

# TropiQuarium

The Official Publication of the  
Motor City Aquarium Society

April 14th, 2011 7:30 pm



## Inside this issue:

- Crazy about Corydoras
- Blue-eyed *Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis*
  - Bowl Show Results

[www.motorecityaquariumsociety.com](http://www.motorecityaquariumsociety.com)

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Fishini Post (Tropi)	Gary Leung	248.677.3441	GLeung_mcas@att.net
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Board meetings are held on the Wednesday a week before the general meeting. The monthly newsletter is assembled at the board meeting. All board members are required to attend the monthly board meeting. All chairpeople and assistants are encouraged to attend. Please contact a board member if you plan on attending the Board meeting.

## From the Editor:

Let's talk about the weather. Even though it's spring, there has been some snow, sleet, and rain. But no sign of spring. However, that is a good thing if you have fish. The lousy weather outside has encouraged the fish to spawn in the fishroom. Let's see if I can keep some of them alive. I know others are spawning fish out there. Let me again ask (plead) for some of you to write some new articles, otherwise it's just reprints. This seems to be a common issue with editors...we you're your creative writing skills to make a better publication. Anyhow, I hope your fish and tanks are doing well. Hope to see you at the next fish meeting or event.

Please send all newsletter submissions to:  
Gary Leung 248.677.3441 [gleung\\_mcas@att.net](mailto:gleung_mcas@att.net)



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### TropiQuarium Policies

The TropiQuarium is published monthly for the membership of the Motor City Aquarium Society (Metro Detroit area) and for corresponding societies.

Correspondence regarding the TropiQuarium should be addressed to the editor.

Motor City Aquarium Society (MCAS) will exchange publications with those clubs interested in receiving our publication. In turn, we welcome other clubs to send us a copy of their publication. Deletion of any club from the MCAS mailing list is at the discretion of the board of directors.

Please submit articles, committee reports and show results for publication in the TropiQuarium by the Saturday following the general meeting. All articles, reports & results submitted within that time frame will be featured in the next issue of TropiQuarium.

### Reprint Policy

Non-profit organizations: Reprinting from the TropiQuarium is encouraged provided that proper credit is given to the author & MCAS. Also, please provide MCAS with a complimentary copy of the publication featuring the reprint.

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### Advertising Rates Per Year

Full Page Ad - \$120 Half Page Ad - \$80 One Third Page ad - \$60

## President's Message

We hope our members and guests enjoyed our general meeting in March with our very special guest speaker, Mr. Ted Judy. As long as our fund raising functions support such expenses it's our pleasure to host such events in the future.

As previously mentioned, the end of our organization's fiscal year is near. We're always looking for fresh input to bolster the interests of our current and future members. If there's something that you believe could use some fine tuning, get involved and let your voice be heard. Some of our current leaders, although rarely showing any indication of their willingness to step aside, sure could use a break from their duties. So, as several persons may take one step backwards, don't be afraid to be the one out in front volunteering your services. Be receptive to that tap on the shoulder with a request to take over one of the positions in the club.

We have two other activities coming up in the immediate future.

With the end of the club's fiscal year comes the Awards Night in June. So, you have just a little bit of time to ensure your top billing in the final standings for the Breeder Awards Program, Bowl Show, Author of the Year, Horticultural Award Program, etc. It would be nice to see a last minute flurry of activity in our programs. Also, we're now taking dinner reservations for that evening.

Finally, make sure you reserve the first Saturday in June for our annual shop hop. You'll experience some behind the scenes views of some very successful personal and commercial operations, find those rare and highly desirable creatures and enjoy the company of some very knowledgeable hobbyists in our region.

We're still working on a program for our April General Meeting. If nothing concrete does materialize, we can always fall back on an evening of enjoyable discussions with our esteemed members and guests.

See ya'll on the 14<sup>th</sup> in Saint Clair Shores.

*Vic Bondi*

## **2010/2011 Bowl Show Categories**

February: Swordtails, Dwarf Cichlids

March: South American Cichlids, Danios

April: Aquatic Plants, Snails & invertebrates

May: Botias/Loaches

June: no show (Awards Banquet)

### **Bowl Show Standings for 2010 -2011:**

1st place	Mark Allar	340 points
2nd place	Chuck Riffenburg	95 points
3rd place	Randy Stier	60 points
4th place	Ron Tichansky	45 points
5th place	Bob Kanas	35 points
6th place	Pat Piekarz	30 points
7th Place	Chris Simpson	25 points

### **March Results**

#### Danio's

1st place and best of show			
Brachydanio Rerio	Mark Allar	30 points	
2nd place			
Danio Margariatus	Chris Simpson	15 points	
3rd place			
Brachydanio Rerio	Chris Simpson	10 points	

#### South American Cichlids

1st place			
Microgeophagus Ramirezi	Mark Allar	25 points	

Don't forget you can win our monthly \$25.00 gift certificate by entering monthly in one of or all of the BAP, HAP, bowl show, or submit an article for the Tropiquarium. (1 ticket for each of the categories) We try to get a gift certificate to a different pet shop in the area every month. Winner of this month's gift certificate to Wet Thumb Aquatics was Mark Allar.

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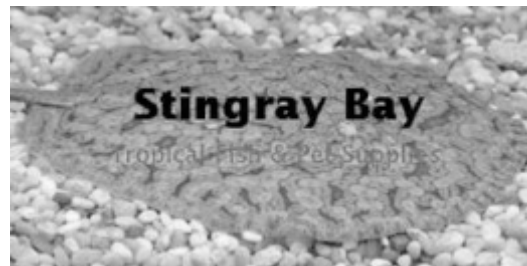
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# Crazy About Corydoras

by [Paul Schuman](#) (originally written for the Honolulu Aquarium Society )

Corydoras are one of the most popular, if not the most popular group of aquarium catfish. Their small size and gentle nature has made them popular with aquarists for over a hundred years. They were first introduced to the hobby in Europe during the 1880s, and their popularity has continued to grow. They won't bother the smallest, most delicate species, and have armor plates on their body and stiff spines to ward off more aggressive fishes. They can be kept with most fish, except the most aggressive ones, and those requiring brackish or extremely alkaline water.

There are between 130 and 140 known species of [Corydoras](#) . All of them come from South America. They range from Argentina to Colombia, with most coming from the Amazon basin. They range in size from about 5 inches (*C. barbatus*) to about 1 inch (*C. hastatus* and *C. pygmaeus*). Most come from fairly soft, acidic, virtually salt free waters, but will adapt to harder, more alkaline water. Corydoras are able to absorb atmospheric oxygen through the capillaries in their intestines. Periodically, you will see them make a mad dash to the surface of the tank for a quick gulp of air, which they swallow. Occasionally, you will see them excrete bubbles as the air passes out of their intestines. This ability to utilize atmospheric oxygen allows Corydoras to exist in water conditions that will kill other fish. This doesn't mean you should allow your tank's conditions to deteriorate though!

Contrary to what you may think, Corydoras do not eat fish waste! They need good quality foods, just like the rest of your fish. I feed mine flakes, sinking tablets, live tubifex worms, live brine shrimp, live daphnia, frozen blood worms (midge fly larva), and frozen brine shrimp. Regardless of what you feed, make sure some of it is getting to the bottom of the tank. Otherwise, your poor catfish will go hungry.

The most widely available, and easiest to breed species are [C. aeneus](#)

and [C. paleatus](#) . Both species are available in an albino form. Either of these species is a good choice for your first Corydoras. They are extremely hardy, and they have been tank bred so long, they will adapt to practically any water conditions. They have been kept in soft to very hard water and pH ranging from 6.0 to 8.2. They will live in temperatures of 68 to 82 degrees, as long as sudden changes are avoided. I've read accounts of them surviving in salt contents of up to 2 teaspoons per gallon, but I wouldn't recommend this.

Once you have mastered keeping and breeding these "easy" Corydoras, you may want to keep an eye out for some of the more rare and difficult species. It used to be difficult to find different species of Corydoras. Other than the *C. aeneus* and *C. paleatus*, you could usually find *C. trilineatus* (often misidentified as *C. julii*), *C. punctatus*, *C. melanistius*, and occasionally *C. arcuatus*. There weren't many others available. The situation has gotten much better in the last few years. I know in the Honolulu area, there are currently at least 20 species of Corydoras available. I believe the increasing popularity has allowed importers to locate and ship species not formerly imported.

The challenge of these new imports is getting them to spawn in the aquarium. Many species haven't been bred in the aquarium, and demand a high price. I try to make my water conditions as close as possible to those where the fish come from. Often, this requires some research, to find out which rivers they come from, and what the water conditions are in their home range. Duplicating these conditions is sometimes enough to get them to spawn. Other tricks I use are waiting until the South American summer months, when the rainy season starts, and doing a massive water change with distilled water. This water should be several degrees cooler than the tank water. The idea behind this is to duplicate the rainy season, when most Corydoras spawn. If this doesn't work, Try waiting until a storm hits your area, then do the water change. Sometimes the drop in barometric pressure, along with the water change will work. I also use wood in my tanks, to add tannic acid to the water. Many Corydoras come from waters high in tannic acid. You could use blackwater extract for the same effect. Often, I can't get wild caught fish to spawn despite my best efforts. This is just part of

the fun (or frustration) of keeping rare Corydoras. I've covered the basics of keeping, feeding, and breeding Corydoras. If you need more information, there are many good books available that will give you detailed information on the particular fish you are interested in. I hope you get as much enjoyment from keeping and breeding Corydoras as I do.

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## Big Dog Shop Hop V

The Fifth Annual Big Dog Shop Hop will take place on June 4, 2011, brought to you by your hosts Randy Stier and Chuck Riffenburg. The Gathering place will be McDonald's (9437 Lee Rd, Brighton, MI 48116 - Exit 58 off US23 just south of I96) at 8:30am with departure to the first stop at 9:00am SHARP. This year's stops will include the following shops:

Oyer's Home Fish Hatchery  
Fantastic Fins  
The Pet Supplier  
Highland Tropicals  
Moby Dick's  
Durkin's Home Fish Hatchery  
Dinner at the Brad's BBQ Place on 23 mile in New Baltimore

This is a tentative schedule and may include a few more surprise stops. More details to follow. If anyone has hobby related donations for the Shop Hop participants, please contact Randy Stier. Also, if anyone would like to open up their fishroom for a visit by the Shop Hop group, again, please contact Randy Stier at 586/558-4375.

Juergen Kasprick has graciously opened up his fishroom as part of the shop hop. We will leave it up to the hosts to update the schedule.

## The Blue-backed blue eye, *Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis*

By Mach Fukada, HAS (reprinted from May 1998 I' A O HAWAI'I)

*Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis*, is probably one of, if not the most beautiful blue eye that the average person will ever see (I consider myself the average person and I have seen it and have been able to breed it). It is about the same size or a bit larger than a neon tetra (it is one of the smaller blue eyes), but by far a more intense blue (if you can imagine that). The remaining body is a bold contrasting brassy orange/yellow color, which is further offset by black accents on most of the fins. *P. cyanodorsalis* originates from the northern part of Australia and it has been conjectured that it will also be found in southern Papua New Guinea. This fish is found near the mouths of streams, in waters that range in salinity that vary between fresh to 100% seawater.

I was often told that it was one of the most rewarding and beautiful fish to raise by several Honolulu Aquarium Society members and this stirred my curiosity (I figured I was already over the limit of 6 species of rainbowfish set by my wife, so why not?). Thus began my attempt at keeping this jewel from Australia.

Prior to making an acquisition, I had been checking various resources for information on this fish. These sources included Dr. G. Allen's book "Rainbowfishes in Nature and in the Aquarium" and various sites on the internet: [Rainbowfish Online](#) , [Rainbowfish Study Group](#), [Aquarium Mailinglists](#) (The internet makes finding information very fast and trading/selling fish easy. Many people are looking for fish or plants we have here in Honolulu and are very willing to do trades and many will give fish away for the cost of shipping via express or priority mail).

All of the sources indicated that this fish preferred a higher salt concentration than most, but could be adapted to fresh water over time. I was already playing with another blue eye that preferred 50% seawater and figured "why not". So a friend of mine (I met via the internet) sent me a bunch of eggs with instructions regarding hatching. He suggested hatching them in 75% sea water. So I mixed up some

"Instant Ocean" and diluted down to 3/4 strength in a 10 gallon tank with a sponge filter. Many of the resources indicated that the addition of crushed coral would add calcium and help keep the water well buffered. My various contacts indicated that although it is possible to use 100% rock/sea salt to mix up a sea water solution, it is not recommended. The commercial mixes add the necessary amounts of trace elements (Magnesium, Calcium, etc.), which may be absent in coarse/rock or "Hawaiian" salt. Apparently, most blue eyes and rainbows are fairly susceptible to deficiencies in Magnesium or Calcium.

At about 2 weeks nothing had hatched and I checked with my friend and he suggested to check if the eggs were developing and "force" them if they were ready. A careful inspection revealed that the embryos in the eggs were well developed, I could see their eyes looking back at me as they moved around in the egg shells. I removed them from the tank and placed them into a small vial (film can) with some of the tank's water. I blew some air (I prayed that halitosis wouldn't kill the eggs) into the vial, resealed it, and placed it into my pocket, and walked around pausing once in a while to shake the vial. The theory behind forcing is that an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and agitation will cause the fry to secrete an enzyme that breaks down the egg shells, thereby releasing the fry. (This procedure is commonly used with killifish.) IT WORKED!!! I had about 12-15 little fry swimming around looking for something to eat. The fry were bigger than most rainbows and were able to eat baby brine shrimp (BBS) right off the bat. I supplemented with a little Artificial Plankton Rotifer (APR) just in case there were a few smaller ones that could not eat BBS. The odd thing was that BBS did not die in 75 % seawater, they would thrive and grow. Thus, over feeding can be a problem. The fry reached adulthood in about three months after hatching. The adults ate flake food in the morning and BBS in the evening. At this point, I gradually reduced the concentration of seawater. Now I have them in 25-50% seawater. I have been told that they can become acclimatized to 100% freshwater, but this may have negative side affects like reduction in life span and reproductive potential.

My adults (7 males and 6 females) would produce about 30 eggs per day. They spawned like a typical rainbow or killie on yarn mops. They seem to

prefer mops that are light brown or beige. What is troublesome is that they will often completely ignore the mops and lay their eggs in the gravel (I make a point of straining the water I siphon out of the tank to collect any eggs in the gravel). The eggs hatch in about 2 weeks and fry are very easy to raise.

I hope I haven't scared any one away from trying to keep this marvelous small blue eye. It is easy to care for save its preference for brackish water. It is well worth any of the minor inconveniences of dealing with brackish water.

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Dear Club Members,

I have decided to sell my Discus hatchery business after almost twenty years of breeding and selling Discus. Arthritis is causing me problems with the every day work in the hatchery. The equipment is worth between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00. Currently on hand are approx. 200 Discus to be sold for \$25.00 each to fish keepers. Pet shops and distributors purchase at a discount. There are six pairs of breeding Discus: (2) Blue Diamonds, (2) Tangerines and (2) Red Turquoise at a value of \$300.00 per pair. There are another 5 male adults. One commercial freezer with sliding glass top doors, value at \$700.00. Various supplies approx. value of \$1,000.00.

I would like to sell as a total package at \$7,000.00. I will help in taking down and setting up at another location. Please, interested persons only. An equipment list can be provided. If I can't sell as a total package, I will separate the systems for sale.

Ron Albers, Sterling Heights, MI (586) 268-3271  
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Tom Siegfried 616-862-7315 [tomsiegfried@charter.net](mailto:tomsiegfried@charter.net)

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A male and a female pair of Kribensis (*Pelvicachromis pulcher*)

Christopher Simpson 586-573-3919

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## MCAS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 2011

The Board meeting was held March 2nd at Juergen Kasprick's house in Sterling Heights.

The Board meeting was called to order by Vice President Gary Damm at 8:00PM. Members present were Don Combs, Chuck Riffenburg, Gary Leung, Chris Newell, Paul Christlieb, Juergen Kasprick, and Mike Zajac. Visitors present were Patty and Lisha Christlieb, and Mike and Chris Simpson.

The February minutes were read by Mike. The motion to accept was made by Don, seconded by Chuck. Motion passed.

The Treasure's report was given by Juergen. The motion to accept was made by Chuck, seconded by Don. motion passed.

Gary Damm gave the Auction report. The number of items were down, however the prices were up. The Buy It Now table was a success and it will continue in future auctions. The hall was able to supply only on microphone. We need to look into getting a second for the next auction. Greater Detroit is having there Auction in two weeks and try to be there.

Ted Judy will be coming next week, and Juergen will pick him up. We are looking for Donation items, to put into the rare fish raffle. Chris Simpson said he will make sure we have sufficient items for the raffle table. Chris will bring in some more driftwood. Gary L. will make sure we have sufficient refreshments for the meeting.

Gary Leung made a motion that the Club buy a backup bulb for the projector. Seconded by Don. Motion Passed.

Don made a motion that Starting at the April Meeting, To create more interest for the Auction at the meetings. The Club will collect the first two dollars from each item, and the seller will receive the rest of the money. Seconded by Chris. Motion Passed.

Juergen would like to have all of the local fish stores on our e- mailing list.

Chris said that we have Mike Hellwig coming in for May, 2012.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don, seconded by Chris. Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Submitted by Mike Zajac

## **Motor City Aquarium Society Program Schedule**

April 14                    A video Presentation of Fishrooms and Local Shops  
May 12                     TBD

### **Upcoming Events**

April 8-10                American Livebearer Association Convention, OH  
June 4                     MCAS Big Dog V Shop Hop

### **Websites of Fish Interest**

Grand Valley Aquarium Club  
[www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org](http://www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org)

Great Lakes Cichlid Society  
[www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net](http://www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net)

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society  
[www.gcas.org](http://www.gcas.org)

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society  
[www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org](http://www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org)

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society  
[www.gpasi.org](http://www.gpasi.org)

Michigan Aquatic Plant Group  
[www.miapg.com/forums](http://www.miapg.com/forums)

Michigan Cichlid Association  
[www.michigan.cichlid.freesevers.com](http://www.michigan.cichlid.freesevers.com)

Michigan Killifish Association  
<http://mka.aka.org>

Missouri Aquarium Society  
[www.missouriaquariumsociety.com](http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.com)

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***A Video Presentation on  
Ted Fishroom, Juergen's Fishroom,  
A Trip to Fantastic Fins, and More***

*To be held on*  
**Thursday, April 14, 2011**  
**7:30 PM**

**At**  
**Saint Gertrude Education Center**  
**28839 Jefferson** (N of Martin aka 11½ Mile Rd)  
**Saint Clair Shores MI 48081-1339**  
Doors open at 7:00 PM

*Free admission and plenty of free parking  
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auction and serious fish talking.*

For additional information about MCAS please visit our  
website at: [www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com](http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com)

**TropiQuarium**  
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**Meeting Notice ñ Please Do Not Delay**