



August, 2008  
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# THE TBAS . . . Since 1992 FILTER



*Cubanichthys pengellei* Jamaican killifish . . . pic by MFJacobs

## **August Program**

Report on the ACA

## **August Bowl Show Fish**

- 1) Bettas
- 2) Anabantids

# Tampa Bay Aquarium Society



## “The Filter”

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

**Volume 16 Issue 12**  
**August, 2008**

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American Flag Fish . . . photo by MFJacobs 2007

# Aquariums for the Office

by Robert Paul Hudson

Having an aquarium in your office is a wonderful experience...as long as you do not spend all your working hours staring at it! There are a few things to consider for such a project though. Some may seem obvious, but are still worth mentioning:

## **a) Time and Labor**

How much time are you willing to put into this project? Most employers would insist that any work be done after hours, which will impact your personal time management. A simple display that utilizes moderate light, and slow to moderate growth plants will need only minimal attention. A sealed top aquarium hood with a glass cover inside separating the lights from the water will slow down evaporation. How close is your office to a sink or source of water?

## **b) Liability**

Accidents do happen...at least to me they do! I have had leaky filters, I have connected filter hoses incorrectly and emptied water onto the carpet, marred furniture, had Python water changers turn into a water fountain, spilled chemicals...OK, I am a klutz! But I put up with it at home, learn from my mistakes, and deal with it. At the office though I do not want to become liable for my mistakes! New carpets and furniture are expensive!

## **c) Aquascaping**

To create an interesting aquascape in small tanks, it is important to keep the right scale in mind. This requires using SMALL plants, tight groups, and as in any size tank, varying heights for perspective.

Stem plants can be used as background plants, and most can be trimmed and kept to any desired height. Plants with small to miniature size leaves would work the best, while those with very long leaves would look to overpowering. For grass like plants, most any type of *Vallisneria* should be avoided, except perhaps corkscrew vials in ten gallon aquariums. Dwarf sag. and Pigmy Chain Swords, (*E. tenellus*, *latifolius*) can reach heights of 6" to 8" - almost a background plant in very small tanks.

*Micranthemoides*, (baby tears) is a perfect plant for small tanks with its tiny tiny leaves! It can be grown in groups, "bushes", or carpeting a whole area, kept short or tall. Of course this requires much pruning.

Other suitable plants would include Java moss, small *Cryptocorynes*, and *Anubias nana*, which would be lower maintenance plants, not requiring frequent pruning.

# Tampa Bay Aquarium Society Annual Auction

September 27th Noon till Finished

**Where:** Same as Always

Lakewood High School

Cat Program (West End)

1400 54th Ave South

St. Petersburg, Florida

Go to the TBAS website for info and Directions

**<http://www.tbas1.com>**

**Don't Miss This One!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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From the July Meeting . . . . . photo by Ludo Van Den Bogart

# JULY BOWL SHOW:

## Rasbora/Barbs

1st Place . . . . Christine Perrella . . . Galaxy Rasbora (Danio) 6 pts  
2nd Place . . . . Ken Friesen . . . Tiger Barb 5 pts

## Danios, White Clouds & Rainbows

1st Place . . . . Hank Darin . . . Mellinium Rainbow 6 pts  
2nd Place . . . . Ken Friesen . . . Red Glowfish 4 pts

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Folks . . . as was explained in January there are no longer two winners in our yearly bowl show. In the past we had a first half winner and a second half winner . . . that is no longer true. The BOD could not see that there would be a difference in the entries from the two winners to the one winner per year . . . thank you!

## January - July Bowl Show:

Hank Darin . . . . .53 pts  
Ken Friesen . . . . .28 pts  
Fred Hill . . . . .27 pts  
Barbara Kusich . . . . .18 pts  
John Papp . . . . .16 pts  
Angela Hearld-Post . . .14 pts  
Jim Norris . . . . .7 pts  
Christine Perrella . . . . 6 pts  
Mike LoBello . . . . .6 pts



All photos by MFJacobs 2007

## *Laetacara curviceps* and Me

by Doug Williams

First published in *Tank Talk*, Canberra and District Aquarium Society, Australia  
Aquaticles

The *Aequidens curviceps* comes from the Amazon River region of South America and can be found in quiet not very deep water. They can also be found in the slight current in the creeks and such like that run into the Amazon. I call them “an intermediate -sized cichlid”, as both sexes grow to three inches. About the only way to find the sex difference of the *curviceps* is, with mature fish, the dorsal and the anal fins of the male are more elongated in typical cichlid fashion. With conditioning the female will be a little plumper, and if they are of the same age a little shorter maybe.

They are a quiet peaceful fish and non-destructive of plants which merits a place in any representative collection. It is not well to place them with lively fishes, and it is important to provide them with sufficient retreats if you want to view their normal habits. I personally find that if you keep them in a smaller tank (two foot) they can’t get “lost from your sight” as far as picking out the sex or dominant fish difference, and what is going on in the tank. Of course a two foot tank like this would have to be a species tank. If you want a community tank it would have to be much larger, to permit individual territories to be established.

### **My attempts at breeding the curviceps:**

First, I found out, you need a male and a female. Healthy ones at that.

(Well conditioned). Just previous to the Society's 1983 Sydney fish buying spree,

I bought a female *curviceps* at a club auction and I managed to buy a well-dorsalled male (as compared to the female). On returning home I set my two *curviceps* up in a two foot six inch tank in my bedroom, and let them grow to maturity. And do what all good cichlids do, or so I thought. But alas, the male, for

reasons of his own, perished.



It was some time (back in those days, and still is today) before I was able to locate more *curviceps* locally. I was unable to sex these specimens as they were only half grown (I can't remember which shop I bought them from) and much time

passed before they grew to maturity. Counting the original female, I now had one male and four females. The male paired up with one of the females so I removed the other three fishes.

The *curviceps* is a bottom spawner preferring a flat rock, and my first three to four spawnings saw the eggs being eaten by the male, about one day after the eggs were laid. I submersed a net breeder at the top of the tanks and on the next spawning (approximately three weeks) I moved the egg covered rock to the net breeder so that the eggs could not be eaten by the parents. Water circulation over the eggs was maintained by an airstone in a corner of the net breeder and the eggs hatched in three to four days. However, as the eggs hatched, and the fry wriggled to the bottom of the net, their parents tried to rescue them by sucking them through the fine mesh, which killed the fry (probably by bruising). On the next spawning I did the same but removed the parents to join the other three females in a twenty inch tank. When the eggs hatched I turned the airstone bubble velocity down to reduce the water movement within the net breeder so as not to risk bruising the fry. They became free-swimming after another four days so I started to feed with Liquid Fry (emulsion fry food). Seven days later their number had dwindled to zero, due either to over-feeding and polluting the tank or just plain starvation. (I did not do any water changes in the tank during this spawning.)

The male had again paired up in the twenty inch tank (I don't know if it was the same female). I removed the others and let the pair spawn freely in the twenty inch tank as the twenty-six inch tank was now being used for angelfish. I

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did not remove the eggs and after two spawnings the fry reached the wriggler stage before being eaten. With the next spawnings I alternatively tried removing the male or the female but the fry still perished. Then from one



spawning, the fry were free swimming for a whole week before being eaten or vanishing.

At the next spawning I took no chances, and removed both parents and placed an airstone near the eggs. At this stage, all my tanks were filtered with undergravel filters and the filter-plates in this tank were covered by approximately two inches of crushed gravel, about 3/16ths of an inch in diameter. Crushed gravel makes for larger spaced cavities between the individual pebbles than if 'rounded' river gravel was used.

A few days after free-swimming I noticed that the fry were going 'caving' between the gravel and the glass sides of the tank. Either by natural instinct to 'go to ground', or chasing minute food on the pebbles, they appeared to get lost or stuck in the gravel about three quarters of an inch below the substrate surface. With my attempts to dig or syphon the fry out of the gravel I found that I was only hurting them so I let them be and after a couple of days had lost the lot.

Whilst visiting David Barnard, an aquarist who had raised *curviceps* fry with their parents, I found that he mixed his Liquid Fry in a cup of aquarium water before pouring it into the tank, whereas I had always just dribbled a few drops into the tank and swirled it around with my finger to mix it in. Sometimes I would miss a drop or two and this would settle in a globule on the bottom of the tank, and shortly turn to fungus.

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So it was about this time in my hobby that I started to take everything into perspective and was eventually successful in raising *curviceps* fry (away from their parents) with the knowledge perceived by personal experience and seeing other aquarist's versions of 'doing the same thing'.

**My useful information about dwarf cichlids:**

- They require regular water changes, as they are apt to become diseased in old water
- For maintainance, they require a temperature of seventy-four to seventy-six degrees F and a ten gallon tank minimum. For breeding, a temperature of eighty-two to eighty-six degrees F.
- You can use a peat filter in the fry raising tank, keeps the water crystal clear and bacteria down to a minimum.. This is better than using dyes such as Methylene Blue or Acriflavine, but I have used both in combination with Malachite Green in the form of Aquarium Pharmaceuticals' 'Multi Cure' with success.
- If the adults have not been properly conditioned, the finest dyes will not keep the eggs alive.
- Kribis (*Pelvicachromis pulcher* and relatives) and *Nanochromis nudiceps* have large fry which accept baby brine shrimp for first foods, can use under-gravel filters.
- *Apistogramma* sp. and *Aequidens curviceps* have small fry, capable of being lost in filters. They need small first fry foods, but once they are big enough to accept baby brine shrimp the hobbyist has then achieved a major advancement in his or her 'Aquaristic Knowledge'.

## 2007 - 2008 BOD Meeting Location

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<del>January</del> .....	<del>???????????????</del>
<del>February</del> .....	<del>Barbara Kusich</del>
<del>March</del> .....	<del>Chris Hockett</del>
<del>April</del> .....	<del>Ludo Van Den Bogart</del>
<del>May</del> .....	<del>Thelma Frias</del>
<del>June</del> .....	<del>Hank Darin</del>
<del>July</del> .....	<del>Patty Monerief</del>
August .....	Chris Hockett
<del>September</del> .....	<del>_____</del>
<del>October</del> .....	<del>_____</del>
<del>November</del> .....	<del>John Papp</del>
<del>December</del> .....	<del>Gene Linkoski</del>

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... of course you are welcome!!!!!!

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# INTERNET IDEAS

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- 1) <http://www.thetropicaltank.co.uk/Fishindx/anabant.htm>
- 2) <http://www.fish-keeper.net/worldofbettas/lofi/version/index.php?t40.html>
- 3) <http://www.siamsbestbettas.com/>

# Monthly Bowl Show

## January

- 1) Livebearers
- 2) Egglayers

## February

- 1) Killies Top
- 2) Killies Bottom

## March

- 1) Old World Cichlids
- 2) New World Cichlids

## April

- 1) Sucker Catfish
- 2) All Other Cats

## May

- 1) Livebearers Spawned & Raised
- 2) Egglayers Spawned & Raised

## June

- 1) Open
- 2) Fish Shirt (must be worn)

## July

- 1) Barbs & Rasboras
- 2) Danios, White Clouds & Rainbows

## August

- 1) Bettas
- 2) Anabantids

## September

- 1) Characins
- 2) Sharks, Loaches & Eels

## October

- 1) Native Florida Fish
- 2) Any Plants

## November

- 1) Goldfish & Koi
- 2) Participant Created Fish Art

## December

### Awards

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Tampa Bay Aquarium Society...

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