

April/May 2010

FISH TALES

Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society



ISSUE 158

FREE



Photo by Aaron Alcantar

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President's PODIUM



Our April meeting was held on Saturday 24th April and featured a PowerPoint presentation by Spencer Jack on fish collecting in Suriname. The presentation was followed by a sizeable fish auction conducted by co-visitor John Sabo (dressed as his alter-ego Elvis).

Our fish auctions have become the stuff of legends in North America with tales of the high prices



that each bag of fish commands. Well, by Fry-Angle standards, this was something of a bargain basement auction in that many of the bags sold for the opening bid of \$25. Only one bag sold for more than \$100 and two bags failed to reach minimum bid (and were sold the next day). I guess we have become so used to the high prices that it came as a bit of a shock to see bags being snapped up at opening bid prices. However, we must put the 'low bids' into context. With only about five or six members actually bidding on fish, the auction still managed to raise about \$1,400. This easily covered the cost of bringing in two guests and left some additional funds left over.

Members at the meeting agreed that we would still make a decent donation to the Stuart Grant Conservation Fund for the anti-netting initiative being conducted around the Maleri Islands in Lake Malawi. We agreed to a donation of \$1,000 that will make a significant and immediate impact in conserving cichlid species in the lake.

This month, rather than hold a meeting, it was agreed that we would have a farewell dinner for Klaus and Joy Gebhardt to thank them for their significant contributions to the club (see comments later in this issue). The dinner will be held on Friday 21st May and all members are welcome to attend. Please contact me for details.

We'll have another visiting speaker in June, as Warren Feuer travels from New York to speak on shell-dwellers from Lake Tanganyika. The meeting date has been moved forward to the beginning of the month so don't get caught out and miss it! The meeting will be on Friday 4th June at the Bermuda Aquarium classrooms.

In July, several of us will be traveling to Milwaukee for the annual convention of the American Cichlid Association. It promises to be a great trip. There is still time to book so why not join us?





NEXT MEETING:
Friday June 4th 2010
 Annual General Meeting.
 8:00pm-11pm. BAMZ Lecture Room
Warren Feuer speaks
on shell-dwellers from
Lake Tanganyika

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **July 2010** – Venue and date to be determined

Also in July: ACA Convention in Milwaukee. It promises to be a great trip. For Details see ad on page 7 or visit www.aca2010.com

Member Profile

A couple of Month’s ago members were sent a form for the members profile, to be completed and sent to pmarsh@northrock.bm. This will be an asset to members, letting them know what fish are being bred and kept on the island.

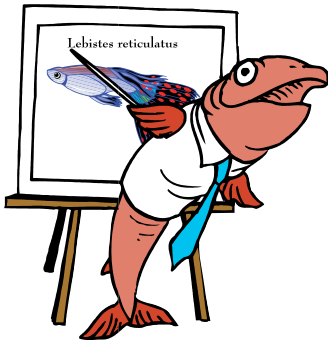
If you require the form again please let me know (pmarsh@northrock.bm). It only take s a couple of minutes to fill out



Bermuda Fry-Angle Society

If you are interested in joining the Bermuda Fry-Angle Society, just come along to our next meeting to see what we are about. Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month either at the Police Recreation Club or the Lecture Rooms, behind the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo, or contact **Howard Paynter Sr.**, Membership Coordinator at 292-3828(w) or email: hcycles@northrock.bm. He will be happy to provide any further information or just sign you up. Application forms are also available at Noah’s Ark (just ask at cashier’s desk.) You can also download an application form from our website: www.fryangle.com

Membership fees are \$20 for the year, and payable to Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society.



THIS MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER...

Warren Feuer

A short “fish tale” ...

I first kept fish as a child, with my father's guidance. We had a 10 gallon tank that we kept in our dining room filled with guppies and swordtails. This eventually became a turtle tank and that was the end of round one.

Many years later, the bug hit me again. After seeing the movie “A Fish Named Wanda” I expressed an interest in keeping a fish tank to my wife, who is convinced that my interest coincided with her expecting our first child. Hey, one of the secrets of a happy marriage is never disagree with your wife, so that must be how I started again in the late '80's.

I started with one of those “combination” tanks, a 5-gallon acrylic hex tank with a simple and noisy air driven sponge filter. Fortunately, the tank leaked, and upon returning it, decided I wanted a “real” tank. Not having learned my lesson, I purchased a 20-gallon hex tank that I filled with black tetras, tiger barbs, silver dollars and tinfoil barbs. You can guess what happened next... the tank was way too small for the fish I had, so I just “had” to get another tank, this time a 30-gallon long. Then, two tanks became three as the tinfoils outgrew the 30. It was about this time that I discovered the Greater City Aquarium Society, as I was beginning to babble in Latin, and scare the people I knew who kept fish. I searched for a club to join, and found GCAS. After that, insanity truly set in. Eventually, there were 11 tanks in my apartment, and all sorts of different fish being kept. One of my intended goals was to begin breeding fish. I had begun keeping Lake Tanganyika cichlids after attending a presentation by then GCAS President Joe Ferdenzi and becoming addicted to those fish. The fact is, I blame Joe and Mark Soberman for my becoming the fish junkie that I am. It was my ever increasing friendship with them that got me hooked on all the different types of fish there are, including killies and all the sundry catfish that are around. It is also all their fault that I got heavily involved in Greater City, serving as membership chair, publicity chair, recording secretary and co-chair of the Breeder's Award Program. I also helped resurrect the club's magazine, Modern Aquarium (you guys may have seen a copy or two of it!) and served as Editor from 1993 to 1999.

Because I was living in an apartment at the time, and had a limit to both the number of tanks and the size of each tank, I began keeping the shell dwelling dwarf cichlids from the lake. I found them much easier to keep than the South American dwarf cichlids and had a great deal of success breeding them.

In 2001 we bought a house in suburbia. Long Island, New York to be specific and I was able to realize my dream of a dedicated fish room. At its heyday, there were slightly more than 30 active tanks in my fish room. At one point, I was keeping and breeding eight dwarf cichlid species in my fish room.

Over time, I realized that I no longer wanted to keep that many tanks, and I began a scale back process. Currently, I have 24 tanks and I am keeping two shell dwelling cichlids, *L. hecqui* and *N. similis*. In addition, I just started my first marine aquarium and am feeling like a beginner all over again.



A Year in Review

by Craig Morfitt, BFAAS

As we started out the year in April 2009, we were busily planning our 20th Anniversary Celebration. We scaled down our initial plans and selected three international speakers instead of four. With this large event on the horizon, we didn't bring over any speakers for the first few months of the year.

Our April meeting was held at the Aquarium. A fish quiz had been planned but, due to a low turnout, we didn't hold the quiz.

The May meeting was held on Friday 15th when we spent some time planning the upcoming 20th anniversary event.

I'm pleased to say that the 20th Anniversary event in June went well with guest speakers Rusty Wessel, Spencer Jack and Joe Ferdenzi. The member's party in the hotel's penthouse suite was excellent and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. The auction was also a great success. When we began to plan the anniversary event we acknowledged that there was a risk of spending everything in our account, leaving us broke for the rest of the year if the event was not successful. Our concerns were eased significantly when Noah's Ark came onboard as a major sponsor and we all owe Noah's Ark a big vote of thanks. Fortunately, we also had a record-breaking fish auction that ensured that we had sufficient funds to continue to run events for members throughout the year.

The anniversary event had an additional side-benefit. We had at least a dozen new members sign up at the event and some of them have attended subsequent club events.

Peter did a terrific job on the special 20th anniversary issue of Fish Tales that doubled as an event programme. It has to be the best issue we have ever produced.

We scheduled an aquatic plant auction for our July meeting. We located a plant supplier who has a nematode certificate for their growing facility. It

appeared that, for the first time in many years, we could import aquatic plants that have roots attached. I placed an order for a shipment of 20 different plant species but it then turned out that the supplier's nematode certificate did not meet the standards set by our Department of Environmental Protection's Plant Lab. So, the hunt continues in an effort to identify a plant supplier that can meet local requirements.

Without a plant auction for the July meeting, we held a fun fishy quiz. Attendees were split into two teams to pool their knowledge but there were still a few questions that neither team got right. It was a fun way to learn something new.

Nyon organized a boat cruise for the August meeting onboard the Sally Bum Bum with Captain Leon.

The September meeting was held at the Aquarium where members spent time planning the Annual Tropical Fish Show.

Our Annual Tropical Fish Show was held on Saturday 17th October but it almost didn't happen. Peter had an accident whilst retrieving fish show items from the warehouse and was rushed to hospital. Thankfully he has now made a recovery!

Show entries were down somewhat compared to last year with a total of 53 entries (35 being cichlids). Last year we had 72 entries (49 being cichlids). Our visiting speaker was Eric Hanneman who did a thorough job of judging, spending quite a bit of time with each fish looking for faults. When the dust settled, the mother and son team of Wendy and Stephen Corrado almost repeated their clean sweep of major trophies. As it was, they won a total of 9 of



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the available 15 trophies. However, Best in Show went to Howard Paynter for his *Geophagus brasiliensis*. The winning fish also captured the attention of the visiting public as they also voted it the winner of the People's Choice award.

Eric Hanneman generously donated several bags of fish that were auctioned at the Awards Night. Bidding was fierce for some of the items with one bag of fish selling for well over \$200. Kenny's Kitchen catered the meal for the night that included delicious roast beef and fried fish. It was a good night that was enjoyed by all who attended.

We also owe thanks to show sponsors Ariel-Re who sponsored the trophies and Noah's Ark who donated prizes for the trophy winners and an aquarium for the door prize.

We had a casual meeting at my home in November where we agreed to make changes to our Breeders Award Programme. We took December off due to the heavy social calendar.

We got the new year off to a great start with Ted Judy making his debut visit to Bermuda. He gave a very enjoyable presentation on the *Pelvicachromis* group of cichlids from West Africa. The presentation was followed by an excellent auction with a wonderful variety of fish available.

In February we had a casual meeting at Peter's

home that gave us an opportunity to talk fish over a couple of beers.

We now look ahead to a new financial year with a new challenge. Klaus has decided to take early retirement and will be leaving Bermuda around July this year. He is a valued member of the club who regularly attends meetings, has run our Breeder's Award Programme and won the Member of the Year award for 2008. In recent years, Klaus and Joy graciously hosted many of our visiting speakers and did a tremendous job of making their Bermuda visits enjoyable. We owe them both a huge thank-you for everything that they've done for the club and I know that they will be missed. Now that they are going we need to find somewhere else for our speakers to stay.

Klaus will be hosting our speakers for April – Spencer Jack and his friend Rick. The meeting will feature a large fish auction so I expect it to be well attended.

We have tentatively arranged for Warren Feuer to visit from New York in June to give a talk on shell-dwellers from Lake Tanganyika.

Then, in July, about six of us will be traveling to Milwaukee for the American Cichlid Association's annual convention.

Plans for the rest of the year will depend on what options are available for accommodating speakers.

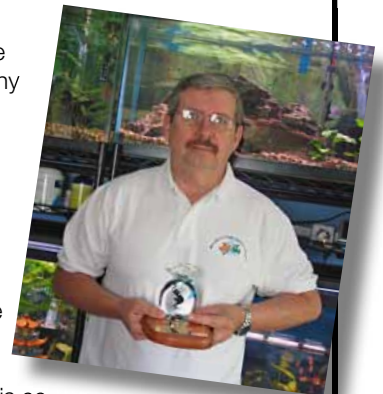
Member of the Year

RICHARD J. CARD MEMORIAL TROPHY

Every year, at our Annual General Meeting, the members vote for the Member of the Year. This year, the overwhelming winner was Peter Marsh who has now won the award three times.

When measuring Peter's value to the club, you only have to imagine the impact on the club were he to suddenly not be around. Peter makes so many contributions to the running of the club, including editing our newsletter, managing our website and performing the duties of Secretary. In addition, Peter assists with various printing needs and can be relied upon to always lend a hand when we hold events. In short, he is a critical and extremely valuable member of the club. This year, Peter came close to making the ultimate sacrifice for the club. Whilst we were setting up for the Annual Fish Show, Peter went to his warehouse to collect show tanks and equipment and, in the process, fell from a ladder and cracked his head on the concrete floor. Fortunately, someone walked in and found him! Thankfully, Peter is back to normal and continues to work hard for the benefit of the club.

He is nominated for Member of the Year every year, as his contribution is so consistent. We're glad to have him around and he's a worthy winner of the award.





HOMESHOW²⁰¹⁰

On Sunday 25th April the club held it's annual Home Show that allows members to enter their decorated aquariums into a competition without having to move them from their homes. There were only four entries this year but the visiting judges thought they were all of a high standard. Live-planted aquariums were entered by Peter Marsh, David Paterson, Robert Wheatley and Claire Wheatley. After judging the four tanks, both judges agreed that the winner this year was Robert Wheatley. Congratulations to all four entrants on putting together some very attractive displays!



Robert's winning tank



David's tank



Peter's tank



Claire's tank



Farewell to a Valued Member

It is with some sadness that the club prepares to bid farewell to a valued member. Klaus Gebhardt and his lovely wife Joy will be leaving Bermuda in July and the club will certainly miss them.

Klaus is coming to the end of a second stint of club membership as he left Bermuda some years ago to pursue other professional endeavours. Luckily for us, Klaus' career brought him back to Bermuda and he again became involved with the club. Throughout his membership, Klaus has been actively involved and has contributed to the success of the club. Most notably, Klaus and Joy have happily welcomed strangers into their home by hosting our visiting speakers during their visits. This has involved entertaining and feeding them as well as taking them on tours of the Island. They have been wonderful hosts who have made our speakers feel most welcome. Importantly, their willingness to host speakers has enabled the club to bring in several speakers per year without having to consider the high cost of hotels. Additionally, Klaus has also served the club as the Chairman of the Breeders Award Programme as well as securing sponsorship for our fish shows and helping out at events when needed. His value to the club was recognised last year when he was voted to be the Member of the Year.

Whilst we'll certainly miss Klaus and Joy I'm sure that we all wish them well for their retirement. I'm pleased to report that Klaus will be continuing his membership so that we'll be able to stay in touch.

Reprinted from Hill Country Cichlid Club's Newsletter "The Lateral Line"



Lipochromis (Cleptochromis) sp. "Matumbi hunter"

Greg Steeves

Members of the genus *Lipochromis* have no set body structure. Recognition of this group of cichlids is characterized by thickened lips, a mouth capable of extending widely while protracting, and very small deeply embedded teeth. Usually only the crown teeth are visible to the naked eye. The inner rows are blunt with the inner jaw lining and sometimes require dissection to expose. Larger fully mature fish sport unicuspid dentition while juveniles can possess bicuspid or a mixture of the two. The exception is *Lipochromis taurinus* from Lakes Edward and George who, at 14cm have mostly bicuspid teeth (Greenwood, 1980). Both the upper and lower jaws

are not fused and have a cartilaginous appendage connecting the two bones in the middle. This is especially predominant on the lower jaw and allows for the expansion of the mouth vertically. Adult size ranges between 13cm and 17cm. Humphrey Greenwood (famed British ichthyologist) noted two subgenre, *Lipochromis* (*Lipochromis*) and *Lipochromis* (*Cleptochromis*). As the name implies, 'clepto' (kleptes – Greek) means thief and relates to the paedophagous feeding strategy that these fish employ. The type species is *Lipochromis parvidens* from Lake Victoria and now considered extinct (IUCN red listed as critically endangered). A *Lipochromis*

parvidens-like paedophages exists in the Kyoga Basin waterways but it too is very rare.

Attempting to divulge some sort of lineage tree involving *Lipochromis* species, one is hard pressed to find ancestral connections to other cichlid genre connected to the Lake Victoria waterways.

With an elongated body structure, *Lipochromis* sp. "Matumbi hunter" has an interesting feeding strategy. This species stalks mouth brooding female cichlids. It is not the defenseless mother that this pack hunter is after, but rather her developing larvae. This feeding strategy is employed by a number of *Lipochromis* species. The method of extracting fry from the buccal cavity differs between species. *Lipochromis melanopterus* attack the brooding female head on actually engulfing the cichlid by the snout and sucking the embryos from her mouth. There are reports that *Lipochromis* cf. *parvidens* from the Kyoga Basin may also feed in this manner. *L.* sp "Matumbi hunter" feeds in a different manner with the same results. I have witnessed first hand an attack. The victim was *Astatotilapia burtoni*. A group of eight hunters had meticulously confined the female to a top corner in a 230 liter aquarium. All roads of escape had been quartered off by the circling predators. In a split second, one of the hunters, coming from beneath the *A. burtoni* female, rammed her buccal cavity causing her to expel many of her fully developed fry. At that instant, all the hunters swarmed the cloud of fry quickly



devouring every one. The female was then allowed to escape still holding a smaller portion of her spawn. This entire event lasted less than five seconds from the ramming of the female, to the eating of her fry.

A thick black bar vertically splits the flank as seen in another *Lipochromis* species, *L. obesus*. Above this bar the body coloration is gunmetal grey while below yellow to a dull lime-green. The dorsal is powder blue with scattered red dots between the rays. Males sport black pelvic fins while both sexes display hyaline anal and caudal fins. Two (usually) well defined large egg spots dot the anal. These ocelli have well defined orbits. Males have a red dotting on the scales of the abdomen that is absent in females.

In the aquarium, *L.* sp. "Matumbi hunter" will prosper nicely on good quality prepared food as well as small sized live food. They are fairly passive cichlids as many predators from Lake Victoria and surrounding waterways are. Males reach a size of 14cm while the females rarely get larger than 12cm. *L.* sp. "Matumbi hunter" is torpedo shaped and superficially resembles some of the plankton eating *Yssichromis* cichlids such as *Y. fusiformis*.

It is possible to maintain *L.* sp "Matumbi hunter" under a wide array of aquatic situations and host to a number of other cichlid species. Rock caves are not necessary as males really do not stake out an area of their own or involve in any severe territorial disputes. One should employ a large open area in any aquascape with a sandy substrate.





Large rounded river rocks can be placed on each end of a rectangular aquarium. There should be areas of crevices between the rocks that will serve as refuge if needed. This will allow the L. sp. "Matumbi hunter's" a greater comfort level. Purely for esthetics, hardy plants such as Anubias sp. and Aponogeton sp. will not be bothered with nor will they be uprooted.

This is a fish that seems uncomfortable and very timid unless housed as a large group. For some reason, when kept in aquaria close to the floor, L. sp. "Matumbi hunter" is extremely jittery does not show very well. A large tank of at least 220 liters set on

a stand of one meter in height will provide suitable accommodations. Efficient filtration and regular water changing will allow this cichlid to show its subtle but beautiful coloration.

When choosing what species will be included in your community, there are really two trains of thought. I have employed both and each has their advantages. The first method is to choose a smaller haplochrominetype such as Paralabidochromis sauvagei or Xystichromis phytophagus. For the most part the two species disregard each other. The idea here is to not only have a wonderful aquarium with



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spectacular species, but to witness the unique feeding strategy of pack hunting as done in the wild. The second setup has *Lipochromis* sp. "Matumbi hunter" in a species only aquarium. Here one can observe a large group interacting with each other, establishing a pecking order, and of course, reproducing. It is amazing to see a group of large adults allowing the small fry and adolescents to forage along with them. This is reminiscent of the communal Lake Tanganyika cichlid *Neolamprologus brichardi*. In a very large tank, one might be able to hybridize these two methods and observe both situations.

Reproduction is typical of other cichlids of the region. This species is a maternal mouth brooder with the female incubating her young for 18-20 days and then further parental care for another two weeks. The male will select a flat spot (primarily atop a rock) to which he will lure the ripe female. It is at this time that the male shows his most intense coloration. Aside from the act of reproduction, the male displays no parental care of the young. As the female releases her young,

they are not preyed upon by the other members of the pack. Small brood sizes of between 5-20 eggs are normal. Females will be more prolific when young but are notorious for not being dependable at brooding.

L. sp "Matumbi hunter" is native to Matumbi Island in Mwanza Gulf at the extreme southern portion of Lake Victoria in Tanzania. It is found in shallow waters of 1-2 meters over large boulders where it subsists on a diet of cichlid embryos, and small insects (Seehausen 1996). This cichlid is critically endangered in its native waters and becoming increasingly rare in the cichlid hobby as well.

References

Greenwood, P.H., 1980. Towards a phyletic classification of the 'genus' *Haplochromis* (Pisces, Cichlidae) and related taxa. Part II: the species from Lakes Victoria, Naugabo, Edward, George and Kivu. *Bulletin of the British Museum of Natural History (Zoological)*, 39 (1): 1-101.

Seehausen, Ole; 1996; "Lake Victoria Rock Cichlids"; *Verduyn Cichlids*; .pp. 223-226.

What is the Lifespan of Tropical Fish?

Aquarticles

Cyprinidae (small)

Cherry Barb, Rosy Barb, Tiger Barb, Giant Danio, Leopard Danio, Pearl Danio, Zebra Danio, White Cloud Mountain Minnow:

5-7 years

Catfish (small)

Banjo, Bumble Bee, Cory, Glass: **5-8 years**

Callichthyidae (large Catfish)

Armored Catfish, Pleco, Banjo Cat, Rafael Catfish: **7-15 years**

Anabantoids (Gourami)

Blue, Chocolate, Dwarf, Honey, Kissing and Pearl Gourami: **4 years**

Poeciliidae (Livebearers)

Guppy, Platy, Mollie and Swordtail: **3-5 years**

Cyprinodontide

Killifish: **1-2 years**

Characoids (Tetras small)

Neon, Cardinal, Glowline, Silvertip, Bloodcave, Bloodfin and Rummy Nose Tetras, Glassfish,

Hatchet Fish, Rasboras: **5-10 years**

Characoids (Tetras Large)

Black, Bleeding Heart, Silver Dollar, Pacu and Leporinus: **8-12 years**

Cyprinidae (sharks)

Bala, Black, Redtail and Rainbow: **4-10 years**

Cichlids (South America Large)

Convict, Discus, Firemouth, Jack Dempsey, Oscar, Severum and Angelfish: **10-18 years**

Cichlids (South America small)

Rams, Apistogramma and Checkerboard: **3-5 years**

Cichlids (African)

Kenyii, Ps. Zebra and Frontosa: **8-15 years**

Cyprinidae (Goldfish)

Black Moor, Bubble Eye, Comet, Fantails, Koi and Oranda: **10-90 years**

From the Youngstown Aquarist,
Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society

BERMUDA FRY-ANGLE AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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Membership Coordinator	Howard Paynter Sr.	hcycles@northrock.bm

Society Membership

Membership to the Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society is open to any resident of Bermuda who has an interest in tropical fish. The annual membership fee is \$20. The Society's financial year runs from April 1st to March 31st.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month. Meeting place is either the Police Recreation Club or the Lecture Rooms, behind the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo. Occasionally meetings are held elsewhere. Check the "meeting" column in this newsletter for details of upcoming meetings.

If you would like further information please contact:

Howard Paynter Sr., *Membership Coordinator*
at 292-3828(w)
or email: hcycles@northrock.bm

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SEND US YOUR IDEAS!

Contributions are welcomed!

We welcome contributions to Fish Tales, including articles, comments, book or equipment reviews, letters, crosswords, puzzles etc....

Any contributions should be sent to

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PRESIDENT, CRAIG MORFITT

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NEXT MEETING:

Friday June 4th 2010

Annual General Meeting.

8:00pm-11pm. BAWZ Lecture Room

Warren Feuer speaks

on shell-dwellers from

Lake Tanganyika