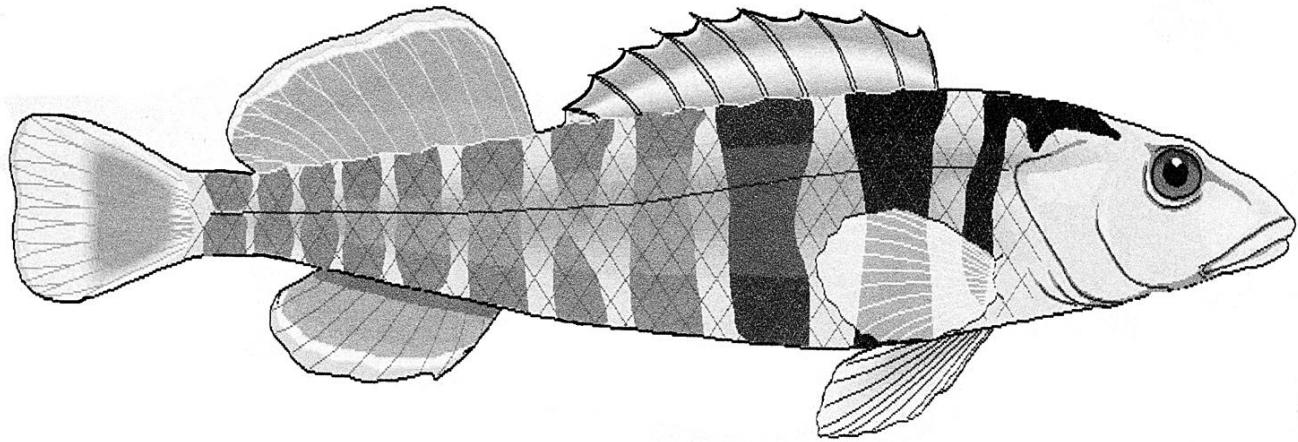


The Darter

September - October 2007



**Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc
St. Louis, Missouri**

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MASI's official web page: www.missouriaquariumsociety.org

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Opinions expressed by the contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Missouri Aquarium Society, Incorporated.

Places to Be / Things to See

SATURDAY September 29, 2007

Executive Council, 7:30 PM - Hosted by Steve Edie

SUNDAY October 7, 2007

Fall Swap Meet, Noon to 3:00 @ the Stratford Inn

THURSDAY October 18, 2007

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

SATURDAY October 20, 2007

Open House and Fishroom @ Ed and Becky Millinger's in Ste. Genevieve

SATURDAY October 27, 2007 (TENTATIVE)

Executive Council, 7:30 PM - Hosted by Pat Tosie

THURSDAY November 15, 2007

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

SUNDAY November 18, 2007

Auction, 12:00 @ the Stratford Inn

Contact: John Van Asch - 618-277-6165, johnsfishy@att.net

SATURDAY December 1, 2007

Executive Council, 7:30 PM - Hosted by Charles and Sue Harrison

THURSDAY December 20, 2007

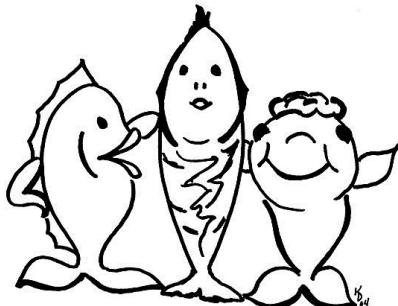
General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

ALL WEEKEND April 18, 19, and 20

Annual Show, Banquet, and Auction @ the Stratford Inn

Contact: Gary McIlvaine - 314-352-3334

Membership



Yearly membership in the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. is \$20 per calendar year (\$15 for the remainder of the year). Membership includes the Darter subscription for the year, which is currently 6 issues. New memberships and renewals can be submitted at club functions such as meetings and auctions, or by contacting our membership chair, Kathy Deutsch at 314-741-0474, katfish@i1.net, or 9 Old Jamestown Ct. Florissant MO 63034

Presidential Preamble

By Mike Hellweg

By the time you read this I hope the long, hot August is forgotten, and the cooler weather of fall is upon us. Preparations are underway for another great fall season of meeting programs, social events, the Swap Meet, and the fall auction. I hope you can make them all, and spend a little time sharing your hobby with your friends in the club!

Elsewhere in this issue are the new changes we're making to update the HAP. Make sure you check them out so you don't come up short when making your submissions! Also, you'll find information in this issue about our supplemental program to the BAP – CARES. This program was initiated by Long Island hobbyist Claudia Dickenson to help get the hobby and the scientific community working together for the preservation of endangered fish species. Scientists are finally realizing that they just can't do it all, and dedicated hobbyists are a definite asset.

Kicking off the fall season, we have the Annual Fall Swap Meet on October 7th from noon until 3:00 pm at the Stratford Inn. This event has become more and more popular with each passing Swap. Get your table reservations in to chairman Bob Buckles (contact information is on the Masthead page). Tables are going fast, and at \$25 they are a real bargain. You can sell anything fish or hobby related – see the rules for details. Admission for those who just want to buy or browse is just \$1, and there will be several attendance prize drawings over the course of the afternoon.

We'll also be planning some social events this fall. Ed and Becky Millinger will be holding an open house/fishroom at their new home in Ste. Genevieve on October 20th. See Ed at the meeting for a map and more details. Cory Koch has stepped up and volunteered to fill one of our new positions – Social Events Coordinator. He will be planning several events over the coming year. The first planned is a group tour to visit the new St. Louis area public aquarium, the Piranha Realm. Others include some fishroom tours, and more! Stay tuned for details – and if you have a suggestion, let Cory know.

Another newly revived program is our Education Outreach Program, headed up by Bart Kraeger. Bart is putting together the program to help reach out and share our hobby with schools around the area. He will undoubtedly be looking for help giving talks to kids, etc. as time goes along. Let him know if you would be interested in helping out.

Our show committee is planning a great event for next spring! We've got some premier speakers – people you would normally have to pay a hefty registration fee to see. You get to hear their programs for FREE as a benefit of your MASI membership. In addition, we'll be once again hosting a huge show. I hope you all can take advantage of the new, relaxed display rules and show at least one fish, plant, aquatic critter, photo, piece of artwork, or 'white elephant'. Have some fun and plan to attend.

One final note. Our membership chair, Kathy Deutsch, continues her slow but steady recovery. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers, and, if you get a chance, drop her an email or give her a call.

...and for now, 'nuff said...

MASI's Annual Swap Meet!

Sunday October 7, 2007
Noon to 3:00 pm
Stratford Inn in Fenton, MO
Admission \$1 per person, children under 10 free!

*Got extra fish? Too much Java Moss? Java Fern growing out of the tank?
Sell 'em! Got an extra tank in the attic or basement? Sell it!
Clean out the extra stuff in your fishroom or closet!*

You can sell anything "fishy" or hobby related!
Fish, plants, tanks, equipment, books, magazines, foods, decorations,
collectibles and more!

**Tables are just \$25 each. Space is limited, so sign up early! We'll also gladly accept
100% donations to be sold at the MASI table.**

**For information and registration, contact chairman Bob Buckles at [robert_buckles AT
hotmail DOT com](mailto:robert_buckles@hotmai DOT com)**

MASI reserves the right to refuse to allow the sale of any illegal or dangerous items, hybrids, Missouri or Illinois native fish or plants, or anything that is not related to the aquarium hobby. Transactions are strictly between the buyer and seller.

[See the rules for further details.](#)

Editor's Notes

Steve Deutsch

This issue has large BAP and HAP reports, including changes to each program. It also has a show report - something that has been missing for a while, since the show has been missing from the club calendar. There are two other articles with a 'show' theme. There's probably a subliminal hint in there somewhere. Let's all help Gary McIlvaine make this a successful re-introduction, and not a reminder of why we stopped!

Those of you who visit the MASI web page know we had some older Darter articles there. This would mainly be because the editor didn't send in newer Darter articles to the webmistress. As of now, both Ralph Wilhelm Award winning articles are on the web, as are several other articles from the past couple of years. You still have a chance to win the third Ralph Wilhelm award, worth \$100 and the respect of your peers, with the new added bonus of having your article added to the award winners on the Internet, for the world to see. The deadline for the final issue of the year is October 15.

On a personal note, Kathy is recovering well from her latest surgery. We'd like to thank everyone in the club for their messages, thoughts, and prayers during this time. A long few months were made easier knowing how much concern and support were out there.

Keeping and breeding Chromidotilapia guntheri

Cory Koch

While Chromidotilapia guntheri have been in the hobby for many years, I first stumbled across them while visiting the home of fellow M.A.S.I. member Lawrence Kent. I was there to pick up some Tanganyikan cichlids, and as I stopped to admire a large, planted tank in the Kent family room; Lawrence explained to me that he had caught the fish in this tank on one of his business trips to Africa. I had to ask him again what the name of the fish was as I tried getting a good look at the fish through the heavy vegetation in the tank. “Chromidotilapia guntheri” he repeated patiently. Just then I caught a glimpse of brilliant red behind what I believe was some sort of anubias! A closer look revealed a fish with a mostly brown base, and a red blotch behind the gill cover. The dorsal fin showed a lot of metallic blue coloration and a dramatic red edge. The red I had seen earlier was the very red belly of the female fish. Lawrence explained that these were some of his favorite fish partially due to the brood care by the *male*. He went on to tell me that he had collected this particular pair in October of 2006 from the Niger River in Bamako, Mali. I was intrigued, “What are they called again?” I asked as we moved on to the Tanganyikan cichlids that were the reason for the trip. “Chromidotilapia guntheri.” “Right” I said. Turns out he would have to repeat the name to me several more times over the coming weeks, as for some reason I could *not* get the name to stick in my head. “Just remember tilapia” he said...

Several months later when Lawrence decided to take a new job out of state, he had to part with many of his fish, and I was fortunate enough to get the Chromidotilapia guntheri pair! By this point I had done a little bit of homework, and between picking Lawrence’s brain and reading “The Cichlid Fishes of Western Africa” by Anton Lamboj, I learned that these fishes can be found in the coastal countries of Western Africa including Sierra Leone, Cameroon and obviously Mali. The climate tends to be very hot with *two* dry seasons and water temperatures can easily reach into the nineties. The fish have been found in both savannah and forested regions in water that tends to be slightly acidic and on the softer side. However due to the dry/rainy/ dry season changes, water parameters do fluctuate and the fish do well in harder water with higher ph values as well. In the wild, Chromidotilapia guntheri feed on a diet of detritus, algae, aufwuchs, and shrimp eggs.

I set them up in a forty gallon “breeder” tank with silica “play sand” from the hardware store as a substrate, a large piece of arched driftwood for some cover, and lightly “planted” the aquarium with some Anubias barteri and java fern attached to the driftwood. I threw in some java moss and some hornwort to provide an additional sense of security for the fish. Water quality is maintained using simple sponge filtration, and weekly water changes of about 35%. The ph is kept at around 7.0, water hardness has a TDS reading of around 180. Plain fluorescent shop lights on a 12 hour timer provide the light needed for the plants. And finally the temperature is kept at around 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

On a steady diet of live black worms, daphnia, New Life Spectrum pellets, as well as spirulina flakes and veggie flakes, it only took the fish about a month to spawn. I have yet to actually observe the entire spawning process, despite having three batches of fry. I know when a spawn is imminent as the colors of the male and female intensify with the females belly becoming a bright, glowing red, but somehow I always seem to come in on the tail end, just in time to witness the male picking up the eggs and holding them in his buccal cavity. According to the book, the female will lay all of her eggs before the male fertilizes them and picks them up. After the female lays the eggs, she becomes the dominant fish in the tank, chasing off intruders and protecting the perimeter of the spawning site. The male basically hid under the driftwood, not taking any food while he incubated the eggs. The bulge in his buccal cavity growing slightly each day until after twelve days I noticed that the male was eating and

feared the worst. I was across the room and saw him picking at the sandy bottom. As I approached the tank I saw about thirty to forty fry were swimming clumsily around the male. When the male noticed my presence, he seemed to give a slight head jerk to signal the babies to run for cover, and just like that they were gone! The fry all swam hurriedly single file back into his mouth. I have seen this behavior several times since, and the whole thing takes about two seconds, but is one of the most amusing sights I have seen in my fishroom yet. This brood care will go on for several weeks as the fry grow. I have also witnessed the female allow a few straggler fry to *briefly* seek refuge in her mouth when they are too far to make it back to the male. However for the most part he takes full responsibility for them. Eventually they get to large to fit in his mouth, but he will continue to guard over them until it is time to spawn again.

I fed the fry well with freshly hatched baby brine shrimp and crushed spirulina flake each day in the spawning tank for about three weeks. I then siphoned them out into a 10 gallon grow out tank a few rows down on the rack. Once in there own tank I continued to feed the fry baby brine, but also made sure they got plenty of greens in the form of various mixed flake concoctions. The fry have grown well with this mix and reached an inch in less than two months time.

I have to say that what I have found to be the coolest aspect of keeping and spawning *Chromidotilapia guntheri* is the role reversal from typical cichlid behavior. It is very interesting to me that not only is the female the more attractive of the species, but she also defends the territory while the male is the primary care giver to the fry.

Coming across *Chromidotilapia guntheri* by accident was a great reminder to me that some of the most fascinating species can be right under your nose, and I highly recommend *Chromidotilapia guntheri* to anyone who is interested in fish behavior. Not the newest or flashiest cichlid around, but this is one peaceful fish that is a lot of fun to observe rearing fry.

August Bowl Show Results

Monthly Class Anabantoids:

- 1st: *Betta splendens* Crown Tail (Male) by Dwayne Peters
- 2nd: *Betta splendens* Red (Male) by Dwayne Peters
- 3rd: *Trichogaster trichopterus* (Male Blue Gourami) by Marlon Feldman

Open Class:

- 1st: *Pterophyllum scalare* (Male Koi Angel) by Dwayne Peters
- 2nd: *Hypseobrycon pulchripinnis* (Lemon Tetra) by Dwayne Peters
- 3rd: *Pristella maxillaris* (Pristella Tetra) by Dwayne Peters

Yes, Dwayne got the most points possible at a monthly bowl show.

There were 9 entries: 5 from Dwayne Peters, 2 from Marlon Felman, and 2 from Bob Newton. Thank You for bringing your fish to show! You make the Bowl Show.

Thank You to Brian Compton for being one of the Judges.

2008 Annual Show Update

By: Gary McIlvaine

Hello fellow MASI members. I just want to keep you up to date on what is going on in the Annual show planning process. Things are looking really exciting for the 2008 show!! I have the hard work of my committee members to thank for that. The most exciting thing to me is our superstar lineup of Speakers. We have AD KONINGS and CHARLEY GRIMES already lined up to speak. There are two others lined up for the most part, but I want to wait until things are for sure to publish that. This is the kind of all star cast you would normally only see at a national show, and I am happy that MASI is strong enough to arrange this kind lineup for us locally!!

The Show itself is April 18, 19, and 20th. The show is at the Stratford Inn in Fenton, Mo. 800 S. Highway Drive Fenton, Mo. 63026 636-343-5757. I am including this information, because our show is already attracting attention from our neighboring clubs. There will be some out of town people attending. The show is going to be a great time to talk fish and learn secrets from some of the country's greatest fish minds.

Ad Konings is a world renowned author. He has authored 33 books and counting all on the cichlids of the African rift lakes!! Please visit his website at the WWW.cichlidpress.com. If you want a teaser or more information. I personally saw him speak at the ACA in Chicago and it was the best talk I have ever attended.

Charley Grimes is going to be our banquet speaker. He is the one I first heard the term BAP slut from. Charley gives a talk to those of us in the hobby and not. He is definitely the kind of speaker you can bring your significant (non fish) person to. I am delighted to have him as our banquet speaker.

The docket is quite full and many of you out of Towner's are wondering about the show itself, Well with the two year break we are planning to make things a little easier as far as the show goes, we will now also have "just fish" in addition to the aquarium beautiful show!! We are trying to make things easier for all involved and the first thing we want to improve is the number of entrees in the show. Show entrée is going to be \$5 for the first entrée and then \$1 for each subsequent entry not to exceed \$14 for as many entrees and you want to place. This is to help defray the cost of the show, because as you can imagine it will cost a few \$.

Mike Hellweg has also arranged things with the hotel to make sure the show is booked and we have the rooms we need to make this a first class professional event. I also want to make an appeal to all of you guys out of town and the newcomers to MASI. I am not a pro like some of the guys in the club. Don't let that stop you, or make you feel shy about attending, or showing fish. If you have questions ask me, and if I do not have the answer I will find someone that does. Please bring your fish to show, however ask a pro now on how to prepare for it. There are a number of club members who know how to show fish and don't mind telling and explaining it to a beginner. All you need to do is ask.

REQUEST FOR HELP!!

I would like everyone who is a member of MASI, and anyone who is thinking about joining, to take the weekend off work and plan on attending the event. There will be a number of different things going on, but the one thing that makes any show fun is a large number of attendants. Please also remember that we need entries in the show. If you are a member of MASI, please start planning now to show a fish or two. If you are thinking let someone else do it, STOP. This is the one thing you can do as a member to keep our hobby strong.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you and your fish in April 2008.

A Look into the Past

By Mike Hellweg

With all of the talk on promoting our reinvigorated Spring Weekend, I recently came across some information from the past and thought I'd give you a glimpse into MASi a quarter century and more ago.

It was the spring of 1976. The United States of America was in the midst of its two hundredth birthday celebration – the Bicentennial. There were only 3 national television channels and all signed off for the evening at midnight or 1:00 am. Vietnam was still fresh in everyone's minds, as were the tumultuous 60's. Gerald Ford was president, and a former Georgia governor and peanut farmer named Jimmy Carter was about to get his party's nomination and give him a challenge for the White House. "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron was the sports hero of the day, having just broken Babe Ruth's homerun record two years earlier. Computers took up an entire room, needed their own air conditioning system, and would "never have any practical application in the home".

Gasoline prices were ridiculously high, having shot over the 70 cent per gallon mark. Everyone was talking about the "energy crisis" (oil and coal were going to be exhausted in 10 years!) and the coming of a new Ice Age. The world's Rainforests, known as "impenetrable jungles" are seen as something to be conquered, not preserved. The Endangered Species Act was only three years old and was hoping to save the Bald Eagle and the American Alligator, both of which had almost been completely wiped out.

In pop culture, disco music somehow became popular. George Lucas was a relatively unknown young director, and Luke Skywalker, the Jedi, the Force, and Darth Vader would not come into the vernacular for another year. John Wayne was alive and well and drawing huge audiences. Elvis Presley (in the Vegas Elvis persona) was still drawing legions of screaming women. The evil Yoko Ono was still keeping John and the rest of the Beatles apart.

I was in the seventh grade, starting to think about high school. I had been keeping fish for many years already, but had just received my first 'real' aquarium some three years earlier. I was a regular visitor to Bennett's Tropical Fish, and loved to collect my Mom's S & H Green Stamps to use at the huge semi-annual Famous Barr tropical fish sale, where you could by all kinds of great fish for less than 10 cents each. Woolworth's at River Roads Shopping Center was also a great source of fish. An entire corner of the basement of their store was dedicated to pets, with most of that being taken up by tropical fish. Sam the Mynah bird greeted everyone as they entered the department, and they even sold monkeys!

MASI was 17 years old, and celebrating their 2nd Annual Spring Weekend (and 16th Annual Show). I recently came across a copy of the Aquarium News Journal, the official publication of the Aquarist Book Society, dated May 1976 and thought I'd share a bit about our club's 2nd big show, as related through the pages of the ANJ. The writer of the article is not given credit, but with an editorial staff that included Klink Cook, Braz Walker, Val Olcott and others, you can expect it would be one of them. The article is entitled "St. Louis, Harbinger of Spring".

Featured speakers this weekend of April 23 – 25 at the Holiday Inn North (now the new Lambert expansion runway) included the host of the PBS television series "Guppies to Groupers" – Paul Speice. He spoke on the filming of the TV series and gave the audience a behind the scenes tour of the set. Another featured speaker was John Stanton, the president of the International Betta Congress, who also served as a judge for a large Betta show held in conjunction with the MASi show. There was also an International Fancy Guppy Association show held in conjunction with the MASi show. What a weekend!

Other speakers included Dr. George O'Conner, speaking on the new hobby of keeping Marine Invertebrates, and MASI member Washington University Pathologist Dr. Luis Alvarez speaking on fish diseases. Lest you think they were all celebrities, hobbyist speakers were not forgotten. Denny Brock "well known in the Midwest for his wit, his judging, his interest in the hobby, and his innovative ideas" gave a program entitled "How to be a Packrat in your Fishroom". Another hobbyist speaker, Ms. Pat Mussatto, the editor of the Valley Stream, gave a late night hands-on presentation on Gyotaku, the Japanese art of fish printing. Ms. Mussatto was also the secretary of the Federation of Aquarium Societies, and one of its founding members.

Our own Bill Macrum, the late owner of Beldt's Aquarium, gave a talk on filtration and aeration, and introduced the audience to the "drip system". And, of course, Bill and Ginny opened up the hatchery for a tour for all of the registered participants in the weekend. There was also a tour of the St. Louis Zoo. Dr. James Thomerson, professor at SIUE gave a talk on Killies; Homer Arment, trustee of the American Cichlid Association gave a talk on Cichlids; our own Jim Thale, still an active hobbyist and MASI member, then president of Gateway Guppy Associates and 1975 Holder of the IFGA Gold Class Guppy Breeder award, spoke on Guppies. No mention is made of an auction on Sunday, but with all of those great speakers, who had time for an auction?

The Saturday evening banquet and awards dinner featured a dance with music by the Velvetones. Lodging at the Holiday Inn was only \$18 a night for singles, or \$22 a night for doubles, with babysitting provided by the hotel. Imagine that!

Hopefully some 30 years in the future, someone will take a look back on our 2008 Annual Spring Weekend and be able to say – wow, what a weekend they had! I hope we see you there!

Club Hopping

Steve Edie

Oct 7 -- St Louis, MO: Missouri Aquarium Society – Swap Meet

Oct 13 -- Cincinnati, OH: Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society – Auction

Oct 13-14 -- Kalamazoo, MI: Southwest Michigan Aquarium Society - Workshop and Auction

Oct 21 -- Milwaukee, WI: Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Auction

Oct 21 – Chicago, IL: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association – Swap Meet

Oct 26-28 – East Hanover, NJ: North Jersey Aquarium Society – Annual Convention

Nov 16-18 -- Cleveland, OH: Ohio Cichlid Association – Cichlid Extravaganza

Nov 18 -- St Louis, MO: Missouri Aquarium Society – Auction

Dec 2 -- Chicago, IL: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association – Swap Meet

April 11-13, 2008 -- Hartford, CT: Northeast Aquarium Council – Annual Convention

Jul 17-20, 2008 – Atlanta, GA: American Cichlid Association – Annual Convention

Oct xx, 2008 – Laurel, MD: All-Aquarium Catfish Convention – Convention

Jul xx, 2009 – Cincinnati, OH: American Cichlid Association – Annual Convention

Saving Livebearer's Fry the Natural Way

By Bob Berdoulay

Reprinted from April 2006 Gravel Gossip of the Diamond State Aquarium Society

Need a place for all those baby livebearers to hide? Instead of using breeding traps I load the tank with a variety of plants that enable the fry to avoid being food for mom and dad. A combination of bottom plants and floating plants gives the babies places to hang out until they are big enough to not be considered food by the parents.

A few of the most common floating plants are *riccia* (*Riccia fluitans*), duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and the fine leaved (a misnomer since this is a fern, this term should be fronds) water sprite (*Ceratopteris thalictroides*). The first two are found worldwide, while water sprite is to be found in the tropics. All of these plants are easy to maintain. They seem to do best in water that is slightly acidic (pH=6.8), temperatures of 75-80° F, and like the water soft. The lighting requirements are modest since they do not need a lot of light. The *riccia* and water sprite are members of the fern group and will grow best if not under constant agitation. Duckweed likewise prefers quiet waters and will grow rapidly.

The water sprite produces long, trailing roots along with wide spreading fronds that will provide your fry with places to hide. This plant grows rapidly and sends out daughter plantlets on its fronds. Your tank surface can become quite overgrown in a short period of time and pruning will be necessary. The *riccia* is also a fern and grows in a tangled mass at the surface, thus also providing shelter for the fry. The shading that is produced lowers the amount of light reaching the substrate of the tank; therefore you need to think about shade tolerant plants for the bottom plantings. Three choices come to mind; the water sprite can be planted in the substrate and will grow in an upright position. Java Fern (*Microsorium pteropus*), and/or Java moss (*Vesicularia dubyana*), both from Southeast Asia, can be used in the tank by attaching them to rocks or wood. I use the Java moss in large clumps lying loose on the bottom of a bare tank. This provides adequate shelter for fry while on the bottom with the water sprite doing the same at the surface.

A major drawback to using these floating plants is their rapid growth and thus covering the entire surface of the water. This makes it difficult to feed your fish as they find it hard to locate the flakes among the plants or the flakes land on top of the plants and rot. It is necessary to keep some area of the surface clear of plants. I read about a solution to the problem years ago, but I can't remember where, (that's age!). It is fairly simple and will control the plants, especially the duckweed, in particular. This device is the "plant barrier." The barrier is anything that will contain the plants and prevent them from spreading over the entire surface of the tank. I believe the original device I read about was made of soda straws, bent, and connected end to end in various shapes and used to surround the plants. The problem was that the straws would eventually fill with water and sink, thus freeing the plants. I made my barrier from airline tubing and connected the ends with small pieces of hard plastic tubing. The only shape I formed was a ring but it worked and never sank.

Try this natural way to provide hiding places for fry, I have found that I usually wind up with plenty of young without having the trauma of moving the females in and out of breeding traps.

References:

Rudiger Riehl and Hans A. Baensch, Aquarium Atlas, Vol. 1, Microcosm, Ltd., 1997

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BAP Update – MASi CARES

By Steve Edie

The MASi BAP program is making another change by incorporating the CARES program into our species criteria. C.A.R.E.S. stands for Conservation Awareness and Recognition of Endangered Species. Its purpose is to encourage hobbyists to make special efforts to maintain, propagate, and disperse endangered species to other hobbyists to ensure that these species survive. Various threats are destroying the natural habitats of these species so our efforts are needed so that future generations may be able to enjoy them. There are currently 380 such species and the list continues to grow. We are probably aware of the unfortunate situations in Lake Victoria, (cichlids), Madagascar, (everything), and Northern Mexico (Goodeids), but there are many other species and locations worldwide at risk. The CARES Species at Risk list can be found on their webpage at <http://www.carespreservation.com>. Please look it over and consider working with some of these species.

To provide extra incentive to our BAP participants, any CARES species submitted will receive double the base point value for the species. In addition, if the same species is spawned again by the same breeder, it can be turned in again for base points, provided fry are donated each time. (Double points only apply to first submission of a priority species by each breeder.) Our objective to get these species firmly established within the hobby, to ensure their survival.

Since this has been under discussion about becoming part of our program for several months now, I am incorporating it retroactively to the first of this year. I'm aware that some of our members have bred some of these same species over the last several years, but it's not clear when some of these species became endangered. So I drew the line at the first of the year. Adjustments to point totals have been made for this year's submissions. Notes are in the monthly BAP report.

BAP Report

Steve Edie

| Member | Species | Common | Pts | Total |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|-------|
| July 2007 | | | | |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Fundulopanchax gardneri nigerianus</i> "Misaje" | | 15 | 1637 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Neolebias trewavasae</i> * | | 25 | 1662 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Rasbora</i> sp. "thuzari" | Glowlight Rasbora | 20 | 1682 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Limia caymanensis</i> * | Cayman Island Limia | 10 | 2787 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Scolichthys iota</i> * | Goldbelly Topminnow | 15 | 2802 |
| Cory Koch | <i>Chromidotilapia guntheri</i> | | 10 | 586 |
| Cory Koch | <i>Tilapia snyderae</i> @ | | 30 | 616 |
| Gary Lange | <i>Hyphessobrycon flammeus</i> | Flame Tetra | 15 | 1524 |
| Gary Lange | <i>Rasbora</i> sp. "thuzari" | Glowlight Rasbora | 20 | 1544 |
| Gary McIlvaine | <i>Archocentrus</i> sp. "Honduran Red Point" | | 10 | 421 |
| Dwayne Peters | <i>Pterophyllum scalare</i> | Koi Angelfish | 2 | 12 |

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| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|------|
| Steven Hoffman | <i>Limia vittata</i> | Cuban Limia | 5 | 45 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Farlowella acus</i> | | 20 | 120 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Fundulopanchax sjoestedti</i> | Blue Gularis | 15 | 135 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Nothobranchius korthausae</i> "Mafia Island" (Tan 02-05) * | @ | 35 | 170 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Nematolebias whitei</i> | Rio Pearlfish | 15 | 185 |
| Cory Koch | <i>Melanotaenia utcheensis</i> * | <i>Utchee Creek Rainbowfish</i> | 15 | 631 |
| Cory Koch | <i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus</i> "Lokoundje" * | | 20 | 651 |
| Cory Koch | <i>Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl</i> | | 5 | 656 |
| Mark & Tammy Langer | <i>Uaru amphiacanthoides</i> | Waroo | 20 | 720 |
| Ed Millinger | <i>Gymnogeophagus balzanii</i> | | 10 | 500 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Dario hysginon</i> * | | 20 | 1325 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Hemichromis frempongi</i> * | | 15 | 1340 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Hemichromis lifalili</i> | Jewel Cichlid | 10 | 1350 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Hemirhamphodon kapuasensis</i> * | Red Striped Halfbeak | 15 | 1365 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Limia caymanensis</i> | Grand Cayman Limia | 5 | 1370 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Nomorhamphus liemi</i> | Southern Harlequin Halfbeak | 10 | 1380 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Scleromystax barbatus</i> | | 15 | 1395 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Tanichthys micagemmae</i> @ | Vietnamese White Cloud | 20 | 1415 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Tilapia gutturosa</i> * @ | | 25 | 1440 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Xenophallus umbratilis</i> | Golden Teddy | 15 | 1455 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Xiphophorus helleri guntheri</i> "Golden Stream, Belize" * | | 10 | 1465 |

* = First MASI species spawn (5 point bonus)

** = First MASI species and genus spawn (10 point bonus)

*** = First MASI species, genus and family spawn (15 point bonus)

@ = C.A.R.E.S. Species at Risk (Double base points)

The C.A.R.E.S. program is being implemented retroactive to the first of 2007. Adjustments have been made to the point totals of the following:

Mike Hellweg: *Xiphophorus couchianus* (+10)

Cory Koch: *Melanotaenia parva* (+10)

Cory Koch: *Pundamilia nyererei* (+10)

Gary Lange: *Melanotaenia parva* (+10)

Mark & Tammy Langer: *Xenotoca eiseni* (+15)

Gary McIlvaine: *Zoogoneticus tequila* (+15)

Gary McIlvaine: *Haplochromis obliquidens* (+10)

Gary McIlvaine: *Xenoophorus captivus* (+15)

HAP Report May-Aug 2007

Mike Hellweg

Whew! What a couple of months! You may have noticed that there was not an HAP report in the last issue of *The Darter*. I was just too overwhelmed and didn't get the report together in time to meet the deadline. I'm finally getting caught up. We've had well over 100 submissions for the HAP in just the past 4 months. It has easily been the busiest couple of months since the first few months of the program.

Recognition:

First, I'd like to welcome two new participants to the program: Tammy Clemente and Dwayne Peters. Both have recently turned in their first propagations. And congratulations to Andy Walker, who has reached the level of Senior Aquatic Horticulturist.

Important notes:

There have been many more new "species/varietal/cultivar" submissions, too. Unfortunately, some of you will note that your submissions have not been included in this report. I still have a small stack of about 15 or 16 submissions that I have not yet been able to verify as to what they actually are. Some may have hobby names or trade names, but these mean nothing in our program. They are also almost impossible to find on the web. You can only get credit for **RECOGNIZED** species, cultivars, varietals, and hybrids. Along with rigid standards for botanical nomenclature – just as with fish - there is also a set of rules for what qualifies as a new name for a cultivar, varietal, or hybrid (in botany, hybrids are acceptable, unlike with most fish). The local or internet plant dealer just giving them a name doesn't count, just as it doesn't count with fish in the BAP.

If you read the HAP rules, it clearly states that it is the entrant's responsibility to identify the plant properly before turning it in. If you can't do so, neither can I. All I am supposed to do is verify **YOUR** identification. So please help me out when you're submitting something new and tell me a few things. Before you turn it in, I need to know where you got it, who gave it the name, and where I can verify this name with either page, title, and author citation to a book, an HTTP for a legitimate BOTANICAL database or a CULTIVAR database. Rushing to turn it in isn't going to help as I can't give credit until I can verify it, and I can't do that unless you tell me where to find it. A couple good databases that I use are the Missouri Botanical Garden database

(<http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html>) and the USDA plant list

(http://plants.usda.gov/about_plants.html). These are official sites. There are many others out there, such as several university botanical databases, several state Ag department databases, etc. Published books are obviously acceptable. A citation for a collection location for wild plants is also acceptable, as long as that location is in the plant's natural range. Many books do misidentify plants, but it still gives me a place to start in verifying your submission. But "Joe the plant guy" is not an acceptable identification source. Trade names are not acceptable, as each dealer can (and often does) create their own name. Some internet dealers are getting reputations for creating 'new' names just to sell their plants, and others for substituting different species for the one they claim they are sending. With the plethora of internet dealers, there is just a lot of misidentification going on. I need something I can go to, look it up, and say "yeah, okay, that's the plant and yeah, it's valid." Some of you have taken to copying and printing the botanical web searches you do – that helps me a lot. Thank you!

Rules changes:

We will also be changing the rules of the HAP come the first of October, going back to the old rules for submission. You can check out the full rules update on our website. We will also have handouts at the meeting with the new rules so you can update your membership booklet. A few years ago we eased up the submission rules a bit to encourage more of you to participate, but some folks have been taking advantage and others have been complaining – rightly so. Therefore we are returning to the old submission rules. A summary is below.

Stem plant changes:

In order to get credit for a vegetative propagation of a stem plant, you have to turn in at least 5 stems each at least 6 inches long, even of the 20 point ones. That's why they are 20 pointers. It isn't supposed to be easy to grow a 20 pointer! A single one or two inch cutting without growth nodes is not acceptable as proof of propagation. The idea is to give someone else a chance to get the plant going, and also to show that you have propagated it.

Floating plant changes:

In order to get credit for a vegetative propagation of a floating plant, you must turn in a bag full of it, not just a few leaves of duckweed or a single water sprite plant. Again, the idea is to both show that you have propagated the plant successfully, AND to share the plant with fellow club members so they can have a reasonable chance of success with it.

Seedling changes:

For credit for a seedling, you need to first submit a bloom for credit. If you don't submit the bloom, you can't get credit for the seedling. To make it easy, you can send me a digital photo of the bloom via email. Nice, sharp pictures will be posted on the HAP page on the website.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call or drop me a note via email. I'm always happy to talk with you about your HAP concerns. Our HAP rules are not set in stone. The HAP committee is also always open to changes if you think they would be appropriate. After all, it is **YOUR** HAP program.

....keep 'em green

| Member | Species | Common | Rep | Pts | Total |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Andy Walker | <i>Ceratopteris pteroides</i> | Spongeleaf Water Sprite | V | 5 | 180 |
| Andy Walker | <i>Phyllanthus fluitans</i> | Red Root Floater | V | 5 | 185 |
| Andy Walker | <i>Phyllanthus fluitans</i> | Red Root Floater | IB | 10 | 195 |
| Andy Walker | <i>Vallisneria americana</i> mini twist | Mini Twist Val | V | 5 | 200 |
| Andy Walker | <i>Pogostemon stellatus</i> | | V | 15 | 215 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Bolbitis heudelotii</i> | African Water Fern | V | 10 | 1170 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Cryptocoryne balansae</i> | | V | 15 | 1185 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Limnophila aromatica</i> | Aromatic Figwort | V | 10 | 1195 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Ludwigia ovalis</i> | | V | 10 | 1205 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Pogostemon stellatus</i> narrow | | V | 15 | 1220 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Echinodorus</i> sp. Oriental | Oriental Sword | V | 15 | 1235 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Lilaeopsis mauritiana</i> * | | V | 10 | 1245 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Nymphoides</i> sp. Taiwan* | | V | 20 | 1265 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Rotala</i> sp. Nanjenshan | | V | 15 | 1280 |

| Member | Species | Common | Rep | Pts | Total |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Jerry Jost | <i>Hemianthus micranthemooides</i> | Baby's Tears | IB | 20 | 1300 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Hemianthus micranthemooides</i> | Baby's Tears | V | 15 | 1315 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Echinodorus</i> sp. Oriental | Oriental Sword | IB | 20 | 1335 |
| Jerry Jost | <i>Cryptocoryne spiralis</i> | | V | 15 | 1350 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Bacopa amplexicaulis</i> | Giant Red Bacopa | IB | 15 | 550 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Echinodorus</i> sp. Oriental | Oriental Sword | S | 15 | 565 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Ottelia ulvifolia</i> | | IB | 20 | 585 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Limnophila aromatica</i> | Aromatic Figwort | IB | 15 | 600 |
| Charles Harrison | <i>Limnophila aromatica</i> | Aromatic Figwort | V | 10 | 610 |
| Dwayne Peters | <i>Echinodorus bleheri</i> | Bleher's Amazon Sword | V | 15 | 15 |
| Tammy Clemente | <i>Ceratopteris thalicroides</i> | Water Sprite | V | 5 | 5 |
| Maureen Green | <i>Sagittaria graminea variegata</i> "Crushed Ice"* | Crushed Ice Arrowhead | V | 5 | 1290 |
| Maureen Green | <i>Sagittaria graminea variegata</i> "Crushed Ice" | Crushed Ice Arrowhead | OB | 5 | 1295 |
| Gary McIlvaine | <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> | Hornwort | V | 5 | 25 |
| Gary McIlvaine | <i>Lemna minor</i> | Dwarf Duckweed | V | 5 | 30 |
| Gary McIlvaine | <i>Najas guadalupensis</i> | Najas Grass | V | 5 | 35 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Anemopsis californica</i> * | Western Lizard Tail | V | 10 | 625 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Caltra palustris</i> | Marsh Marigold | V | 10 | 635 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Caltra palustris</i> | Marsh Marigold | OB | 10 | 645 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Lobelia erinus</i> * | | V | 10 | 655 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Lobelia erinus</i> | | OB | 10 | 665 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Lobelia fulgens</i> * | Queen Victoria Bellflower | V | 10 | 675 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Lobelia fulgens</i> | Queen Victoria Bellflower | OB | 10 | 685 |
| John Van Asch | <i>Lobelia puberula</i> * | Downy Lobelia | OB | 10 | 695 |
| Marlon Felman | <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> | Hornwort | V | 5 | 20 |
| Marlon Felman | <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> | Hornwort | IB | 10 | 30 |
| Marlon Felman | <i>Najas guadalupensis</i> | Najas Grass | V | 5 | 35 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> forma <i>gracilis</i> * | Narrow leaf Sag | V | 5 | 2570 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> forma <i>gracilis</i> | Narrow leaf Sag | IB | 10 | 2580 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Utricularia minima</i> * | | V | 5 | 2585 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Anubias</i> sp. <i>uyuka</i> Mile 29* | Muyuka Mile 29 African Sword | V | 15 | 2600 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Alternanthera reineckii</i> | Red Hedge | IB | 20 | 1490 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i> | Willow Moss | V | 5 | 1495 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides</i> | Lawn Marshpennywort | V | 10 | 1505 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Ludwigia ovalis</i> | | V | 10 | 1515 |

| Member | Species | Common | Rep | Pts | Total |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Derek Walker | <i>Potamogeton denticulatus</i> | | V | 10 | 1525 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Potamogeton denticulatus</i> | | IB | 15 | 1540 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Ranunculus inundatus*</i> | Water Buttercup | V | 10 | 1550 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Ammania senegalensis</i> | Giant Ammania | V | 20 | 1570 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Bacopa monnieri</i> | Baby's Tears | S | 10 | 1580 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Hygrophila difformis</i> | Water Wisteria | OB | 5 | 1585 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Micromeria brownei</i> | Creeping Charlie | OB | 15 | 1600 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Micromeria brownei</i> | Creeping Charlie | S | 15 | 1615 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Salvinia natans</i> | Chain Salvinia | V | 5 | 1620 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Tonina fluviatilis Belem*</i> | | V | 15 | 1635 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Tonina fluviatilis</i> | | V | 15 | 1650 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Tonina fluviatilis Manaus*</i> | | V | 15 | 1665 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Typha latifolia</i> | Common Cattail | S | 5 | 1670 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Typha latifolia</i> | Common Cattail | OB | 5 | 1675 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Zephyranthes candida*</i> | Dwarf Onion Plant | V | 20 | 1695 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Aponogeton distachyus</i> | Water Hawthorne | IB | 15 | 1710 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Aponogeton hybridus</i> | | S | 15 | 1725 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Aponogeton hybridus</i> | | V | 15 | 1740 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Aponogeton hybridus</i> | | IB | 10 | 1750 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Aponogeton madagascarensis</i> | Madagascar Lace Plant | V | 20 | 1770 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Cryptocoryne petchii</i> | | V | 15 | 1785 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i> | Dwarf Hairgrass | V | 10 | 1795 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae</i> | | V | 10 | 1805 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Limnophila aromatica</i> | Aromatic Figwort | V | 10 | 1815 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> | | V | 10 | 1825 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> | | OB | 10 | 1835 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Nymphaea lotus</i> | Red Tiger Lotus | V | 20 | 1855 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Potamogeton natans</i> | | V | 10 | 1865 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Potamogeton natans</i> | | OB | 10 | 1875 |
| Derek Walker | <i>Vallisneria sp. nana</i> | Dwarf Val | V | 5 | 1880 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Micromeria brownei</i> | Creeping Charlie | IB | 20 | 620 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Micromeria brownei</i> | Creeping Charlie | V | 15 | 635 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Aponogeton distachyus</i> | Water Hawthorne | IB | 15 | 650 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Aponogeton hybridus</i> | | S | 15 | 665 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Aponogeton undulatus</i> | | V | 15 | 680 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Bacopa myriophylloides</i> | Needle Leaf Bacopa | V | 10 | 690 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Cryptocoryne petchii</i> | | V | 15 | 705 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Cryptocoryne spiralis</i> | | V | 15 | 720 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Cryptocoryne walkeri</i> | | V | 15 | 735 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Lagarosiphon madagascarensis</i> | | V | 15 | 750 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> | Moneywort | V | 10 | 760 |
| Harold Walker | <i>Potamogeton denticulatus</i> | | V | 10 | 770 |

Reproduction Key: V = Vegetative, OB = Outdoor Bloom, IB = Indoor Bloom, S = Seedling

* = MASI First

What's The Point?

Ed Millinger

The point is everytime you contribute to MASi you earn points. Everytime you show fish even if you don't place you earn points. Please remember to print when signing in at the monthly meeting. I have trouble deciphering handwriting. This update is complete after the July general meeting. You must have earned at least four points by then to have made the list.

Through July our average monthly attendance is 38. The bowl participation has been great. Make up your mind to bring a fish and show us what you've got.

Your points tabulator, Ed Millinger

| | Service | Bowl | | | Service | Bowl |
|------------------|---------|------|--|-----------------------|---------|------|
| Jack Berhorst | 20 | | | Rick Jokers | 6 | |
| Michele Berhorst | 14 | | | Jerry Jost | 39 | |
| Klaus Bertich | 50 | 5 | | Cory Koch | 17 | |
| Roy Brandhorst | 60 | | | Bart Krager | 15 | |
| Diane Brown | 37 | | | Gary Lange | 49 | 9 |
| Bob Buckles | 24 | | | Mark and Tammy Langer | 15 | 5 |
| Scott Bush | 7 | 3 | | Gary Mcilvane | 32 | 8 |
| Tammy Clemente | 30 | | | Evan Mcilvane | 6 | |
| Kathy Deutsch | 47 | | | Jim Miller | 11 | 72 |
| Steve Deutsch | 60 | | | Ed Millinger | 45 | |
| Steve Edie | 86 | | | Phillip Newel | 24 | 10 |
| Marlon Felman | 36 | 25 | | Bob Newton | 6 | |
| Thomas Felman | 5 | | | Dwayne Peters | 19 | 27 |
| Maureen Green | 4 | | | Ken Porter | 4 | |
| Steven Green | 4 | | | Brad Riley | 5 | |
| Dave Hassler | 6 | | | Dave Rush | 22 | 3 |
| Charles Harrison | 55 | 5 | | Mark Theby | 55 | |
| Sue Harrison | 18 | | | Rick Tinklenburg | 15 | |
| Jack Heller | 11 | 10 | | Pat Tosie | 48 | |
| Angela Hellweg | 34 | | | John Van Asch | 36 | 2 |
| Mike Hellweg | 111 | | | Andy Walker | 17 | |
| Ron Huck | 19 | 1 | | Derek Walker | 5 | |

Things to Know Before You Show

By Rick Bolger

Reprinted from 2000 Reporter of the North Jersey Aquarium Society

With one eye on your fish room, and the other on your calendar, the answer is "yes," you still have time to prepare a contender or two for that upcoming fish show. The purpose of this tome is to provide people who have never shown a fish - and those who have never shown a winning fish - with a few guidelines for selecting and preparing your show specimens. These guidelines are based on typical judging rules at an ACA or NEC sanctioned show, such as the annual "Extravaganza" show held in New Jersey. The difference between a show contender and an also-ran at most shows depends on five judging criteria: Size, Color, Deportment, Finnage, and Condition. I have to warn you that I am not a judge, so I am not qualified to pontificate on specific fish qualities. But I have scribed for many judges, and I have won a few very tough competitions. So rather than address all the aspects of judging, I'll write about what I do know: How to avoid the pitfalls in each category, and what it takes to win.

Size

I list this first, because it is the easiest to discern and least disputed of the five. In my experience as a scribe, many judges use this as an immediate "pass or fail" for fish. Although it is only 20% of the grade, an undersized fish is usually dismissed outright in the judge's mind. Despite this fact, many aquarists insist on showing undersized fish! I've talked to a few about this, and they all point to some other outstanding factor, "Yeah, but look at his fins!" or "I know he's small, but there's not a flaw on him." In the judge's eyes, your fish is a baby, and will not be a finalist. This is one area where you have to be sure your fish is right...and the rule of thumb is 4/5ths. Make sure your fish is at least 80% as big as it should be. Have a critical eye, and keep that 6" *managuense* home. The point of a fish show is to compete (hence the name, "competition") and there is no point in competing unless you intend to win.

Color

Except for *Bettas*, guppies, *Discus* and goldfish, this is the most disputed category. While judges are often firm in their opinion of size, they tend to soft-pedal the color question. Most react with "color is ok" or "good color"; occasionally they say "I like the color." A good rule of thumb is, if you like the color, most judges will also. If the fish looks washed out and dull to you, the judge will see that too. If you are concerned about the specifics of what color should be where on a given fish, I can only suggest that you do as much research as possible.

Finnage

Most members of this society are very serious about breeding fish. Unfortunately, breeders do not usually make great show fish, because their fins tend to suffer. Be it a cichlid that fans its eggs, or a barb that wrestles its mate, breeder fish get ragged. In my experience, however, finnage is not usually the most critical factor in judging, so if you have a borderline case, don't shy away from showing it. But if your fish has missing spines, holes in the dorsal, etc., don't waste your time. By the same token, excellent finnage will not compensate for an undersized fish.

Condition

In this category, judges look for many factors; some of which are beyond the average fishkeeper like myself. Basically, if the fish looks good, and everybody else says it looks good, the judge will give it good marks for condition. Just don't try to show a fish that "looks great except for..." Condition is the

catch-all for judges. This is where missing scales are noted, curved spines, deformed gill covers, funky eyes...I've scribed for many judges who zero in on a small defect, and focus on it until they see that fish as a sideshow freak. Those are the five "official" judging categories, and the common pitfalls to be avoided. Any trained judge will strongly disagree in principle with my observations, but in practice, this is what they do. And they will positively cringe at the following "unofficial" factors...

Other Influences

This is an unofficial category that you really can't prepare for; I include it so the novice learns to expect bizarre things at a show. Let's say your blue ram looks like a champ in your fishroom. It is always well colored, and robust. You take every precaution during transport, and the show set up goes flawlessly. Suddenly, your fish thinks the tiger barb across the aisle wants to eat it. So it loses all color and decides to hide in the corner. You check everything, but can't figure out the problem. The fish is unable to voice its concerns, and your chances of winning are inexplicably lost.

Sometimes lighting and background can wreak havoc on a fish. The 1999 NJ Extravaganza had a light background, extremely bright overhead lighting, and to top it off, white table covers. Some entrants wondered why fish that showed a deep maroon at home looked pale yellow at show time. Again, there is really no way to prepare for this type of thing, especially when rules prohibit backgrounds.

Be prepared that your fish may not enjoy the show atmosphere as much as you do. As an example, I saw an *Aequidens metae* in a 2 1/2 gallon tank throw a protective film. This is normal I guess, but it looked rather unattractive when it came off and swirled around in the tank. That afternoon I scribed for Wayne Leibel, who pointed to it saying, "That *metae* would be the winner, but it's got all that schmutz in the tank." If the fish had been in a larger tank with a sponge filter, the slime would have been minimized, and the owner would have a trophy.

In short, don't be discouraged by influences beyond your control, but unlike the *metae* owner, don't make it easy for your fish to lose.

The Whims of the Judge

All judges would like you to believe that every aspect of their decision is fair and impartial. They've gone through judging school, and they go by the book. Baloney.

Although they deny it, judges like the same things you and I like. More common species create less excitement. Colorful species get more attention. Judges have the same faults you and I have; they don't know the benchmark for every single species. If the fish has only recently been imported, or is some far-out killie that hasn't been seen for decades, the judge will naturally be more excited by it.

How do you prepare for this? You really can't in the short-term, but for the long-term, you can save a lot of time by not bothering with bread-and-butter fish. All things being equal, zebra danios and *Nandopsis urophthalmus* (the orange tiger, often sold erroneously as a "red terror") just don't win shows, even when they are the best a fish could ever hope to be for its species.

Some judges are just not good judges. In fact, some of the more revered aquarists in this area are second-rate judges at best. They know so much, they simply can't be bothered with the standard point system. In the worst case I ever saw, a judge dispensed with show rules and used the criteria from another organization with a vastly different agenda. In another case, I scribed for a judge who more or less forgot about a handful of fish that were set up elsewhere in the room. As scribe, I reminded him twice about the entries, but he kept getting distracted by the more centrally displayed entries. Finally, he gave a cursory look...but that was about it. I was at another show where the judge gave first place in a class to a fish he had never seen nor even heard of before!

When you enter a show, these are the things you simply cannot prepare for. If your judge happens to be one of the rare few who cannot do the job properly, chalk it up to experience. You're in it to win, but sometimes things just don't work out, so you move on.

Regardless of what happens, you have to do the best you can in preparing your fish. Bring specimens that meet the five judging criteria. Keep an eye out for any potential problems in the show room and where your fish are set up. Sweat the details in transport and set up; above all else, enjoy the competition. And one last thing...my fish will beat yours!

From The Fishroom

By Ed Millinger

Recently while wearing my International Betta Congress t-shirt someone asked me how long I had been involved in politics. But seriously folks, if you have any interest in Bettas especially after Mike's excellent program at the July meeting check out ibcbettas.org. During Mike's program he mentioned my frustration with my pair of Betta macrostoma. What he was talking about was when I observed the female spitting an egg towards the male he let it fall instead of catching it. The female retrieved the egg off the tank bottom, swam towards the male and spit it out with it landing on top of the male's head. In my mind I pictured it as a dunce cap.

You never know what you've got 'til it's gone. When I lived in Webster Groves I was less than two miles from two pet shops. There are no pet shops in Ste. Genevieve. The closet one is in Festus, thirty miles away. There is a Wal-mart twenty miles away in Perryville with some fish but I'm not a fan of Wallyworld. The closest thing to a pet shop in Ste. Genevieve believe it or not is the local True Value hardware store. They carry Tetra foods and Whisper products.

On July 20th I received my October issue of Freshwater and Marine Aquarium (FAMA), at this rate FAMA might beat the department stores in promoting Christmas. By the way in that October issue, Paul Speice has a great article on the importance of water changes. With identical set-ups he changed the water in one and only topped off the other. It took seven months but the topped off only tank started to go downhill while the other one remained stable.

I will be hosting a fishroom open house on October 20th two days after our general meeting. It would be a great time to visit Ste. Genevieve, perhaps stay at a bed and breakfast, visit the National Tiger Sanctuary, the local vineyards, Hawn State Park etc. Look for more information at the general meeting.

Member Classifieds

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MASI Swap Meet Rules

October 7, 2007

Noon to 3:00 PM

1. Admission \$1 per person over age 10.
2. Payment for table(s) must be made BEFORE seller will be allowed to sell.
3. Admission fee will be waived for sellers – Limit 2 free admissions.
4. Sellers must wear nametags for the duration of the Swap Meet so they can be clearly identified.
5. No outside sales by non-registered sellers will be permitted.
6. Sellers must bring their own change, etc. Change will not be available from the MASI table.
7. Each seller may set their own policy as to whether or not they will accept checks, credit cards, etc.
8. No phone hookup for POS devices is available in sales room.
9. Electricity is available, but sellers must bring their own extension cords, multi-outlet strips, etc.
10. **MASI ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR ANY SALES - ALL TRANSACTIONS ARE STRICTLY BETWEEN THE SELLER AND THE BUYER.** MASI is only providing table space and advertising.
11. MASI reserves the right to refuse table space to anyone.
12. In the case of limited availability, preference will be given to MASI members and MASI sponsors first.
13. Seller is responsible for collecting any sales tax that may be due.
14. ONLY aquarium and pond/water garden hobby related merchandise may be sold. Fish, inverts, aquatic plants, fish foods, aquarium or fish books and magazines, pond or aquarium equipment and related decorations and supplies may be sold.
15. All equipment must be in working order, or be sold clearly labeled as "For Parts Only"
16. Leakers must be labeled as such.
17. NO cracked or dangerous tanks may be sold unless they are packaged in such a way as to render them safe for handling.
18. NO reptiles or amphibians may be sold.
19. No deformed, sick or illegal fish or plants may be sold.
20. No Missouri or Illinois native fish or plants may be sold.
21. Fish must be humanely and properly packaged for sale.
22. These rules are not all-inclusive. The Swap Meet chair is the Final Authority.

Attendance prizes will be drawn every half-hour. Must be present to win.

San Antonio Wins Bid for National Tropical Fish Convention

Royal Oaks, MI (August 2, 2007) – The American Livebearer Association (ALA), one of the nation's largest tropical fish societies, announced today that they have selected San Antonio, Texas as the site for their Annual Convention slated for May 1-4, 2008. The winner of the bid was a consortium of hobbyists led by Charles Clappssaddle of Goliad Fish Farms (Goliad, TX). The Houston Livebearers Association (HLA), under the leadership of Max Smith, will be the Official Host.

“We are excited for the opportunity to show off Texas hospitality,” remarked Clappssaddle. “San Antonio is Texas 'number one tourist destination, and it also offers the opportunity to see livebearers in their natural habitats.”

The ALA is a non-profit volunteer organization of hobbyists, scientists, and professional aquarists who breed, study, and collect livebearing fishes. These are fish that give birth to living young, rather than lay eggs like most fish. The ALA publishes a journal and trading post, and sponsors an endowment fund that provides academic scholarships and conservation grants.

“Most people are familiar with the popular guppy and swordtail of home aquariums”, explains ALA Public Relations Chairman, Dr. Ted Coletti. “ALA members are also interested in thousands of other livebearer species and varieties, many of which are threatened with extinction or only survive today in captivity due to pollution, over-development, and the introduction of non-native species.”

The ALA Convention, slated for the Hilton-San Antonio Airport, will consist of 4 days of expert guest speakers with slides; a multi-class competitive fish show with beautiful and exotic livebearers; an all-day auction of fish and dry goods; and a vendor and manufacturer exposition. But Clappssaddle feels it was the extracurricular activities that put Texas over the top in the bidding.

“It was probably because we offered two fantastic collecting trips (Coleto Creek and San Marcos River) which features wild mollies, cichlids, killies, rare gambusia, and aquatic plants, Clappssaddle explained. “And tours of our fish hatchery, as well as the Xiphophorus Genetic Stock Center at Texas State University.”

Texas hobbyists will also benefit from the Convention.

“ALA members from around the world will be bringing fish and plants to San Antonio that most Texas fish keepers have only seen in books or on the internet” explained ALA Chairman Rit Forcier. “There will also be opportunities to share experiences with a multinational group of aquarists.”

The ALA Convention is open to all hobbyists and their families, regardless of membership. Attendees can visit for a few hours or stay the whole weekend. For more information, visit the ALA website at www.livebearer.org, or the Houston Livebearers Association at hla.fotaswebsite.com. Registration materials will be posted by year-end.

- T. Coletti

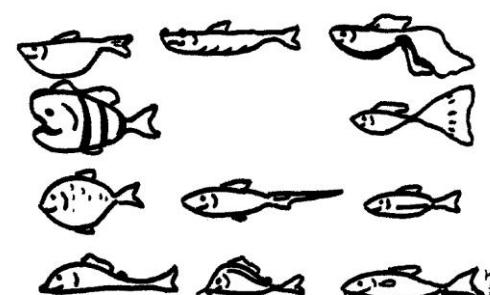


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The Computer Page

Steve Deutsch

MASI's official web page: www.missouriaquariumsociety.org

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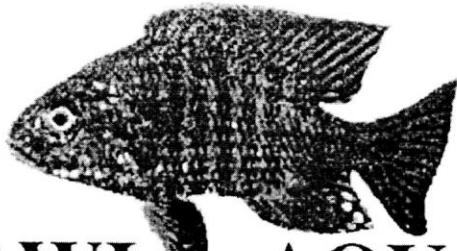
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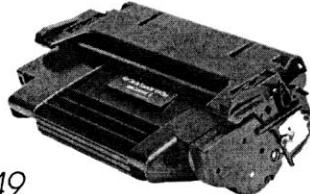
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