July 2011
Volume 19 Issue 11

THE FILTER

TBAS . . . Since 1992

JULY PROGRAM

Kent Semmen

JULY BOWL SHOW

1) Barbs & Rasboras

2) Dainos, White Clouds & Rainbows

Tampa Bay Aquarium Society

"The Filter"

Tampa/St. Pete Florida

July 2011
Volume 19 Issue 11

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Powder Blue Ram, **Mikrogeophagus ramirezi** . . .
Photo by MFJacobs 2011

One thing I forgot to cover in those last segments is that your Mechanical filter can become biological. It is important when doing water changes that all filters are taken apart and sponges are squeezed out under the tap. Do not worry about loosing your beneficial nitrifying bacteria as they are enough on the glass and in the water of the aquarium to recolonize the filter quickly. Many who do water changes think if they clean too much they will loose the beneficial bacteria this is not true at all.

It is also important to service all filters as the accumulation of excess detritus impairs water circulation through a filter bed and yes even in a sponge filter – this is undesirable. As detritus builds up and accumulates in the filter media vertical channels will form and since water follows the path of least resistance much of the filtrant will be bypassed. In a sponge filter most of the water will exit near the center hub. The result of this is erratic oxygen delivery through the filter and the formation of anoxic areas that will inhibit the growth of aerobic bacteria (the beneficial bacteria). These conditions I have seen occur time and time again and always results in fish diseases and losses so I recommend during a water change or at least every 7 to 10 days when a water change is done take apart your filter and clean the whole thing.

This month we begin our introductory into the world of **Chemical Filtration.**

Chemical Filtration is the actual treatment of water, non biological to remove a substance or alter its characteristics. Some of the examples of Chemical filtration are:

1) The Use of Carbon
2) Foam Fractionation using air
3) Chemical Fractionation using resins and organic scavengers
4) Using Oxidants such as Potassium Permanganate or Sodium Chlorite $NaClO_2$ (Maroxy)
5) (Disinfection) and chemical filtration using ozone
6) (Disinfection) using ultraviolet (UV) light

Next month we will begin our journey by discussing carbon and how it's used.

Joe Gargas

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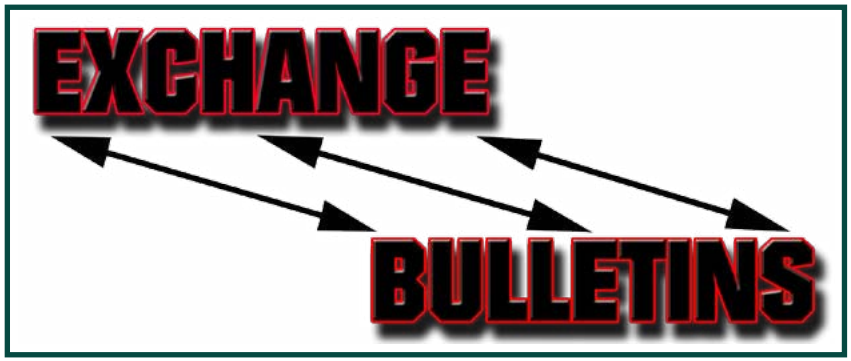

1) **Atlanta Tropical Fish**
3) **Long Island Aquariums**
4) **Motor City Tropicals**
5) **New England Cichlids**
6) **Pacific Coast Cichlids**
7) **Youngstown Aquarist**

These are the newest of the Exchange Bulletins that have been sent toTBAS. To view these go to www.tbas1.com and on the left click on EXCHANGE BULLETINS. ENJOY THE EXCHANGE!!!

Coastal Aquarium Society

Coastal meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month on the campus of New College in Sarasota Florida . . . come and spend an evening with us! http://coastalaquariumsociety.com You won't be sorry you came! Directions are on the website.

A typical photo of a Coastal Aquarium Society meeting.

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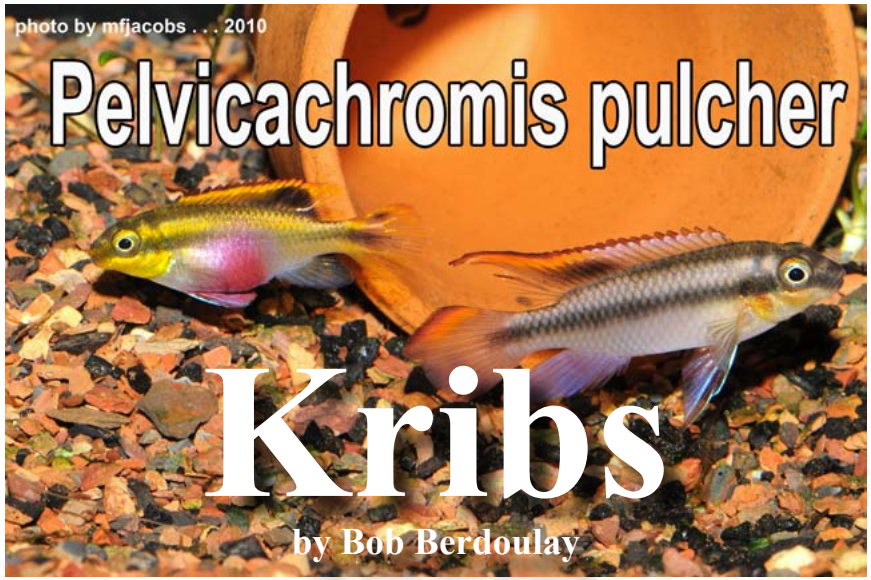

A number of years ago, my son reintroduced me to the aquarium hobby. He already had a set-up in his apartment and dragged me to a meeting of the Diamond State Aquarium Society. I don't remember what the topic was that night, but the people at the meeting were friendly and more than willing to answer any of my simplistic questions. From that first meeting, I got hooked like a fish (sorry).

After listening to some of the society members' talk, I decided I didn't want to just set up an attractive tank but to try and raise and breed a given species. I went out and bought two twenty-nine gallon tanks. One I set up in an Amazonian habitat loaded with a variety of tetras and a few Cory cats. The other tank I set up with eight young high-fin veil-tail angels. The exploits of my attempts and final success in getting these angels to breed, I wrote about in a previous article.

This article is to tell you about my experience with a small cichlid called The West African Dwarf Cichlid or Krib, known in scientific circles as Pelvicachromis pulcher or in past times Pelmatochromis kribensis. These are West African dwarf cichlids. The Latin term "pulcher" means beautiful and that they are. This small cichlid is peaceful, colorful and well suited to a 10-20 gallon tank.

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Not only that but they spawn easily and the parents care for the fry. They are adaptable to varying water conditions but do best at 72-76o F. with a pH between 7.0 and 7.6. A small gravel substrate in recommended since the adults dig pits for spawning. Kribs should be provided with some form of cave for their spawning. With a good varied diet they will be able to spawn at 6-8 months.

At the club meeting's auction, my son purchased a pair of kribs; he, however, hadn't a place for them and asked me to keep them in one of my tanks. By this time I had acquired a few extra tanks, including a fifty-five gallon in which I placed the pair of kribs along with some young angels. One week later, the pair had dug a hole in a corner of the tank under a rock, and had deposited eggs on the tank glass. I watched in fascination as the adults stood guard over the clutch and took on all of their tank mates that came to close. Sad to say, after four days the eggs were gone.

I waited a few days and transferred the pair of kribs to another tank I had set up for them. This was a ten-gallon tank with gravel bottom, corner filter and a three-inch flowerpot surrounded with slate to form a cave. The pH was neutral (7) and the water soft; temperature was 75 degrees Fahrenheit. The pair took up residence in the cave after exploring their new domain. I alternated their feedings between flake foods and frozen brine shrimp. The pre-spawning behavior seems to be initiated by the female; she is the more brightly colored with her abdomen appearing a rosy red. After three days of the pair checking out all the possible spawning sites in their tank, I was rewarded by the pair depositing eggs on the glass behind the filter. (So much for caves). The pair stood guard with the female constantly fanning the eggs. Three days later

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the eggs were gone; I assumed the adults had eaten them. Great breeding technique!

But wait! Five days later while feeding the adults I noticed movement in the flower pot cave. And what to my wondering eyes did appear? Fry, about twenty, 1/4 inch long, light tan with dark spots. Boy, am I a great fish breeder or what? I immediately added some infusoria and set to hatching brine shrimp. I fed the fry with a combination of microworms, brine shrimp nauplii, and very finely ground flake food. The fry grew rapidly. I left the adults with the fry, and watched as the female herded her brood around the tank and got them in the cave at the slightest sign of danger (me). After three weeks the fry could be seen wandering around the tank on their own. Since the adults were not needed and seem to have lost interest I removed them from the tank.

I have gotten the pair of Kribs to breed many times since that time, most of the time in a 3" flowerpot laid on its side. This shy little cichlid makes an excellent starter cichlid for anyone interested in breeding egg layers. It's attractive coloration, small size (2 1/2 - 3 inches), non-aggressiveness, and fair tolerance of water conditions make it an amateur's dream.

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Wow . . . look at the line-up for the next months for TBAS:

1) **JULY** . . . Kent Semmen

2) **AUGUST** . . . Joe Gargas

3) **SEPTEMBER** . . . Town Hall or pictures of the ACA.

OK . . . for July:

Kent Semmen:

Affiliation: Walt Disney World

Position: Water Sciences Chemist Manager

Brief Bio (background, education, employment history, professional activity, etc.):

Kent Semmen is the Water Sciences Chemistry Manager for all of Disney's Animal Programs and Environmental Initiatives locations at Walt Disney World, including The Seas with Nemo and Friends, several systems at Disney's Animal Kingdom, and Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Shark Reef. He directs aquatic animal water chemistry and operations support activities ensuring a safe water habitat for the animals and adherence to rigorous show quality standards in both fresh and salt water systems. Kent obtained his degree from the University of Nebraska and started his career as an Aquarist and Reef Tank Diver at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois.

Mike

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FEED 'EM or ELSE

I recieved a call from a gentleman that runs a restaurant and was having problems with his fish in the tank at the restaurant. He told me that his goldfish had fin rot and wanted to know what treatment to use. After asking him several questions, I found he had not tested his water . . . you must always test the water. He brought me a water sample and the sick four-inch oranda goldfish; it had bloody fins and a large number of scales missing from the body. I checked his water sample and found everything in good shape. I took a close look at the fish, scales missing, fins bloody and shredded. Hummm! "The fish was fine yesterday?" "Do you have a plecostomus in the tank?" "Two!" "How many of the other goldfish have this problem?" "One died last week from the same thing." "Well, this looks like a case of the plecostomus attacking the goldfish, perhaps at night while the goldfish are sleeping." The man looked at me in disbelief. "Do you feed your plecostomus?" "No, they are algae eaters." "And how much algae do you have in the tank?" "None, they are doing a great job!" Hummm, maybe there is not enough algae growing in the tank to feed them and they might be hungry? "Is there driftwood in the tank?" "No." "Well, you should start feeding the plecostomus sinking algae disks and fewer of the goldfish will come down with "fin rot."

The common plecostomus that we see in the pet store for sale as an algae eater needs more than just algae. In the wild, they often feed on wood that is covered with algae and on decaying vegetable matter and yes, on dead fish. So often people seem to think the catfish and algae eaters eat fish waste and algae only, nothing could be further truth. Catfish of all types need to be fed more than the "stuff" that floats to the bottom. There are many foods on the market that are sinking types made for the bottom feeders. Some may need to be fed after the lights are turned off, like many plecostomus, and some other fish. Most plecostomus and catfish do not like bright light and are best fed after the lights are off or dimmed.

Patty

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MONTHLY BOWL SHOW RESULTS

PERSON	Year Totals	March Results	TOTAL POINTS
Angel Heald-Post	44	11	55
Barbara Kusich	44	10	54
Joe Berberich	36	7	42
Tanja Diederich	26	1	27
Jim Norris	12	0	12
Jim Lombardi	8	4	12
Allen Alvarez	8	0	8
Nan Smith	7	1	8
John Papp	7	0	7
Dre Alvarado	3	0	3

Board Of Directors' Meeting

2010 - 2011

~~February 2011~~	~~Patty Monerief (Fair)~~
~~March 2011~~	~~Mike Jacobs~~
~~April 2011~~	~~Gene Linkoski~~
~~May 2011~~	~~Mike Jacobs~~
~~June 2011~~	~~Hank Darin~~
~~July 2011~~	~~Hank Darin~~
August 2011	Ludo Van Den Bogaert

INTERNET IDEAS

1) http://www.zazzle.com/tropical+fish+tshirts

2) http://www.tropicalfishtanksonline.com/

3) http://www.cichlid-forum.com/

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MONTHLY BOWL SHOW

January
1) Livebearers 2) Egglayers

February
1) Killifish 2) Invertebrates

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
No. . . Bowl Show
. . . Awards!!!!!

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Tampa Bay Aquarium Society

STAMP