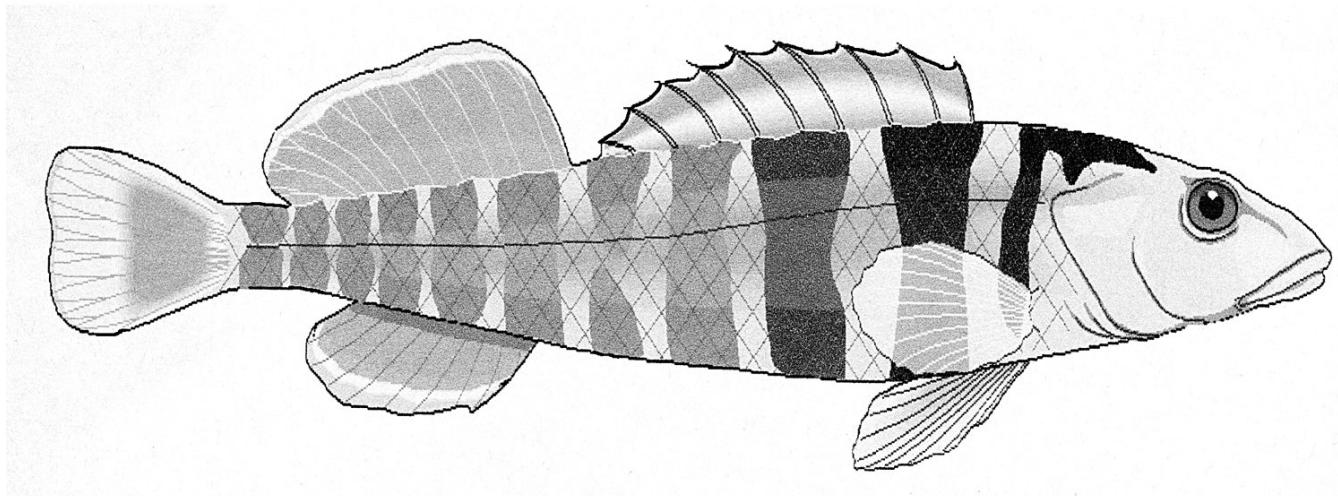


The Darter

March - April 2009



Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc
St. Louis, Missouri

2008-2009 MASI OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT:

Mike Hellweg
511 Sunward Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368
636-240-2443
mhellweg511@charter.net

VICE PRESIDENT:

Gary Lange
2590 Cheshire
Florissant, MO 63033
314-837-6181
gwlange@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER:

Andy Walker
1037 Jackson St.
St. Charles, MO 63301
636-443-1440
awalker02@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY:

Angela Hellweg
511 Sunward Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368
636-240-2443
pugdog64@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Scott Bush	sportspicks@charter.net	314-486-8872
Kathy Deutsch	kathy@skdeu.com	314-741-0474
Marlon Felman	marlonf@bigfoot.com	636-536-4804
Charles Harrison	csharrison@inkmaker.net	314-894-9761
Bart Kraeger	bartck@aol.com	314-443-1038
Pat Tosie	pattosie@yahoo.com	636-225-7625

COMMITTEES:

Advertising & Promotions	Mark Theby	314 428-3536
Auction Chairman	John Van Asch	618-277-6165
Breeders' Award Program	Steve Edie	636-922-4232
Corresponding Secretary	Patrick A. Tosie, Sr	636-225-7625
Editor	Steve Deutsch	314-741-0474
editor@missouriaquariumsociety.com	9 Old Jamestown Ct.	Florissant, MO 63034
Exchange Editor	Steve Deutsch	314-741-0474
Fish Raising Contest	Bob Buckles	314-394-0587
Horticultural Award Program	Mike Hellweg	636-240-2443
Historian	Klaus Bertich	314-849-2164
Librarian	Dave Rush	314-291-8932
Membership	Kathy Deutsch	314-741-0474
Monthly Bowl Show	Bart Kraeger	314-443-1038
Points Tabulator	Ed Millinger	573-883-9943
Postman	Gary McIlvaine	314-352-3334
Printer	Charles Harrison	314-894-9761
Refreshments	Roy Brandhorst	314-838-8093
Show Chairman	Gary McIlvaine	314-352-3334
Social Events Coordinator	Cory Koch	636-278-0736
Swap Meet	Bob Buckles	314-394-0587
Web Mistress	Michele Berhorst	314-894-5543
Welcoming	Ron Huck	314-481-2915

MASI 2008-2009 Officials	Page 2	
Places to Be/Things to See	Page 4	
Presidential Preamble	Mike Hellweg	Page 5
Membership Page	Kathy Deutsch	Page 6
Tips on Shipping Aquatic Plants	Harold Walker	Page 8
2009 Show Classes		Page 9
2009 Show Rules		Page 10
Horticultural Award Program	Mike Hellweg	Page 11
2008 HAP Totals	Mike Hellweg	Page 12
Member Classifieds		Page 12
Breeder's Award Program	Steve Edie	Page 13
Identification of <i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Andy Walker	Page 16
The HAP Chairman's Perspective	Mike Hellweg	Page 19
Fishy Tale – The Big Show	Pat Tosie	Page 21
Computer Page	Steve Deutsch	Page 24
Club Hopping	Steve Edie	Page 25

MASI's official web page: www.missouriaquariumsociety.com
 Join the MASIFishHeads Yahoo Group. See web page for instructions.

EXCHANGE AND REPRINT POLICY

The Missouri Aquarium Society will exchange their publication, THE DARTER, with other aquarium societies. Failure to receive three consecutive issues of a society's publication will be considered as a termination of our exchange with that society, unless advised to the contrary.

Please send exchange publications to:

MASI Exchange

P.O. Box 1682

Maryland Heights, MO 63043-1682

PERMISSION TO REPRINT ANY ARTICLE APPEARING HEREIN IS EXPRESSLY LIMITED TO NON-PROFIT AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT AQUARIUM SOCIETIES ONLY.

Any article appearing herein may be reprinted in the publication of any non-profit or not-for-profit aquarium society. Proper credit must be given to the author and two copies of any publication in which a reprinted article appears must be sent to the exchange address above.

THE DARTER (ISSN 0192-7833) is published bi-monthly by the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc., 1813 Locks Mill Drive, Fenton, MO 63026-2662. Periodicals Postage Rates paid at Fenton, MO. This publication is free to members of the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. and other qualified requesters as determined by the publisher. Subscription requests can be sent to: Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc., 1813 Locks Mill Drive, Fenton, MO 63026-2662.

POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc., P.O. Box 1682 Maryland Heights, MO 63043-1682. Please allow 6-8 weeks for change of address. Include your old address as well as new - enclosing, if possible, an address label from a recent issue.

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

This Darter has been printed with remanufactured toner cartridges from InkForYourPrinter.com

Places to Be / Things to See

SATURDAY March 28, 2009

Executive Council Hosted by Marlon Felman

THURSDAY April 16, 2009

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church
AUCTION AND BANQUET ENTRY DEADLINE!

SATURDAY April 18, 2009

Executive Council Hosted by Scott Bush

FRIDAY May 1- SUNDAY May 3 2009

50th ANNUAL SHOW, WORKSHOP, and AUCTION

Friday May 1 - Setup - noon until 10:00 pm

Saturday, May 2 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm – Speakers and Show

Saturday, May 2 - 6:00 pm – Banquet @ Bevo Mill – cost is \$25 per person, cash bar

Sunday, May 3 – 11:00 am – 6:00 pm – Giant All Species Auction

THURSDAY May 21, 2009

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

SATURDAY May 30, 2009

Executive Council Hosted by Mike and Angela Hellweg

THURSDAY June 18, 2009

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

SUNDAY August 16, 2009

Auction, 12:00 Start, Gardenville Masonic Hall

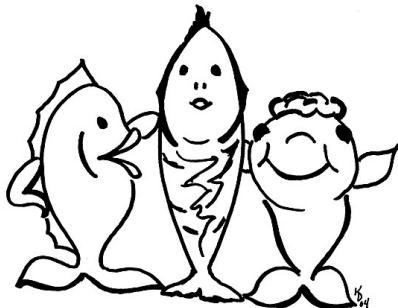
SUNDAY October 4, 2009

Annual Swap Meet, 12:00 – 3:00, Gardenville Masonic Hall

SUNDAY November 22, 2009

Auction, 12:00 Start, Gardenville Masonic Hall

Membership



Yearly membership in the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. is \$20 per calendar 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, kathy@skdeu.com, or 9 Old Jamestown Ct. Florissant MO 63034

Presidential Preamble

By Mike Hellweg

As I write this the show committee has just completed the planning for our 49th Annual Spring Event. You will find the rules and classes elsewhere in this issue of the Darter. You will also soon be able to find them, and fill out your entry forms, on our website. And we'll send a special show packet to everyone with all of the relevant information in it as well. Gary McIlvaine and his crew have put together a line-up of Speakers that even make the Speakers say "Wow". We've had inquiries from many other clubs about coming to the show this year. It looks like it will be a fantastic event! Make some time that weekend to come and see what's going on. Even if you don't think you'll be interested in what a particular speaker is going to be presenting, you may be surprised. I've learned things in EVERY talk that I've attended over the years, even talks on fish that I would never even consider keeping. Drop in and plan to stay for a while and have some fun with your fellow Society members.

Can you believe MASI has been incorporated for 50 years this coming May?

In 1959, the informal group that had been meeting in St. Louis for several years and talking about fish while munching on donuts and drinking coffee formally incorporated as Glenn Tomlin, Sr., Harry Rhoads, and Thomas Boeger sat around the kitchen table finalizing our original Articles of Incorporation on May 16, 1959. You can find a copy of these original Articles in your handbook.

Our original purpose was for "pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes related to the hobby of tropical and marine fish keeping". As those 5 decades have passed, communism has gone from the "Red Menace" to a trite historical concept most kids today don't even learn about in school. It would seem weird to Glenn, Harry and Tom to see us not even include the prohibition against using Society funds for "subversive or un-American activities"! Fortunately for us it seems weird to have ever had to include them. What a change! America has put men on the moon. We have a space telescope that can see farther than we could ever imagine and we have a permanently manned space station in orbit. We've had 10 presidents. We've fought six wars. Computers today are faster than anything ever dreamed of in 1959 and are so small you can hold them in your hand. In 1959, computers took up entire buildings and weren't anywhere near as powerful as our modern handhelds. We've gone from party lines to cell phones and every kid can't go anywhere without a TV (they even build them as standard equipment on minivans today), and yet our Society is still around, following that same core mission, expanding and building on it and growing stronger each passing year.

Now our Society's mission includes education about the aquatic world and raising funds for charitable and scientific purposes. Every year we donate to help aquatic causes around the world. For example, the money we collected and donated last year to help put "net busters" around underwater sanctuaries to protect the fish of Lake Malawi is already at work in the Lake stopping over fishing. As this project reaches completion, fish stocks in Lake Malawi will continue to improve, not only for our hobby but also as food for the people living around the Lake. Having a direct impact on people and fish on the other side of the world was something that could only be dreamed of in 1959. Now it is a reality. We made a difference in the lives of people we'll never meet, yet whose lives will be changed forever because of our help with this project. And that's not to mention protecting fish in the Lake for future generations. Even better, the money went to work within weeks of our donation.

In 1959 fancy livebearers and tetras were all the rage. We've seen literally hundreds of new species come into the hobby in the ensuing 50 years. In 1959 you could only find a few books on tropical fish and most of those were limited in scope, often little more than pamphlets. Today you can find information on thousands of species with just a few clicks on a mouse. And yet MASI is still a

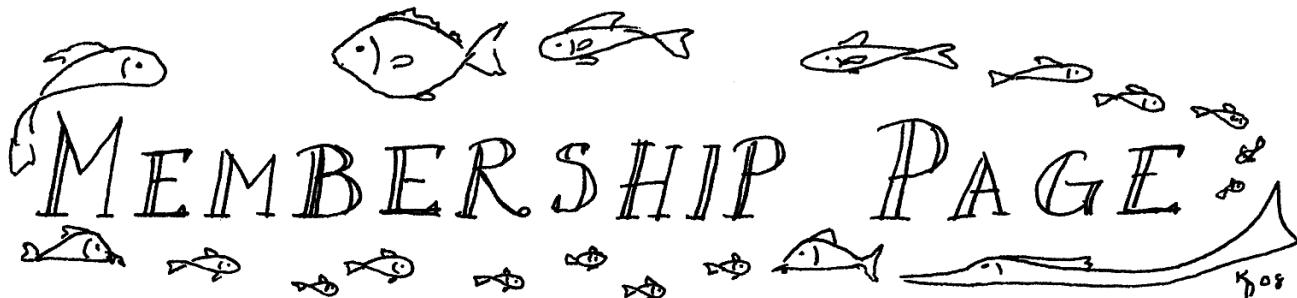
relevant source of hard-to-find information and its members are a source of hard-to-find species of fish, inverts, and plants.

50 years ago, most hobbyists thought a 29 gallon tank was big. They were bulky, metal framed monsters with easily broken glass and heavy slate bottoms with tar holding everything together. Now hobbyists can buy 300 gallon or larger tanks made of glass held together with silicone, or even made of acrylic! There are tanks with filters built into their stands, beautiful furniture quality cabinets, computer control systems that would put a 1959-era electronics expert to shame, and even optically clear curved glass tanks available.

Who would have thought 50 years ago that hobbyists would be able to keep corals alive and even have them reproduce regularly in our aquaria? Who would have thought of keeping bright red plants, let alone having them thrive in the poorly lit tanks of the day? Fish that the best hobbyists could only barely keep alive now thrive and reproduce for even new hobbyists. Discus that were a rare luxury that no one could breed now come in so many colors it's hard to even keep track of them! A few varieties of poorly made food have been replaced by literally hundreds of varieties of foods and high quality complete diets for our fish. Fancy guppies, mollies, platies and swordtails each have more than 100 varieties available, and many species of egg layers come in a bewildering variety of fin lengths and a dizzying array of colors. There are even fish with invertebrate genes inserted into their DNA causing them to glow in fantastic bright colors available in the trade – in 1959 very few people even knew what DNA was, much less understood how it works.

The last 50 years have been amazing. Let's work to make the next 50 years even better!

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



CLUB MEMBERS' NEWS

Harold Walker tells us: My daughter Karissa Walker made the A honor roll at Rockport Heights Elementary for the second semester. And my son Keaton Walker played football for the JCYA Falcons and went 14-0 to finish in first place.

From a newer member. Welcome to Kurt!

Name: Kurt Zahringer

I joined MASI this past July, when I finally made it to a meeting after corresponding with Mr. Hellweg for over a year. I first contacted him after reading one of his articles about pipefish in one of my aquarium magazines. I'm a student of the University of Missouri, living in Columbia, so getting to SL was a real chore. I'm glad that I was able to join & I'm trying to come to as many functions as my schedule will allow.

I've had aquariums since I was about 5, but I really took off when I was in high school. I've been wanting to breed fish since I was in grade school, and I finally realized that ambition with the help of Mike this past summer. I successfully bred *Aistogramma cacatuoides*, which I'll be submitting later

this year, hopefully. I have very limited space at home, but the local pet store owner (Kayvon, whom some of you may remember) has been generous enough to allow me the use of his back room. I also have a large group of Corydoras Sterbai that I intend to breed soon. Other breeding projects that I've begun include a group of Hemirhamphodon halfbeaks, and Nothobranchius rachovii.

Last spring, I also founded an aquarium club at the University. We currently have about 20 members or so, & we have several things planned this year, including a trip to the Newport Aquarium in Cincinnati. Hopefully, you might see us at some meetings and events this year. It's been a pleasure meeting everyone at MASi, and I hope to become an active, longtime member in the future.

TWELVE QUESTIONS FOR KLAUS BERTICH:

1. What year did you get your first fish tank and what fish did you put in it? (optional) did you name the fish? *I believe it was around 1972. It was a 20 gal. and I spent money we didn't have but we got one anyway.*
2. If you could hire a helper to clean and care for it, would you have a massive indoor tank or a big pond? *This is a no brainer, large outdoor pond.*
3. The dream fish I want to keep is... *Altums*
4. The fish I want to get fry from is... *My Altums*
5. If you could have only one tank of 75 gallons, what would you keep in it? *Silver Angels*
6. Name your proudest accomplishment in the hobby to date. *Making the friends I have though the hobby.*
7. Outside the hobby, what accomplishment are you proudest of? *My Family and that we are still talking to one another. I treat my family like my fish. I don't expect any more from them than they are made to. If I did I would have dead fish, or a very unhappy family.*
8. Name an interest of yours that has nothing to do with fish. *Eating at different places. Sure I eat fish. I also collect them via a fishing pole.*
9. Do you have a fish-related tip to tell the members? *Change water, and if you nothing else change water.*
10. My favorite cichlid is... *I would say P. sclare or a nice fried tilapia*
11. My favorite livebearer is. *X. helleri blue body black wag, Yellow body black wag.*
12. My favorite catfish/cory or pleco is..*All of the Cory's*

MASI members, do you have something to brag about? Each issue of "The Darter" will feature a Membership Page. In it, we will have member interviews, information about other things MASi members are doing (this is a good place to tell us about upcoming school plays the kids are in, job promotions, A+ report cards, wedding anniversaries, and the like). We also want to hear what your fish are doing!

Just email (kathy@skdeu.com) or call Kathy Deutsch (314-741-0474) with the info and she will write it up and pass it to the Editor.



Tips on Shipping Aquatic Plants

By Harold Walker

If you are a keeper of aquatic plants your tank can get overrun if you let it. So why not trim some of the plants and make a little money to help supplement costs associated with your hobby. There are several ways to sell your plants. First look locally through your aquarium club for auctions or turn to your local fish store. Another option is to sell the plants online through auctions or forums. This is really effective because you reach a lot more aquarist who does not have the benefit of an aquarium society or good pet stores. If this is the method you chose then you will need to know a few things on how to ship your plants.

There are some supplies needed for you to ship successfully. The plant will need something that retains moisture. First rule is you **DO NOT** ship your plant in a bag of water! News paper or paper towel will work just fine for the media. You will also need some sort of plastic bag that can be tied or sealed in some way. Fish bags can be ordered from online pet supply store or Ziploc bags that you can find just about anywhere. Padded envelopes or cardboard box will be needed to ship the plants in. The post office has different size boxes that you can get.

Everyone has their own preference on how to ship so I will tell you mine. Use enough media that will cover the size of your plant. Take some of the aquarium water from the tank and soak the media. Squeeze some of the water out but not a lot because the media needs to be kept wet during shipping. Lay the media out on flat surface.

Remove plant from the tank and prepare it by removing any dying leaves. Make sure you do not damage any of the root structure. Place the plant onto the center of the media. Now lay another piece of media on top of the plant. Slide the plant and media into a one gallon storage bag. I use the store brand bags instead of the name brand because of the price difference. I will also label the bag with the proper name of the plant for the buyer.

Place the plant into your shipping container you are going to use and go to the post office to mail. I always ship using priority mail so I know it will get there in a few days. It is easier than most people think.



MASI Logo merchandise is now available from Café Press. Thanks to Bart Kraeger for creating the site and Michelle Berhorst for creating a high-resolution digital version of the logo, you can now purchase logo merchandise on-line. Pick from T-shirts, jerseys, caps, tote bags, coffee cups, and more.

Go to www.cafepress.com/MOAQS to view and order the merchandise.

MASI Show Classes 2009

1. Aquascaping

Must be a naturalistic aquascape; may include realistic artificial materials, will be judged on overall artistic impression and impact, must contain fish

2. Novelty

Theme tank designed/built by entrant, must contain at least one live fish

3. Domestic and Fancy Finned Egglayers

All “man-made” and domestic colors, transgenic fish, veils, albinos, and long fins, including Betta splendens, Goldfish, Bloody parrots, and Flowerhorns should be entered in this class.

4. Domestic and Fancy Finned Swordtails and Platies

All “man-made” and domestic colors, albinos, veils, lyretails, hifins, of the Xiphophorus species

5. All Other Domestic and Fancy Finned Livebearers

All “man-made” and domestic colors, albinos, veils, lyretails, hifins, of all other livebearing species including Guppies and Endler’s Livebearers

6. Angels – all varieties Wild and Domestic

7. Discus – all varieties Wild and Domestic

Classes 8 – 19 are for Naturally Occurring species, subspecies and locality variants.

8. Wild Livebearers (except Goodeids)

9. Goodeids

10. Cichlids – Central American

11. Cichlids – South American

12. Cichlids – Old World - Lakes Malawi, Tanganyika, and Victoria

13. Cichlids – All other Old World

14. Anabantoids

15. Characins – Hypessobrycon

16. Characins – All others

17. Cyprinids – Barbs

18. Cyprinids – Danios and Rasboras

19. Sharks, Loaches, and Eels

20. Catfish – Armored Cats (Callichthyids)

Members of Corydoras, Aspidoras, Brochis, Hoplosternum and their relatives

21. Catfish – All other Catfish

22. Killies – Old World

23. Killies – New World

24. All Other Fish

Fish not included in any of the above Classes

25. Aquatic Critters

Includes fully aquatic Amphibians, Crustaceans, Insects, and other Invertebrates, both Freshwater and Marine

26. True Aquatic Plants

27. Photography

Must be taken by Entrant, includes photos, slides, video and electronic media

28. Arts & Crafts

Must be made by Entrant

29. Collectibles

Must be Fish or Aquarium Related

30. White Elephant Collectible

A fun class for all! Must be Fish or Aquarium Related, but it must be the most awful thing you can find!

MASI Show Rules for 2009

Entry:

Open to all with payment of entry fees. The cost is \$4.00 for the first entry, \$1.00 per entry after that up to a total of \$14.00 for as many entries as you want to enter. Junior entrants are encouraged. Multiple entries per tank allowed as long as they are in the same class, compatible and easily distinguishable by the judges (i.e. male/female, color variants, etc.). Multiple class entries are not allowed in the same tank with the exception of plant entries which are allowed with fish entries. All entries are eligible for Class 1, Aquascaping, without additional fee.

As a matter of ethics, entry must be the property of the entrant for at least 60 days before Show and/or must be work of Entrant. No deformed, diseased, artificially colored (painted, dyed, or injected) or illegal fish may be shown.

Display:

All fish are to be entered in flat-sided bowls or tanks a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon or larger up to 30 gallons (for larger tanks, entrant must provide their own proper aquarium stand). Bare tank entries are allowed in all fish classes. All entries must be neatly covered to prevent fish jumping out. Plastic "critter tanks" with snap on covers are strongly encouraged for bare tank entries.

All entries may be lighted. Even for bare tank entries it is suggested that the sides and back of the display be covered with an opaque covering (i.e. paint, contact paper, or commercial background) so the fish may feel comfortable and show their best. Gravel or sand may be used on the bottom. Live plants are encouraged. Filtration and aeration are optional, but strongly recommended for the health of the entry. Air and electrical outlets will be supplied. Guppies, Killies, and *Betta splendens* may all be entered singly or in pairs in covered bare bowls or tanks of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 gallon in size. Naturalistic artificial decorations are allowed in all entries, and a flowerpot or PVC pipe may be used if needed for the comfort of the fish. For Class #27 – Photography – For video/electronic media, entrants must supply resources for viewing their entry. Single picture entries must be printed for viewing.

Judging:

All entries will be sight judged based on appropriate standards for the fish being judged.

Decision of Judges and/or Show Chairman is final. Show Chairman may move entries to appropriate classes if entered in wrong class or if there are too few entries in class.

Awards:

First, Second and Third place in each Class; Best Junior Entry; Reet Thomas Outstanding Livebearer Award (ALA); Ralph Wilhelm Outstanding Catfish Award; Best Egglayer; Best Cichlid (ACA); Best Discus (NADA); Judges Award for the most Outstanding Entry; and Best Fish in Show.

We have a full Darter this month – no room for me to thank everyone or acknowledge all the authors – but you'd rather hear from each other than me anyway.

Article deadlines for the rest of 2009 will be April 15, June 15, August 15, and October 15 2009.
-- Editor

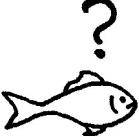
HAP Report Jan-Feb 2009

Mike Hellweg

Member	Species	Common	Rep	Pts	Total
Gary Lange	<i>Cryptocoryne moehlmanni</i> *	Moehlmann's Crypt	V	15	1155
Gary Lange	<i>Lomariopsis lineata</i>	Susswassertang	V	5	1160
Gary Lange	<i>Vallisneria nana</i> *	Australian Val	V	5	1165
Derek Walker	<i>Anubias</i> sp. Myuka Mile 29		V	15	2405
Derek Walker	<i>Echinodorus osiris</i>		V	15	2420
Derek Walker	<i>Echinodorus</i> sp. Ozelot	Ozelot Sword	V	15	2435
Derek Walker	<i>Elantine triandra pedicellata</i> *	Oriental Waterwort	V	15	2450
Derek Walker	<i>Hemianthus micranthemos</i>	Baby's Tears	V	15	2465
Derek Walker	<i>Lagarosiphon madagascariensis</i>		V	15	2480
Derek Walker	<i>Nymphaea</i> sp. Murillo*	Murillo's Pink Water Lily	V	20	2500
Derek Walker	<i>Salvinia minima</i>	Dwarf Salvinia	V	5	2505
Derek Walker	<i>Salvinia oblongifolia</i> *	Longleaf Chain Salvinia	V	5	2510
Derek Walker	<i>Spirodela polyrhiza</i>	Giant Duckweed	V	5	2515
Mike Hellweg	<i>Cryptocoryne moehlmanni</i> *	Moehlmann's Crypt	V	15	2675
Mike Hellweg	<i>Lomariopsis lineata</i>	Susswassertang	V	5	2680
Philip Newell	<i>Bolbitis heudelotii</i>	African Water Fern	V	10	10
Philip Newell	<i>Microsorum pteropus</i> windelov	Lace Java Fern	V	10	20
Philip Newell	<i>Microsorum pteropus</i>	Java Fern	V	10	30
Tony McMillan	<i>Anubias barteri barteri</i>	Common Anubias	V	15	105
Tony McMillan	<i>Anubias barteri nana</i>	Dwarf Anubias	V	15	120
Tony McMillan	<i>Anubias minima</i> *	Least Anubias	V	15	135
Tony McMillan	<i>Anubias</i> sp. Myuka Mile 29		V	15	150
Tony McMillan	<i>Hygrophila corymbosa angustifolia</i>	Willow Leaf Hygro	V	5	155
Tony McMillan	<i>Vallisneria Americana nana</i>	Dwarf Val	V	5	160

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

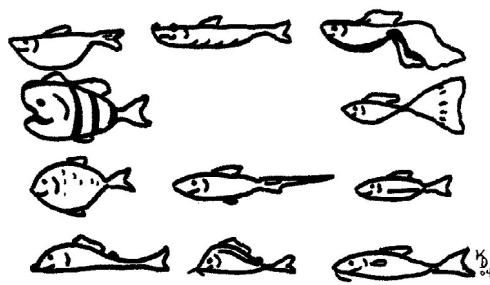
* = MASI First



We've got a place for you!

Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.

Come join us at a meeting, or contact our membership chair, Kathy Deutsch for more information
(314) 741-0474 fishfan@i1.net



2008 HAP Totals

Mike Hellweg

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Points 2008</u>	<u>Submissions 2008</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Total Species</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Award Status</u>
Andy Walker	190	13	420	32	Senior	Needs one seed for Master
Charles Harrison	70	6	680	53	Master	
Derek Walker	255	27	2515	181	Supreme Grand Master	To be presented
Dwayne Peters	30	4	45	5	Needs one submission for General	
Harold Walker	85	6	880	77	Grand Master	
Jerry Jost	125	10	1580	102	Grand Master	100 Species Award
Laura & Dave Wagner	15	3	15	3		
Marc & Kathy Daly	30	4	260	25	Senior	
Marlon Felman	10	2	65	8	General	
Micky Lee	25	2	605	50		
Tammy Clemente	45	6	55	8	General	To be presented
Tony McMillan	85	8	155	15	Advanced	To be presented

Member Classifieds

Charles Harrison (314) 894-9761, csharrison@inkmaker.net -

Thiosulfate crystals (Chlorine Remover)	\$3.00 a half pound
OTO double strength Chlorine/Chloroamine test kits - 4 ounce -	\$12.50
Flubendazole, 5% powder 10 grams	\$5.00, 25 grams - \$20.00
Lavamisole HCl Powder - 5 grams treats 100 gallons	\$10.00
Methylene Blue 5% solution (2 ounces)	\$12.75
Acriflavine Concentrate (4%) solution, 2 ounces	\$12.70
Bromthymol Blue pH test solution, 4 ounces	\$7

Wanted: Small Styro shipping boxes - 12 x 12 x 12 or a little bit smaller. If your company uses them and throws them away, save them! Bring to the meeting or I'll come pick them up. Mike 636-240-2443

MASI Members can place a classified ad in the Darter for free. Ads may be up to 30 words in length. Send your ads to the editor. The ad will run for one issue unless you specify how long to run it, in which case it will run as requested.

BAP Report

Steve Edie

Note: The July/August 2008 report was not published at the time. This was recently called to my attention, and it has been added to the end of this month's report. -- Editor

Member	Species	Common	Pts	Total
Nov 2008				
Charles Harrison	<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus</i> "Moliwe"		15	2015
Jerry Jost	<i>Aphyosemion fulgens</i> *		20	415
Jerry Jost	<i>Aphyosemion splendopleure</i> "Tiko Green" *		20	435
Jerry Jost	<i>Aphyosemion</i> sp. "Lobaye" *		20	455
Cory Koch	<i>Aequidens pulcher</i>	Blue Acara	5	806
Cory Koch	<i>Benitochromis nigrodorsalis</i> *		20	826
Cory Koch	<i>Gymnogeophagus meridionalis</i>		10	836
Cory Koch	<i>Macropodus opercularis</i>	Paradise Fish	5	841
Cory Koch	<i>Mikrogeophagus ramirezi</i>		15	856
Cory Koch	<i>Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor victoriae</i> "Baria Gold" *		15	871
Cory Koch	<i>Stomatepia mariae</i> **@		40	911
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Herichthys carpintis</i>		10	635
Philip Newell	<i>Pterophyllum scalare</i>	Koi Angel	10	100
Rick Smith	<i>Limia vittata</i>	Cuban Mollie	5	50
Derek Walker	<i>Hemichromis frempongi</i>		10	805
Derek Walker	<i>Xystichromis phytophagus</i> @		20	825
Derek Walker	<i>Tilapia snyderae</i> @		30	855
Dec 2008				
Mike Hellweg	<i>Danio</i> sp."Ocelot" *		15	3068
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Metriaclima zebra</i>	OB Zebra	10	645
Derek Walker	<i>Poecilia wingei</i>	Endler's Livebearer	5	860
Derek Walker	<i>Ptyochromis</i> sp. "Hippo Point Salmon" *		15	875

Jan 2009

Jerry Jost	<i>Ancistrus cirrhosis</i>	Albino Bristlenose	10	465
Jerry Jost	<i>Epiplatys singe</i> *		15	480
Jerry Jost	<i>Fundulopanchax scheeli</i>		15	495
Jerry Jost	<i>Nomorhamphus ebrardtii</i>	Orangefin Halfbeak	10	505
Cory Koch	<i>Neolamprologus similis</i>		10	921
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Belontia signata</i> @	Ceylon Fighting fish	30	675
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Characodon lateralis</i> @		15	690
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Hypsophrys nicaraguensis</i>	Nicaraguan Cichlid	15	705
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Xenotoca variata</i> "Jesus Maria"	Jewel Goodeid	15	720

Feb 2009

Scott Campbell	<i>Julidochromis transcriptus</i> "Gombi"		10	10
Jack Heller	<i>Aristogramma cacatuoides</i> "Gold Triple Red" *		20	65
Jack Heller	<i>Dario dario</i>	Scarlet Badis	15	80
Jack Heller	<i>Mikrogeophagus ramirezi</i>	German Blue Ram	15	95
Mike Hellweg	<i>Betta channoides</i> *		20	3088
Mike Hellweg	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i> ***	Spotted Wood Cat	30	3118
Mike Hellweg	<i>Kryptolebias marmoratus</i>	Mangrove Killie	10	3128
Mike Hellweg	<i>Skiffia lermiae</i> "Lago de Patzcuaro" * @	Zacapu Sawfin Goodeid	45	3173
Mike Hellweg	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Swordtail"	Marigold Swordtail	1	3174
Jerry Jost	<i>Bedotia madagascariensis</i> *		15	520
Jerry Jost	<i>Carlhubbsia stuarti</i>	Barred Livebearer	10	530
Jerry Jost	<i>Pseudomugil gertrudae</i> "Giddy River" *	Spotted Blue-eye	15	545
Jerry Jost	<i>Puntius tetrazona</i>	Tiger Barb	10	555
Tony McMillan	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Half-Black Red Guppy	1	49
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Girardinichthys multiradiatus</i> @	Golden Sailfin Goodeid	30	1755
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Oryzias melastigma</i>	Java Medaka	10	1765
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Poecilia wingei</i>	Tiger Endler's Livebearer	5	1770
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Pseudepiplatys annulatus</i>	Clown Killie	15	1785
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Tilapia snyderae</i>		30	1815
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Xenotoca eiseni</i> @	Red Tailed Goodeid	15	1830
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Xiphophorus montezumae</i>	Montezuma Swordtail	5	1835
Pat Tosie	<i>Ameca splendens</i>	Butterfly Goodeid	30	2888
Pat Tosie	<i>Xenotoca eiseni</i> @	Red Tailed Goodeid	15	2903

Jul 2008

Philip Newell	<i>Corydoras pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Cory	10	80
Dwayne Peters	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Variatus"	Red Tail Variatus	5	22
Dave & Laura Wagner	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Tequila Sunrise Guppy	1	26
Dave & Laura Wagner	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Red Guppy	1	27

Aug 2008

Charles Harrison	<i>Aphyosemion punctatum</i> "Buong Bai" *		20	1935
Charles Harrison	<i>Scriptaphyosemion guignardi</i> "Sougueta"		20	1955
Mike Hellweg	<i>Betta fusca</i> *	Green Face Bull Betta	20	2988
Mike Hellweg	<i>Girardinichthys multiradiatus</i> * @	Golden Sailfin Goodeid	35	3023
Mike Hellweg	<i>Limia tridens</i> "Las Salinas" *	Saltmarsh Limia	10	3033
Jerry Jost	<i>Danio margaritatus</i>	Celestial Pearl Danio	10	355
Jerry Jost	<i>Nothobranchius korthausae</i> "Mafia Island" @		15	370
Cory Koch	<i>Altolamprologus compressiceps</i> "Kalambo" *		20	761
Cory Koch	<i>Hypsophrys nematopus</i>	Neet	15	776
Tony McMillan	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Swordtail"	Pineapple MM Swordtail	5	42
Tony McMillan	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Platy"	Red Marigold Platy	1	43
Ed Millinger	<i>Geophagus altifrons</i> *		20	585
Dwayne Peters	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Variatus"	Red Tuxedo Black Variatus	1	23
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Allodontichthys hubbsi</i> @	White Patched Darter Goodeid	15	1645
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Epiplatys chaperi schreiberi</i> "Ghana"		10	1655
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus</i> "Bipindi"*		20	1675
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Scleromystax macropterus</i> *		20	1695
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Xenotoca eiseni</i> @	Red Tailed Goodeid	30	1725

* = 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 Value of Emerged Growth: Identification of *Polygonum persicaria*

By Andy Walker

Newly discovered aquarium plants have special appeal and generate interest and excitement within the hobby. This interest drives importers to find and sell new plants. The internet has provided a way to bring the plants to market and provide feedback on the care needed to cultivate the plants in a way I suspect beyond the imagination of most hobbyists no more than a few decades ago.

Noted biologists have lamented 60 years ago that a great deal can be lost as a rule because hobbyists can allow their plants to perish before professional biologists have been consulted (1). Today, the internet has changed this lament since information on how to cultivate new plants is bountiful and readily available. The risk of improper identification, however, is greater today than ever in the past given the ever greater number of hobbyists and unconcerned professionals simply passing plants along. Hobbyists soon recognize that the size and shape of leaves can vary depending upon where the plant was grown, if it was wild or cultivated or if it was grown emerged or submerged. Professional botanists capable of observing and classifying the plants properly may not agree on the species in question, much less be aware of the plants that are being cultivated and sold to hobbyists.

As a case in point, I bought a plant at our monthly club auction that was originally purchased by one of our club members from Aquabid. The plant had an alternate arrangement of leaves on the stem and spaced about a centimeter apart. They were green to pink in color and elliptic in shape with a width to length ratio of at least 6:1. The HAP Chairman at the time could not verify the identity of the plant upon submission but I was not overly concerned about that. It was new and I had faith my aquarium would be capable of allowing it to flourish.

The substrate in my aquarium is three inches thick and multi-layered. The bottom layer is a mixture of three parts sand and one part clay soil and it is topped off with at least one inch of washed sand. My 75-gallon tank is illuminated with four daylight (6500K) 48-watt T5 fluorescent bulbs. The lights are kept on 10 hours per day using timers that stagger the on-time by two hours so full illumination by the four bulbs is 6 hours per day. Water is straight from the tap with a KH of three and is kept between 74° F (23.3° C) and 82° F (27.7° C) depending on the season. The plant in question was grown when the water was on the cooler side of the range, however. Carbon dioxide is injected to get a pH of 6.6. In pure water with calcium carbonate, this would give 23 mg/l of carbon dioxide. Fertilizer is dosed at the weekly water change along with an addition of Flourish Excel per the manufacturer's recommendation. An Estimative Index (2) is used to target about 20 mg/l of nitrate and potassium, 2 mg/l or phosphate and 0.1 mg/l of iron through the additions of potassium nitrate, mono potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate and CSM with boron to provide trace elements in addition to iron. I never measure water chemistry as a matter of routine since I change half of the water every week and the concentration of the fertilizer remains more or less constant as a consequence. An article in your March-April 2008 Darter shows in great detail how water changes do that.

This plant was a challenge to establish. Although I was able to propagate the plant by pinching off the new growth at the nodes the stems of the parent plant would often blacken and rot. Leaves growing close to the substrate in shadows would turn transparent and melt. Little rooting occurred. During weekly maintenance necrotic tissue was trimmed away and in time healthy stems and strong roots developed. After six months or so, I was able to grow a healthy stand of the plant as shown in Figure 1.

At this point I began to wonder if the plant was more terrestrial in nature and less suited for aquatic growth. To resolve this question, I felt it was necessary to identify the genus and species. This is no simple task since the appearance of the underwater foliage of uncommon species and varieties can make identification speculative at best. Dr. H. C. D De Wit wrote (1) that the aquarium plants we grow will rarely show characters (such as flowers) that determine unmistakably to which family they belong, and because, even if they do, the aquarist usually has not had the botanical training required to classify them. One should have particulars at one's disposal, and be able to perceive characters that can be observed in aquarium plants only very exceptionally. I am not a botanist, I do not know a botanist, nor do I have ready access to a library of reviewed scientific literature to do proper research. In short, I do not have the training, experience and resources to properly identify the plant as a scientist.

With that in mind, I made a post on The Planted Tank website to get a consensus on what people believe the plant may be - *Polygonum kawagoneum*. An article on *Polygonum sp* (3) lead me to conclude that the genus of plant I was

growing may indeed be *Polygonum*. The author experienced similar difficulty establishing growth had had a photograph of the plant with the same leaf alternate leaf arrangement on the stem. The difference was the shape of the leaf base. It was auriculate (arrow-shaped) whereas the plant I was growing was obtuse (v-shaped). Based on the characteristics of his emerged growth and flowering referenced against the description provided by e-floras.org the author to conclude that the plant he was growing could indeed be *Polygonum hastatosagittatum*.

Emerged growth is the key to seeing leaf morphologies and flower characteristics that can be referenced against a reputable source. I have a cover on the aquarium and allow about one inch of air space between the water and the cover. This gives ample room for the emerged growth to begin before routing the stem into ambient air. Notice in Figure 2 that the leaves and stems grown emerged under the cover were red and have characteristics more of the submerged growth. If I did not allow the plant to grow fully emerged at this time, the identity of the plant would be speculative at best since the morphology and color changes greatly when it emerges into the ambient air.

Searching for *Polygonum sp.* on the web eventually lead me to a photograph of a plant with very similar leaf characteristics, *Polygonum persicaria*(4). After showing a photograph of the plant and the aforementioned reference to Mike Hellweg, he suggested that I should use TROPICOS (5) to confirm the identity. The homepage of this website states it was originally created for internal research at the



Figure 1: Healthy bunch of *Polygonum* sp. after six months growth

Missouri Botanical Garden but has since been made available to the world's scientific community. All of the nomenclature, bibliographic, and specimen data accumulated in the Missouri Botanical Garden electronic databases during the past 25 years are publicly available here. This system has over one million scientific names, 3.4 million specimen records, 111,000 bibliographic citations, and more than 70,000 images of living plants and specimens – an impressive resource that is free to the public. *Polygonum persicaria* has references listed, one of which links to Botanicus (6). This website is also freely accessible, web-based encyclopedia of digitized 18th and 19th century botanical literature from the Missouri Botanical Garden Library. They have been digitizing materials from their library since 1995, focusing primarily on beautifully illustrated volumes from their rare book collection. This project expands selection criteria to include non-illustrated works of significant importance to taxonomic botany.

Polygonum persicaria Mitis (7) is commonly known as Lady's Thumb. It has leaves that are sessile or nearly so (no stem), linear-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate (narrow, long and pointed on the end). The leaves are usually dark with a triangular- or crescent-shaped spot near the middle. A color sketch of the plant with pink flowers and stems in Figure 3 depicts this leaf feature (8). Note the similarity of the illustration to the plant grown in my aquarium.

Polygonum persicaria was introduced from Europe and is widely naturalized (9) and looks similar to common native *Polygonum* (10). Although the habitat of this plant is typically moist, wet places (7), I have seen this plant in full flower growing through a crack on a curb in downtown Chicago and along pond banks in Grant Park. Early in my search I found a reference that stated that the plant was somewhat toxic. Cattle will not eat it (11). Due to the concern regarding the toxicity of the plant I decided to remove it from my aquarium to protect my fish and myself.



Figure 2: Leaf characteristics of *Polygonum* sp. change as it emerges into ambient air.



Figure 3: Drawing of *Polygonum Persicaria*, Plate 484, reference 8.

Consequently, I did not allow the plant to flower. Regardless, many of the varieties of *Polygonum persicaria* have flowers with different color (7). Kasselmann (12) also describes *Polygonum sp.* with emerged bright green leaves and a faint dark spot in the middle of the leaf blade. The flowers of that plant were white. As mentioned earlier, I have not had the botanical training required to classify plants and be able to perceive characters that can be observed only very exceptionally. So, I'm left with an inconclusive but reasonable guess at the genus and species of the plant as a result of putting forth a reasonable effort to find viable resources. This task took months of repeated searches using Google and Yahoo. Different months would yield different results but persistence pays. As to the origin of the plant I in my aquarium, it could as well come out of my backyard as half-way around the world, which doesn't make it nearly so exotic or new.

I've had time and varied success with growing new plants. Although the prospect of growing something new was exciting at first, I have come to realize that there is nothing wrong with growing a healthy crop of old standards that are well known and readily available. After all, one of the objectives of maintaining a planted aquarium is to create an attractive, eye-pleasing arrangement that provides a safe and healthy home for your fish. Jerry Jost shared his thoughts on this matter with me and has lead me to that conclusion. Aquascaping is what matters in a planted tank, not just how exotic the plants are. Just take a look at the award-winning aquascapes in any of The Aquatic Gardner issues. Old standards dominate and are the cornerstone of any great planted tank – in the past and today.

Aquarium Plants, Professor H. C. D de Witt, published in English language in 1964, Blandford Press, Ltd., London, pg 9.

The Aquatic Gardner, Volume 19, Number 3, July – September 2006, The Estimative Index – What Is It, Tom Barr, pp 26-39.

The Aquatic Gardner, *Polygonum sp.*, Cavan Allen, Volume 20, Number 4, Oct-Dec 2007, pp 16-19.

http://www.missouriplants.com/Pinkalt/Polygonum_persicaria_page.html

Tropicos.org. Missouri Botanical Garden, <http://www.tropicos.org>

<http://www.botanicus.org>.

Contributions From the United States National Herbarium, vol 21, pg 146.

La flore et la pornone francaises, 1832 t5, plate 484.

Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden, volume 66, 1979, pp55.

Contributions From the United States National Herbarium, vol 6, pg 485.

Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden, volume 40, 1953, pp16.

Aquarium Plants, English Edition, Christel Kasselmann, Krieger Publishing, 2003.

The HAP Chairman's Perspective on The Value of Emerged Growth

By Mike Hellweg

Andy's excellent article is a perfect illustration of why we don't allow Internet sources, websites, or Internet "gurus" to be valid sources for the identification of a plant. There just is no standard for editorial fact checking as there is with legitimate publications like books and magazines. Anyone can create a website or join a forum and post anything they want, passing it off as fact. The more posts they have, the more weight their opinions carry, even though they may know absolutely nothing about what they are posting.

I know many of you spend time on the Internet and some hang on every word that comes from the forum fingers of this expert or that one. Some of you, at least, should know better. Some of these

“experts” may have 100,000 posts on this or that forum. But you have to understand who they are. They are just hobbyists, like you and me. Most of them are forum hobbyists. Their hobby is posting about their favorite topic on the forum. They may know a lot about plants (or may just talk a good game). A few may even actually be a horticulturist – a person who works with plants for a living. But there are very few, if any, botanists (a SCIENTIST who studies and identifies plants) hanging around on the hobbyist forums. They’re too busy, as are most serious hobbyists who actually work with the plants. The same goes for fish. Most of the serious breeders that I know have never posted a single thing on any forum anywhere.

As a general rule, if someone is willing to POSITIVELY identify your plant based on a grainy picture from your tank on the Internet, they’re not a legitimate expert. As Andy points out, that’s not the way plants are identified by botanists. Besides, if someone is spending that much time hanging on the forums, how much time do they actually have to spend working with and researching the plants? Looking up just one of the new plants turned in by someone to our HAP for the first time can take me a couple of hours – and even then I may not be able to positively verify it in the form in which it was submitted. So take what you get online for what it’s worth.

I’ve been working with and keeping true aquatic plants for nearly 40 years – I was keeping aquatic plants with soil in pots in my tanks when everyone else thought they weren’t cool because the big cichlids that were popular at the time dug them up and ate them, and the soil made a mess of the tank! I’ve been running the HAP program since it started; this and my work on a couple of books have given me some access to one of the largest botanical libraries in the world. Even with all of this, plus the 100 or so plant books in my personal library, and with all of the plants that I’ve actually seen, handled and propagated over the years, I can’t begin to identify many of the new stem plants that are coming in now, especially not with a quick glance at a meeting. It may drive you crazy when I say I can’t identify something, but at least I’m being honest with you. Sadly I can’t say the same for many of the Internet gurus.

The biggest problem right now is with what we in the hobby call stem plants, plants like Andy’s, or what we used to call bunch plants. You know them. We used to a bunch of 8 to 10 stems each up to a foot long wrapped with a little lead weight or a rubber band for less than a buck. Now some Internet sellers proudly send out a single nearly leafless stem barely 3” long and charge you \$5 or even \$10 for it!

The truth is that many of the genera of these so-called ‘stem plants’ such as *Rotalla*, *Hygrophila*, *Polygonum*, *Myriophyllum*, *Ludwigia*, *Potamogeton*, and many others have dozens of species, only a few of which have found their way into our hobby, most likely because only a few of them are true aquatics. Many of the “new” species are likely some of these other species in the same genera that are slowly starting to filter through the hobby from collectors. Some of these may become established. But most will wind up like Andy’s plant – an oddity that turns out to do better as a bush in a rain garden or as a marginal plant for your pond than in your aquarium.

Part of the HAP requirement is for YOU to identify your plant, going through ALL of the steps that Andy went through, actually growing the plant under different conditions, researching it, and learning about it. All the HAP chair is supposed to do is verify your identification by going to the source that you used and checking it out. This is part of the reason for the program – you actually LEARNING something about the plants you are keeping and sharing that knowledge with others through articles or by giving short programs at the meetings.

Yes, you earn points and get awards, but that’s not the purpose of the HAP. The purpose of the HAP is learning about aquatic plants, spreading that knowledge, sharing your experiences, and spreading the plants around to other hobbyists, too.

And, as a side note on Andy’s plant – late last summer Angela and I found it in its natural state growing between the rocks of the main stream in downtown Columbia, Missouri. There is a nice walking trail and a beautiful park with a nice rocky stream running through it. There are several emerse

aquatic plants growing along the sides of the stream. Several of them are available at least occasionally in the hobby. Everywhere we found Lady's Thumb (aka Heart Leaf), it was only growing in tight spaces between rocks, up high and dry with only its roots in the water. The rest of the plant, as with many of the others of what we hobbyists call stem plants, was forming a beautiful bush about 3 feet high!

Forums are a great place to hang out if you have nothing better to do. But if you really want to learn about plants, go to the library and check out a good book on botany. Or head to the Missouri Botanical Garden. They have thousands of books, and an excellent scientific website with a database that grows and changes constantly. Or call one of our members and spend an afternoon with them as they work in their planted tanks. You could learn more from Jerry, Gary Lange, Andy, Derek, Harold, Maureen, Jim Thale, Jim Miller, or many others in an afternoon that you could in months lurking on the forums. Yes, it takes a bit more work. But you'll learn so much more that it is worth the work.

Fishy Tale THE BIG SHOW - 50th Anniversary!!!!

Patrick A. Tosie, Sr.

The year is 2009 and MAASI's (Mid-American Aquaculturist Society, Inc) 50th Anniversary is upon us. We are going to celebrate by having an unbelievable show. It is going to be the Show of shows, a Whale of a fish (show), the Cadillac of exhibitions. The show is titled MAASI – 50 years in the making - Welcome to Tropical Fish Keeping - The best is yet to come!

The most advanced equipment is going to be on display. Fish of all kinds, from the most common to the rarest of species will be out for viewing. People will be coming from all corners of our great land, some from other countries. Even the greatest "pitch man" of all time – King Ray – is going to be there.

Dealer displays will number in hundreds with the display from Exotic Aquarium's & Insectariums being the spectacular centerpiece. It will be a 525-gallon "globe" tank with an assortment of Central American livebearers, tetras and cichlids along with some plants and crustaceans in it. At the entrance to the dealer classes, Pet-Mart, the superstore giant, is planning an unbelievable tank, which will be shaped, as a 5-point star each point containing something different - fish, amphibians, dogs, cats and birds in it. The center of the star will be filled with aquatic plants.

As the entries are being set up-there are 118 classes in the all species show-the excitement is building. The top two classes happen to be Rainbowfish of New Guinea and Northwest Brazilian Apistogramma's. As luck would have it, these two classes will be set up back to back. Both classes have over 50 entries each! One particularly attractive fish in the Rainbowfish of New Guinea is a nine-inch male Melanotaenia whatchamacallit, which is Jerry Lange's. He caught it himself and it is one of only three in captivity, the other two are also Jerry's but they are both drab females. In the tank that backed up to it, in the Northwest Brazilian Apistogramma's class, is an Apistogramma cichlidae, entered by Dr. Patricio Tosi, a fish that was given to him by the founder and great explorer Enricio Hanemann, FHE (Fish Head Extraordinaire). Mr. Hanemann, made the discovery the previous year in the remote state of Oregon, South America. This fish is very unique in that it is the largest known Apistogramma, measuring in at just less than 13 inches, and it is extremely cannibalistic!

Another unusually large fish class is; Southeastern African Rift Lake Cichlids between 5 and 6 inches who are cave dwellers and eat snails. Cichlid fancier Scott F. Bushmann has 7 entries in this class and he looks to be a sure winner.

The plant classes are also very popular, with the clubs leader Micheal Angela, who is also the owner of Exotic Aquarium's & Insectariums, has multiple entries in all 25 plant classes as does Rick Pondster, a local water garden aficionado, Ed Stevie, brothers Darrold and Herek Walkerson, and Jay Just. The competition is fierce; in fact, someone put some red sauce in the Italian Spaghetti Vallisonaria tanks of Rick, Ed, Darrold, Herreck, and Jay (I wonder who that could have been?)

One of the smaller classes, but very highly contested classes, is the Goldfish class. In this class the mysterious Red Mollenger and tough guy Johnny VanDyke, who is also the Auction Chairman, are battling for top honors. Members and guests keep asking our illustrious Show Chairman, Garry McDierberg, for hints on who the winners are, but he is keeping everything quiet.

The show is turning out fantastic. By Saturday afternoon, over two thousand people toured the fish room. Interested people came from as far away as western Missouri to see this incredible show. Judging was scheduled for that evening.

During the day several local speakers are giving presentations on various fish and plant related subjects and during judging the main speaker, the honorable Rusty Louisville, will be speaking on the ichthyfauna of Cuba Missouri and it's surrounding lakes. Just before his talk, Joe Middleman kept spreading rumors about Rusty and challenging his findings with obscure bits of nonsense and throwing empty cans of Heineken onto the podium area where Rusty will be speaking.

A popular and very active couple, Steven and Cathleen Eutsch, are showing several entries in the Fish as Art Class. All four of their entries are very unusual, modern type artwork made with different types of dried, dead catfish, livebearers, cichlids and tetras glued to different mediums and in the shapes of United States Presidents. There are a few other entries in the Fish as Art Class but none were quite as original or impressive.

Our show Chairman Garry has his work cut out for him for this unprecedented show. Just trying to line up the judges is a monumental task, not to say anything about the speaker lineup, show workers, banquet, donations, displays, and the auction. Luckily for Garry, he has the good fortune and experience of some longtime hard working members like Johnny VanDyke, Micheal Angela, Dr. Patricio Tosi, and Jerry Lanne just to name a few, to help in the planning, setup and working of the show week.

The MAASI – 50 years in the making - Welcome to Tropical Fish Keeping - The best is yet to come! Show is being held in a state of the art atrium warehouse next to the airport. The location is proving very efficient due to the large number of out of town visitors. In addition, the large amount of natural light coming through the atrium is making the show very impressive.

During judging, the show room is being locked down with armed guards protecting the doors and the glass atrium wall and ceiling is being draped shut to keep the results secret. During judging, King Ray is holding his impressive talk on Products for in and around the aquarium, past, present and future. There is standing room only for Rays talk, people can not get enough of his amazing history and foresight into the future of the aquarium hobby.

You can see the nervousness in the eyes of the entrants in anticipation of the outcome of their hard work, dedication and care for their prized beauties. Waiting for the results to be announced at the awards banquet dinner and dance is agonizing to most of the entrants because this is not an average fish show, this show is one of amazing proportions with the results being broadcast throughout the world wide aquarium hobby.

Show Chairman, Garry McDierberg has done a fabulous job arranging all the monumental details to perfection and with the unlimited help of his loving wife Meghan and son Sevan, every detail is coming out to perfection. Ray's talk is just completing and people are lining up in droves at the entrance to the show room, hoping to see if the judges left any clues as to the outcome of the show.

The Awards Banquet Dinner and Dance is just about to start, the band, Gill and the Fins, is completing their sound check while the tables are getting set up. Gill and the Fins is a great band that has been the opening act for some of the top performers in the music industry like Bruce Springtime and Kanye East just to name a couple. The signature plate for the meal is a tasty and much sought after broiled Mississippi sturgeon on a bed of freshwater seaweed with a side of the South American yucca plant served with cheese.

After dinner, the reknown aquarist Mike Scadle and his lovely bride, Sparrow gives a presentation on The Livebearers of Southern Florida and the Baja Peninsula. Mike and Sparrow are well known for their expertise in livebearers, cichlids and books as well as their amazing and well-documented collecting trips in which they have discovered dozens of new species of fish and hundreds of little known beer. During one of his Florida trips, Mike was chasing a colorful and unknown livebearer when he came face to face with a monstrous American Alligator! Luckily for him, Sparrow was near, saw what was about to happen, jumped onto the enormous creatures back, duct taped its mouth closed and saved her husband from an unspeakable fate! By the way, Mike was able to collect the beauty his was chasing, it was a new species and he had it named Poecilia sparrowea in honor of his bride.

In the back of the auditorium at the table of Joe Middleman, Rusty Louisville, Dr. Patricio Tosi, and Enricio Hanamann the beer cans are starting to pile up. Garry sends Johnny VanDyke and Red Mollenger over to their table to ask them to hold down the noise from the beer-can-to-forehead-crushing-competition. Johnny and Joe get into a little skirmish, but things settle down and the talk is finished without much of an incident.

Garry has Michael announce the awards and everyone is guessing if the Melanotaenia whatchamacallit, of Jerry Lanne or Dr. Patricio Tosi's Apistogramma cichlidae will take the top honor as Best in Show. Do you want to know who won? Just log in to www.missouriaquariumsociety.com and see for yourself!

The evening finishes up late into the night with Gill and the Fins rocking the night away. Little sleep is expected for many, even though a giant auction is coming up early next morning. The story you have just read is not true, the names were made up to confuse. Any similarity between the people, fish, places and things mentioned herein were intentional.

EASTERN AQUATICS

717-898-7224 (leave message)

Easternaquatics@yahoo.com

LIVE CULTURED BLACKWORMS

***Cultured blackworms are blackworms that are grown under completely controlled conditions. They are grown using clean, cold water and are fed a special ground grain feed which contains no animal products or any waste products. They are not raised in conjunction with any fish or other animals. The worms are free of parasites and pathogens (disease causing) bacteria. As an extra precaution, all worms are quarantined for 7-10 days after harvesting to assure best quality and packaged in bags with pure oxygen to reduce any shipping stress.

**Please call or email with zip code for prices and shipping quotes.*

The Computer Page

Steve Deutsch

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

MASI's email group: MASIFishHeads Yahoo Group - see web site for joining instructions

Addresses are only printed with permission of the owner. If you would yours added, please email me at steve@skdeu.com. If you would like yours removed, or if it needs correction, also please email me.

MASI MEMBERS E-Mail Addresses:

Jim & Sue Amsden	suzjimmie@aol.com
Michele Berhorst	mmbberhorst@aol.com
Klaus Bertich	kbertich@sbcglobal.net
Earl Biffle	biff.bat@juno.com
Roy Brandhorst	Skipperoy4@juno.com
Diane Brown	debunix@well.com
Scott Bush	sportspicks@charter.net
Steve Deutsch	steve@skdeu.com
Kathy Deutsch	kathy@skdeu.com
Steve Edie	sredie@charter.net
Maureen Green	jmsgreen@iopener.net
Charles Harrison	csharrison@inkmaker.net
Mike Hellweg	mhellweg511@charter.net
Angela Hellweg	pugdog64@yahoo.com
Steven Hoffman	hoffmo@cablemo.net
Lisa Hollenbeck	lisah@alpineshop.com
Bart Kraeger	bartck@aol.com
Lawrence Kent	lawkentnorton@yahoo.com
Gary Lange	gw lange@sbcglobal.net
Mark and Tammy Langer	JTMS@sbcglobal.net
Micky Lee	too_fishy@hotmail.com
Gary McIlvaine	gmclilvaine@msn.com
Ed Millinger	amazoneddy1@sbcglobal.net
Jim Mueller	j.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net
Bob Newton	robt.newton@sbcglobal.net
Brad Riley	briley53@aol.com
Rick Smith	polarfish2003@yahoo.com
Jim & Brenda Thale	tbird55jb@aol.com
Mark & Alice Theby	markrehabber@yahoo.com
Pat Tosie	pattosie@yahoo.com
Patrick A. Tosie, II	patricktosie@juno.com
John Van Asch	johnsfishy@att.net
Dave and Laura Wagner	dave_laura@charter.net
Andy Walker	awalker02@sbcglobal.net
Harold Walker, Jr.	fiveinall@sbcglobal.net
Jim & Rosie Yaekel	jryaekel@htc.net

Club Hopping 2009

Steve Edie

Apr 4 – Cincinnati: Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society – Auction

Apr 5 - Chicago: GCCA – Swap Meet

Apr 10-12 – Cedar Rapids, IA: Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Apr 19 - Cedar Rapids, IA: Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society - Auction

Apr 19 - NJ: North Jersey Aquarium Society – Auction

Apr 23-26 – Indianapolis: American Livebearer Association – Annual Convention

May 1-3 – St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Annual Show

May 22-24 – Chicago: GCCA Cichlid Classic

May 22-24 – Portland: American Killifish Association – Annual Convention

June 27-28 – St Louis: St Louis Water Gardening Society – Pond-O-Rama

June 27 – Kansas City: HAAS - Auction

June 28 - Indianapolis: Circle City Aquarium Club – Summer Auction

Jul 18 - Urbana, IL: Champaign Area Fish Exchange – Summer Auction

Jul 30 – Aug 2 – Cincinnati, OH: American Cichlid Association – Annual Convention

Aug 16 – St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Auction

Sept 4-6 – Milwaukee: Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Sept 18-20 – Kansas City: Midwest Cichlid Association – Annual Expo

Oct 4 - St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Swap Meet

Oct 9-11 - Kalamazoo, MI: Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Oct 18 - Cedar Rapids, IA: Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society – Auction

Oct 23-25 – NJ: North Jersey Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Nov 14 - Kansas City: HAAS – Swap Meet

Nov 15 - Indianapolis: Circle City Aquarium Club – Winter Auction

Nov 20-22 – Cleveland: Ohio Cichlid Association – Cichlid Extravaganza

Nov 22 - St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Auction

2009 American Livebearer Association Convention

April 23-26th, 2009

The Clarion "Water Front" Hotel

Hosted by the Circle City Aquarium Club
in Indianapolis, IN

Join us for

4 days of "Fin-tastic" Fun, including:



9 Captivating Speakers

Including: Mike Hellweg Rusty Wessel
Molly Morris Michael Tobler



Fish show



Auctions



Awards banquet



Trips to Indianapolis Zoo,
Motor Speedway, and
Chateau Thomas Winery



And so much more!



Visit our website: www.ala2009.com
Or email us at: ccacauction@gmail.com
Or by mail at:
2009 ALA Convention
Care of Julie Matthews
335 Wanatah Circle
Westfield, IN 46074

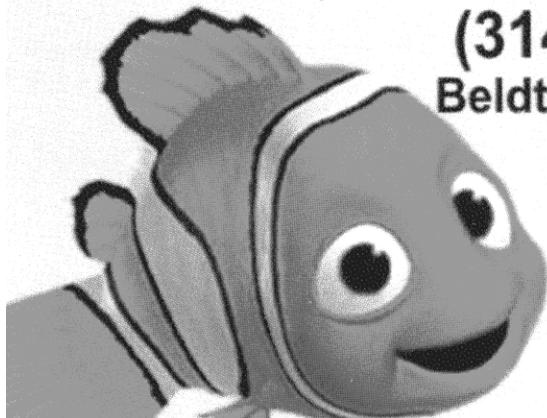


Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine is the official publication of ala 2009

Beldt's Aquarium

(314) 895-3350

Beldtsaquarium.com



7025 Howdershell Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042



Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 10am to 8pm
Sunday 12pm to 6pm

PET CONNECTIONS



2212 S. Vandeventer
773-PETS



Lewis
Tom
Chris

Mon - Fri 10AM - 6PM
Sat 8AM - 3PM

Hard-to-Find Tropical Fish
True Aquatic Plants
Live Foods

Michael Hellweg
Owner



All major credit cards accepted via PayPal.com
We'll ship to your door anywhere in the USA!

636.544.3276
636.980.1611 fax
mike@minifins.com



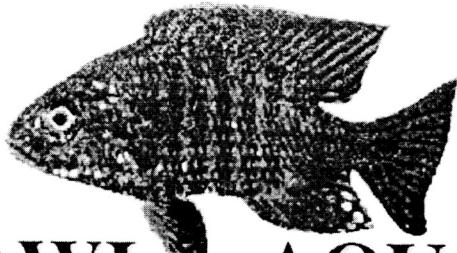
ST. LOUIS' SALTWATER SPECIALIST
AQUARIUM MAINTENANCE
Jan & Gary Thaller

MARINE FISH
FRESHWATER
FISH
KITTENS
SMALL ANIMALS
PET BOARDING
PET SUPPLIES

OPEN
Mon.-Thurs. 10:00-8:00
Fri.-Sat. 10:00-6:00
Sun. 12:00-4:00
509 South Hanley
Clayton, MO 63105

CUSTOM AQUARIUMS &
MAINTENANCE

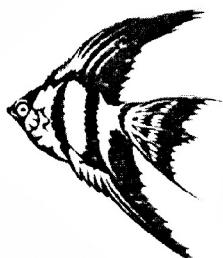
malawiaquatics.com



MALAWI AQUATICS

IMPORTERS OF QUALITY AFRICAN FISHES
AQUARIUM CONSULTANTS
(314) 830-6460

11619 W. FLORISSANT BLVD. ST. LOUIS, MO 63033



**Tropical
World
Pets**



(314) 849-4020

Your Hometown Pet Specialist

**8444 Watson Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63119**

**Mon.-Sat. 9:30-9:00
Sunday 11:00-6:00**

Patrick A. Tosie, Sr.
President

3739 S. Lindbergh
St. Louis, MO 63127
314/821-6700
Cell 314/616-4316
Fax 314/821-6705

Email: pattosie@yahoo.com

Custom Homes • Room Additions • Log Homes



Patrick A. Tosie, Sr.
Real Estate Consultant
www.PatTosie.com



Prudential

Select Properties

13275 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO 63131
Office: 314.775.2050 Fax: 314.775.2051
Cell: 314.616.4316 PatTosie@gmail.com



An independently owned and operated member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

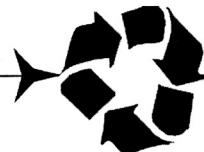
MARS
fishcare



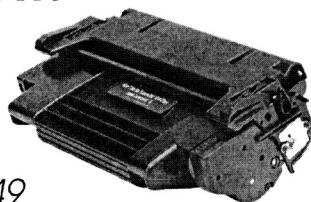
www.marsfishcare.com

**NATIONAL LASER & INK JET
CARTRIDGE SERVICE**

RECYCLING SINCE 1987



www.InkForYourPrinter.com



1845 West Sq. Dr. High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 677-1900 FAX (636) 677-3813

Sue Harrison

e-mail : Suellen@inkmkr.com

USA BUILT™
PREMIUM IMAGING PRODUCTS

Call, Click or Come in for your printing needs.

MASI extends a **THANK YOU** to the following businesses for their donations and support of our organization:

Aquarium Technology Inc

The Bramton Company

Cichlid News Magazine

Cichlid Press Books

Diskus Brief Magazine

Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc. www.drsfostersmith.com

Eastern Aquatics Blackworms

Fancy Publications

Finley Aquatic Books

The Fish Factory

Florida Aquatic Nurseries, Inc. www.floridaaquatic.com

Hartz Mountain Corporation

HBH Pet Products

Discus Hans USA

Hikari Sales

Krieger Publishing www.krieger-publishing.com

Marc Weiss Companies, Inc

Marine Enterprises International

Mars Fishcare North America, INC

Novalek, Inc.

Python Products Inc

Red Sea

Rolf C. Hagen Corp.

San Francisco Bay Brand www.sfbb.com

Seachem Laboratories, Inc.

Spectra-Pure Inc.

Sunlight Supply, Inc.

Tetra www.tetra-fish.com

United Pet Group

Wardley www.wardley-fish.com

Zoo Med Labs, Inc.

THE DARTER
Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1682
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-1682

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT
FENTON, MISSOURI**

**Address
Label**

Show Weekend May 1 – May 3

Setup May 1 – Gardenville Masonic Hall

Show May 2 – Gardenville Masonic Hall

Banquet May 2 – Bevo Mill

Auction May 3 – Gardenville Masonic Hall