

J U N E 2 0 1 1



Fins & Tales

Serving Kitchener-Waterloo and the surrounding area since 1960



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Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 7th at 7:30 pm

Summer Social - Bring your membership cards to win prizes!

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OCA Extravaganza 2010

Zenin and Terry went for a short drive to Cleveland Ohio to attend the 2010 OCA cichlid and catfish convention. Perhaps we should arrange a group field trip this year?

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KWAS Member Profiles

With the lag in publications we've missed a few member profiles and have some catching up to do. Therefore this month we have two profiles that introduce you to three of our members. If you're willing to be introduced please talk to Zenin.

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Living with Livebearers

Ed returns with his regular column on livebearers and their care. This month he covers some of the common mollies, but promises to discuss hard to find fish next month. We'll hold you to that Ed!

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On the front cover

Past President Phil Maznyk captured this stunning photo of an unidentified but stunning marine fish. Where? In the display tank at the Kitchener Big Al's Aquarium Services before it was dismantled. If anyone knows what kind of fish this is please let me know as my reef needs one :).

If you have photos that you think would make great covers please send them to kwasnewsletter@gmail.com for consideration. They should ideally be high-res and about 2-3 megabytes in size. If your photo needs some touch ups, talk to Phil. Maybe he can show you some tricks.

If you do send photos please be sure to include as much information about the location, conditions and species as possible. It makes writing in this space much easier. - Cam

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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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Exchange Program — KWAS exchanges newsletters with other clubs across North America. If your club is interested in becoming a part of this program please contact our exchange editor by mail or e-mail zenin@golden.net

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.

KWAS Officials 2011 - 2012

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Past President	Phil Maznyk (webmaster@kwas.ca)

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Advertise in Fins & Tales

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		

From the President's Desk

Hello everyone:

As you are reading this you have realized that there is a new Kwas newsletter that has been published and presented to our members. We, as an exec understand that many of you have been missing your monthly club exchange and have been looking and wondering when it would return. As many of you know, life sometimes gets in the way of the best laid plans and ambitions and this has happened here. Volunteering one's time will be put aside for more important matters but fortunately, the ship has been righted and Victor Dinh is coming back to a new beginning as co-editor and will be pooling his ideas over the summer with his new partner in crime and co-editor Jayne Glazier. Please support their efforts as they work themselves into this project and look forward to many new and exciting reads coming for the fall. Cam has again stepped up to steer this issue and bring us up to date. With this in mind, also give some thought on how you might be able to contribute to future issues of our award winning publication. There is always a need for articles and input, whether it might be a monthly column, a BAP article on a fish you've spawned or even a short few paragraphs sharing an experience that you have had with your fish. Don't be shy – none our writers are professionals. Submissions are edited before going to print and our editors are willing to help make it easier for you any way they can. All they need are your thoughts and words.

I mentioned the Kwas exec and as many of you know, the May meeting was the time for thanking the past year's group for their work and ring in a new Executive. Phil Maznyk has stepped back after serving the past year and a half as president and will be serving as past president. This left the position open to me and I hope to keep the club on the same fishy path of success. Your new vice president is a relative new comer Jeff Loney with lots of energy and gusto. Long time member John Podhorny is taking on the Recording Secretary position and we will be anchored by the returning treasurer Brad McClanahan. I would like to thank the past exec for their work and their continued support in their various roles that they will be keeping within the club for the coming year.

This will be our last meeting before the summer break which brings us to the customary pizza social. There will be the usual happenings like Name That Fish, the Jar Show and the Auction Table but the evening's program will be a fun night of enjoying slices of Pepi's pizza and a cold drink and swapping stories that will get us through the summer months. Many of you won't be able to stay away from your fish stories for the whole summer and we realize that. So, please remember that we have a picnic get together during the break. This year, it was decided to try something a little different. The gathering will take place at Kiwanis Park in the far East of Waterloo. It will be a bring your own food affair and members are encouraged to bring a group activity that can be enjoyed. There is a swimming pool for the

kids. Admission fees to the park will be reimbursed by the club. The time and date will be 1:00 pm on Sunday July 24.

One last note regarding volunteers and helping the club. Our annual fund raiser is not that far off and the planning stages are well underway. This is Oktoberfish, which takes place this year on Sunday, October 30 at Waterloo Inn. One of the main events that attracts people is our popular fish show. We are still in need of one or two volunteers that can run and organize the show room for the day. We need to have this established by our June meeting or this year's show may be cancelled. If you would like to help and need a bit more information, please talk to Al Ridley or one of the exec so that we can move forward on what is always a great event.

The CAOAC convention just finished up in Brantford. Our club did quite well in the show even though this year's entries were down considerably. Congratulations go out to Phil who has taken the executive position of 1st Vice President. The Miecia Burden Ambassador Award was presented this year to Jerry Draper, owner of The Tropical Fishroom and a long time hobbyist and club supporter. Next year's convention will be held in Winnipeg over the Easter long weekend. The Winnipeg club has a large and strong membership and it promises to be a great event.

Thank you all and have a great summer.

Ed Koerner

President, Kwas

Introducing the New Kwas Executive:



From Left to Right:

Ed Koerner – President
 Brad McClanahan – Treasurer
 Jeff Loney - Vice President
 John Podhorny – Secretary
 Phil Maznyk – Past President

Playing the Shell Game

A BAP Article by Ed Koerner, Kwas (eds.fish@yahoo.ca).

I have been collecting some shell dwellers for the past while and have been hoping to breed them and gather a few BAP points along the way. I have had some success and some failures but have a few going now and will a few articles to write in the future as some of my fish multiply. So, this will be the first experiences of my adventures into the shell game.

Shell dwellers or "shellies" are found in the Rift Lakes and mainly in Lake Tanganyika. They are small fish living near in shallow water near the bottom and will breed and often times live in empty snail shells. Many are from the Neolamprologus family but my first success has been with *Telmatochromis* sp. "Temporalis Shell".

I bought these fish from another club member and knew very little about them except that they were a Tang shell dweller. I put them into a 10 gallon tank with a bit of sand and a few good sized shells (4-6 inch each) and waited. I fed them a mixture of foods and they did not turn their noses up to anything. They seem to attack flake foods as voraciously as they do frozen brine shrimp or live black worms.

It was easy to tell the male and female apart as the male was almost twice the size and seemed to direct traffic in the tank. He measured about 3 inches while the female was about 2 inches at

most. She was also a light gray while the male was a darker blue gray and also sported a bit of a cranial hump found in many cichlids. I did not see any breeding behaviour or courtship, but a month or two later I found the tank filled with small fry. They were a pale white colour and the adults seemed to give them no attention at all. The fry would hop and dart around and scurry out of the way when the male searched for food, but there seemed to be no interaction or family structure. The fry fed readily on whatever was put in the tank – fry foods, crushed flake and smaller bits of brine shrimp. After a few weeks I noticed that there seemed to be fewer fry to count. A few more weeks went by and fewer and fewer fry. The adults still did not pay them any attention. Eventually the fry disappeared. I believe that they were picked off by the parents over time. They did spawn again though and this time there was much better success. I also noticed the parents sharing the same shell this time before the fry were seen and I am assuming this is the shell they spawned in. I also had a tank beside them and the male took notice and seemed to ward off any imagined intruders when he saw them in the other tank. The fry grew and after reaching about a third of an inch some darkened up to the same colouration of the male. They do not seem to be fast growers, but were removed to another tank and were about half to three-quarters of an inch in size after two months. - Ed

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Abducted by Aliens

A Different Perspective By Brent Lemanski, KWAAS (blemanski@limra.com)

In a million years I never thought it would happen to me – but I'm getting ahead of myself.

As a youngster, I remember hearing stories of my cousin Jack – long since departed. While originally viewed as a well respected member of the clan, that all changed one fateful day. If we were to believe Jack's story it went something like this.

It seems early one Sunday morning, Jack went out for breakfast to his favourite haunt. It was a pleasant day with no sense of danger anywhere – although as he looked up into the otherwise clear sunny sky he thought he saw the silhouette of an unusually shaped object passing noisily overhead. Distracted by hunger, Jack paid no attention to the looming menace. In fact he had just taken his first tasty mouthful when suddenly he found himself being drawn upward toward the strange object by an invisible force. Try as he might, he couldn't break free. The harder he resisted, the stronger the pull.

After what seemed like several minutes Jack found himself captive in an alien vessel – an environment the likes of which he had never before experienced. Even worse, the alien beings who had taken him hostage were enormous, and spoke with loud booming voices in a language he couldn't understand. To his further surprise, he wasn't alone. After being inspected – poked, prodded, weighed and measured – he was placed into some kind of a holding cell with a small number of others who had been similarly captured. As it happens, they all had the same experience. As the day progressed – he could only guess at the passing of time in his dark cell – occasionally others were added and some were removed, never to return. It was horrid wondering about their fate, and his own.

Finally, after what seemed like hours, Jack was removed from his cell and released – dazed and disoriented – not sure if it had been real or a dream. On his return, perhaps foolishly, Jack told his story to all who would listen. He became something of a notorious celebrity, a laughing stock even. Everyone said that Jack was never the same after that experience – remote and detached. Perhaps it was the result of the experience itself, or perhaps the result of the harsh treatment he received by friends and relatives alike. Indeed – abducted by aliens and lived to tell about it – how could anyone believe such a tale.

It was years later, generations later in fact, that my experience began. I was in school at the time with numerous friends and, surprisingly, we too were abducted by aliens. We were unexpectedly scooped from our habitat and deposited in very foreign surroundings. But my experience was much different than that of long departed cousin Jack – I was never to return home again.

Like in Jack's 'dream', our aliens were large strange creatures who spoke an unintelligible language. After being abducted, we were immediately inspected and divided into groups. The weaker specimens seemed to be culled from the stronger – not unlike American Idol I suppose. We were then placed in special vehicles and transported to yet another location, starved for both food and information, for what seemed like days. Then, suddenly, the motion stopped and we were placed in new holding cells.

The new environment was 'other-worldly' to say the least – very austere, very different from the home we had left behind. Initially we were kept in the dark. Worse, there was no vegetation in this strange place and, although they fed us, the food was awful – foreign and relatively tasteless, barely edible – but it was all we were offered so eventually we ate it. In that dark enclosure, afraid and confused, we slowly explored our new surroundings.

Finally, when the lights came on it looked like we could escape. We appeared to have been released into an area without boundaries. But, those who foolishly tried to escape were stopped by an invisible force keeping them in, holding us all captive. Frantically, some tried repeatedly, continually bumping into that invisible wall, until they finally died from anxiety, injury, or both. Eventually their dead bodies were removed from the cell by our captors. We quickly learned that escape was unlikely, and survival was only possible if we cooperated with these cruel beings.

At first it seemed that we were destined to spend the rest of our days in this zoo-like setting. We were housed in one of many relatively small environmentally controlled cells occupying a rather large structure. There appeared to be many other hostages held in those other cells – strange beings, of various shapes, sizes and colours. Yet somehow we seemed to share more in common with each other than with our freakish alien captors. Frequently we were observed by additional aliens who passed by peering closely into our cells. They had enormous heads and eyes, awkward jerky movements. Not like the gentle, graceful fluidity with which we moved.

Occasionally, after being inspected by these aliens, some of us went missing. We could only guess at their fate. At first this entire situation was frightening, but as the weeks passed it became more predictable, even tolerable. Eventually I began to make friends with some of my cell mates – in particular, with one rather attractive female named Lucy. She was blond with piercing dark eyes.

During those early days in captivity, I often thought of cousin Jack. I wished he had been treated better on his return home,

wondered whether my friends and family missed me as much as I missed them, wondered whether I would ever be able to return home.

Then one day my life changed yet immeasurably. After a usual visit/inspection by one of the frequently roaming aliens I found myself removed from my cell and placed in some sort of transportation device – an atmospheric bubble of some type – that protected me from their hostile, caustic environment. Again I was on the move. After a ‘roller-coaster ride’ in yet another strange alien vehicle I was deposited in a new cell. This one, however, appeared to be considerably more hospitable. For a brief period, I seemed weightlessly suspended in that bubble, again unable to break free – but I was ultimately released into another new environment.

This new cell looked and felt more like home. Rather than an empty, austere environment, this setting was filled with vegetation – some familiar, some foreign - but nice all the same. My one regret was that I would miss my companion Lucy – you see I thought Lucy was an angel. But to my delight, I soon discovered that Lucy too had been transported here but in a separate bubble. At first we huddled together in the corner behind some shrubbery, scared and confused, but eventually we began to explore our new world.

In addition to the somewhat strange surroundings we found we had other companions – like the plants, some familiar, some unusual, but everyone seemed make an effort to get along in

this new community. This certainly seemed to be a place where Lucy and I could raise a family.

After several weeks in these new surroundings Lucy and I began to feel more comfortable. Although we longed for home we grew to understand that we would never return. In fact, we decided that if our species were to survive it was up to us to procreate. It was awkward in this setting. Our captors seemed to relish in observing our behavior - like some repulsive voyeuristic society we couldn’t fathom. But our desire to preserve our species was greater than our sense of decency and so, spawn we did, and our family grew.

Slowly we began to connect more closely with our captors. Perhaps, like Patty Hurst before us, we had succumbed to the Stockholm Syndrome, seeing our captors as friends, protectors even. But I have the feeling that these strange beings also connected with us. They make many efforts to keep our surroundings pleasant – occasionally changing the vegetation and varying our diet. I even think I’m beginning to train them. Lately, whenever I make an appearance, they feed us.

While I may never completely trust these aliens, I have begun to be more content with my situation. I have even begun to understand their language a little. However, the one strange thing that I think I will never get used to is the unusually blue substrate here in our adopted home. I was contemplating this just yesterday when I thought I overheard the female of the species shout “Zenin, are you down in your fishroom, hon? It’s almost time for dinner.” - Brent



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Ohio Cichlid Assoc. Extravaganza

Article by Zenin Skomorowski, KWA. Photos by the author.

For the last few years, I have been trying to attend the annual Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza. This gathering of Cichlid and Catfish enthusiasts takes place just south of Cleveland Ohio on the weekend before the U.S. Thanksgiving in November. Last year (2010), I was finally able to attend.

The fee was very low at \$25 if you registered early, otherwise it was \$28. For \$35 you also got the convention T-shirt. Hotel rooms were negotiated with the convention host Holiday Inn to be \$65 per night, and you could split the cost with another convention attendee. I posted on several forums looking for someone who wanted to share a room. Terry from KWA responded that he wanted to go and would be willing to share a room. Registration for the convention was done online with payment via PayPal. Phoning the Holiday Inn and booking the room at the OCA rate was a breeze.

So, early morning on Friday November 19th, Terry and I left Kitchener and hit the road with our passports for the border crossing into the U.S. We went via Fort Erie to Buffalo New York after only a 10 minute wait in line. The border official asked where we were going and for how long. He was intrigued that we were going to a tropical fish convention and wanted to know what was in the boxes on the back seat. "Nothing" I said, but I corrected myself by saying there were empty small aquariums with no water or fish, yet. He waved us on, "Have a nice trip".

After passing through Buffalo, we got onto Interstate 90 bound for Cleveland. Western New York and Pennsylvania look similar to the Niagara Peninsula back home with its escarpment, many vineyards and rivers draining into Lake Erie. We stopped in Erie Pennsylvania for lunch and then made our way to Ohio. While on the highway in Cleveland, we saw another car from Ontario with Tom Herman waving at us. Our driving time was about 5.5 hours to get to the convention hotel in Strongsville, which is less time than it takes to get to Ottawa from Kitchener!

After we picked up our convention packages and unloaded the car into our nice hotel room, we went to check out the vendors already set up by 3pm. Lots of dry goods, fish foods, books, pleco caves, posters and even decals of your favourite fish species. There were quite a few fish already set up in the show to look at. I saw lots of club members from Hamilton, Brantford, Durham, London, Sarnia and a fairly large group from Ottawa.

There were lots of people selling fish from their rooms. A couple of people back home had requested that I pick up specific fish from specific sellers. I got them back to our room,

set up an air pump and put air stones in the bags. They were 3 species of apistos and 2 species of swordtails.



Terry checking out some cichlids in a seller's room

The first presentation at 6pm was Ad Konings talking about East African Catfish, mostly from Lake Tanganyika. He had lots of nice photos and videos too. At 8pm, Charley Grimes talked about his visits to the River Xingu, a tributary of the Amazon. Catfish was also the topic with cory and pleco photos and stories. Charley is a very entertaining speaker. At 10pm, Stephan Tanner also talked on catfish, breeding plecos, and what is happening to their environment in Brazil.

At the end of the last presentation, we made our way to the Hospitality Suite to chat with other convention attendees while having hotdogs, chili, chips and some beer. This was a very long Friday, so after returning to the room, I fell asleep in about two minutes after my head hit the pillow.



Planties are "interesting" people.

Early Saturday morning, I had some coffee in the Hospitality suite before Heinz Buscher began his presentation at 9am. He narrated a beautifully made video of his many dives in Lake Tanganyika. For several sequences, he used a fibre optic camera to get into small excavated caves. He even put the camera into the mouth of a holding cichlid to demonstrate how the multipunctatus catfish eggs are deposited and emerge first.

Before the next presentation, I was able to check out some more seller's rooms and made sure the fish I got yesterday were still fine. There was a central posting board for people selling from their rooms. I also updated my blog on the KWA forum with more comments and photos.



Corys and Plecos in a seller's room.

Next at 11am was another talk by Ad Konings. He discussed Rift Lake cichlid spawning behaviour and the choosing and/or creation of spawning sites by the males. There was also a dramatic video of fish egg eaters that dart in between the spawning couple to steal eggs before the female turns around to pick them up.



Discus in the show.

After lunch, the Swap Meet was under way. There were many of the room sellers there as well as others selling dry goods, fish

and plants. I bought a book on Nano Aquariums from Mike Schadle and a large ceramic pleco log that will suit my growing clown loaches. It was also another opportunity to see more fish on display in the show. By this time, a dozen 20 gallon tanks had been set up by kids for a contest. Discus Hans got manufacturers and suppliers to donate fish, decor, LED lighting, HOB filters and the aquariums for this new part of this show: the kids aquarium decorating contest. He based it on the kids aquarium decorating contest he saw at the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs convention in London Ontario a couple of years ago.



Some of the kids decorating projects:



Discus Hans (centre) with some of the kids that decorated the tanks.

Terry and I went on a tour to visit two local fish shops that were sponsors of the Extravaganza. The first was Somethingsfishy. They are small but were 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. Next we went to RMS Aquaculture. This was a much larger 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. We also bumped into some other convention attendees from Ontario. Eventually, we made our way back to the hotel.



Sample of a dry goods Vendor.

A pizza supper was provided at 6pm before the show awards ceremony at 7pm. There were a total of 185 fish show entries. Then at 8:30, the Manufacturer's Dry Goods auction got under way with Ray "Kingfish" Lucas auctioneering. His grand children sold a few items as well. I bought a bucket of cichlid flake food, a Tetra Whisper hang on back filter and a bag of 3 species of corys left over from the kid's aquarium decorating contest. At around 10pm, the Hospitality suite opened once again to provide hot dogs, snacks and drinks. According to a summary published by the OCA, there were 200 hotdogs served each night.

Sunday morning, we splurged and had a buffet breakfast in the hotel restaurant. For a very reasonable price, there was bacon, sausages, eggs, toast, French toast, roasted potatoes, mushrooms and biscuits with gravy. Oh, there was fruit as well and I think some of that made it to one of my plates. The coffee was pretty good too.



Sample of a fish Vendor.

At 10am, the 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 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 800 bags of fish sold by the auction's end at 7:30pm. The average price was \$15.82 per bag. There were 96 express bids where bidders, or sellers paid \$3 to have a bag auctioned right now, rather waiting for that table to be auctioned. You did not have to be a registered convention attendee to be a buyer or put to items in the auction. I almost bid on two adult *Geophagus Altifrons*, but I have no tank space for them at home, so I had to turn away and not look at them. I also bid on some Marmalade cat *Fuleborni*, but the price got too high for me. I did run items for a few hours so that helped to burn off the big breakfast. Terry did get some Demasoni, *Xystichromis phytophagus* (Christmas fulu), some bristle nose plecos and I am not sure what else.

After the auction was over and Terry got his fish settled in our room, we went to the hotel restaurant for dinner. It was closed for the evening, really? So, we went down the road to Applebee's for a nice dinner and dessert.

Monday morning, we checked out and headed back home. On the way we stopped again in Erie for lunch and visited a pet shop called Buzz and B's. Lots of fish, birds, reptiles and mammals. Soon we were on our way again. As we approached Buffalo, there was a traffic slowdown for about an hour but we were able to cross the border with no delay. I took Terry home to Fergus and I got home around 7pm. I floated my bag of corys and called Ed to deliver his apistos. After I got home the second time, I released the corys into the quarantine tank and went to bed. 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 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 at the speaker presentations.

Next year's Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza will be held 18-20 November 2011. Maybe you can go and help break this year's record of 290 attendees. - Zenin

We Won!

Thanks to all the authors, photographers and proofreaders who helped KWAS win the 2010 CAOAC

Newsletter of the Year award.

Congratulations to all involved!

OCA Extravaganza Show Photos

Article by Zenin Skmorowski, KWA. Photos by the author.



Pleco in the show.



Peacock in the show.



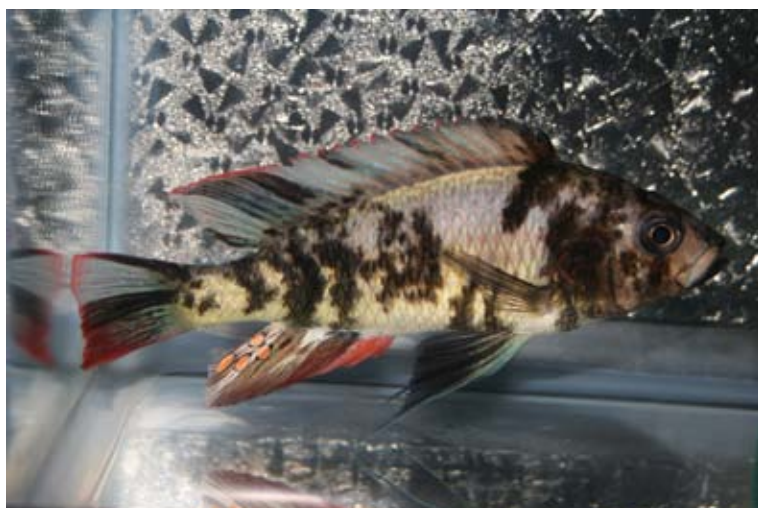
Thorichthys in the show.



Orange Leleupi in the show.



Calvus in the show.



Paralabidochromis sp. 'red fin piebald' in the show.

African Mouth Brooders

But Not From Where You Think

A BAP Article by Ed Koerner, Kwas (eds.fish@yahoo.ca).

There are many African cichlids that most hobbyists can name from the Rift Lakes that are mouth brooders. Yellow labs are the first experience for many, or maybe one of the many *Haplochromis* species, or maybe *Tropheus* or *Pseudotropheus*. But there are also cichlid mouth brooders from other parts of Africa. The Egyptian mouth brooder is familiar to many people and these fish are in the same genus or family.

I was able to bring home two species of fish from the LFS. They were *Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi* (Nicholsi cichlid) and *Pseudocrenilabrus philander disperses* (Dwarf copper mouth brooder). They were small and didn't have a lot of colour yet and you could barely guess male and female but the males were coloured up more than the females. As they matured the males coloured up quite nicely and they do make for very beautiful fish. To be honest, I would not be able to tell the species apart if I put them in the same tank together they look so similar which is a bit unfortunate because they now need their own separate tanks as do the fry to grow in. The males grow to 3 inches maximum size and develop a metallic sheen of colour with yellow, blue and red. The female are smaller and far less colourful and appear thinner (which may be from lack of food during their holding period).

As the name suggests, they are mouth brooders and are rather easy to breed. I had the one pair in a 20 gallon tank with sand and driftwood, while the other pair were in a bare bottomed 10 gallon with some other random fish that I didn't have room for anywhere else. It took very little time to find the females with a swollen jaw sack and only looking at food but not eating any. The males can be rather aggressive and will chase the females even after spawning. The females tend to look for a place to hide.

It should also be noted that for their size these fish can be quite territorial. I put the male in with another fish to give the female the tank to herself..... only to have him shred the fins of an equally sized fish. The females seem more at ease when in a tank to themselves and my fish fry were released by my Nicholsi in the 20. There were at least 30 healthy fry swimming around and I was delighted and got my first BAP inspection. Two days later I was equally dismayed as there were no fry to be found.

I did some research and it seems that other people claimed that the fry are quite often eaten by the female. I had the Copper female in a tank of her own with some hornwort and moss to hide the fry. It was a similar story but I was able to save 5 or 6 fry before moving the female back in with the male. I tried once more with the Nicholsi the next time they spawned which was

only a few weeks later. It was the same result – most of the fry were eaten by the female before I could find and save them.

The next spawn for the copper mouth brooders I decided to try stripping the fry. I was rather hesitant to do this as the fish were rather small at about 2 inches and I have never tried stripping a fish that small. I didn't want to hurt the fish, but I also didn't want to keep losing fry and these fish were hard to find so I decided it was worth the attempt. I used my normal method of stripping like I would with my other Africans and ended up with about 25 fry this time.

They were all healthy and things went well. They were easy to feed and they grew fairly quickly. The adults would spawn fairly regularly and I had another batch of fry about 4 weeks later. They were much smaller than the current fry even though there were two separate broods living in a tank together I put the new ones in a breeding net and into the same tank. The next day the feeling of dismay again hit me as I could only find 5 or 6 little fish still in the net. I could find several part bodies hanging in the netting where they had been pulled through the mesh by their bigger siblings. Another lesson learned. The next batch I kept them in a completely different tank. The next batch was also much easier to get. I am not sure if my timing was perfect or if the female was learning but when I stripped her this time, as soon as I opened her mouth she spit out the entire brood of fry into my fry container. This was getting easier each time.

The fry grow fairly quickly and after three months are over an inch long and I suspect will be breeding size at 5 months or so. They will eat anything that I offer them in the way of flake or frozen foods.

These fish are quite easy to keep and need very little attention. Nicholsi originate in the Congo, while the Philander can be found farther south. They prefer lower pH at about 7.0 and I keep them in a 4:1 ratio of RO and tap water. Temperatures are low 70's F. In the wild they are found in still plant-filled waters and do very well in planted tanks. I have kept one pair in a planted grow out with no heater in my fish room and had a successful spawn. These are very attractive fish to try if you have an extra tank. - Ed

Living With Livebearers

A Regular Column by Ed Koerner, KVAS (eds.fish@yahoo.ca). Images from around the Internet.

There are several livebearers that people will start out with and can be found at almost every fish store in one form or another. I have touched on guppies and swordtails in this column already so maybe the next species that should be visited is the molly.

There are many different species that can be found and upwards of 20 that are described in the aquarium world. They can be found from the South Eastern United States and down through Mexico. They are a very adaptable fish being able to handle various water conditions and are found in completely fresh to brackish and can withstand marine levels of salt water. In the wild they are found in coastal regions that are affected by tidal conditions. For long term health and well being it is best to add some aquarium (or other safe and non-iodized) salt into their water. Temperatures are best being kept above 75 F and they can handle low 80's for short periods. Kept in totally fresh water at lower temperatures they are more susceptible to some of the diseases common to mollies, such as ich and velvet. Also, the pH should be neutral to hard.

Mollies eat insects and algae in the wild and should be fed a mixture of foods in the aquarium. They should be fed some form of vegetable so keep some veggie flake or algae wafers on hand to supplement their diet. Small live foods are readily accepted but freeze dried and frozen foods will work too. As with other livebearers, the fry will be ready to eat fine or crushed foods from the moment of birth.

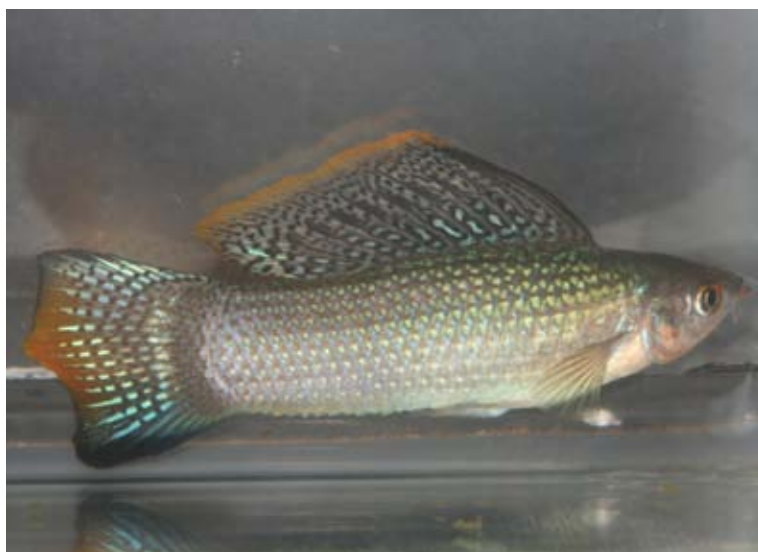
Mollies can be a little territorial and will form a social structure and pecking order if kept in a group. There should be more females than males and males will have minor skirmishes to claim their place. They can also be pushy and nippy to other tank mates so smaller fish may not be the best choice. Also realize that not all community fish will care for salt in their water. You want to reconsider tetras being kept in the same tank.

Mollies are in the family of *Poecilia* and the most popular species is *Poecilia sphenops* or the black molly. There are several colour variations to this species such as the gold dust and Dalmatian mollies. The first is a varied mixture of orange/gold and black while the second is a mottle black and white pattern. The colour of the fish has no bearing on what kind of molly it will breed with. Any variety of sphenops will breed with any other coloured fish of the same species. They will grow to about 2.5 inches long.



***Poecilia sphenops* (black molly) in the Dalmatian pattern.**

Sailfin mollies are the next most popular and easy to find in the market. *Poecilia velifera* is a larger specimen growing to 4 inches and the males being easily recognized by a large and high dorsal fin. They require a larger tank and can be more aggressive with tank mates. They can be found in a wide variety of colours – black, gold, green, white and even a chocolate hue. *Poecilia latipinna* are smaller and have a smaller dorsal fin. They are often found as silver mollies. They will grow to maximum of 3 inches and have a more communal disposition.



***Poecilia velifera*, a wild Green Sailfin Molly.**

Next issue will have some mollies that may be hard to find. - Ed

Exchange Editor's Mega Report

Submitted by Zenin Skomorowski, KWAS (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.

March 2011:

I recently received several back issues of [Paradise Press](#) from the Long Island Aquarium Society. In the September issue, Jack Guida describes his experiences with the Persian Killie *Aphanius mento*. These fish originate in the middle east from Turkey to Jordan and Israel. They experience colder winters followed by warmer springs and summers, making them an excellent candidate here for outdoor barrels and ponds. In the November issue, Tracy Marcus wrote about the club trip to do some collecting at the ocean's edge. There are lots of photos of the fish caught in their seine net. It was also nice to see all the children out enjoying the sunny October day. In the January issue, Jon Schweikert described how he replaced the worn impeller shaft on an AquaClear motor. If you have a sand substrate you should make sure the filter intake is high enough so sand does not wear down the impeller shaft. Jon made his own replacement shaft from the proper diameter stainless steel round. After trimming to the proper size and filing the ends, he installed it and the filter motor runs quiet again.

The January issue of [Tank Tales](#) from the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County contains four articles that I would like to highlight. The first is about Harvey, an Axolotl. Huh? They are the young of a type of salamander found in central Mexico. At this stage, they have external gills and like to move around the rocks and plants on the bottom of the aquarium. They eat meaty pellets and live foods like earthworms and crickets. They are popular pets bred in captivity, but they have become rare in the wild due to pollution, and the introduction of non-native fish. I have seen these interesting creatures at our Big Al's Aquarium Services here in Kitchener, both brown ones and colourless (Leucistic, not albino). The second article is by Michael Steffen on creating a living background for your aquarium. Using plastic canvas, zip ties and pieces of moss, an interesting feature can be created. The third article is also by Michael Steffen. It is part 5 in his series on Culturing Live Foods. The Confused Flour Beetle is one of the pests that attack stored grain products. They do not bite, sting or fly, making them a perfect live food to use. The fourth article is a BAP report by Jay Stephan on the beautiful Ruby Green *Haplochromis* from Lake Victoria in East Africa. This species is critically endangered, so it is part of the C.A.R.E.S preservation program.

Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi is a peaceful, hardy and beautiful fish from the Congo region of Africa. Dave Hansen wrote about, and Klaus Steinhaus provided photos of, this colourful fish in the January issue of [Tank Talk](#) from the Durham Region Aquarium Society. They are a bit smaller than most African Cichlids and can be comfortably kept in a 20 gallon long aquarium. Derek Tustin has begun a monthly series of articles on Rainbowfish. In this issue he gives us an introduction to these fresh water fish from Australia and New Guinea. Derek has also started a series on "The Names You Know, the People You Don't". He will be giving some background history on the scientists, hobbyists and other people in the hobby that you may recognize in the names of fish. This month he starts with Dr. Marinus Boeseman.

The January issue of [Finformation](#) from the Pittsburgh Aquarium Society has several excellent BAP articles. Leslie Keefer wrote about the Emerald Rasbora *Microrasbora erythromicron*. This small cyprinid is a close relative to the better known Celestial Pearl Danio, but is just as beautiful. Wally Cox describes how drab *Apistogramma bitaeniata* looks until in breeding mode. Stan Chechak got "Two for the Price of One". His Cherry Barbs *Puntius titteya* and Checker Barbs *Puntius oligolepis* spawned in the same tank at the same time.

It is now winter time and there are some things to think about in your fish room. The January / February issue of [The Youngstown Aquarist](#) has details on "Frozen Fish and How to Avoid them this Winter" by Frank M. Greco, and "Beware of Gas Embolism" by James K. Langhammer. Also in this issue, Brian LaNeve wrote a BAP report on the Dwarf Pencilfish *Nannostomus marginatus*. This small, peaceful fish is ideal for a small planted tank. Do you have problems with Snails, Snails, Snails? Lisa Reel was successful eliminating snails by using Potassium Permanganate. It is a salt compound obtained at a pharmacy that will do in those pesky snails.

Tim Mousseau has begun a series of articles on Guppies in the February issue of [TropiQuarium](#) from the Motor City Aquarium Society. He is a young lad (okay, in his early 20's) that is following in the footsteps of his father Gary by breeding and showing guppies. Recently, Tim passed his father in the number of class championships won. Tim's first article is on tank sizes and what is in them when breeding guppies.

One of my favourite barbs to keep is the Gold Barb *Puntius semifasciatus*. They are a line bred fish originated by Thomas Shubert in the 1960's and are readily available in the hobby. Read how Dave Unruh is able to spawn these beautiful fish in his half barrel pond in the February issue of [The Scat](#) from the St. Catharines and Area Aquarium Society.

April 2011:

The *Puntius* family of fish from southern and south-east Asia is better known as Barbs. Bruce Hart writes about *Puntius arulius* in the January 2011 issue of [Aqua Antics](#) from the Sarnia Aquarium Society. Give these easy to spawn fish a try.

Another easy to spawn fish is *Corydoras napoensis*. Read about Dave Unruh's experience with these small catfish in the January 2011 issue of *The Scat* from the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society. Make sure you use a sponge filter to give the young a good source of food.

I mentioned in a previous issue of this column, about the involvement of the Tampa Bay Aquarium Society in NASA's experiment to hatch fish in space. Well, what happened to the fish once they returned to earth? Find out in Tanja Diederich's article "A.M.I.G.O. Revisited" in the January 2011 issue of [The Filter](#) from the Tampa Bay Aquarium Society.

Peat spawning killifish have adapted to their environment. They lay eggs in the bottom of pools of water that dry up for part of the year. The eggs incubate in the ground, waiting for the rainy season to refill the pool. The eggs then hatch and the cycle goes around again. One such killifish comes from Uruguay in South America. *Austrolebias nigripinnis* has a dark body with bluish-white spots. Read Leslie Keefer's experience spawning these aggressive killifish in the February 2011 issue of [Finformation](#) from the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society.

The February 2011 issue of [Fancy Fins](#) from the Circle City Aquarium Club has many excellent articles to read. Charlie Grimes wrote about the Rainbow Gudgeon, sometimes called the Peacock Goby. This colourful fish originates from New Guinea and is frequently kept with rainbowfish. "Swordtails the Rusty Wessel Way", is another article by Charley Grimes. He tells how he heard that Rusty Wessel said that the larger swordtails, like Montezumas do better in larger tanks, so Charley put them in a 260 gallon tank and got spectacular results. Mike Matthews revealed some of his secrets of raising rainbow fry, see if any work for you. Mike Matthews also wrote about a small barred livebearer from Central America catalogued as *Brachyrhaphis* sp. "Costa Rica". Michael Dunagan wrote about one of my favourite cichlids *Steatocranus casuaris*. Sometimes called the buffalohead, this substrate spawner originates from the Congo River in Africa. Have you kept bettas before? How about a mouth brooding betta? Mike Matthews wrote about his experience keeping and spawning Betta Albimarginata. Although the female is a somber brown, the male has a dark ruby red body with white trim on the fins.

Next up is the February 2011 issue of [The Bulletin](#) from the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society. Charlie Drew writes from over 50 years of fish keeping experience to tell us some ways to prevent fish loss. A quarantine tank should be an essential part of your fishroom. Being observant in your local

fish store helps as well. Read the article to find some other ways to prevent fish loss. An interesting dwarf cichlid from northern Peru is *Apistogramma barlowi*. Interesting because it is one of the few mouth brooding cichlids from South America. Jessica Bullock tells you all about this pretty little fish. Sometimes, a fish that was popular in the past, sort of falls out of favour for some reason. The Rainbow Cichlid from Central America is the topic of a reprint from 1991. Bob Mussi details the coloration and breeding behaviour of this once very popular cichlid.

Another popular fish from the past is the West African Jewel cichlid. Scott McLaughlin wrote about his experience breeding these beautiful fish in the February 2011 issue of [Tank Tales](#) from the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County. Are you keeping livebearing fish? In order to prevent the fry from being eaten, a breeder trap is required to keep them safe. Look at Michael Steffen's plans to see if you can build one yourself. An aggressive Lake Malawi cichlid is *Pseudotropheus* sp. Cobalt Red Top. Jay Stephan wrote how to keep and breed this fish in the same issue.

Derek Tustin continues his "Year of the Rainbowfish" series with the *Melanotaenia* family in the February 2011 issue of [Tank Talk](#) from the Durham Region Aquarium Society. Most of us are familiar with the half blue, half orange *Melanotaenia boesmani*, but there are other beautiful members like *nigrans*, *kamka*, *oktedienis* and the recently named *angfa*. Also in this issue, Derek continues his column "The Names You Know, the People You Don't" with Dr. Herbert Axelrod. The very first book I ever read related to this hobby was his [Handbook of Tropical Aquarium Fishes](#), which most long time hobbyists have a version of in their reference libraries. Dr. Axelrod started Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine (TFH) and published other works. In December 1989 Dr. Axelrod donated a fish fossil collection to nearby University of Guelph. Read more about the ups and downs of his life in this well researched article.

Juan Miguel Artigas is an aquarist, speaker and creator of the Cichlid Room Companion. He has recently written on "Conservation of Tropical Fish" and whether it is worth it to save threatened fish in our aquariums. Read his views in the February issue of [Below the Waterline](#) from the London Aquaria Society. Also in this issue is a summary of algae types, causes and removal procedures, reprinted from [theplantedtank.co.uk](#).

Parthenogenesis is reproduction by females where development of embryos occurs without fertilization by a male. Jurassic Park anyone? Recently, the marbled crayfish has been available in the hobby. It reproduces asexually. I have kept these crayfish in the past to produce food for my cichlids. Now I have only one older one that no longer produces eggs, but I keep anyways because she looks beautiful with her black, brown and red marbled colouring. Find out more about these invertebrates in the article by Ben Slocum in the February 2011 issue of [Michiana Tropical Times](#) from the Michiana Aquarium Society.

May 2011:

The February 2011 issue of [Pisces Press](#) from the Nassau County Aquarium Society has several articles of note. Are you looking for a fast swimmer as a tank mate for your Oscar? Consider the Bala Shark *Balantiocheilus melanopterus*. It is a sleek fast swimmer from South-East Asia. Keep at least three so they feel comfortable, otherwise they dart about and may jump out of the tank. Other compatible tank mates for your Bala shark are Barbs, Danios, Gouramis and Rainbowfish. An algae eater that is not a pleco? The Tropheus cichlid continually scrape algae off rocks with their specially shaped mouths to feed their vegetarian diet. Giving them meaty foods like shrimp, insect larvae or beef heart will give them bloat or other digestion problems. They are best kept in a colony of twenty or more fish. Looking for an easy to care for, colourful fish to keep? Try Rainbowfish. They are schooling fish that look best in groups of five or more. They are fast swimmers, but don't bother other community fish. They are omnivores, so they will eat any food you give. Are you a recent convert to a marine keeper? Read about hard and soft corals in "Ocean Coral Types" to understand what they are, their behaviour and what they eat.

[The Lateral Line](#) is the publication of the Hill Country Cichlid Club of San Antonio Texas. In their February 2011 issue, Benjamin L. Smith describes his experience keeping and breeding *Enantiopus* sp. "Kilesa". It is a Tanganyikan sand sifter that is cigar shaped and grows to six inches (15 cm). The males try to attract a mate to their sand nests by reflecting sun light off their bodies. They can jump, so a secure lid on your aquarium will be required. Many CARES fish originate from Lake Victoria in East Africa. Kory Watkins give a bit of history and current events in and around the lake to give an idea of why so many species are at risk. Greg Steeves wrote about "The Little Known Arrow-fish; *Yssichromis*". This group from Lake Victoria has several species of open water zooplankton eaters. Many are depending on aquarists to ensure its survival.

Tanja Diederich wrote about "Feeding Plecos ... and Other Catfish" in the February 2011 issue of [The Filter](#) from the Tampa Bay Aquarium Society. Grazing habits, algae wafers, zucchini, and meat eating plecos are discussed. Patty Moncrief talks about pheromones. Basically, they are chemicals released by fish to stimulate other fish. This is not to be confused with hormones, which are internal to the fish.

Lately, various levels of government have been considering or actually passing laws that restrict or ban fish and/or plants in our hobby. This is usually an effort to protect native fish, plants and habitats. A proposal in Texas will ban trade in 43 aquarium plant species. Many are very familiar; *Cryptocoryne wendtii*, several *Echinodorus* swords, almost all known species of *Hygrophilia*, *Rotala rotundifolia*, and even *Vallisneria spirallis*! There was concern in the March 2011 issue of [Pisces Press](#) from the Nassau County Aquarium Society of whether similar legislation may find its way to New York State.

Did you know that in the United States there is a group that is interested in the history of our hobby? It is the National Aquarium History Society. They exchange photos and information on the history of fish keeping. Everything from ancient China, the Victorian age, and the 20th century holds interesting facts and progress that is the basis of the equipment and technology of the fish keeping hobby today. Check out the photos of ornate aquariums and stands describing the talk by Ray Becker in the March 2011 issue of [The Bucket](#) from the Bucks County Aquarium Society.

There are four currently recognized species of Chocolate Gourami. Alexander A. Priest mentioned them in his article on *Sphaerichthys vaillanti* in the March 2011 issue of [Modern Aquarium](#) from the Greater City Aquarium Society – New York. Vaillant's Chocolate Gourami is not a beginner fish, so read this article to understand the challenges. Susan Priest has an excellent suggestion for when a fluorescent tube blinks and flickers and maybe does not come on, in her article "Corrosion and You or How to Buy Fewer Light Bulbs".

Dave Unruh wrote about his experience keeping and breeding the Red Claw Macro Shrimp *Macrobrachium dayanum* in the March 2011 issue of [The Scat](#) from the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society. These shrimp are about two inches (5cm) and are recommended as snail eaters.

Pristella maxillaris is a tetra from Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela. It is an attractive schooling fish for a community tank. Jack VanderAa was able to spawn them and write about it in the March 2011 issue of [Aqua Antics](#) from the Sarnia Aquarium Society. Also in this issue, Bruce Hart wrote about his experience keeping and spawning *Puntius Arulius*. This barb is originally from south east India. Many tropical fish keepers have kept a bright yellow fish from Lake Malawi and know *Labidochromis caeruleus* as the Electric Yellow. This is the only Rift Lake cichlid that I have continuously kept since I started with Africans in 2002. Peter Melady describes a colony he acquired from another club member and observations of their behaviour in his BAP report.

As I mentioned earlier, many species in Lake Victoria are at risk, so they are in the CARES program. Jay Stephan wrote about keeping and breeding one of them; *Haplochromis* sp. Dayglow *Xystichromis* sp. *dayglow* in the March 2011 issue of [Tank Tales](#) from the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County. Scott McLaughlin wrote about purchasing used equipment to have his dream tank in "My Dream Tank: On a Fixed Budget". Everything from the aquarium, stand, lighting, filters, driftwood and whatever else he needed was acquired from other club members at low prices to keep within his "spouse imposed budget".

Derek P. S. Tustin continues his series on the "Year of the Rainbowfish" with the *Chilatherina* family in the March 2011 issue of [Tank Talk](#) from the Durham Region Aquarium Society. He also continues his series "The Names You Know, the People

You Don't" with Dr. Gerald R. Allen. Is that a true aquatic plant? Check out the Don't Buy list and photos in "My Green Wet Thumb: Scammed – Fake Aquatic Plants".

A beautiful catfish with long extensions on their finage is the Royal Farlowellas *Sturisoma Panamense*. Steve Smith wrote about them in the March/ April issue of Fincinnati from the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society. Jerry Riegel wrote about his experience spawning a striking blue cichlid from Lake Malawi; *Pseudotropheus demasoni*.

June 2011:

Most mouth brooding African cichlids come from the Rift Lakes. However, there is a beautiful alternative from the Congo River Basin. Stan Chechak wrote about his experience with *Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi* in the April 2011 issue of Finformation from the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society. These dwarf mouth brooders are a good choice for a 10 gallon aquarium.

Are you concerned about the rising cost of electricity? One way to reduce electricity usage is to try LED lighting. Prices have recently gone down for this new type of aquarium lighting. Dan Schacht wrote an extensive article in the March-April issue of The Lateral Line from the Hill Country Cichlid Club. He compares the popular florescent shop lighting, the Compact Florescent and LED lighting systems. In order to further reduce the cost of LED lighting, Dan describes purchasing just the LEDs and creating his own aquarium light systems.

Have you heard of *Cichlasoma Hybridus Phonyi*? You might know them as the Flowerhorn Cichlid. Steve Hallgring profiles these "fish" as an April Fools feature in the April 2011 issue of The Buckette from the Bucks County Aquarium Society. There are two more articles on Flowerhorns. Tamil Nadu calls them a nightmare, whereas "Selecting a Beautiful Flower Horn Fish" describes the attributes of a great choice. You decide. A less controversial fish is the Lemon Killie. Tom Ganley wrote about this pygmy killie and how you can keep and spawn them.

Do you refer to a pleco by its "L" number? If you don't, then the L046 is known to you as the Zebra pleco. They originate from the Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon. However, in recent years, hobbyists have been able to breed these very desirable fish. One such breeder is Doug White. Read his story in the April 2011 issue of Tank Talk from the Durham Region Aquarium Society. Also in this issue, Derek P. S. Tustin continues his series on the "Year of the Rainbowfish" with the *Glossolepis* family. He also continues his series "The Names You Know, the People You Don't" with Dr. Louis Agassiz.

A popular cichlid from West Africa is the Buffalo Head. The male's nuchal hump gives *Steatocranus casuarius* it's common name. Jules Birnbaum wrote about his experiences keeping, spawning and raising these interesting fish with the jerky motion, in the April 2011 issue of Modern Aquarium from the Greater City Aquarium Society of New York. Also in this issue,

Rich Levy wrote "Serendipity", about becoming more active in the hobby, writing an article and cultivating two new fish keepers in the neighbour's children. Stephen Sica wrote about the Lionfish that he saw and photographed in the non-native habitats of Grand Cayman, Rotan and Cozumel in "I think I see a (nother) Lionfish!".

Herotilapia multispinosa is better known as the Rainbow Cichlid from Central America. Are they really a colourful fish as their name suggests? Yes, but they change to much darker colours, especially black, when getting in breeding mode. Ben Slocum wrote about them in the April 2011 issue of Michiana Tropical Times from the Michiana Aquarium Society.

Tanja Diederich wrote about her favourite group of fish – Catfish, in the April 2011 issue of The Filter from the Tampa Bay Aquarium Society. She details some of the catfish she has kept over the years; a 2 inch pleco that became a 12 inch pleco, Otocinclus, Cories, South American Bumble Bees, Raphael, Ghost Catfish, Snowball pleco, Banjo, Shovelnose, Synodontis eruptus, Adonis, Hoplo, and Red Lizard Catfish. Wow, quite the list and they all don't eat just algae!

Many fish keepers culture live foods for their fish. One popular choice is White Worms. Wayne Cole was so successful, that he had to devise a procedure to store the white worms in his freezer without turning them into mush. Read about what he came up with in the April 2011 issue of Aqua Antics from the Sarnia Aquarium Society.

What kind of filtration do you have for your tanks? Michael Steffen reviews the pros and cons of various types along with what material you can put in them in the April 2011 issue of Tank Tales from the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County. There are also articles on "Filter Flow" by Joel Antkowiak and "Cycling Your Tank" by Michael Steffen. Joel Antkowiak also wrote on "The Goldfish". Most children start with a goldfish, either given to them or won at a carnival. Learn how to take care of them properly so they live more than a few days.

The final article I wish to highlight is "Toeing the Line". *Allotoca goslinei* is a Goodeid livebearer from Jalisco Mexico. Wayne Toven wrote about them in the April/May 2011 issue of Tank Topics from the Greater Akron Aquarium Society. He purchased eight at auction and eventually put them in one of his 110 gallon tubs outside where they spawned several times. - **Zenin**

Surf's up!

Here are this month's web sites to explore:

- <http://livebearers.org>
- <http://www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com>
- <http://www.cichlidae.com>
- <http://www.ifga.org>

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Fry Tank

What do you call a baby whale that never stops crying?

A little blubber; The Codfather; Jellyfish

The two fishermen would like to catch some fish. Draw the path through the maze to the fish, starting at 3 and counting by 3s up

36	33	24	21				132	135	
39	30	27	18				126	129	138
42	45	48	15	3			123	120	141
63	60	51	12				108	111	114
66	57	54	9	6	105	174	171	150	147
69	90	93	96	99	102	177	168	153	156
72	87	84	261	258	255	180	165	162	159
75	78	81	264	249	252	183	186	195	198
282	279	270	267	246	243	240	189	192	201
285	276	273				237	234	231	204
288	297	300				222	225	228	207
291	294					219	216	213	210

What swims in the sea, carries a machine gun, and makes you an offer you can't refuse?

What kind of fish goes well with ice-cream?

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KWAS Member Profile - Carlos

Submitted by Zenin Skomorowski, KWAS (zenin@golden.net)

Welcome to a new feature of the KWAS newsletter. In order to help members become familiar with each other, a Member Profile will be published 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. I will be distributing a survey to KWAS club members to collect some information in order to write these profiles. Only answer the sections that you are comfortable with and I will try my best to put something together. If possible, I would like to include a photo of the member and maybe even a photo of an aquarium and/or their fish.

For March, I will feature Carlos Mendes.



Carlos is originally from Brasilia Brazil. He currently lives in Cambridge with his wife and two young children. He is a network manager at the University of Waterloo. Since childhood, Carlos has been in and out of the hobby. He joined KWAS last year after a discussion with a staff member at Big Al's Aquarium Services. You can also see Carlos on the KWAS forum.

In the past, he has kept fancy guppies, gold fish, African cichlids and livebearers. Currently, Carlos is maintaining a 10 gallon grow out, along with two high tech planted tanks; a 55 and a 180 gallon. At the moment, he is keeping plecocos,

swordtails, platys and his favourite; Angels. In the future, he will convert his 180 into a Discus tank.

At the next meeting, ask Carlos about his fish or his other hobbies of poker, darts, soccer, beer and scotch tasting. - Zenin



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KWAS Member Profile - Matt & Becky

Submitted by Zenin Skomorowski, KWAS (zenin@golden.net)

For April, I will feature Matt Abbott and Becky Allan. They are on the KWAS forum as Matty and Bettalovr.



Meet Matt Abbott, Becky Allan, and their dog Euri

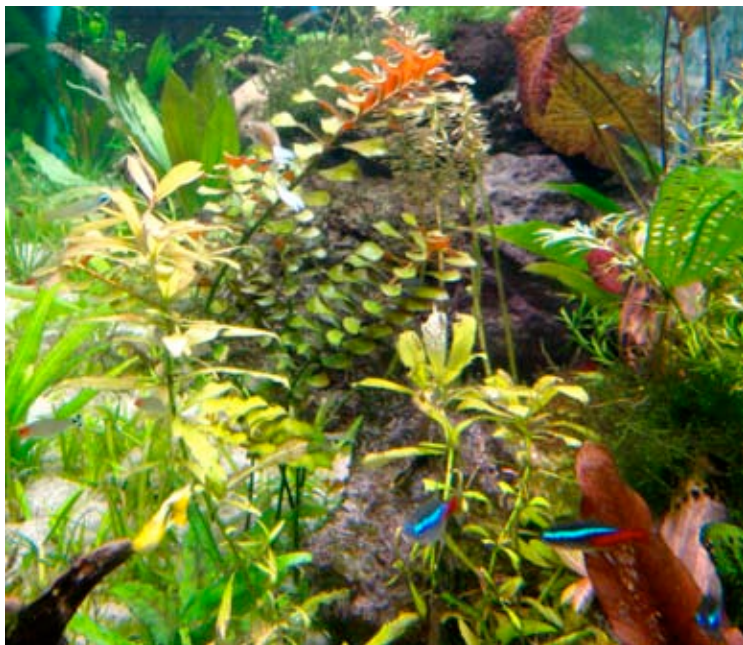
They have 11 aquariums. Most are 20 gallons or less, but they do have two 30 gallon and a 180 gallon aquarium. Most are planted. They keep a wide variety of fish and shrimp. In their aquariums, you can find Kuhli, Horseface, Hillstream, Golden Dojo and yoyo loaches, Rainbowfish, Diamond, Congo and Rummy Nose tetras, Honey, Blue Neon, Moonlight and Pearl gouramis, Endlers, Cherry, Blue Claw Whisker and Rock/Filtering shrimp.

As Becky's forum name suggests, her favourite fish are super delta and crown tail bettas. In the past, their favourite fish was a Compressiceps cichlid, but someday they would like to keep Black Calvus.

At the next meeting, ask Matt and Becky about their fish or other hobbies of dogs, cats, birds and a ball python! - Zenin



Super delta gold and white male named Dusk



Just one of many planted tanks.

They joined KWAS last year after a discussion with Ed at Big Al's Aquarium Services in Kitchener. Matt and Becky live in Elora with their 3 dachshunds. One of them, Euri, usually comes to the monthly meetings too.



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