water was intriguing. I had to find more fish like him. Conveniently income taxes arrived giving me one thing in mind...A restart!! I purchased a simple 20 gallon tank to house "the pretty fish" my children requested....African Mbuna Cichlids.



Photos of Kerry's beautiful tanks

Intentionally knowing I would need to house these fish in bigger tanks my passion for the hobby continued to grow. I noticed how many smiles and a feeling of peace the fish tanks were bringing my family and guests which pushed me to learn more.

The enjoyment, tranquility, and feeling of accomplishment had me studying and researching for hours online. I wanted to achieve an adequate amount of knowledge to give my fish the best home possible.

I am now operating and raising fish in a 150 gallon, 55, 20, and 29 gallon. Of course I hope to continue learning which a never-ending cycle is obviously. I was a very lost, thumb twiddling, bored, and going "cuckoo" stay-at-home mom. I needed my own personal hobby. I have now found that in keeping tropical fish. I am also proud that my hobby is an enjoyment for the entire family.

Through my research of tropical fish online, I stumbled upon the Cichlid Club of York at cichlidclubofyork.com. "Boy" was I ever glad to meet such helpful and friendly folks? The support of the CCY crew is never-ending and I owe them many thanks. I look forward to growing in this hobby with all of them. May they continue to spread the word and teach to the younger generations the beauty of the hobby. Cheers to the future Cichlid Club Of York!!! We have much to look forward to!!

What Do You Need For The Jersey Shop Hop and Future Auctions/Conventions?



By Scott McLaughlin

This hobby is fun isn't it? And to be quite honest with you it can be downright addictive. I say this to you as a recovering cichlidaholic (the first step is to admit your problem) who has gone to many conventions and auctions across this great country of ours. My problem then (and I still fight it to this very day) was that every cichlid I saw I wanted! I would return home with bags upon bags of cichlids only to find I didn't have the room for them or that they didn't get along with the cichlids that I had existing in my tanks. Problem!! I would spend hours rearranging my tanks, removing décor to make more space only to find out that it wasn't going to work. So 24 hrs later the calls would begin as I contacted fellow cichlid collectors looking for homes for my newly purchased fish.... I could feel the heat on the back of my neck as my wife looked at me as free cichlid after free cichlid left the house going to happy friends so excited that yet again I had bitten off more than I could chew.... "There goes another 100.00 down the drain Scott" my wife would mumble as I sat in front of my tank, head down in frustration. "At least your friends are happy" she would joke.... Finally as time passed and I become more educated and more importantly more disciplined about the cichlids I wanted to keep and what I had to do to keep the peace. I learned to have a "plan" (and a plan B too) going into auctions and to have a tank running on reserve if "anything" went wrong. It wasn't until I reached that point in my young tropical fish career that my cichlids began to thrive and my love for the hobby exploded! My wife enjoys traveling with me now to auctions and conventions knowing that I have a detailed focus on what I am looking to purchase and that whatever I purchase will be used for my collection. I share this story with you as we venture out on July 27th to the Jersey Shop Hop. The Jersey Shop Hop is an amazing lineup of fish shops that is liable to blow our minds. I hope that each and every one of our CCY members making the trip will take the time to figure out what cichlids they like and want to collect. Then decide if they have adequate space and the right tank mates for the cichlids they want. If you can say "Yes" to both of these questions then we are on our way to a successful trip. Below I am going to list some things you may need or may need to "do" before we take our trip. I hope you guys find this helpful. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Jersey shop hop, there is no doubt in my mind that this trip will be a blast!!!!

Things you may need or need to do:

1. Take an inventory of what cichlids you have and what future cichlids may work well with what you currently have in your tanks
2. Prepare an open tank and have it running in case anything goes wrong and you need to separate cichlids
3. Research what you are interested in purchasing to ensure you have

everything needed to give your new cichlid the best home possible.
Example- PH, water parameters, décor and etc.

4. Be prepared for a long trip so you need to bring a cooler and portable air pump to make sure your cichlids are kept in the best possible health. In the colder months you may need a heating pad, but during this time of the year you should be ok without one.

Follow these simple tips and you will enjoy a great trip to Jersey and a cichlid collection for years to come.



Jersey in July IV Shop Hop Saturday, July 27th 2013



For the fourth consecutive year, we will be joining with our friends in New Jersey for a visit to some of the GREAT Fish Stores in the Northern New Jersey area.

Currently we plan on visiting the following stores. click on them to visit their websites. Remember...Register early so we know who wants to go and who can drive. First come..First served! Friends of the ACLC are always welcome to tag

along

[Fish Hut of NJ](#) , Saddle Brook - [The Aquarium at Rt. 4](#) , Elmwood Park

[Absolutely Fish](#) , Clifton - [Adam's Pet Safari](#), Chester

[Pet Shanty](#) , Scotch Plains - [Shark Aquarium](#) , Hillside

We will try and visit as many shops as the time allows. We will also stop for lunch and dinner if possible. Plan on leaving early and returning about 2.5 hours after the last stop! Use the registration form below to Join us for a day of Fish,

Food & Friends! If you have any questions, please contact Kurt Johnston at
kaj41354@comcast.net

