

JANUARY 2012



Fins & Tales

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Next Meeting:

Tuesday February 7, 2012

@ 7:30pm

Meeting Location:

Adult Recreation Centre 2nd floor
185 King Street South

Waterloo, ON

**Remember to renew your
Kwas membership for 2012!**

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Zenin Skomorowski's photo of a Marine Tank at Sea Cave in Erie Pennsylvania



Racing afficiandos take part in Flounder Downs by Zenin Skomorowski

KWAS Mission Statement

The Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society (KWAS) is a non-profit organization whose primary goals are to:

- . Further the hobby and study of tropical fish and related endeavours
- . Inspire the preservation of aquatic life
- . Maintain a meeting place for its members
- . Develop and maintain a library on aquatic life
- . Promote fellowship among its members
- . Seek out and establish a kinship with other clubs with similar objectives

KWAS is a charter member of CAOAC:
The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs

Fins & Tales is published 10 times each year between the months of September and June for KWAS members. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Fins & Tales editors or KWAS. The mention of any product does not constitute an endorsement by Fins & Tales or KWAS members.

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Correspondence — Please send all correspondence to the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society, Box 38037 256 King Street North, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2J 4T9.

Submission of Articles

Cover images and articles can be submitted for publication in Fins & Tales by all hobbyists and must be submitted digitally. Priority is given to KWAS members and to topics that have not been recently covered. Not all submissions will be printed in the month they are submitted. The editors of Fins & Tales may be required to edit your submission for length, spelling, grammar and/or clarity. Please indicate if you would like to proof read the edited version prior to official publication. Submissions are due via email to the editors (kwasnewsletter@gmail.com) by the 15th day of the month for publication in the upcoming issue of Fins & Tales. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like suggestions or feedback on possible article topics.

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As of November 2010 the KWAS BOD has decided to use newsletter advertising as an incentive for product donations for our annual Oktoberfish show and auction. If you're interested in participating please contact a member of the BOD who will bring your request to the attention of the newsletter editors, store liaisons and Oktoberfish chair who will contact you to discuss a suitable arrangement. Due to the lag and delay in recent editions of this newsletter, all 2010 donors will receive advertising through the entire year of 2011, instead of just until the next Oktoberfish event.

Join KWAS

2011 Membership Fees

	Adult	Family
1 Year	\$25	\$30
2 Years	\$48	\$58
3 Years	\$71	\$86
4 Years	\$92	\$112
5 Years	\$100	\$120

Junior Members (under the age of 18) \$10 per year

The Long And The Short Of It-

by Euri Allan Abbott KWAS Guest Correspondent

I can't believe 2011 is over already, but my 1st year with KWAS was amazing! I met so many cool people, get to go on a road trip with Mom and Dad almost every month for the meetings, and got lots of yummy treats. Daddy said he loves those days because he gets to leave work early just to take me ;)

The December meeting was extra fun, they had the Flounder Downs fish races! I got to gamble for the first time ever, Auntie Catherine gave me \$50 to put on any fish I wanted, I put it ALL on #4, and almost won! Mommy said that I picked good, and that if it wasn't for that other fish, mine would have cleaned up. I offered to eliminate the competition to increase my odds but apparently I have to start watching my figure.

I sure hope everyone renewed their KWAS membership for 2012, it would be sad if I didn't see you all at the meetings this year. We certainly remembered, we got a family membership (which includes me!) and plan to contribute as much as possible.

Can't wait to see you all at the January meeting. Until then...
Happy trails
:P:P:P

Your pal, Euri



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KWAS December General Meeting

Executive Present: Ed Koerner, Jeff Loney, Brad McClanahan, Carlos Mendes
 BOD Present: Jayne Glazier, Zenin Skomorowski, Mary Lynne Lucier, Rein Breitmaier, Jeff Loney, Terry Clements, Katie McClanahan, Cam Turner, Al Ridley
 Executive & BOD Regrets: Phil Maznyk , Victor Dinh, Brent Lemanski, Dave Boehm,
 Call to order: 7:46 p.m. with approximately 40 adults and 9 children present.
 Announcements:
 - There is renewed interest in ordering more KWAS golf shirts.
 - Minimum order is 15 shirts
 - Approximate price \$25+taxes. Contact Carlos if you are interested.
 - John Podhorny has resigned as Secretary
 - Carlos Mendes has been appointed as Secretary
 - Outline of Spawning Contest, Info sheets distributed to each table, Signup sheet with Jeff Loney.
 Awards:
 - Intermediate Breeders Award - Ed Koerner
 - Junior Breeders Award - Jeff Loney and Brent Lemanski
 - BAP Certificates were presented to - Jayne Glazier for BN Pleco notably as 1st time participant , Al Ridley, Ed Koerner and Jeff Loney
 Annual Awards:
 - Show jar (Adult) - 1st Zenin Skomorowski, 2nd Jeff Loney, 3rd Ed Koerner
 - Show Jar (Junior 16 years and under) - 1st Violet Radtke
 - Breeder of the Year – Ed Koerner
 - Horticulturist of the Year – To be announced at next General Meeting
 - Author of the Year – To be announced at the next General Meeting
 - Hobbyist of the Year – Jeff Loney
 Break for Christmas cheers and finger foods
 Flounder Downs Fish Races (details to be provided by Al Ridley), followed by the Kids Auction.
 - Our young hobbyists were able to bid on the winners of the races and a few donated Betta fish; this was a very successful event with some Betta going for as much as \$2,500 Flounder dollars, and 4 Platy hitting a record high of over \$4,500 Flounder dollars.
 - Ed Koerner handed out some Gift Certificates from Big Al's to our young hobbyists;
 Reverse Raffle
 - A very successful event thanks to our donors Ed Koerner, Jerry Draper and Bulk Reef Supply; as well as our sponsors Big Al's and The Tropical Fish Room.
 Service Award, Presidents Award-were not handed out
 Meeting adjourned: 9:45 p.m.

KWAS would like to thank TOMKAR for doing a great job on our annual awards!



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KWAS HAP Results 2011
 Brent Lemanski HAP Chair(blemanski@limra.com)

Well, for all those ‘green meanies’ out there who have submitted HAP sheets and information (and the ‘wanna-bees’ – you know who you are) here are the results from the past year. This has been my first year as the new HAP chair and I’ve really enjoyed the experience – getting to know more of you, and an increased learning curve for me. Hopefully there will be more of us growing plants and participating in the program in the future. While I don’t claim to be an expert, I’d be HAPpy to help out anyone with plant questions, or who wants to join the program. I’m also open to suggestions on how we might expand participation.

Getting involved in our KWAS program, also entitles you to participate in the national CAOAC program. There will likely be several club members who will be eligible for Horticulturist awards at the next CAOAC convention and every plant submission that is forwarded to CAOAC is included on their directory listing the grower and club they are affiliated with - so the more people we have growing, the more the KWAS names will be listed and seen in the grand scheme of things, so don’t be shy and let us know what you are growing.

In addition to the ‘official’ 2011 listing, Jeff Loney gets an honourable mention. Jeff has submitted HAP sheets for numerous plants and propagation methods but has yet to complete the final requirements – so expect to see Jeff’s name as a contender next year. Here are the 2011 rankings.

NAME	PROPAGATION CERTIFICATES EARNED	HAP POINTS EARNED - 2011	AWARDS EARNED
Ed Koerner	28 plants	660	CAOAC Beginner CAOAC Advanced CAOAC Expert CAOAC Master CAOAC Grand Master
Melad Khjepour	5 plants	70	Beginning Aquatic Horticulturist
Brent Lemanski	38 plants	910	Beginning Aquatic Horticulturist Intermediate Aquatic Horticulturist Expert Aquatic Horticulturist Master Aquatic Horticulturist CAOAC Beginner CAOAC Advanced

Breeders Award Program Report – 2011
 Jeff Loney, KWAS BAP Chair
 (Jeff.Loney@hotmail.com)

This was my first year as BAP chair and I walked into a bit of a mess. After a little sorting out I hope that it is more smooth sailing as we work to drum up interest in the program. There were six participants in the program this year and I was very happy to see 2 new participants this year. A good start for Jayne with a wonderful 20 point fish and it was nice to see a submission from Melad with his Cherry shrimp. We look forward to further submissions coming in from Jayne and Melad when he comes back to the hobby. There were 40 submissions this year from a variety of categories including: African and South American Cichlids, Livebearers, Catfish, Killifish and Invertebrates.

We have three awards to give out this year as well. Ed has achieved the Intermediate breeding award for collecting 400 points with a variety of fish from classes A, B, C and D. He has been pumping out a

variety of BAP articles that are often entertaining to read. Brent and myself have both qualified for the Junior Breeder award for achieving 50 points from any of the classes.

Taking over the BAP program has been a learning experience for me. With each new fish that someone spawns I am able to do some research into the fish and learn at least something little about each one. It has also given me the opportunity to see many of the club members impressive set ups.

Throughout the next year we are going to be looking at improving the program. Firstly we will be updating the points list and making sure that people are getting the recognition that they deserve for each fish they spawn. We also are hoping to get the spawning competition off the ground with the ever popular coryadoras aeneus. I hope you will consider getting involved especially starting with this wonderful first fish. I have already received a few first time submissions from new club members for 2012 and am happy to see new members

getting involved into the program.

For those of you who are breeding your fish, whether it be guppies or cichlids BAP is a rewarding program for both yourself and as a great way to get known in the club. Our Board of Directors and Executive are more than happy to

come by and do the inspections, as always if you have any question come talk to me, I am always more than happy to do whatever I can do. Good luck to all of you in the new year and I look forward to seeing your little fishy friends!!

KWAS 2011 BAP SUMMARY - CHAIR JEFF LONEY, JEFF.LONEY@HOTMAIL.COM

KWAS Member	Latin Name	Common Name	Points	Class	Description
Jayne Glazier	Ancistrus Temminckii	Bristlenose Pleco	20	D	Catfish
Total			20		
Melad Khajepour	Red Cherry Shrimp	Neocardinia Heterpoda	10	B	Invertebrate
Total			10		
Ed Koerner	Pseudocrenilabrus Philander	Dwarf Copper Mouthbrooder	15	C	Cichlid
	Pseudocrenilabrus Nicholisi	Nicholisi Mouthbrooder	15	C	Cichlid
	Neolamprologus Signatus	Signatus Shell Dweller	15	C	Cichlid
	Skiffia Lermæ	Olive Skiffia	5	A	Livebearer
	Neolamprologus Multifasciatus	Multi's	15	C	Cichlid
	Xiphophorus Mayae		5	A	Livebearer
	Tropheus sp Black Bemba	Black Bemba	20	D	Cichlid
	Lepidiolamprologus Hecqui	Spotfined Sheldweller	15	C	Cichlid
	Tropheus sp Red Kachese	Red Kachese	20	D	Cichlid
	Xiphophorus Birchmanni	Sheephead Swordtail	5	A	Livebearer
	Neolamprologus brevis		15	C	Cichlid
	Neolamprologus Leleupi	Leleupi	15	C	Cichlid
	Thorichthys Meeki	Firemouth Cichlid	5	A	Cichlid
	Bythnia tentaculata	Faucet Snails	5	A	Invertebrate
	Neocardinia Heterpoda sp Sakura	Fire Red Shrimp	10	B	Invertebrate
	Neocardinia cf. Zhangjiajiensis	Blue Pearl Shrimp	10	B	Invertebrate
	Archocentrus Spilurum	Blue Eyed Cichlid	5	A	Cichlid
	Neocardina Heterpoda "Yellow"	Yellow Shrimp	10	B	Invertebrate
	Melanchromis Johanni	Johanni cichlid	10	B	Cichlid
	Girardinus Microdactylus	Smallfinger Topminnow	5	A	Livebearer
	Carlhubsia Stuardi	Banded Widow Livebearer	5	A	Livebearer
	Pomacea Bridgessii	Apple Snails	5	A	Invertebrate
	Fundulopanchax Gardneri	Gardneri Killi Fish	5	A	Killifish
Total			235		
Brent Lemanski	Ancistrus Temminckii	Bristlenose Pleco	20	D	Catfish
	Aplocheilichthys Lineatus	Golden Wonder Killi	5	A	Killifish
	Xiphophorus Nezhualcoyotl	Nezzie Sword	5	A	Livebearer
	Poecilia Latipinna	Lyretail Molly	5	A	Livebearer
	Anentome (Clea) Helena	Assassin Snail	5	A	Invertebrate
	Aequidens Pulcher	Blue Acara	5	A	Cichlid
	Pseudocrenilabrus Philander	Dwarf Copper Mouthbrooder	15	C	Cichlid
Total			60		
Jeff Loney	Xiphophorus Maculatus	Yellow Twin Bar Platy	5	A	Livebearer
	Poecilia Wingei	Endler's Livebearer	5	A	Livebearer
	Metriclinia Estherae	Zebra Cichlid	10	B	Cichlid
	Archocentrus Spilurum	Blue-Eyed Cichlid	5	A	Cichlid
	Melanoides Tuberculata	Malaysian Trumpet Snails	5	A	Invertebrate
	Neolamprologus Brichardi	Brichardi	15	C	Cichlid
	Amatitlania Nigrofasciata	Convict Cichlid	5	A	Cichlid
Total			50		
Al Ridley	Heterandria Formosa	Dwarf Livebearer	10	B	Livebearer
Total			10		



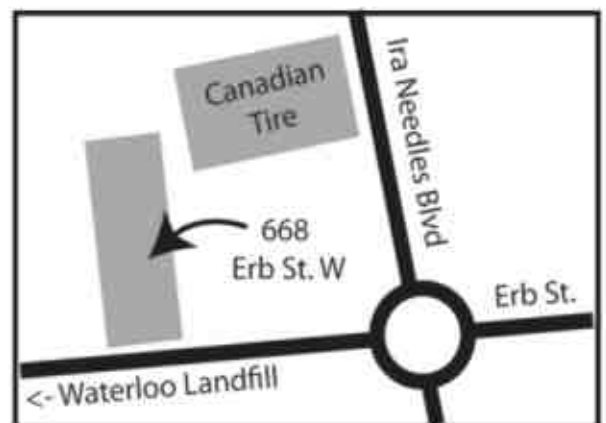
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KWAS Member Profile

by Zenin Skomorowski (zenin@golden.net)

In order to help members become familiar with each other, I will try to feature a Member Profile each month. You might find out that someone else in the club shares your interest in a particular species of fish, or even another hobby. Let me know if you would like to share some information about yourself to the club.

This month, I will feature Jayne Glazier. She is a moderator on the KWAS forum as h2osanity.

Jayne joined KWAS in 2008. She found us on the Internet. Jayne and her husband Jason live in Fergus. They have three children, the youngest also keeps fish. Jayne got into the hobby at a young age when her father bought her a fish tank instead of a puppy.

She now has 11 aquariums ranging from a 65 tall, and a 55 down to several 10's and a 5 gallon tank. There is a planted show tank in the living room, but most tanks are on a laundry room rack or in the basement rec room. One tank holds koi for the winter, while the other tanks have a wide variety of mostly South American and some loaches. At last count, she had about 10 species of corys, some guppies, angel fish and Bolivian rams. Some of her bristle nose plecos are albino, the others are the regular browns. Along with the CARES fish skiffia lermiae, she keeps Cherry shrimp and Amano shrimp. Her son has West African Kribensis, an Elephant nose and a Black Ghost Knife.



Jayne has written many excellent D.I.Y. and planted tank articles that have won F.A.A.S.



author awards. She is now the editor of the KWAS Fins and Tales newsletter.

Some tropical fish websites that Jayne likes to visit are CanadianAquariumConnection.com, SimplyDiscus.com and plantedtank.net.

Other hobbies that Jayne enjoys are gardening, camping, hiking, fishing kayaking and being a hockey trainer.



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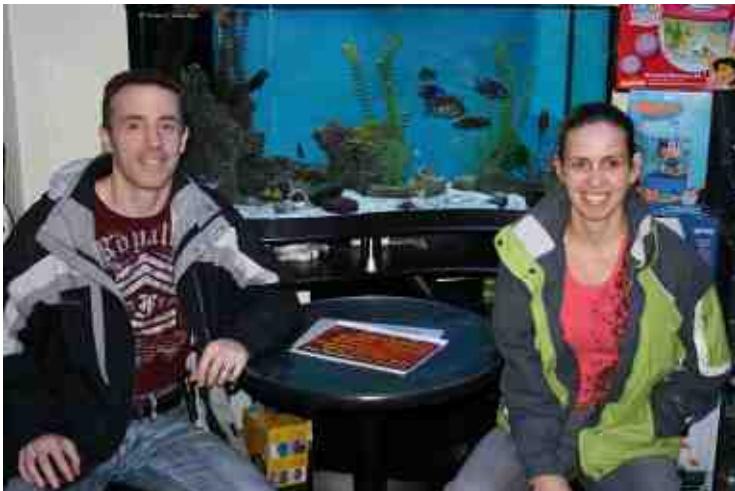
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ROADTRIP: THE OHIO CICHLID EXTRAVAGANZA 2011

article and images by Zenin Skomorowski KWAS

This past November, Terry Clements and I attended the annual Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza. It was the second time for us, last year being the first. This convention features everything to do with Cichlids and Catfish and more. It took place in Strongsville, just south of Cleveland Ohio on the weekend before the U.S. Thanksgiving in November, from Friday the 18th to Sunday the 20th. This year, KWAS was well represented. Ed, Jeff, Brent, Jarmila and her husband Brian were there for the whole weekend, and I did see John there a couple of times.



Familiar Faces: KWAS'ers Jarmila and Brian from Guelph

The fee was very low at \$25 if you registered early, otherwise it was \$28. There were options for a convention T-Shirt and membership in the OCA. Hotel rooms were negotiated with the convention host Holiday Inn to be \$67 per night, and you could split the cost with another convention attendee. Registration for the convention was done online with payment via PayPal. Phoning the Holiday Inn and booking the room at the OCA rate was very easy.



Leleupi in the show

We began our trip around 9am on Friday November 18th, with our passports for the border crossing into the U.S. We went via Fort Erie to Buffalo New York after a 30 minute wait in line. After a few questions by the border official regarding where we were going and for how long, we were on our way. "Yes, we are really going to a Tropical Fish Convention, really, really."

After passing through Buffalo, we got onto Interstate 90 west bound for Cleveland. We stopped in Erie Pennsylvania for lunch and then made our way to Ohio. We bypassed downtown Cleveland by using the I-271 south and the Outer belt 480 to get to I-71 south. Our driving time from Kitchener was just over 5 hours to get to the convention hotel in Strongsville, which was a bit quicker than last year.

We picked up our convention packages, unloaded the car, then we went to check out the vendors already set up. There was lots of dry goods like filters, heaters, algae scrapers, lighting, fish foods, books, pleco caves and lots more. There were several manufacturer's displays as well. Many fish were already set up in the show with more arriving as we walked around. I saw many Canadian aquarium club members from Hamilton, Brantford, Durham, Toronto, London, Sarnia and a group from Ottawa.



Brent beside a tank of African cichlids at Aquatica

There were lots of people selling fish from their rooms. I had checked fish for sale lists that some people had posted on the OCA Extravaganza board at www.cichlidae.com/forum. I was looking for some *Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi*, a nice west African cichlid. I did find a seller from Michigan who had some for sale, so I was very happy to get them. Another seller had a variety of loaches, so I got 5 *Schistura cf. balteata*, sometimes called Sumo loaches. I got them back to our room, set up an air pump and put air stones in the bags. I still had room for more fish from the room sellers or the



Presentation by Speaker Ad Konings

auCTION later on Sunday.

The first presentation this evening at 6pm was Ad Konings talking about "Saving the Malawi Cichlid Diversity". The major effect of hobbyists of fish in the lake is not the numbers of fish taken for the demand of wild caught fish, but rather the movement of fish by wholesalers from one area of the lake to another, causing the local species to be diminished or disappear. The anti-netting devices installed in the national park is an effective deterrent of fishing in protected areas. They allow the small fish to survive and become adults and are able to reproduce. At 8pm, Juan Miguel Artigas talked about the cichlids in his native Mexico. He had lots of excellent photos to show normal and the breeding dress appearance of these wonderful cichlids. At 10pm, Ian Fuller from England talked about his setups for keeping and breeding corydoras. I have his book on Identifying Corys.

At the end of the last presentation, we made our way to the Hospitality Suite to chat with other



Angel fish in Show

convention attendees while having hotdogs, chili, chips and some beer. There were attendees from New Jersey, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, Indiana, Minnesota and of course, Ohio. This was a

very long day, especially after posting on the KWAS forum at 1am, so sleep came very quickly once I got into bed.

Early Saturday morning, Terry and I had breakfast and coffee before Ingo Seidel began his presentation at 9am. He spoke about 8 groups of Catfish from South America by highlighting ones he has recently kept. He had wonderful photos and spoke very passionately about plecos. After that, I was able to check out some more seller's rooms and made sure the fish I got yesterday were still fine and did partial water changes. Terry had picked up some *Barbatus Corys* for Al. There was a central posting board for people selling from their rooms. I also updated my blog on the KWAS forum with more comments and photos.



A rack of discus for sale

Next at 11am was another talk by Ad Konings. He discussed "Breeding Strategies of Tanganyikan Cichlids", from small shell dwellers to the large Emperor Cichlid. There were some awesome videos showing their behaviours.

After lunch, the Swap Meet was under way. Many of the room sellers were there as well as others selling a variety of dry goods, fish and plants for a total of 9 sellers with 20 tables. I got two more large ceramic pleco logs for my growing clown loaches. It was also another opportunity to see more fish on display in the show. By judging time, there were 140 entries registered for the show. This was a bit less than last year, probably because Discus Hans from Baltimore did not make it this year.

Terry, Ed, Jeff, Brent and I went on a tour to visit three local fish shops that were sponsors of the Extravaganza. First we went to RMS Aquaculture. This was a large shop that had birds, mammals and reptiles along with fresh water and marine fish. They had an extensive inventory of tanks and stands on display. Next was Something Fishy. The shop is small but was well stocked with plenty of

adult cichlids and display tanks. They had a lounge area with couches, tables and chairs for chatting and drinking coffee. Jeff really liked the aquarium in the floor. We also had an opportunity



Ed, Terry, Jeff, Brent at Something's Fishy

to visit their hatchery downstairs and in the building next door. Then, after a nice country drive, we arrived at Aquatica. This is Steve Shen's third location. Previously, he specialized in mail order marine equipment and built and installed tanks and sumps. This year he decided to open a retail business as well. The very clean place had many tanks stocked with fresh water and marine fish. There were lots of display tanks and plenty of choices for equipment and supplies. Unfortunately, the battery in my camera died after about 10 photos, so I was determined to return on Sunday. Eventually, we made our way back to the hotel.



Attendees were outfitted with complete fish racks in their hotel rooms! A pizza supper was provided at 6pm before the show awards ceremony at 7pm. I was fortunate to have two of my entries judged to be first and third place in the photo prints class. Then at 8:30, the Manufacturer's Dry Goods auction got under way with Ray "Kingfish" Lucas auctioneering. His voice was in bad shape due to strep throat or some other malady, so his grand children sold a few items before Mark DeWerth (Mr. Happy) took

over. I bought a heater and a grab bag of fish food and another heater. At around 10pm, the Hospitality suite opened once again to provide hot dogs, snacks and drinks.

This year, the Sunday morning buffet was not offered by the hotel restaurant, so we made do with a usual breakfast and coffee. At 10am, the



Ray "Kingfish" Lucas is a real fish head.

auction began. In this auction, only cichlids, catfish and plants were allowed, no dry goods or other species of fish. The split was the first \$1 to the OCA, and of the remainder, 70% to the seller, 30% to the OCA. This was to encourage people not



Vendor Ken's Fish displays items for sale

to enter fish in the auction that will likely sell for \$1 or \$2. This seemed to work since the bags generally contained several fish and/or were fish that you usually only see in books or online. There were 918 bags of fish sold by the auction's end at 7:30pm. There were express bids where bidders paid \$3 to have a bag auctioned right now, rather waiting for that table or that item to be auctioned. You did not have to be a registered convention attendee to be a buyer or put to items in the auction, so there were lots of local people. During the auction, I bid on, and got two bags of *Melanochromis cyaneorhabdos* (maingano). Jeff, Ed and Brent all bid on, and got lots of bags of fish.

During the auction, Terry and I went back to Aquatica, for me, to take more photos, and for Terry, to buy a large air pump for his fish room.

After the auction was over, we got our fish settled in our room. We did partial water changes on the prior purchases, then we went down the road to Applebee's for a nice dinner and dessert. It was a good time to wind down after a whirlwind weekend of presentations, constantly checking room vendor's stock and prices, bidding in two auctions and visiting three local shops.



Peacock at Aquatica

Monday morning, we checked out and headed back home. On the way we stopped again in Erie Pennsylvania for lunch and visited two places. We revisited Buzz and B's to see the fish, birds, reptiles and mammals. It was pretty much the same as last year. We also stopped in to the Sea Cave. They are specialists in marine tanks and livestock. Very nice marine fish and other livestock. They also had some fresh water fish. By the way, we passed 3 Tim Horton's, but there are 6 in Erie, so if you need your coffee and donut fix along the way, stop in this town!

Soon, we were on our way again. As we approached Buffalo, there was no traffic slowdown this year. However, at the border, there were far



Cichlids for sale

more questions about what we were bringing into Canada, the value, and how many fish? It probably would have been quicker if I had written down the species of fish I had and their number and value, rather than depending on my memory. I hope the OCA considers giving us Canadians a receipt or statement of the fish and their price for next year. That will make it easier at the border. I took Terry home to Fergus and I got home around 7pm. I floated my bags of fish and called Al so he could pick up his *Barbatus corys*. It was a very long day, but it was a great weekend.

I highly recommend attending an out of town convention. As a tropical fish hobbyist, it gives you many opportunities to meet fellow fish keepers and presenters from the US, Canada and even Europe. You will see species of fish that you don't see at home and you might learn something new at the speaker presentations.



Friendly marine fish at RMS

This year, there were 280 people officially registered, but others attended the Swap Meet and the Sunday auction.

Next year's Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza will be held 16-18 November 2012. Maybe we can get even more Kwas members to attend ... see you there!



**Minutes from Kwas Business Meeting
December 13, 2011
Submitted by Carlos Mendes
(carlosemendes@gmail.com)**

Executive Present: Ed Koerner, Jeff Loney, Brad McClanahan, Carlos Mendes

BOD Present: Zenin Skomorowski, Jeff Loney, Terry Clements, Katie McClanahan, Al Ridley, Brent Lemanski

Executive & BOD Regrets: Phil Maznyk, Victor Dinh, Dave Boehm, Jayne Glazier, Mary Lynne Lucier, Rein Breitmaier, Cam Turner

Call to order: 7:28 p.m. at the home of Zenin Skomorowski

Notice: John Podhorny has resigned as Secretary; Carlos Mendes has been appointed as Secretary

Motion: Brad M. moved to approve the November Business Meeting Minutes, seconded by Zenin S.; voted and carried.

Motion: Jeff L. moved to approve the December General Meeting Minutes, seconded by Terry C.; voted and carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Club balance \$7,263

Currently 12 signed checks which will carry the club until next elections at which point signing authority will be updated

Motion: Al R. moved to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by Zenin S.; voted and carried

Correspondence: Nothing to report

Committee Reports:

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: All year end results/reports need to be in to Jayne (HAP, BAP, Show Jar, CARES etc)

Exchange Editor: Nothing to report

Membership Chair: Membership renewals are due in January. Action Item: Jayne to add Notice to newsletter

Auction Chair: Nothing to report

Oktoberfish Chair: 2011 debriefing and 2012 kick off meeting to be held in January or February

Librarian: Action Item: Terry C. to purchase Dr. Axelrod's Atlas of Freshwater Aquarium Fishes

Lunch Committee: position is vacant and lunch room will be closed until a volunteer is found. Action Item: Ed K. to make announcement at next GM

Programs: January - Rick from True Love Coral - Title of talk TBA. Action Item: Al R. to get details to Ed and Jayne ASAP for announcements and publications purposes. Al R. will hold off on his West African presentation to fill in if needed. Future Programs are posted on the forum.

Raffle Chair: Items available for next meeting.

B.A.P. Chair: Going well, a few new participants which is encouraging. Spawning contest has been approved and will go on. Action Item: Jeff L. to provide details at next GM

M.A.P. Chair: Coming soon (Feb?). I've been in contact with the people running the Global Marine Breeders Initiative site and have permission to link in with them. The requirements are a bit more than I expected but it will be good to offload the points categorization of marine fish on that body rather than inventing our own.

H.A.P. Chair: 2011 only had 3 members participating

CAOAC Rep: - CAOAC Awards - Miecia Burden Award nominations are due by December 31st. Executive and BOD agreed to put forward a Kwas nomination. Action Item: Brent L. to collaboratively write up nomination. HAP and BAP need to be submitted by Feb. Meeting Insurance and membership needs to be filled out and sent in. Forms and Insurance check were handed to Al R. Action Item: Al R to deliver to Phil M.

Name that Fish: Nothing to report

Jar Show: Nothing to report

Webmaster: Forum security is good. 8-10 requests for accounts are generated daily and only 3-4 are legitimate. Facebook is alive and well. Action Item: Zenin S. to add "likes" to: Exotic Wings & Pet Things, Aquariums by Design and Something's Fishy

Pet Store Liaisons: Al announced that Kwas members will get 10% discount at Aquariums by Design. Grand opening is December 17th with specials and door crushers. Club discount is not

valid on Grand Opening.

Old Business:

Club trip: Discussion took place as to viable locations, no consensus was reached. Brent L. suggested a "special meeting" instead. This meeting would take place on a Saturday, with a high profile speaker followed by a dinner/social event. This idea was received with enthusiasm from all present; preliminary investigation to happen over the couple of months. Action Item: Al R. to contact Tedd Judy and Charlie Reims (sp); Ed K. to contact Spencer Jack and Oliver Lucanus regarding their appearance fee.

FOTM and TOTM: Action Item: Phil M. to add sticky to the forum with information regarding the prizes that are now available.

New Business:

Proposal – To add to the HAP and BAP rules that any items donated to the club's regular meeting/raffle be qualified the same as meeting auction items. Action Item: Ed K. to write a sample constitution change and present at next Business Meeting.

Ed proposed that Kwas could possibly hold the 2013 CAOAC conference. Discussion took place and there is general interest; concerns about getting volunteers were raised; concerns about the proposal deadline of April 2012 were also voiced. Conversation will continue at next Business Meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 p.m



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KWAS 2011 JAR SHOW RESULTS
Chair: Dave Boehm (centrarchid@rogers.com)

Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society – Jar Show 2011											
Seniors	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Jeff Loney	0	1	5	0	5	11	10	14	22	No show	68
Zenin Skomorowski	11	8	13	13	10	7	9	0	8	No show	79
Alan Smiley	4	8	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	No show	21
Al Ridley	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	No show	8
Bob Channen	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	No show	5
Ed Koener	7	6	0	4	4	0	6	0	0	No show	27
Jeff Samson	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	No show	4
Alex	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No show	4
Juniors	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Violet Radtke	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	No show	4

Peoples Choice Award	
Jeff Loney	3
Zenin Skomoroski	2
Ed Koerner	2
Alan Smiley	1
Al Ridley	1

Consistency	
Zenin Skomoroski	8 of 9
Jeff Loney	7 of 9
Ed Koerner	5 of 9
Alan Smiley	4 of 9

January 2012 Exchange Editor Report

Zenin Skomorowski KVAS (zenin@golden.net)

The newsletters featured in this column and others are available to you. Please let me know by email, or at the monthly meeting, which ones you would like to read.

One of my favourite large cichlid is the *Severum*. This relatively calm large cichlid originates from lakes and rivers in Brazil. They have been in the hobby for many years. Read about Wayne Toven's experiences keeping and breeding this wonderful vegetarian fish in the October/November issue of Tank Topics from the Greater Akron Aquarium Society. Wayne also writes about his experiences breeding "Those Terrible *Terrabensis*". They are a Livebearer from Costa Rica.

If you have been in this hobby for a while, you will have fond memories of a tropical fish store from your youth. That store may or may not still be around, but I doubt that its service time is more than the Aquarium Stock Company. This store operated in Manhattan New York city from 1910 to well into the 1980's. Joseph Ferdenzi give us some nostalgia notes in the November 2011 issue of Modern Aquarium from the Greater City Aquarium Society – New York. Compare his notes and photos to the shop that you remember. In the same issue, Jules Birnbaum wrote about some ideas related to fish keeping in his column Odds & Ends. Educating new people in the hobby is important in trying to keep them in the hobby so "anything worth learning is worth repeating". Let's share our knowledge and experience that we have gained. Mike Helwig shares his knowledge by publishing a book "Culturing Live Foods". Susan Priest reviews this guide to providing live food for your fish in her Wet Leaves column.

Charlie Drew wrote about an interesting South American killifish in the November 2011 issue of The Bulletin from the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society. Since *Simpsonichthys suzarti* come from temporary flood pools, they require the eggs to sit dormant for months before being reactivated.

The November 2011 issue of Aqua Antics from the Sarnia Aquarium Society has three Breeder's Award Program reports of note. They are "Breeding Odessa Barbs *Puntius padamyia* by Wayne Cole, "Breeding *Corydorus Panda*" by Bruce Hart and *Melanotaenia Irianjaya* by Jack VanderAa. Give these species a try.

"Saltwater Made Simple" continues with Part 2 by Michael Steffen in the November 2011 issue of Tank Tales from the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County. This instalment focuses on equipment and their uses in the salt water tank. Also in this issue, Joel Antkowiak continues his series on Bread 'N Butter fish with Tiger Barbs.

Do you have a disease issue in your aquarium ? Perhaps Joe Schwartz can help you out by understanding disease-causing organisms. He also wrote about how to eliminate them in his article "What's wrong with this picture ?" in the November-December 2011 issue of Currents from the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society. Also in this issue, Jasmine Landriault wrote about her breeding program adventure with *Kali Biru* 'Orange' Rainbows. She promises future updates, looking forward to them.

When *Buettikoferi* is mentioned, most of us immediately think of the large black and white West African cichlid that is best kept by itself. However, that is *Tipalia buettikoferi*. There is another West African riverine fish that is much more mild mannered and is a golden colour. It is *Pelmatochromis buettikoferi*. Chase Klinesteker had his article reprinted from the Nov 2009 SWAM Bulletin in the November/December issue of Fincinnati from the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society.

Recently, we had Barry McKee speak to KVAS regarding his collecting trip to Uruguay. Many of the cichlids there live in temperate water and even have a cold period for a few months. One such cichlid is *Australoheros sp.* "*Oblongum*". This is probably the original "chancito" fish that was introduced to the hobby back in the 1930's. There is a very strong pair bond and they are pretty good at taking care of their fry. Read more about them

in Bruce Haynes' article in the December 2011 issue of Michiana Tropical Times from the Michiana Aquarium Society.

We, as responsible aquarists, know not to release exotic or non-native fish to any local waterway. Here in Canada, most tropical fish will not survive our winter, but in places like Florida and Mexico, they survive and thrive, often to the detriment of the native species. Juan Miguel Artigas Azas writes about this problem in his native Mexico. The Chacamax River was a pristine, clearwater pool flowing into the larger Usumacinta River. Now it is black with plecós, side by side and overwhelming the local native fish. These South American catfish were probably released by a hobbyist, not realizing the damaging impact. Read more about the situation here (and other places) in the December 2011 issue of The Cichlid Monthly from the Victorian Cichlid Society. Also in this issue, David Green describes how he retrofitted a LED lighting system into an existing aquarium hood. There is also a heartbreaking article by Alice Cowdrey on a beloved public aquarium in New Zealand that burned to the ground. A memorial

service was given to remember the sea creatures that lost their lives. This educational facility was loved by every child that visited and their excitement kept the owner interested in the venture.

Surf's up ! Here are this month's web sites to explore:

Variations in Severums

<http://aqualandpetsplus.com/Cichlid,%20Severums%20II.htm>

Rainbowfish Profiles

<http://fishprofiles.com/profiles/freshwater/Rainbowfish>

Uruguay Freshwater fish

<http://edburress.blogspot.com/2010/12/fishes-of-genus-gymnogeophagus.html>



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No longer just a Feeder fish. Jeff Loney KWAS (jeff.loney@hotmail.com)

The first thing people think about when you bring up convicts is "ohhh not those again, I use those to feed to my other fish." I would like to say that this is a very common misconception. Why do I think this? These are one of the most underrated fish in the hobby.



I will admit that when I first started keeping fish I turned my nose up at the concept of keeping convicts, to me they seemed like everyone's cast off fish. This turned out to be one of the best things about them. They were very easy to find. I purchased a bag of 6 of these fish at the Peel region auction in November, 2010 for the extraordinary price of 1 dollar. I know that often people are giving them away and if you are really picky you can purchase them at my many fish stores for only 99 cents. For that price you really can't find a nicer fish.

I placed all 6 of these fish in a ten gallon tank since they were still small. These fish came to me at about 1.5 inches. It was not long until they were breeding, within a month they had reached 2 inches and two pairs had formed. I gave away all of the fish with the exception of one pair. The first thing I noticed was that they were not shy in spawning. This was another great thing about them; even the most experienced aquarist loves to watch their fish spawn. I was able to watch my pair spawn on a regular basis (sometimes as often as once a week). I was not able to keep any of the fry past the wiggler stage until I moved my pair to a 20 gallon aquarium. Once they had this bigger tank they were able to keep fry for well over 2 months. Though often not recorded I noticed that my pair were starting to be generational breeders having the one month old fry and eggs at the same time.

Another great thing about convicts are the

personalities that they develop. Many people keep the big and ugly Oscar (well that may be an opinion, but hey we all have them right?) just because of their wonderful personalities. I would say that the convicts are able to hold their own on the personality front with these lovable giants, but instead of keeping a one hundred gallon tank you can often keep them in a 20 gallon. They would always come to the front of the glass when I walked into the room and almost seem happy to see me. Don't let this friendly attitude phase you too much, when you put your hand in when they are guarding eggs they will have no problem trying to take a chunk out of your finger.

Another complaint about Convicts is the lack of color that people say they exhibit. If you have seen a full colored female this would no longer have this complaint. Orange, Green and Blue Metallic colors show themselves throughout the body of even the drabest females. Many people would come over and see the female convict swimming through my tanks and wonder what it was, of course they were shocked to hear that it was a lowly convict.

You will not find a heartier fish. They seem to be extremely hard to kill, not that I have actively tried. My big male was about 5 inches when he decided to jump/fall from the top row of tanks. I watched in horror as I watched him land directly on his head falling from just over 6 feet. I quickly grabbed him and threw him in the tank and almost immediately he resumed his perusing of the tank like nothing happened. You don't have to worry about losing part of a group because your water parameters shift slightly or your filtration stops for a few hours.

Anyways in conclusion you will not find a cheaper, easier to keep fish than the convict and if you haven't tried them yet they are well worth giving it a try, who knows you might even like them.



**Pseudocrenilabrus philander-dispersus ~
The Copper Mouth Brooder**
Al Ridley – KWAS
(pyrofishtoo@rogers.com)

Here is a cool little mouth brooder that is extraordinarily hardy and easy to keep! This cichlid can be widely found below the Equator on the continent of Africa in the countries of South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola and Southern Zaire. The fish inhabits streams, shallow bays, swampy areas and calm edges of larger rivers.

In the home aquarium, this is an excellent beginner cichlid. The ability of this fish to adapt to many water conditions and thrive is remarkable. This is not a large cichlid with the males reaching 6.5cm (2 ½") and the females being a little smaller at 5cm (2"). They can be easily housed in aquariums that are minimum 90cm (36") in length. The aquarium should be heavily planted and attention should be given to creating separate thickets if possible. These thickets will provide two benefits, the first being a place for the females to seek shelter during the period that they are holding eggs and secondly to mark the territories of the males. The temperature requirements are surprisingly low at 20 to 24° C (68 to 75° F). They can tolerate temperatures up to 30°C (80°F) without any trouble. Sand or fine gravel should be provided as a substrate as the males excavate a small spawning pit as part of their courtship ritual. It may be a good idea to use potted plants in the spawning tank. A few large round stones to create some rocky caves as additional hiding places will round out the landscaping perfectly.

It is important to note that you cannot successfully keep a pair, you must provide small harems. I learned the hard way when one of my females jumped and I was left with a pair. The males are constantly sexually active and after spawning with the remaining female, he harassed her and tore her up so badly that I had to remove her. Like a good mother, she held the eggs and I successfully got fry but she never fully recovered and when she was reintroduced to the male, he killed her. Larger aquariums of 124cm (48") or even 181cm (72") can hold two or three males and exhibit amazing territorial displays.

Spawns of 35 to 40 are standard. At 20 to 24° C (68 to 75° F) incubation lasts approximately 14 days. As mentioned before, the males will excavate a small

pit in the substrate. The males will court many females vigorously. There is no bond between the pair and as soon as the spawning is over, the male and female go their own way. The male will seek out another mate and the female will care for the fry herself.

During the courtship, the males will shake and tremble in front of the female and guide her to the spawning pit. In the spawning pit the female will lay eggs and pick them up in her mouth. The male then fertilizes the eggs. The fry are omnivore and can be fed with crushed flake food and decapsulated brine shrimp eggs. With proper diet and water changes the fry can reach sexual maturity at five to six months.

The males are very aggressive towards each other and during spawning can be a danger to any bottom dwelling fish. Their breeding territory of fairly large for a fish of their size however I found that most mid-water fish are ignored for the most part. They can hold their own with other mid sized cichlids. I housed mine with seven Congo tetras and had no issues.



There are three Pseudocrenilabrus species available and they aren't always easy to find. The Pseudocrenilabrus philander-dispersus or The Copper Mouth Brooder described here, the Pseudocrenilabrus multicolour (Dwarf Egyptian Mouth

Brooder) which was the earliest Pseudocrenilabrus found in the trade and the Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi which is probably the most colourful fish in the family.

Note that the Pseudocrenilabrus multicolour is actually also referred to as Pseudocrenilabrus philander philander. This change in nomenclature is to prevent confusion around the globe as different languages use completely different common names for the same fish. While it is important that you remember the Latin name of the fish you purchase, be aware that the Latin name can change as it did for this family in 1963 when they were changed from Haplochromis to Hemihaplochromis. Then again in 1977, it was discovered that a fish called Chromis philander had actually been named Pseudocrenilabrus in 1934! Confused yet?

The bottom line is that you are a cichlid head and you are looking for a beautiful small cichlid to keep, this is a great choice. Check around on your local forums and see what is available. My fry are almost breeding size and will be moved into a breeding tank shortly to rejuvenate the line.



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